

SOME RANDOM NOTES ON THE EARLY DAYS OF THE FOOTBALL
TEAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

I was at the University from FEB 1934 to JUN 1937 and I met and talked with people who were there as far back as the mid-1920s. As far as I am aware no organised football was played before 1936 although there was a football team member on the SRC as early as 1934.

I suggest that Mr. Max Sorell, 56 Esplanade, Lindisfarne, (Tel ~~439062~~ 435 318) be contacted as he may recall if there was a team during the 1920s. He would have been at University circa 1925/30. He was a good footballer and was playing for Lefroy in the T.F.L in the early 1930s. This should be done fairly promptly as Max, a cousin of mine, is now 88! He may be in Queensland for the winter and if his phone is not being answered, his daughter, Jane Flach, 6 Ormond Street, Bellerive, would know his whereabouts.

My football was with Cananore (now Hobart) in 1934 and with Hutchins Old Boys in 1935. In these years a football team from the University played two or three social games each year, always on Sundays. I remember playing in four such matches and the teams we played all had sets of guernseys whereas we didn't and played in a motley of colours, thus being easily distinguishable! The matches were:-

1. Mangalore where the ground was a paddock behind the State School which is not there now. There were no facilities and piles of clothes were used as posts.
2. Lindisfarne whence we went by ferry. The ground was sloping and rough but had a shed and posts.
3. Old Hobartians. Two matches, at West Hobart, I think. Our opponents, who were a little more organised than us, supplied a football and engaged an umpire who was paid by a levy on University team members. Goal and boundary duties were carried out by anyone who could be persuaded or coerced into doing the jobs.

In 1936 I was appointed to the S.R.C. as football representative and therefore felt that I should do something about getting a club organised. Thus:-

Firstly The S.R.C. granted a small sum which was just enough to buy the cheapest of uniforms-a set of Rugby type cotton tops from Sydney. They had horizontal stripes in our colours and we were laughed at somewhat until the novelty wore off. It was quite beyond our means to buy standard woollen guernseys. Secondly I had noted that in 1935 the Queenborough Association had but three teams, one being O.H.A. whose secretary I knew through playing against them. He was, I think, one Schramm who was a clerk with Mathers, a transport firm, with offices in Lower Collins Street.

To cut a long story of negotiations and intrigue short, at the 1936 Annual Meeting of the Queenborough Association on the night of 24 APR 1936 at the Hobart Trades Hall, University was admitted as a member team with the proviso that University had to provide a ground. I managed to get the Hutchins' Christ College Ground at the corner of Princes and Parliament Streets, Sandy Bay. The ground was small and "crummy" but really no worse than the others the Association was playing on-West Hobart for one and another quite small one at Long Beach.