

# REENACTMENT OF FIRST SOCCER GAME IN BC



**Sapperton Rovers vs Royal City Club coaches**  
**3:00pm May 24, 2008**  
**Queens Park Stadium**  
**Free Admission**

The re-enactment celebrates the work of the Royal Engineers in building and surveying British Columbia, and New Westminster's soccer history.

The first soccer game in BC was played 146 years ago in New Westminster on Victoria Day, May 24, 1862, in the Woodlands area. The old Columbian newspaper reported that the Victoria Day celebration included several sporting and cultural events, including a 'football' (soccer) match and a cricket match between the Royal Engineers and the townsfolk. A record of the actual match no longer exists. Soccer rules were different then, as the 1860's rules had elements of rugby. Later on the two games became distinguishable, and for several decades soccer in Canada was known as association football.

The Royal Engineers (Sappers) came to New Westminster from England in 1858, with a Detachment of around 200 men under the command of Colonel Richard Moody to provide a military presence and to organize public works. There was some thought of making Langley the capital, but once Moody saw New Westminster, he wanted it to be the capital. The Royal Engineers proceeded to call the area Queensborough, however Queen Victoria later deemed that it be called New Westminster. The Royal Engineers and local residents set up camp along the Fraser River in the current Sapperton neighbourhood of New Westminster, which became the capital of the mainland colony of British Columbia and remained so until 1868 when Victoria became the capital of the amalgamated colonies. The Royal Engineers surveyed the townsite of New Westminster first, then laid out Stanley Park, built public offices and churches and also built the first road linking New Westminster to the interior of British Columbia. On March 17, 1859, Colonel Moody and his troops were surveying the Queens Park area and were very impressed by the site and commented on how it would make a beautiful park. They were very busy helping build New Westminster, the capital of British Columbia, but they found some free time to try their hand at soccer and cricket.

By 1862, the Royal Engineers had a high level soccer team in England who a few years later were competing for the English Football Association championship. Soccer rules were different in 1862, as were the uniforms. The English team's uniform consisted of black knickerbockers and red and blue striped wool jerseys and socks.



Replicas of Sappers uniform will be worn by the Sapperton Rovers in the reenactment game.

The Royal Engineers detachment disbanded in 1863 however the Sappers were offered free grants of land if they remained, and many of them accepted the offer and remained in New Westminster and nearby areas. The Royal Engineers created a tradition which has lived until this day, with New Westminster teams having great success on the soccer field during many of the following decades.

In the 1860's cricket was the most popular sport, but in the next two decades that changed as field lacrosse became most popular with soccer second. In the late 1870 and 1880's soccer matches were not common, however they occurred on special holidays or when British naval ships were in port. During the 1880's and 1890's, New Westminster and Vancouver fielded teams which played each other a couple times per year, with occasional matches against Victoria and Nanaimo. As the years passed, North Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey and Chilliwack would occasionally field teams against New Westminster and Vancouver. By 1894, Columbia Methodist College in New Westminster also had a team which played exhibition matches against the senior New West team and other clubs.

Around 1890, New Westminster had a club with an elected Executive that read like a who's who of the City. City Councillor J.S. Clute was President of the Club, while City Councillor A. Ewen, former Mayors J.C. Armstrong and W.B. Townsend and the local Member of Parliament G.E. Corbould served as Vice-Presidents for many years. They organized matches, decided who would play, and collected admission fees. In 1891, the usual admission price was 15cents for men, free for women, and 10cents for access to the grandstand at Queens Park. 15cents was a lot of money in 1891, a room in the best hotels could be had for only \$1 a night.

By 1890, the playing field at Queens Park ceased being used as a cricket field and became home to soccer and field lacrosse, with occasional use by womens grass hockey, and baseball. Moody Park was also used as a soccer field during those times. A sports clubhouse was built at Moody Park, and that Clubhouse is now the Parks and Recreation office.

In 1902 some New Westminster sports clubs and Sapperton residents such as Jack Cambridge began lobbying City Council for a sports field in Sapperton. It was not until 1907 that Mayor Keary and City Council agreed. The City provided \$1,000 and arranged to have involuntary labour "chain gangs" from the nearby jail clear the land and prepare it for sports use. Soccer proved to be very popular therefore bleachers and change rooms were added, and Sapperton Park became a soccer hotbed.

### **1900-1920 SOCCER**

In 1900 the population of New Westminster was only 6,500 but the city had several soccer teams. A team called Westminster Rovers, which wore red jerseys, represented the City in a senior league.

Columbia Methodist College also had a team, and school teams represented the City in junior leagues. By 1905, an intermediate league was established, with Columbia Methodist College and another team representing the City. They played in a league which included several Vancouver teams and teams from North Vancouver, Westham Island and Kings College.

By 1907, a second senior team was added, Westminster FC. Members of the team were T.s. Annandale, R. McMillan, S.H.Davies, T.H. Barbaree, J.Winch, H.Ryall, T.H. Haslam, H.L.Hutchison, J.P. Cunningham, Hubert Leamy, Alex Turnbull, G. Fleming, F. Watson, J. Lockhart, A. Fleming, B.F. Locke, and W.W. Lumsden. There were two Annandales then, the father who was a prominent business person and later became Mayor, and his son. The younger Annandale and Hubert Leamy died while serving overseas during WW1. This picture, taken by FL Hocking in 1908, shows them standing in front of a net with the Queens Park exhibition building in the background.



Photo courtesy of New Westminster Library.

The other senior team, the Rovers, played in the Vancouver District league. They won the league and the Charity Cup in 1909/10, but fared poorly the following year. According to a Colombian newspaper article at the time, the Rovers was a professional team in 1911.

The roster changed quite a bit over the years as the club recruited players to compete with a strong Vancouver Celtics team. The early rosters included Teague, Ibbitson and Hartley sharing goaltending duties, Kirby, Shawcross, Bruce and Lyons on the backline, Sawyers, Burroughs, Locke and Brisbane at half, and Brooks, King, Johnson, Robertson and Caydzien at forward. Two of these players, Locke and Robertson were selected to a BC allstar team which travelled to California to play its allstars in the summer of 1909. By 1911, the roster consisted of Reid, Lyon, McMan, Lewis, Bruce, Hyslop, Donald, Meiklejohn, Fraser, Fraser and Walker. The Rovers played their home games at Queens Park, which were well attended, and they advertised the games as the following photo of a trolley car on Columbia Street in 1911 shows. The trolley has a banner at the front advertising a game between "Rovers and Hibs" on Oct 30 in Queens Park.



Photo courtesy of New Westminster library.

Rovers won the game against Vancouver Hibs 2-1. Two days earlier on Saturday Oct 28, the Rovers also defeated Vancouver Thistles 2-1 in another game at Queens Park. That same weekend, Westminster FC and the local high school teams were also victorious. On the Saturday, the amateur

Westminster FC team defeated Vancouver St Andrews 2-0 at Moody Park On Monday Oct 30, they also defeated Vancouver 72<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders 4-1.

In 1910, the Vancouver District League had two divisions. 4 Vancouver teams, Celtics, Thistle, Shamrocks and Hibs were in Div 1, along with the Rovers and Westham Island. Div 2 consisted of Coquitlam, Shamrocks, Albion, C.P.R., Thistles, B.C.E.R. Central Methodist, and V.A.C. According to game reports from that era, the starting eleven played the whole game, no substitutions were allowed, even if a player was seriously injured.

The local high school team was very successful, winning many BC championships, and developing players who would later move into the senior teams. In 1911, the Royal City high school team were champs, and in 1912, when Duke of Connaught High School existed, its soccer team also took many BC titles.

The interest in soccer continued, with new teams being created, more people playing, more fans attending games, and trophies to celebrate victory. The first trophies to recognize soccer supremacy in BC were the McBride Cup, given to the BC Football Association by Richard McBride in 1911, and the Bowser Mainland Cup which was donated by former BC Governor General William Bowser. Local teams known as Westminster Presbyterians, Westminster United, and Sapperton AFC, lost in the Mainland Cup finals in 1920, 24, 25 and 26. Aubrey Sanford, who went on to become President of the Canadian Soccer Association played for those early New Westminster teams.

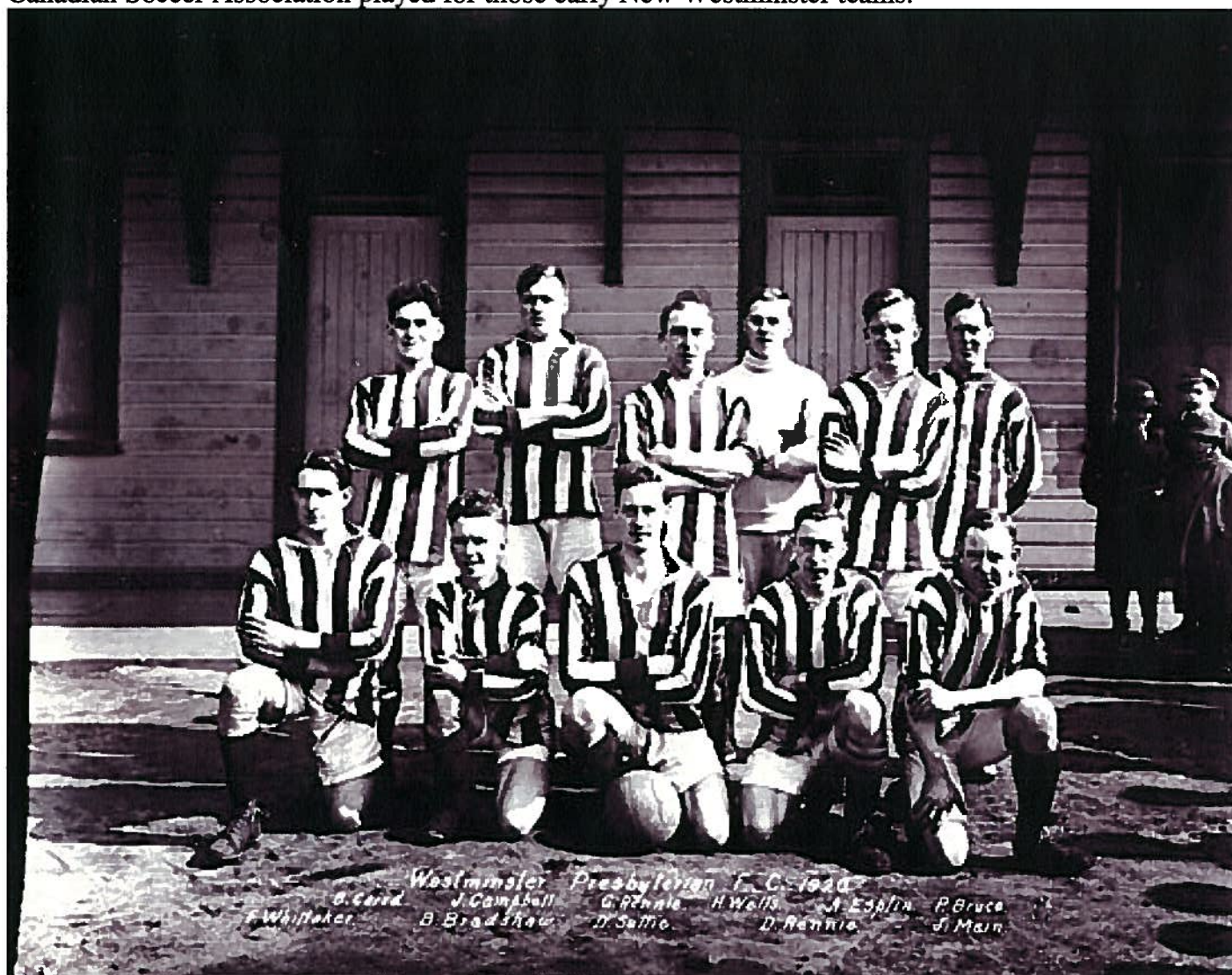
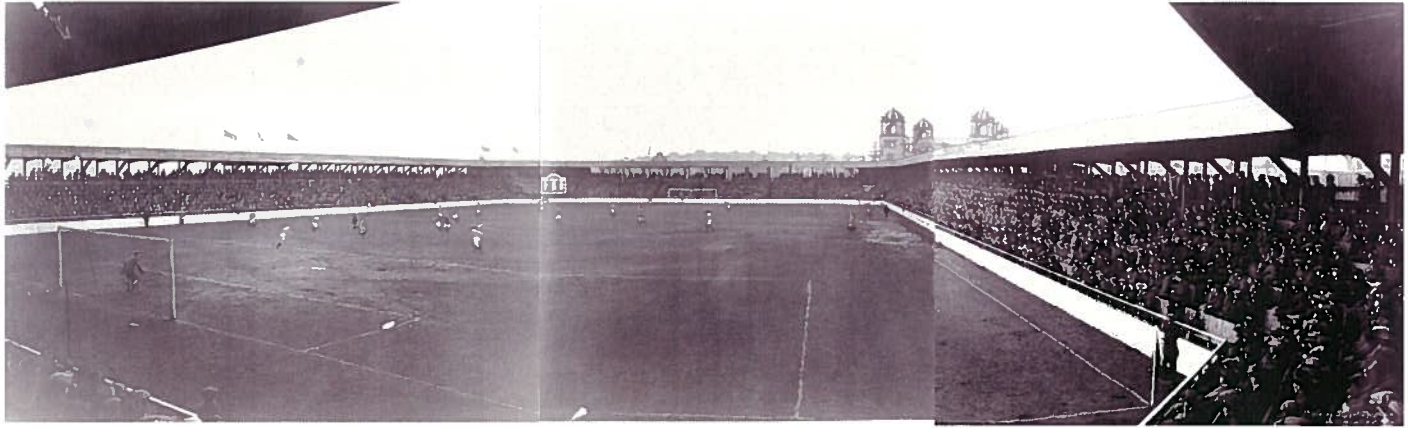


Photo of Westminster Presbyterian team, 1920, courtesy of Vancouver Archives.

Sapperton Athletic Football Club (AFC) was a very successful team playing before large crowds and in key games throughout the 20's. In 1924 they played in the Mainland Cup final against Vancouver St. Andrews in front of approximately 10,000 people at a Con Jones Park, which is located in the PNE area of Vancouver.



Panoramic photo courtesy of New Westminster Archives.

The line-up for the Sapperton AFC in the 1924 Cup game was Sanford, Oakley, Cheal, De Easum, Grimston, Gardner, Mitchell, Geddes, Jack Wood, Doyle, and Hart. St. Andrews line-up was Wells, Barber, Watson, Robertson, MacFarlane, Winterhursty, G. Wilson, Greig, Campbell, Lewis, F. Wilson. Jack Wood's wife, Beth, became the first woman Mayor of New Westminster.

The local community strongly supported Sapperton AFC. The club's executive, as shown by its annual meeting in 1925. Alderman Archie Hogg was the President, with Dr. A.M. Sanford as honorary president, and Mayor Annandale and William Tyler as Vice Presidents, Gordon Spring as Secretary-Treasurer and Donald McLeod as team manager.

Sapperton AFC continued to compete at the highest level, winning the Imperial Cup in 1926/27 by beating Shelly's in the final played on May 25.



Photo of Sapperton AFC after winning the Imperial Cup.

A new trophy was provided by the Province newspaper around 1922 and that trophy is still use today by the British Columbia Soccer Association. In the early years, teams from Vancouver Island frequently won the trophy, and Sapperton AFC was unable to win it. This City's record changed considerably after a new team, New Westminster Royals was created. The Royals were created in 1926 after Westminster United disbanded. City Councillor and future Mayor Fred Hume agreed to sponsor the new team and many former United players joined the team. The Royals went on to become the best known soccer team in Canada, winning the provincial title many years, and the national championship eight times. It is fitting that the best team came from the City where the first game was played. The next most successful teams from BC are Columbus and Firefighters who have won four times.

### **New Westminster Royals, 1927–36**

In December of 1950, the Canadian Press conducted a poll of all its sports editors across the country in order to determine the leading players and teams at the half-century mark in all sports. The soccer team chosen "Team of the Half Century" was the Westminster Royals of 1929. In 1979, the British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame inducted the Royals team of 1928–29, noting that it was the "Soccer Team of the First Half Century." The reasons for the induction of this particular team listed on the BC Sports Hall of Fame website include winning, amongst other trophies, the 1928 Province Cup as well as the 1928 Challenge Trophy for the Canadian championship. In 2005, The Soccer Hall of Fame and Museum (Ontario) chose to induct as a Team of Distinction, the Westminster Royals, 1928, referring to the team that played the 1927–28 season, giving them credit for the 1928 Challenge Cup.

The following men played at least one game for the Westminster Royals 1927–28 team during the regular season: Aitkin, George Anderson, Stanley Ball, Jock Campbell, Harry Chapman, Jack Coulter, Austin Delany, Gant, Adam Kerr, Bob McDougall, Les Rimmer, George Russell, Jimmy Smith, Tom Taylor, Tom Trotter, Dave Turner and Roy Williams. The following players were transferred to the Royals for the National Championship: Andy Roots, Aubrey Sanford, Dickie Stobbart and Sandy Strang.

The 1927–28 Westminster Royals won the following trophies: Vancouver & District First Division League Championship (Teacher's Shield), Mainland Cup, Vancouver Exhibition Cup and F.A. Trophy.



1927 Royals photo courtesy of New Westminster Archives

The following men played at least one game for the Westminster Royals 1928–29 team during the regular season: George Anderson, Joe Berto, Harry Chapman, Jack Coulter, Austin Delany, Andrew Hannah, Hendry, Tom Kennedy, Adam Kerr, Dan Kulai, George Lindsay, Eric Mackay, Bob McDougall, Joe Millburn, Les Rimmer, George Russell, Max Shiles, Stanley, Dickie Stobbart, Sandy Strang, Tom Trotter, Dave Turner and Nels Wilson.

The 1928–29 Westminster Royals won the following trophies: Vancouver & District First Division League Championship (Teacher's Shield), Mainland Cup, Province Cup and O.B. Allan Cup.

On August 1, 1928, the Westminster Royals from New Westminster, British Columbia, won the national championship of Canada by defeating Montreal C.N.R. in the third game of a three-game series 6–1 at Carruthers Park in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In the first game played on July 28, the Royals won 3–2, while in the second played on July 30, Montreal won 2–1, thus forcing a third game. This Westminster team was considered to be one of the finest teams ever assembled in Canada up to that time, and its players were widely acclaimed. They established a soccer dynasty which lasted into the thirties. Previously known as Westminster United, the team finished the 1927–28 season, including the national championship, with an impressive 31 wins to only three losses. They scored a total of 153 goals, and allowed only 36 goals against.

After the regular season, the teams in B.C. began playing for the Province and Mainland Cups. In the Province Cup for the championship of B.C., the Royals were surprisingly defeated 3–2 by Woodfibre. However, they went on to win the Mainland Cup on May 28, 1928, by beating St. Saviours 2–0. At that point, qualifying competition for the national championship began, which in those days was a separate competition from the provincial championships right across the country.

Before the qualifying rounds began, the Royals strengthened their team, adding goalkeepers Andy Roots from B.C. Sugar Refinery and Aubrey Sanford from Sapperton and defender Sandy Strang from Ladysmith in June, and forward Dickie Stobbart from Nanaimo Davenports in July. The national competition began on June 9 with the Royals beating Ladysmith 5–1. They then defeated Esquimalt on June 16 and St. Saviours on June 23. This put them in the B.C. final against St. Paul's on July 7, which they won 5–2. The next game was against the Alberta finalists, Edmonton Canadian Legion. In the first game played at Con Jones Park in Vancouver on July 14, 1928, the Royals won 4–0. Two days later, in a wild affair also at Con Jones Park, the Royals won 9–6. Action now moved to Winnipeg, where the Royals met the Manitoba-Saskatchewan champions, Winnipeg Westbrook, at Carruthers Park. Here the Royals won 7–1 on July 23 and 2–0 on July 25, to put them in the final against Montreal C.N.R., the champions of the eastern half of the country.

The first game between the two teams was played on July 28 with the Royals winning 3–2 on two goals from Jack Coulter and one from Dave Turner. Andy Roots was in goal. Controversy surrounded the second game as three of the Royals star players: George Russell, Austin Delany and Dickie Stobbart, did not play. The management claimed that injuries kept these three players out. Aubrey Sanford was in goal. The Royals lost 2–1 with Coulter scoring the Royals only goal. The final game was played on August 1, with Russell, Delany and Stobbart back in the lineup. Stanley Ball, the goalkeeper during the regular season, was in goal. The Royals won 6–1 and Coulter scored four times and Stobbart and Kerr once each. After the game, the game ball, duly signed by a number of players and management, was presented to Stanley Ball as the goalkeeper before he left the team to join family in Winnipeg, and then Toronto. That ball now resides in The Soccer Hall of Fame and Museum (Ontario).

A crowd of 10 000 welcomed the Royals home to New Westminster on August 6, 1928. A report in *The British Columbian* describes the scene: "Long before the train was due to arrive, the station platform was thronged, the streets in the vicinity were jammed with cars and the sidewalks were crowded for several blocks. City officials, including Mayor Gray and the aldermen, representatives of the various public bodies and the executive of the team, the fire department and the band of the New Westminster branch of the Army and Navy Veterans' Association, all were present to show public recognition of the best football eleven in Canada, which has brought fame to the Royal City ... After the victors had managed to break through the huge crowd of admirers at the station, they were driven up Columbia street in a huge parade of automobiles to Albert Crescent ... To the noise of the horns of scores of automobiles, the sirens of the fire department vehicles and the cheers of thousands, the procession slowly made its way to the Crescent." A civic welcome followed, and the next evening, the team was honoured with a banquet at the Russell Hotel in the Royal City.

The Royal continued to be a powerhouse winning the Canadian championship again in 1930, 1931 and 1936. Information about New Westminster Royal courtesy of Colin Jose, Soccer History of Canada website.

Based on his exceptional ten year performance with the Royals, Dave Turner was inducted into both the Canadian Sports Hall of fame and the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame.



Photo of Turner upon his induction into the hall of fame

**1950-60 Royals**

In the 1950's, the New Westminster Royals were playing in the Pacific Coast League (PCL), which was a successful league, with excellent playing fields and large crowds who paid admission. According to former PCL President Bill Findler, the quality of play in the PCL was equivalent to third division in England. Teams scouted players and players stuck with teams because they were receiving regular pay.

A rejuvenated New Westminster Royals team won the PCL league trophy several times in the 1950's and from there went on to win the Canadian championships in 1953, 1955, 1958 and 1960. Four members of that team, goalie Ken Pears, Erroll Crossen, Roy Buster Cairns and Dave Turner are in the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame. The team sponsor was John Prentice.

The team roster in 1953 was Allan Sawyer, Les Hibbert, Ken Pears, Roy Cairns, Jack Stanley, Erroll Crossen, Wallace Milligan, Jackie Whent, Dave Guthrie, Jack Spry, John McKay, Jim Foster, Bill Hislop, Bob Findler, Ivan Carr, Paul Fabris, and Lex Henderson, with Aubrey Sanford as team manager. The 1953 team also won the North American championships, defeating a team from Chicago in the final.

In 1954, Crossen was signed by Manchester City and he played seven years in England before returning to the west coast. To replace Crossen and a few other players, the Royals recruited some new players, Bob Bisset in 1955 to succeed Ken Pears in goal, while Gogie Steward, Harry Price and Bruce Ashdown joined the backline. In 1958 Cec Goodheart became the team manager, and Terry Crisp was added to the roster. Finally in 1960, Mel Schweitzer became the goalie, and John Woods, Brian Philly and Jackie James were key additions to the roster. In addition to winning their national championship in 1960, the Royals were invited to San Francisco to play against Munich 1860, a professional team from Germany who were touring at the time. The Royals played them to a 1-1 score.

New Westminster was also producing great young talent throughout the years, first through the high school teams, then the intermediate college teams and then through juvenile youth teams. For example, in 1961, Sapperton Shop Easy were champions of their Juvenile league. The team was coached by Don Wheating and Jim Van Os, and most of the goals were scored by Wayne Goss. That same year, Westminster Royals Junior team won their league. They were coached by John Savan. One of the most famous names to come out of the New Westminster youth teams was Frank Yallop who played overseas and coached the Canadian Mens National Soccer Team, before moving back to the MLS as a coach.

### **New Westminster Blues 1972**

After 10 more years battling in the Pacific Coast League, the New Westminster Royals began to rebuild with young local talent, under the leadership of George Wright who served as President. The team name changed to the Blues when they were sponsored by the Labatts brewery in Sapperton. The Blues played out of Sapperton Park and Queens Park Stadium. In 1972, the Blues won the Canadian amateur championship after defeating the Ontario champion 3-0 in the final. The Blues regular goalie Robin Davies, who had been a professional in Blackpool, was not able to play in the final. Mike Gilmore replaced him in the net and got the shutout and was named the game MVP. Jim Irvin was outstanding at centre half, and Sandy Beveridge played another strong game. Scoring for the Blues were Metro Gerela, Tom Forrester and Doug Wilson. George Wright, was very proud that his young team, which had an average age of only 23, had managed to win the Nationals.

The Blues also organized 5 aside tournaments as fund raisers and one year they organized a 5 aside womens indoor tournament at Queens Park arena, with their own Bluebellies team as one of eight entries. City Councillor Lorrie Williams played on that first Bluebellies team. A few years later, many of those original eight womens indoor teams formed the first womens outdoor league. That first league, which was initiated in New Westminster was the start of the thriving womens soccer leagues in BC as we know them today.



Bluebelles and Coach Robin Davies. The Bluebelles left to right are Barbara Beveridge, Sandi Grant, Lorrie Williams, and Fiona Davies. Photo courtesy of Lorrie Williams.

Local soccer coach Joe Bell helped with the Blues for a short while, before he and his brother Alex Bell created a Queens Park Rangers team which dominated BC soccer for several years. The Ranger lost a close game that decided the Canadian championship in 1987. Some of the Rangers key players were David Norman, Arnie Meers, Brad Higgs, Lee Sullivan and Carl Shearer.

The successes of Royal, Blues and Rangers shows the tremendous history of quality soccer in New Westminster, and also of soccer in British Columbia compared to other provinces. In 85 years since teams have competed for the National Cup, BC teams have won 39 times, Ontario 14, Quebec 11, Manitoba 10, Alberta 7, Nova Scotia 2 and NFLD 1.



## Sapperton Rovers FC History

The club name reflects the history of Sappers (Royal Engineers) who played the first game in 1862, the professional Rovers team of the 1900-1920 period, and the successful Sapperton AFC team of the 1920's.

The first Sapperton Rovers team was created in 1994 by the late, great Don Smith. Don was well known in the local soccer community for his countless hours of volunteering. He had been involved with a Sapperton AFC team in the 70's and 80's, and when that team disbanded, he joined forces with some players to create a new team. The founder of Sapperton FC, Don had a great passion for soccer and his

passion attracted many young players to play for his winter and summer teams for over two decades. Some players who he recruited were Brian & Gary Donald, Kevin Hearne, Bryan Wevers and Brian Wilms. Don Smith died a few years later but a memorial game is played at Sapperton Park every year in his honour.

In 1994, the Sapperton Rovers team was established, and they started playing in Division 1 after purchasing a withering team in the Vancouver Metro Soccer League. In the 1995-96 season, Sapperton tore up the 1<sup>st</sup> division, going undefeated and easily winning their well deserved promotion into the VMSL's top flight division. Led by Hearne, the Donalds, Wilms, Wevers, Mike Araszewski and Sean Flynn, Sapperton's hey days were on the rise.

After winning their 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive tournament (Kelowna May 1995, 1996; Deep Cove April 1996; Sechelt September 1996) the Rovers were well prepared for the league's Premier division. Local scoring legend Arnie Meers, goalie Craig Edwards, and mid-fielder Lee Sullivan bolstered the Sapperton lineup for the 1996-97 season. The Rovers came flying out of the gate; going undefeated in the first 8 games of the campaign, and finishing their first year in the elite premier division in 1<sup>st</sup> place. Winning the League Cup in Sapperton's first year in the premier division is a feat accomplished by no other team in the history of the league.

Over the next few years, Sapperton maintained its spot in the premier division. During which time, a minor youth movement at Sapperton introduced new young players to the club's culture and style. In 2000, Sapperton formed a reserve team which helped preserve the senior team's presence in the VMSL. As well, Sapperton established a working relationship with the Royal City Youth Soccer Association to assist in the development of local players and their graduation to the senior men's level. This commitment helped the Rovers solidify its reputation as the toughest team to beat on any given weekend for years to come. In the last few years, a number of Royal City youth players have moved into the Rovers camp, in particular the Reserve and U21 teams. The current U21 team has 8 former Royal City youth players, Chris Munro, Matt Murray, Sisay Menghasa, Brian Monk, Arnold Levkin, Nikola Ciric, Jordan Cooper and Alex Petrenko.

### **Run up to 2006 BC Championship**

2002 saw the rebirth of Sapperton's fortunes as the Rovers caught a hot streak and rode it all the way to the Provincial Cup semi-finals, the farthest the Rovers have ever been. A tough Victoria Gorge side proved too much as the Rovers lost 3-2 on an extra time free kick goal. The 2005 squad, arguably the best Sapperton team ever, emerged as one of the top teams in the province. New young talent and veteran leadership guided Sapperton to the provincial semi-final play downs. But the luck of a penalty shootout left a very bitter taste with the Rovers once again.

In May 2006, Sapperton got its just reward. With timely goals in every provincial cup game; Ryan McNabb, Srdjan Biljetina, Cory Breure (from his own goal!), and Jeff Rogers in the final, Sapperton claimed its 1<sup>st</sup> Provincial title. The 1-0 victory in the final against Firemen FC was one of dramatic acclaim. After 87 minutes of pressure-cooker soccer, Jeff Roger's knuckling shot from 25 yards out found the far top corner of the goal. Sapperton managed to hold off a surging Firemen squad for the final 3 minutes in a great Provincial Cup final. Once the final whistle blew, the celebrations lasted through the entire weekend.



Photo of Sapperton winning BC championship in 2006 courtesy of Richard Howes, BC Soccer Web.

Sapperton Rovers represented British Columbia in the national championships in the fall of 2006, finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place, despite drawing the eventual champion Ontario team 1-1 in a preliminary round game.

In the fall of 2005, club executive members spearheaded the amalgamation of Sapperton with three new teams. Sapperton Rovers FC consists of 6 senior teams and over 120 members. The association now boasts a men's and women's Premier squad, a Masters division Premier squad, a women's 3<sup>rd</sup> division team, the Jr. Rovers, and a men's U21 squad. With a firm commitment to top-flight soccer and youth player development, Sapperton has positioned itself as a powerful club for years to come.

### **Sapperton Rovers Volunteer Work**

The Rovers have been doing charity work in New Westminster for several years. In 2005, the club provided \$7,000 worth of free work and materials to the Sapperton Pensioners Hall. For the past 4 years they have volunteered en masse at the annual Christmas dinners for seniors at Century House. Members of the club have also helped coach some of the older Royal City Youth soccer club teams, and they have helped at tournaments and at tryouts.

### **Sapperton Rovers Executive**

President - Bryan Wevers. Vice President – Kent Waechter, Treasurer – Peter Vranjkovic, Secretary – Ted Ullrich, Director – Kirk Waechter, Mens Coach – Renzo Pierotti, Mens Coach – Mauro Celenza, Womens Select Team – Sarah Weatherby and Kim Duffy, Womens Division 3 Team Manager – Rene Sandoval.

## **Royal City Youth Soccer Club**

The first youth club was established in the late 1950's by Don Benson, New Westminster's poet laureate. Prior to that time, children mostly played on organized school soccer teams and pick-up soccer. Benson's club morphed into Royal City in the 1960s'. Royal City has grown every year, and now it has over 1,200 boys and girls children from New Westminster playing soccer every winter season and another 200 playing spring soccer, and for the first time a futsal league in 2008. One of the key steps in its history occurred around 1998 when it incorporated as a non-profit society, thanks to the efforts of Anne Monk, Barry Enge and Rick Molstad.

Royal City has an extensive development program with training for coaches and players, and specialized paid coaching support available for all teams. The Club runs a wide variety of tournaments and special events, which are enjoyed by children of all ages.

A number of Royal City teams have won provincial championships in their respective age categories, including teams coached by Craig Nichols and John Brown. Some teams, such as boys and girls Metro teams coached by Gerry Heaney and Lana Bordignon have participated in soccer exchanges with week long trips to Montreal.

### **Royal City Club Executive**

President – George Riddell, Past President – Rick Brown, Vice-President Boys – Richard Duncan, Vice-President Girls, - Paul Roder, Treasurer – Jackie Barber, Equipment Manager – Shawn Cody, Club Manager- Karen Murray.

### **Rosters for the Re-creation Game**

#### **Royal City Coaches Roster:**

Enzo Gentile, Richard Vurdela, Steve Hayer, Scott Loewen, Steve Zrnoh, Ed Zacharuk, Doug Lane, Ken Moysiuk, Louis Marcado, Neil Spelrum, George Hutchison, Chris Hardwick, Brent Murray, Sergio Del Rio, Mike Nottingham, Neil Shuster, Hugh Hamilton, Sandy McDonald, and Shawn Cody. Wayne McCarthy - Coach

#### **Sapperton Rovers Roster:**

Bryan Wevers, Brian Gibson, Gary Donald, Edward Bradford, Kent Waechter, Kirk Waechter, Ted Ullrich, Ryan McNabb, Mike Arazewski, Arnie Meers, Jason Pierotti, Lee Sullivan, Jeff Rogers, Kevin Morris, Colin Philips, Sven Wagner, John Thurness, Mike Favaro, Paul Favaro. Coaches – Dave Corr and Joe Bell.

## **RULES FOR REENACTMENT GAME**

The first game from 1862 will be re-enacted using the Cambridge Soccer rules of 1863, which were used for competitive soccer in England.

### **THE 1863 CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RULES**

#### **Rule 1**

The length of the ground shall be not more than 150 yards. The ground shall be marked out by posts, and two posts shall be placed on each side line, at a distance of 25 yards from each goal line.

#### **Rule 2**

The goals shall consist of two upright poles at a distance of 15 feet from each other.

**Rule 3**

The choice of goals and kick off shall be determined by tossing, and the ball shall be kicked off from the middle of the ground.

**Rule 4**

In a match when half the time agreed upon has elapsed, the sides shall change goals, when the ball is next out of play. After a change or a goal obtained, the kick off shall be from the middle of the ground in the same direction as before. The time during which the match shall last, and the numbers on each side are to be settled by the heads of the sides.

**Rule 5**

When a player has kicked the ball, any one of the same side who is nearer to the opponent's goal line is out of play, and may not touch the ball himself, nor in anyway whatsoever prevent any other payer from doing so.

**Rule 6**

When the ball goes out of the ground by crossing the sidelines, it is out of play, and shall be kicked straight into the ground again from the point it is first stopped.

**Rule 7**

When a player has kicked the ball beyond the opponent's goal line; whoever first touches the ball (touchdown) when it is on the ground with his hands may have a free kick, bringing the ball 25 yards straight out from the goal line.

**Rule 8**

No player may touch the ball behind his opponent's goal line, who is behind it when the ball is kicked there.

**Rule 9**

If the ball is touched down behind the goal line and beyond the line of the side posts, the free kick shall be from the 25 yards post.

**Rule 10**

When a player has a free kick, no-one of his own side may be between him and his opponent's goal line, and no-one of the opposite side may stand within 10 yards of him.

**Rule 11**

A free kick may be taken in any manner the player chooses.

**Rule 12**

A goal is obtained when the ball goes out of the ground by passing between the posts had they been of sufficient height.

**Rule 13**

The ball when in play may be stopped by any part of the body, but may not be held or hit by the hands, arms, or shoulders.

**Rule 14**

All charging is fair; but holding, pushing with the hands, tripping up and shinning are forbidden.

## **Differences with the Modern Game**

There are several other important differences with the game of soccer we know today.

Although there were usually 11 players, there was no rule to stipulate this, or even that the two sides should have equal numbers. In fact, it was not uncommon for games to be played with unequal numbers.

The goals consisted of two uprights with no crossbar. A goal could be scored if the ball passed between them at whatever height in the same way as a conversion kick in rugby.

The off side rule was the same as in rugby ie if a player was in front of the ball, he was off side, so no forward passes to team mates were possible. This meant that members of the same side formed up behind and on either side the player with the ball a tactic called 'backing up'.

Players could not catch the ball, but could stop it with their hands. When the ball was kicked over the goal line whichever team touched it down first got a free kick 25 yards in from where it was touched down. If the attacking team achieved such a 'touch down', it represented an excellent opportunity to score a goal.

There were no throw-ins: the ball was kicked back in from where it was first stopped.

All shoulder barging was fair and it was therefore possible to barge a player who was in possession of the ball, rather than going for the ball itself. Likewise, on 50/50 balls, players shoulder barged in a much more aggressive way than would occur in today's game.

Although the position of goalkeeper seemed to have existed, the player concerned played by the same rules as his team mates, all of whom may have kept goal if the need arose, probably similar to the 'rush goalie' principle.

The Cambridge Rules of 1863 are very short, unlike the lengthy rules today, which have interpretation bulletins to explain points that are often debated.

## **Rule Modifications for 2008 Reenactment Game**

- a) The Cambridge rules do not mention punishment for fouls. The rule modification is to adopt current yellow and red card rules for fouls, and to use normal soccer rules for tackles and physical challenges.
- b) If the ball crosses the end line (not including the goal) and touches a fence or other object, then it shall be a dead ball and the defending team shall retrieve the ball and place it on the 25 yard line for play to restart. If a defending player kicks the ball across the end line to intentionally create a dead ball, then the attacking team shall place the ball on the 25 yard line and may attempt a shot on goal.

## **Strategy and Tactics**

Success in the 1860's game requires skill in dribbling, since forward passes are not allowed, long distance shots on net and strategic placement of players on the field. A great tactic is to dribble or shoot the ball across the end line and touch it first and then take a shot from the 25 yard line. Another useful tactic is to kick the ball long into one of the opposing teams corners of the field and try to keep the ball in that area.

