

# • LAST-MINUTE DRAMA

## Blockhouse Bay takes the big cup

By Alan Sefton

Blockhouse Bay won the Soccer Gillette Chatham Cup 3-2 with a goal in the dying seconds of the replay final against Western Suburbs (Wellington) at Newmarket Park.

The Press box watchers showed time was up when Colin Shaw planned a header past Western goalkeeper Bruce Nicol for Blockhouse to win.

Extra time had looked a certainty, as an intense performance by the home team had kept the score level between the two sides until the 115th minute.

Wellington took the lead in the 115th minute, but the home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.

The home team's goalkeeper, Bruce Nicol, saved the goal.



## — BERT BEAMS

WHAT a Cup final — and what a finish!

This was a real final with good, hard play and again a great display by Western Suburbs who could well have won the game with their bustling, attacking play.

I'd have to single out John Johnny Moore for his display in goal again. He seemed overpowered by the crowd but saved so many goals.

It WAS planned. And that second goal of mine WAS a predicted move. Don't let the ball about every 100 — he's trying to win for the right-hand corner.

What a field in the second too for Colin Shaw. The winning goal right on fulltime and a hard battle all the way — every day.

Blockhouse Bay's supporters deserve credit too — and a bucket of heat taken. They've had to put up with so many tough matches this year that it's a wonder they're here.

But thanks to them and the team for they kept over the year. Soccer's forced to stay back into being a truly national, not just a local, game.

And the wind did drop just when Blockhouse could have been expected to become much more prominent on attack.

Blockhouse Bay's supporters deserve credit too — and a bucket of heat taken. They've had to put up with so many tough matches this year that it's a wonder they're here.

But thanks to them and the team for they kept over the year. Soccer's forced to stay back into being a truly national, not just a local, game.

And the wind did drop just when Blockhouse could have been expected to become much more prominent on attack.

Blockhouse Bay's supporters deserve credit too — and a bucket of heat taken. They've had to put up with so many tough matches this year that it's a wonder they're here.

But thanks to them and the team for they kept over the year. Soccer's forced to stay back into being a truly national, not just a local, game.

And the wind did drop just when Blockhouse could have been expected to become much more prominent on attack.

Blockhouse Bay's supporters deserve credit too — and a bucket of heat taken. They've had to put up with so many tough matches this year that it's a wonder they're here.

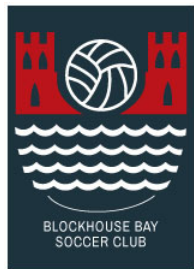
But thanks to them and the team for they kept over the year. Soccer's forced to stay back into being a truly national, not just a local, game.

And the wind did drop just when Blockhouse could have been expected to become much more prominent on attack.

Blockhouse Bay's supporters deserve credit too — and a bucket of heat taken. They've had to put up with so many tough matches this year that it's a wonder they're here.

But thanks to them and the team for they kept over the year. Soccer's forced to stay back into being a truly national, not just a local, game.

And the wind did drop just when Blockhouse could have been expected to become much more prominent on attack.



## BAY OLYMPIC CLUB HISTORY





## BAY OLYMPIC CLUB HISTORY

The following Club and Premier Team histories have been researched and written by Football Committee Chairman Tony Andrews.

Tony was one of the founders of Green Bay - Titirangi United in 1972, and was secretary of it for many years. Tony has always been involved with both Green Bay - Titirangi United and Bay Olympic, playing a major role in the development of both clubs. He was Chairman of the Junior / Youth committee for many years, before and after the amalgamation with Blockhouse Bay Soccer Club.

Tony considers these histories a work in progress and welcomes any information that will enhance them. Anyone who can help should email the Club - for attention Tony Andrews.  
Bay Olympic History

Introduction - This history of Bay Olympic has been compiled by Tony Andrews. Tony was one of the founders of Green Bay - Titirangi United 40 years ago and is currently Chairperson of the Bay Olympic Football Committee. A very enjoyable read for those interested in the people involved in the formation of the club and the first team players and games since that formation. See also Bay Olympic Honours Boards

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF BAY OLYMPIC

A brief history of Bay Olympic would not be complete if it did not also include a record of the two former Clubs, namely, Blockhouse Bay and Green Bay-Titirangi United. It was the amalgamation of these two Clubs that led to the formation of Bay Olympic.

This record starts, naturally, with Bay Olympic and is followed by what we know about the two former Clubs. The information has been gathered from various sources and, like most things in football, opinions vary on just about every detail! However, this is not a definitive document, and if you feel strongly that we have got it wrong on some important matter then please let us know. Also, if you have something to add to the various Club records, please let us know.

This record should be seen as a continuous work in progress!



Blockhouse Bay Founding Committee



Green Bay / Titirangi Founding Committee

## BAY OLYMPIC FORMATION

To put it simply, the amalgamation of Blockhouse Bay and Green Bay-Titirangi came about because it served the mutual interests of both parties. A decision had been taken by the Blockhouse Bay Club that this was an appropriate time to sell the Whitney St land, including the pitch, training area and clubrooms, which it had owned for some years, and to consider joining with another local Club.

It should be remembered that Auckland Football were encouraging Clubs to amalgamate at this time. Green Bay-Titirangi had been refused building consent at Crum Park, not for the first time I might add, and were considering an alternative proposal put forward by the Council. This was to move its first team games to Olympic Park and to eventually develop its clubrooms next to the Athletic club. It was obvious that the two Soccer Clubs should try to come to a mutual arrangement that suited both parties.

Talks were held by a steering committee during the latter half of 1997, led by the two chairmen, Steve Bruce (Blockhouse Bay) and Ross Clow (Green Bay-Titirangi). This steering committee then became the Executive for the new Bay Olympic Club. The committee consisted of Steve Bruce, Ross Clow, Richard Houghton, Pat Evans, Brian Broadbent, Chris Napier, Janet Adshead, Barry

Barmes, Simon Jefferson, Tony Andrews, Annette Ockleston and Bob Rock (representing the Blockhouse Bay Trustees, who were instructed by the Blockhouse Bay Club to sell the Whitney Street land). Until this was completed, the clubs Premier home games were played at Whitney St and the clubrooms there fully utilized. Green Bay's clubrooms at the Ratepayers hall in Portage Road were returned to the Ratepayers Association, much to the relief of one or two of its neighbours!



In 1998 Bay Olympic teams took the field for the first time and competed at all levels from Junior to the Northern Premier League.

The Whitney St land was sold towards the end of 2000. With the kind co-operation of the Blockhouse Bay Bowling Club in Terry St, Bay Olympic were able to use that facility as temporary Clubrooms for after-match functions and social nights until the new complex at Olympic Park was completed in 2002. Crum Park became the home ground for the first team fixtures for the 2001 season.

The official opening of the new Bay Olympic clubrooms was over the weekend of 23/24 March 2002. The Waitakere City Brass Band was in attendance as Bob Harvey, Mayor of Waitakere City, officially declared the new complex open. Prior to the official opening, the Bay Olympic Premier Womens team had beaten Mt Albert Ponsonby 3-0 in a friendly. After the opening, the Premier Mens team managed to lose the annual Blair Trophy game to Mt Albert Ponsonby 4-3! It was bound to happen I suppose!! However, in no way did it put a damper on celebrations that weekend!





Steve Bruce had joined Blockhouse Bay as a National League player back in 1976 and although he had later spells with other Clubs, returned to Blockhouse Bay and became Chairman in 1997. He represented Blockhouse Bay interests throughout the amalgamation. Steve became Co-Chairman with Ross Clow of the new Bay Olympic Club in 1998. His experience and knowledge of Premier level football was invaluable to the new Club.

Ross Clow joined and became Chairman of Green Bay-Titirangi in 1995. He led the Club through the amalgamation negotiations and was very heavily involved with the building of the Clubrooms at Olympic Park. His business knowledge and experience was crucial in both matters. He stepped down from the role in 2004. The Bay Olympic Club owes a great deal to the foresight and energy of Steve Bruce and Ross Clow.

Vern Russell was Chairman from 2005-2006, two Championship winning seasons! Ray Spick held the position in 2007 and he was followed by Rick de Vries. Rick was Chairman from the AGM of 2007 until 2013. His tenure included two Championship winning seasons, plus the bonus of a Chatham Cup Final! (We didn't win, unfortunately). At the end of the 2006 financial year, it was no great secret that the Club was having some financial difficulties. The situation that occurred was not down to any nefarious actions, but came about because the Club did not have enough checks and balances in place. In other words, the Club needed to become more professional in the way it operated. Bay Olympic had grown to become financially larger than many small companies but was, after all, run as a volunteer organization.

Under the Chairmanship of Rick de Vries and with the assistance of the Club Manager, Linda Mellor, and the Committee, plus a few private individuals, a new more professional approach was adopted. New processes and checks were introduced and with frugal management, the situation was rectified by 2009. These management improvements continued to show their value when in 2013 Bay Olympic became the first Club in the Auckland Football Federation to be awarded New Zealand Football's Quality Club Mark Level 1. The work of the Chairman, the Club Manager and in particular the Treasurer, Kris McGregor was crucial in gaining this award.

The first part-time Club Manager had been Peter Morris and he was in that position when the Club took over its then new premises in Portage Road at Olympic Park in 2002. In 2005 Linda Mellor took over and remained in the position until 2015! Linda was a great servant to the Club. She saw the Club through its difficult financial years and worked hard to put the

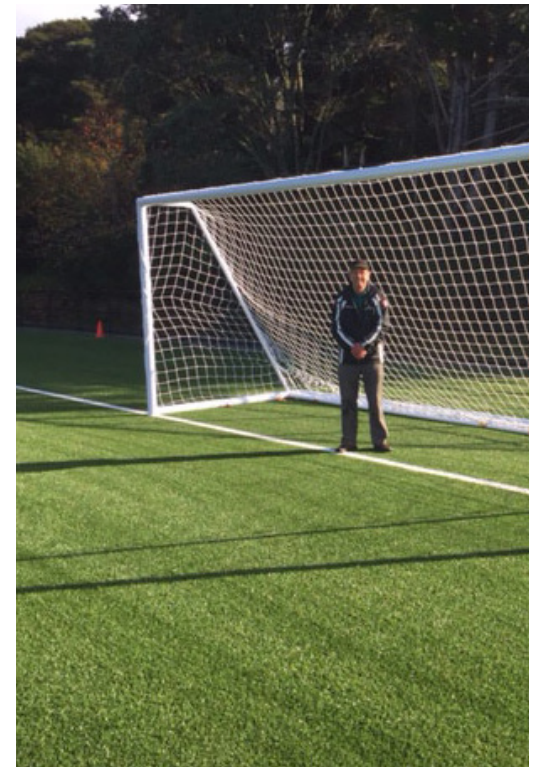
Club in a strong financial position. In addition, she organized and ran the Club's youngest group, the Small Fries, for many years. Kristal McIntyre took over from Linda for a while and the position is currently held by Amy Drury.

The position of Director of Coaching was initially held by Steve Wood in amalgamation year. There was then a gap until Steve Cain took up the reins in 2002, he was followed by Kim Beale. Currently, in 2015, Shane Knowles has this important position. A Director of Coaching has enabled the Club to offer a pathway for young players from grassroots to NZFC level and beyond. Since 2002 huge improvements have been made to the playing surface of Olympic Park and we currently have one of the best grounds around.

Training lights were installed at Crum Park in 2005 but for a while, the Club did not really receive the full benefit from them as the state of Crum Park meant that too often the ground was closed. Eventually, after a couple of unsuccessful attempts, a new type of grass was sown and we had a field that provided an excellent surface for training and games.

In 2013 the old changingroom/facility block at Crum Park was demolished. It had been home to Bay Olympic and Green Bay-Titirangi United since the mid-seventies. However, I don't think too many tears were shed, as it had become a tired looking, outdated complex. With great ceremony, a brand spanking new building was opened in time for the 2014 season. The honour of cutting the ribbon went to Dave Downing, whose name in the Club had become synonymous with Crum Park.

This would not be the end of the improvements at the Park, a new artificial pitch and new floodlighting was installed on Crum No 2. This



included a new area and surface where the old tennis courts stood. Tennis courts originally built by Green Bay – Titirangi.

When Rick de Vries finally stepped down at the end of 2013 it brought to an end a very successful period for the Club in both the management and football areas. Rick had been a popular, hard working and unassuming Chairman, who took an interest in all sections of the Club. The Chairman for 2013/14 was Phil Rollo, but surprisingly, he stood down at the end of his first year. The new and current Chairman is Graham Leaming, whose father, Rex Leaming, had once been Chairman at Blockhouse Bay. At the end of 2016 a grant allowed the Club to refurbish the Clubrooms, the first time since 2002. Great efforts were made to attract more sponsors with Mitre 10 Mega New Lynn coming on board in 2014.

## GREEN BAY / TITIRANGI HISTORY

This article is written in the hope that it will bring forth stories and experiences of the members, particularly the players, that went to make up this very successful local Club. Although it never rose higher than the Northern League Division Two, it produced numerous players and personalities, many of whom remained in the game, after the amalgamation with Blockhouse Bay, and are now with Bay Olympic. Anyone who has something to contribute, or a correction to make, should email the Club – for attention Tony Andrews. See also Green Bay / Titirangi Honours Boards

### GREEN BAY – TITIRANGI UNITED 1972-1998

That was not one of the potential names on the shortlist, produced by the original steering committee, but one, a local Councillor suggested would be prudent if we wanted the Council to provide a ground on which to play! An advertisement appeared in the Western Leader in 1972 inviting interested parties to a meeting at the Green Bay Primary School, the purpose of which was to gauge interest in forming a local football club. Initially, it was to provide football teams for junior and youth players.

A steering committee was organized and the Club affiliated with the Auckland Football Association in 1972. The original advert had been placed by Vic and Velma Wallis and they were the main movers and shakers in the early years. 23 Vardon Road became the club office, gear room and meeting house. The steering committee became the first Club committee.

As well as Vic and Velma Wallis there was Fred Britton, Ken McKinley, Jeff Griffin, Tony Andrews, Ron Cartwright, Jean Parker, Don Campbell, Grahame Bradshaw and Al Moon.



In 1973 a team was entered in most of the junior grades and a number of "midget" teams played at Parrs Park. The Club used Green Bay Domain as its home ground and a number of Auckland Football Association officials attended the first games. Eric Dimmock, an AFF life member, was there to referee the first game. The case for a senior team became apparent and in 1974 a team was entered in the Open D competition. We can record here that it won that competition and that over the 25 years of its history, that was the only time the first team actually headed any division. It won promotion on a number of occasions but always from the number two slot! More on the football side later.

With a senior team, a clubhouse of some sort was required. In the first season the "garages" and "decks" of a number of members homes was used for the aftermatch functions. Eventually, an agreement was reached with the Green Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association for the use of the Ratepayers Hall, down at the beach end of Portage Road. As part of the agreement, the Club agreed to upgrade the Hall which was done after a couple of years. Much of the early work was organized by Vic and Velma Wallis. Velma was a ball of fire in the fee collecting and fund raising area, as well as organizing prizegivings and gala days. Vic Wallis was the practical, hands on, lead by example type. He made an excellent first President.

The Club was growing quickly and representations were made to Council for more grounds. Crum Park was being used by Suburbs Rugby for junior and social games. The Club had to prove that it had the membership to warrant taking over grounds at Crum Park. After initially sharing the ground with Suburbs, GBTU were eventually given the whole of Crum Park. After 4 years Vic Wallis stepped down as President and Graham Logie took over.

Tragically, Graham, a relatively young man, passed away suddenly and Vic was there to guide the Club through the rest of the season. Brian Wilburn became President in 1978 and held the position for four years. Brian, a painter by trade, and Vic Wallis, were responsible for upgrading the Ratepayers Hall. I distinctly remember Brian showing me that all you had to do when painting was to carry a turps rag in one hand, to wipe down with, and a paint brush in the other!

In ten years the Club had grown amazingly. We were fielding numerous "midget" teams and multiple junior teams in most grades. The Club's first team was playing in the Northern League Division 4. By 1982 GBTU had four Life Members, Velma Wallis, Vic Wallis, Barbara Logie and Tony Andrews. Then followed a period when the Club had three Presidents in three years. Alf Stubbs, who was one of the real characters in the Club, Ted Shefferd and Annette Ockleston. Annette gave many years service to GBTU, holding many committee positions and her experience is still called upon by Bay Olympic today.

During this period the Social scene at GBTU was brilliant. Val Campbell produced some amazing 'Shows' including a "Chorus Line" made up of senior players. The junior prizegivings, at the Avondale Cinema, are also remembered when Green Bay Titirangi reunite today.

Soon after being granted the full use of Crum Park talk began of building Clubrooms there. Three efforts were made over a twenty year period! The first effort was hoping to use the skills of Vic Wallis and other tradesmen in the Club to keep costs down. A building fund was started but the whole concept failed because the Waitamata Council decided that they were no longer going to issue permits for clubs to use their own labour on these types of projects. When a more comprehensive plan was submitted a couple of years later, the Council insisted, among other things, that all windows had to be double glazed, and that landscaping would be required etc, etc. This put the cost out of reach for the Club. The money from the original building fund was used to build the tennis court area, which

served as a useful training area when the fields were closed. Many training sessions were held on that area but I doubt that it would suit the teams of today! Both of those plans involved incorporating the Council changing rooms.

Velma Wallis stood down as Treasurer in 1988. Velma had held the position for sixteen years in which the Club had grown from nothing to one of the biggest and best in Auckland. The Club owed both Velma and Vic a huge debt that could never be repaid. However, there is often a silver lining, and in 1989, another name that has become equally as well known to Club Members, Linda Mellor, appeared on the Committee for the first time as Velma's replacement.

Brent Peters took over as President in 1985 and served for a period of 4 years until Wayne Mynott succeeded him in 1990. It was during the period of Brent and Wayne's Presidencies, and later Reg Basham's, that the most serious effort to build Clubrooms at Crum Park took place. It was a long and protracted exercise and it went something like this;





In 1990 a proposal for a Club Headquarters on Crum Park was approved, in principle, by the Council's Community Services Committee. In 1991 the Council granted consent under the District plan. The Club was on the way! Well, not quite. The Council's decision to approve the application was appealed by a local residents group calling themselves "The Friends of Crum Park".

Subsequently, the Council mediated in talks between the two parties and a modified consent was granted in December 1992. We were moving forward again - Wayne Mynott started his "Buy a Brick" campaign and the mood was positive. However, The Friends of Crum Park continued to protest to the Council and the Council (with votes in mind, no doubt) tried to mediate yet another agreement between the Club and the "Friends of C.P".

That proved impossible and eventually the Council, via its Community Board, did an about face (in the Club's opinion) and came up with more stipulations regarding the building of Clubrooms that made the project unrealistic as far as the Club was concerned. The exercise had already cost the Club a serious amount of the members' money. This, and the obvious assumption that the Council did not support us, made it unrealistic for the Club to continue. The Friends of Crum Park were not going to give up and would have, in our opinion, made things intolerable for us.

Reg Basham was President between 1992 and 1995 and did great work in getting the Council to agree to laying one of the first sandbased pitches in West Auckland on Crum Park No 1. For a period, Crum Park was known as "Basham Park"! Another Club stalwart was Pat Evans who did great service as Secretary in two spells totalling 10 years. Pat also ran a very successful tennis section for the Club at Crum Park. Brian Broadbent became Treasurer in 1992 and served in that position until after amalgamation.

Ross Clow was elected President in 1995 and brought a more "Businesslike" approach with him. What he didn't know about football, he learnt very quickly! Ross was able to get the Council to agree that, as they had made Crum Park a no-go area with regard to building Clubrooms, then they should offer us an alternative location. Eventually they did and Olympic Park was the agreed site. Olympic Park, at that stage, had no changing facilities which made it unsuitable for senior football. By 1996, amalgamation talks with Blockhouse Bay were under way and with them the formation of Bay Olympic.

Many Club Members, although not against amalgamation, were sorry to see the end of the Green Bay-Titirangi era. The Club was a great social institution which played a large and important part in the lives of many locals. It was a family Club that will be fondly remembered by its former Members.

### **THE FOOTBALL RECORD!**

(Many thanks to Barry Smith for his help and research) For a long time, many of the long serving members of GBTU were under the impression that the Club's first team had never, actually, topped a Division in its 24 year history. Yes, they had been promoted on a number of occasions, but always from the runner-up position. How wrong we were! In its very first season in 1974, The Clubs No 1 (and only) team won the prestigious AFA Open D competition! Who played in that team? Well, that's a bit of a problem because the match team card is the only record of who played, who scored and who got marched in any game and they are hard to find from 1974! Also, of course, team cards from the Northern Premier Division are 100% accurate but in the realms of the lower Divisions, at least in the seventies, perhaps not so much.

From memory, I'm sure players such as Ken Knox, Peter Woodhams, Bob Campbell, Ray Perkins, Bruce Anderson, Ken Wheeler and the one and only Alastair Moon would have been in that squad. Don Campbell was the first manager of the team and he did a great job for a number of years. I have been told a photo exists and the Club (Bay Olympic) would love a copy of it please! The earliest team photo we have is from 1979. Those players just named formed the backbone of the team for the first years of the Club. The records improved a lot after 1978 and we have a good idea who played in the 1st team from then on. (assuming they were accurate, of course!) Who actually coached the team is another incomplete record that we (and you!) are working on.

From memory again, I think Ray Perkins, Ken Knox, Ron Leakey and Peter Woodhams all had a spell in those early years.

- 1974 Won the AFA Open D Division. 1975 Entered in the AFA 3rd Division. That was regarded as a qualifying grade for entering the Northern League. Finished 2nd but only one team went to the play-offs.
- 1976 Sparta withdrew from the Northern League, so GBTU and High School Old Boys

from Papatoetoe went in to a play-off which HSOB won. They went to the 4th Division and we went into the then new Northern Qualifying section. However, we finished 2nd when needing to finish top! The Chatham Cup was entered for the first time but we were beaten in our first game away to Ellerslie 4-3.

- **1977** The team finished 3rd in the Northern Qualifying Division. We know the names of the squad but very little else! J. Ravlich, Peter Woodhams, Jim Hubbard, G. Scriven, Alfie Forbes, G. Gillard, Ray Perkins, David Stevens, Ian White, R. Walker, D. Frame, Paul Wilson, Paul Stewart, Ken Knox, David Maher, Bob Campbell, Bruce Anderson and Chris Casey. In the Chatham Cup we had our first ever win in beating Te Atatu 1-0 but promptly came down to earth when Mt Roskill hammered us 7-1 in the next round.
- **1978** A new Division was formed called the Northern League Division 4 North and our third place finish in 1977 was enough to get us in. Chris Flack, Dave Fordham and Phil Rogers were now regulars and the team finished in 7th position. Bob Campbell scored 7 goals but we have to admit that the scorers were not always recorded! In the Chatham Cup (which we will just call the "Cup" from now on) we were beaten 4-0 by Waitemata.



- **1979** Ended up in second place in Div 4 North. Not good enough for promotion, as the format was for the winner of the North Section to play off against the South section winner, for a place in the Northern League Division 3. Mick Hubbard was the player/coach that year. The regulars were Bruce Anderson, Roger Weetman, Peter Woodhams, a young Neil Woodhams, Robert Andrews, Bob Campbell, Dave Fordham, Ray Perkins, Phil Rodgers and Ken Knox. In the Cup we went out in the first game 4-2 to Cornwall.
- **1980** A fourth place finish in Div 4 North. Colin Fearon, Ivan Kristensen, Dave McCormick, Garry Morris and Dave Hart became regulars. Again no proper record was kept of goalscorers but we do know the team scored 43 goals! We had Cup wins against Massey 1-0, University 4-2, before going out to Mt Roskill again but this time only 1-0.
- **1981** A second place finish again under coaches Andy Fairlie and then Peter Woodhams. Grant Wallis, Ian Campbell became regulars and Mike Wannan got a couple of games! 40 goals were scored, but by whom, we have no accurate record! In the Cup we went out in our first game, beaten 2-1 by Pt Chev.
- **1982** Ken Wright and then Alfie Stubbs coached that year but it was not a good one and GBTU finished in last place in Div 4 North, relegation! Maybe it had something to do with the fact that Neil Woodhams had left for bigger things! Craig Butt, Mark Woodhams, Ian Campbell, F. Williams, Peter Hearn, Bill Stirling, Garry Morris, Alan Stacey, Paul van Kampen, Don Maguire and Marcus Vettise were regulars. Ken Knox was still playing and Mike Wannan got two more games! Whangarei ended our Cup hopes by spanking us 8-1!
- **1983** Back to the NQ Division. Not sure who was the coach, possibly Ken Knox. Craig Batt, Peter Hearn, Gary Morris, Mike Wannan, Rod Britton and Robert Andrews were the regulars. Altogether, 31 players were part of the squad. A certain Patrick Timmins joined and played in 5 games. GBTU finished in 5th place that year. The Navy, Police and Air Force all had teams in the competition! In the Cup we again went out in our first game, going down 3-1 at Kelston West.
- **1984** This was not a good year for GBTU results wise. Not sure of the coach that year but in the end we finished up in 7th place - only Ranui-Swanson were below us! A number of players moved on and it left Keith Hart, Dion Jimmieson, Gary Morris, Glen House, Mark Roberts, Harry Zwalue?, Ian White and Ian Hyde to carry the flag. We were thumped 6-1 by Taupo in the Cup.



- **1985** This was a better year. GBTU won 11 of its 14 games in finishing second. Again, not sure of the coach, but it may well have been Vic Prichett. Dave Ansell, Colin Hall, C.Bingham, L.Deanne, Peter Wallis and Grant Wallis played the majority of games, and Steve Withers played in nine! In the Cup we went out at the first hurdle to Pakuranga 4-1.
- **1986** Slipped back a bit and finished 7th out of 10 teams. In the Cup we got spanked again by Whangarei, again, this time by 7-3.
- **1987** A great year for the Club. I think it was Blackie's (Tony Black) first year as coach. Some players returned to the Club and the team was much stronger. John Roberts, Pat Timmins, Grant Wallis, Colin Mathews, Walter Stark, Peter Wallis, Mike Wannan, Jim Drummond and Alan Ivory were regulars. The team won 11 out of 12 games for 33 points, equal with Forrest Hill-Milford. Both teams scored 64 goals but GBTU let in 6 more! Second place again! But good enough for promotion this time. In the Cup we had our best year for some time with wins over Glen Eden 6-3 and Clendon 1-0 before going out to Manukau City 2-1.
- **1988** GBTU in the dizzy heights of the Northern League Division 4. Blackie coaching again! Pat Timmins, Michael Hearn, Peter Wallis, Alan Ivory, Grant Wallis, Ross Rafferty, Walter Starke, Mike Wannan, Colin Matthews, Graham Bannister, Peter Morris and Shane Finn were the regulars. We won 14 out of 20 games, exactly the same as Forrest Hill-Milford, however, this time they had one more point than us and we were runners-up again. No matter though because second place won us promotion to Division 3! GBTU were motoring! In the Cup, we beat Cambridge 3-1 but went down to Ngaruawahia 6-1.
- **1989** The team was strengthened for our first season in Division 3. The squad included Alan Ivory, Peter Morris, Peter Hearn, Daryl Christian, John McDermott, Pat Timmins, Graham Bannister, Stephen Gale, Mike Wannan, Peter Wallis and Colin Whittaker. Chris Gwin made 3 appearances. The team won 12 out of 22 games and finished with 42 points, good enough for second place and promotion yet again! Three promotions in three years! We were steaming! In the Cup we beat Matamata 3-2 - had our biggest ever Cup win over YMCA by 12-0 and then lost to Whakatane 4-3. Another great season for GBTU!
- **1990** Most of the players and the coaching staff returned for our first season in Div 2. Ray Palmer was an addition to the squad and Scott Kelly and Aaron Day got to play a few games. GBTU finished in 7th place, mid-table and a creditable performance. In the Cup we beat Bucklands Beach 7-0, then Te Atatu 4-1, before going out to Ngaruawahia on penalties.
- **1991** Our second year in Div 2 was similar - another 7th place finish. Stephen Gale, Peter Morris, Pat Timmins, Grant Wallis, Alan Ivory, Chris Gwin, Jos Dennehy, Aaron Day, Peter Ockleston, John McDermott, Keith Patton and Scott Kelly played in the bulk of the games. We know we got 38 goals but we can only account for 7 of them! In the Cup we lost to Hamilton Wanderers 4-1 in our only game.
- **1992** Steve Fletcher took over as player/coach. Keith Patton, Simon Woodhams, Karl Gornell, Shane Jones, Steve Fletcher, Stefan Lapwood, Peter Ockleston, Maurice Hewson, Sean Towse, Jos Dennehy and Jim Kilmartin did the bulk of the playing. From a football point of view the less said the better! We won just 3 out of 22 games and finished bottom. It was all doom and gloom. Football, though, is a wonderful game and as if by some sort of magic, the Northern League had one of its numerous restructures and we were saved! We would be back in Div 2 in 93! Needless to say, we were beaten in the Cup, in our only game, by Pakuranga 3-0.
- **1993** Somehow we were still in Division 2, although I think a whole new Division had been created above us! John Lipscombe came in as coach and a very positive attitude prevailed at the Club. The players included Tim Groenstein, John Gwin, Shane Rogers, Peter Ockleston, Gary Ireland, Gareth Hughes, Pat Forrester, Stephen Gale, Lee Strickland, Pat Timmins, Simon Woodhams, Karl Gornell, Shaun Gamble and, of course, John Lipscombe. The team finished a creditable 7th, mid-table and far from relegation. In the Cup, just the one game as usual, losing to Rotorua Suburbs by 2-0.
- **1994** John Lipscombe was back as player/coach. Grant Wallis returned and Maurice Hewson joined the squad. Peter Oxley and Adam Schofield got some game time. We went down a place and finished 8th, safe, but 30 points behind the winner, Western Springs. In the Cup we managed to swamp Waitemata City 7-0 but then, for the second time Ngaruawahia beat us on penalties (4-3) after a 1-1 full time scoreline.

- **1995** New coaches in Steve Yates and Steve Withers. The mainstays of the team were Mathew Clews, Peter Wallis, Adam Schofield, Damian Peters, Mathew Sheales, Peter Ockleston, Jon Freeman, Ian Kendrick, Chris Weedon, Keith Patton, Tony Harris, Simon Woodhams and Gary Hutchinson. Pat Timmins and Andrew Barnard got a few games. It was not a successful season, the Club ended up in 11th place out of 12 teams. Winning just 5 games in 22. Relegation!! Well, the restructuring fairy saved us in 1992, would she do so again? You better believe it! Not sure how, but we would be back in Division 2 in 1996. In the Cup we managed just the one game, going out to Whangarei City 4-3 in one of the better performances.
- **1996** Same coaches appointed ( I think) and many of the same squad available. Andrew Barnard and Keith Patton played every game. Carlo Radovan played his first season and was the leading goalscorer with 6 goals. Well, we did better than 1995 and finished 10th - no relegation worries this year! We did have a Cup run of sorts, beating Otahuhu 4-2, Carlton 8-0 before losing to Ngaruawahia again, this time by 2-1.
- **1997** Rod Clews took over as coach in what was to be the last season as GBTU. The season was the most successful for a few years and the team finished in 3rd place in Division 2, which was the highest position GBTU were ever to reach! The squad for that final season was Adam Schofield, Andrew Barnard, Mathew Clews, Peter Ockleston, Simon Woodhams, Keith Patton, Doug Kelly, Peter Wallis, Aaron Day, Damian Peters, Stephen Rowlands, Colin Campbell, Grant Wallis and Matthew Sheales. In the Cup we put up a great fight but lost to Eastern Suburbs 2-1.

It was to be the end of an era. GBTU was amalgamating with Blockhouse Bay and forming the Bay Olympic Club. The records show that Peter Wallis played a total of 175 games for the Club. The others, that we know of, who played over a hundred games were Patrick Timmins, Grant Wallis, Keith Patton, Peter Ockleston, Alan Ivory, Simon Woodhams, Stephen Gale and Mike Wannan. Other major contributors, were Gary Morris with 99 and Peter Hearn with 90.

It is just a pity that we don't have the complete record for players like Ken Knox, Ray Perkins and Peter Woodhams from the early years. We are working on it though! Of the players that went on to higher levels in football, Neil Woodhams stands out and from the

Youth section, Danny Hay. Many players went on to play at Northern Premier League level. Ex GBTU players that played for the new Bay Olympic Club in its first two seasons included Adam Schofield, Carlo Radovan, Andrew Barnard, Stephen Rowlands, Peter Wallis and Damian Peters.

If you have information that may help me to make this a more accurate record of events, please contact me via the Club so that we can update if necessary!

For a start let us try and get the Coaches record correct. This is what I have... can you help me fill in the gaps or correct it.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| • 1974-1977 | I believe Ray Perkins, Ron Leakey and Ken Knox were involved. |
| • 1978      | Ken Knox  |
| • 1979      | Mick Hubbard  |
| • 1980      | ?   |
| • 1981      | Andy Fairlie/Peter Woodhams                                   |
| • 1982      | Ken Wright/Alf Stubbs   |
| • 1983      | John Young  |
| • 1984      | John Young  |
| • 1985      | Vic Pritchett?  |
| • 1986      | ?   |
| • 1987      | ?   |
| • 1988      | ?   |
| • 1989      | ?   |
| • 1990      | Tony Black  |
| • 1991      | Tony Black  |
| • 1992      | Steve Fletcher  |
| • 1993      | John Lipscombe  |
| • 1994      | John Lipscombe  |
| • 1995      | Steve Yates/Steve Withers                                     |
| • 1996      | Steve Yates/Steve Withers                                     |
| • 1997      | Rod Clews   |



## BLOCKHOUSE BAY HISTORY

### INTRODUCTION

Like the Bay Olympic history above, this history of the Blockhouse Bay Soccer Club has been compiled by Tony Andrews. Tony has done a great deal of research for this history but says there is more information out there and would love to talk to people who can enhance this article. Like the previous article this is also a very enjoyable read and it is interesting to note that many of the early family names are still involved in football today.

### A HISTORY OF BLOCKHOUSE BAY SOCCER CLUB

Much of the information in this record comes from an earlier history of Blockhouse Bay Soccer Club compiled by Neil Turley and from an article written by the former President, Bob Rock around 1978. There is a record of a team calling itself Blockhouse Bay playing in the area in the 1920's, some say as early as 1913. Games were played at the Avondale South Domain ( now the BHB Primary school ) but very little is known of this group.

The name Tommy Gaulton has survived as one of the founders. Any further information would be appreciated. The Blockhouse Bay Soccer Club, from which Bay Olympic is descended, had its origins in the Blockhouse Bay Boys Brigade. George Phipps was coach of this Boys Brigade team and they had reached the stage where the players were too old for the Church League competition. So George decided that starting a new Club under Auckland Football Association rules was the answer. In 1948 the newly constituted Blockhouse Bay Soccer Club took the field with one senior team, playing in the 3rd Open grade, and two junior teams. By 1950 the Club was fielding 6 teams and had started a "midget" section. There is no doubt that George Phipps was the power and influence behind the first years of the new Club and without him the area may never have gone on to have had such a strong soccer history.

### FORMATION

In those more formal days everyone was listed as Mr or Mrs and there were a number of married couples named. To the best of my knowledge the names are: Mr & Mrs Millar, Mr & Mrs Webber, Mr & Mrs Leithart, and a Mr, Mrs and Miss Hardinge. Mrs Phipps (Senior) was there along with young George and a Mrs Edwards, Mrs Williams and Messrs Anderson and Taylor. If I am wrong, I apologise now, but please let me know of any mistakes!

The hard work put in by the early administrators must be recognised with a special mention of Mrs Williams the Treasurer, ( in all the records, I have not been able to find a first name!)



and Ces Hardinge, who was President for ten years. A little later the name Eric Ebsworth appears. He was President for four years and went on to become a Life Member of the Auckland Football Association for his services to football.

Among the players' names from those early days were Bill Munro, who was later to become a top referee, and Ron Wheaton, who I personally remember as the driving force at Waitemata. Also, the smiling faces of Geoff Edwards (minus a dog) and Peter Clarkson can be seen in some early team photos.

There can be no doubt that the Phipps family had a huge impact on the Blockhouse Bay club, George was the founder and first coach and he continued to coach, organise fund raising projects and work for the Club for many years. He eventually became the Club's first Life Member. A younger brother, Doug Phipps, was a successful coach, often looking after two or more teams in a season and spent many hours as grounds man at Whitney St. Another brother, Alan, also coached and acted as grounds man for many years.

Harold Phipps (another brother!) had a spell as Club Secretary and his wife, Isobel, organised the "Supporters Club". George's sons, Andrew and Merv, were players, so you couldn't go far without bumping into a Phipps at Whitney St.

Auckland Football Association had a weekly publication "Soccer" at the time. In its July 30th 1955 edition it says Blockhouse Bay was fielding a total of seven junior and senior teams that year. It also states that the Club had purchased five and a half acres in Whitney St and had spent one thousand pounds in laying down a football field that was to be ready for the 1956 season. This seems at variance with other records that say the land was purchased in 1960 from a certain Mr Roy Plummer. I tend to think the later date (1960) is correct but I can't explain away the earlier 1955 date that appeared in "Soccer"! Perhaps someone in cyberspace can help me out!

Neil Turley states that the first competition game at Whitney St was played on 12-9-64 which seems to support the 1960 date. There is also a true story of the raffle of a sailing dinghy that raised 1000 pounds towards the purchase of the land.

A 1959 copy of "Soccer" shows Blockhouse Bay having three senior teams but using Rosebank Reserve ( Eastdale) for its home games. At around this time many games were played at Blandford Park, which was the headquarters of the Auckland Football Association.

By 1960 Blockhouse Bay had won its way into the Auckland Premier Division. The Club had come a long way from the "Open" grade days of 1948. A re-organisation of the Club took place around 1964 – we know this because previous records say so. However, what actual form it took and why it happened remain a bit of a mystery. It is obvious that after 1964 the Club started to move ahead at the senior team level. In 1964 Bert Ormond began what was to be a very successful playing and coaching career with Blockhouse Bay. Also, at an administration level, people like Fred Halls, Billy Mann, Doug Cantley, Alan Moore and Bob Rock came to the fore. It was the forward thinking of these men, in particular Fred Halls, that enabled the Club to be ready for the first National League.

Neil Turley states: The Club formed a sponsoring Company called Auckland United Promotions Ltd with the idea of entering the National League without causing any financial stress to the Club. This, the brainchild of Fred Halls, was very successful and enabled the Club to further expand its own organisation and construct modern Clubrooms at Whitney Street. Auckland United Promotions Ltd ceased to operate at the end of 1976 and handed

back administration of the first team to the Club. The Clubrooms were completed in 1973 under the Presidency of Bob Rock and further additions were made in 1980.

The National League years were the pinnacle of Blockhouse Bay Soccer Club's achievements. They were the best prepared Club in the country in the inaugural year of 1970 and fully deserved to win the very first National League and the Chatham Cup. They were very competitive in most seasons except their last in 1981.

Blockhouse Bay were the envy of all other Clubs in New Zealand in 1970. They set the standard and that should never be forgotten! Try as they might, after 1981, they could never recover their position in the National League. Even the combined efforts of player coaches Brian Turner and Bill de Graaf could not recapture the former glory days of the 70's. The other sections of the Club thrived and remained among the strongest in Auckland with many junior and youth reps produced over the years, right up until amalgamation in 1997.

You only have to look at the Blockhouse Bay Honours boards at the Bay Olympic Headquarters to see how successful they were as a Club. We should also remember that 19 New Zealand International players are listed on that Honours Board. Maybe it was the prohibitive cost of maintaining your own ground that was one of the factors in Blockhouse Bay deciding that amalgamation and playing on Council managed grounds was the way ahead in 1997.

### **ON THE FIELD! THE FORTIES AND FIFTIES**

The first Blockhouse Bay senior team played in the 3rd Open Grade of the Auckland Football Association in 1948. George Phipps was certainly in the team and Paddy Sommers was captain, I believe Cyril Edwards played but the names of the others will remain a mystery until they get in touch with me! A copy of "Soccer" from July 1955 shows a team in the 3rd A Division, in fourth place, having played 12 games and winning 5 of them. This may not have been the first team as previous records state that promotion to the second division was gained in 1954.

A 1959 copy of "Soccer" dated July 11 gives the following line up in a 2nd Division game with Mt Wellington. In goal K. Munro, then W. Lindsay, G. McKeown, W. Munro, G. Millar, K. Sudlow, R. Hasey, R. Wheaton, M. Azzara, J. Gommers and R.Lindsay. No subs to worry about in those days! Are any of these guys around today? These are the players that I believe won promotion into the First Division that year.

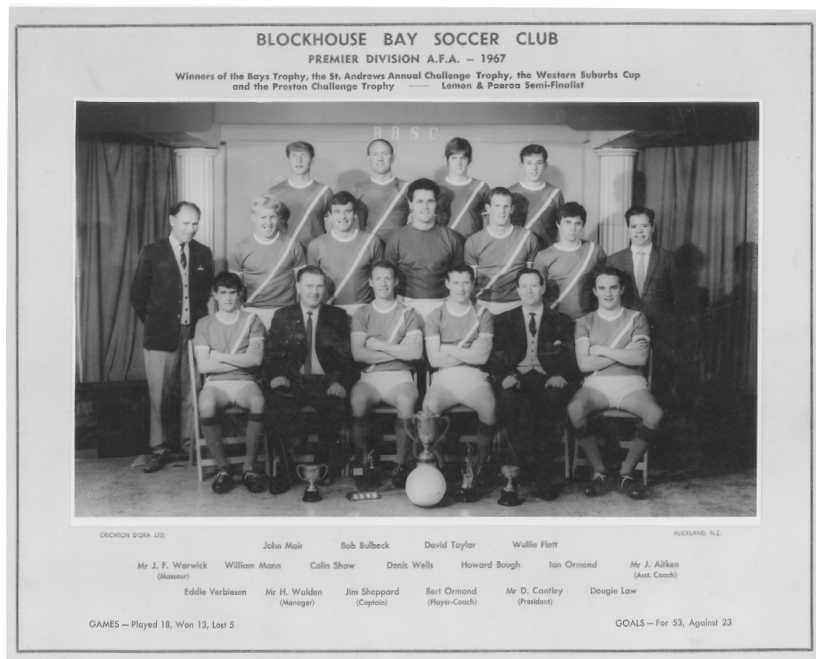


## THE SIXTIES

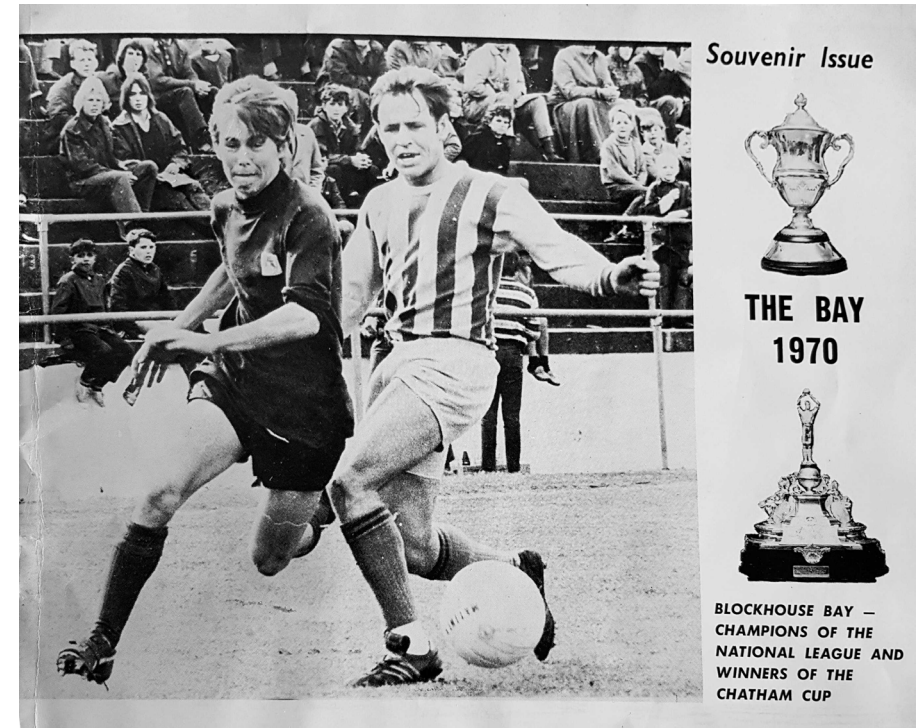
1960 saw the team in the First Division and they did well to finish runners-up. The significant appointment of Bert Ormond as player-coach in 1964 led to the Club winning the Auckland First Division and the Thompson Shield. This Shield has been awarded to the AFA First Division Winners every year since 1892, including the war years! If anyone has a team line-up of this 1964 side I would be interested in putting it on record.

Bert Ormond first played for New Zealand in 1961 when with Eastern Union in Poverty Bay. In 1964 he had the honour of captaining New Zealand on its 15 match World Tour. In total he played in 21 Internationals for New Zealand, seventeen of them while he was a member of Blockhouse Bay. He, more than anyone, was responsible for preparing and building the first team towards its success in the future National League.

Jim Gallagher also represented New Zealand in a home International in 1964 but I can find no further details on this player. In 1965 Blockhouse Bay finished 5th in the eight team Premier Division. With two teams to be relegated this must have made it a real cut-throat competition! 1966 saw them improve to 4th. In 1967 the Bay were runners-up to Ponsonby in what was then known as the Innes-Tartan Northern League Premier Division. Colin Shaw was starting to make a name for himself and played in the first of his six Internationals in 1967.



The team fielded by Blockhouse Bay in 1969 came third in the Premier League and Bert Ormond was starting to get his future National League squad together. Players appearing that season included Bruce Leuschke, Duncan Ormond, Howie Bough, Colin Shaw, John Batty, Dave Eddington, Billy Mann, Graham Mitchell, Iain Ormond, John Morris, Stu Baker, Paul Codd, Gary Lake, and of course Bert himself. Dave Taylor was also playing for the Bay in those days and a certain John Mair squeezed in three appearances as well!



## 1970 THE YEAR OF THE DOUBLE!!

The best review of the 1970 season is the publication put out by the Blockhouse Bay Club at the time. It covers every detail and is a credit to those who produced it. (There is a copy held in the Bay Olympic office). The 1969 team, with the addition of Clive Campbell, Mick Seed and Glen Root made up the squad for the first season of the new competition. Bert Ormond was coach but he had now retired from playing.

In 1970 Blockhouse Bay won the inaugural National League and the 43rd Chatham Cup Final. We should mention that it was the first National League of any code in New Zealand.

The team played fast exciting football with the emphasis on attack! In the League they scored 40 goals in 14 games, with 13 coming in the first three, and conceded only 16. It was a nail-biter of a season as well.

After round 11, which was a draw with Mt Wellington, the team were 3 points adrift of Eastern Suburbs. Round 12 saw a draw for Suburbs and a win for the Bay over Hungaria. The penultimate round saw Christchurch United beat Eastern Suburbs, and then the news that Blockhouse Bay had won down in Gisborne. Eastern Suburbs and Blockhouse Bay were on level points! (remember, only two points for a win in those days!)

The final round saw both teams winning, the Bay over Stop Out, but the title went to Blockhouse Bay because they had a far superior goal average (1970 remember). In the Chatham Cup, Blockhouse had beaten Whangarei 6-1, and after a 2-2 draw had beaten Eastern Suburbs on corners!! (that 1970 reminder again!).

Next, Hamilton were dispatched 2-1 and Blockhouse Bay were in their first Chatham Cup Final! Western Suburbs were unlikely opponents in the Final, they had only won one National League game all year. Blockhouse were red hot favorites to win the final in Wellington but someone forgot to tell Western! With seven minutes to go Western led 2-0 but then Blockhouse came back with two goals in three minutes from Colin Shaw and extra time was required. No further goals and a replay called for, apparently the "most corners" rule didn't apply in the Final.

The replay was in Auckland and was the first ever Chatham Cup Final to be played here. It was another nail-biter, twice Blockhouse went ahead and twice Western replied. Then in the last few minutes Western appeared to score but it was ruled off-side. Extra-time again? No! Colin Shaw grabs the winner with seconds to go. Blockhouse Bay had won the Chatham Cup! It was only fitting that Colin Shaw was voted "New Zealand Football Player of the Year".

Western Suburbs had fought brilliantly in both games and it was justice when they themselves won it the following year. The team that achieved this remarkable double was: Bert Ormond (coach), Doug Cantley (manager), Harry Starkey (physio), John Batty, Howie Bough, Clive Campbell, Gary Lake, John Morris, Iain Ormond, Mick Seed, Dave Eddington, Glen Root, Paul Codd, Colin Shaw, Jim Watt, Bruce Leuschke, Carlo Fogarin, Allen Quirk and Billy Mann.

YR	PLAY	WON	DR	LOST	FOR	AG	PTS	POS	COACH
70	14	10	2	2	40	16	22	1 <sup>ST</sup>	BERT ORMOND
71	18	9	4	5	45	25	22	4 <sup>TH</sup>	BERT ORMOND
72	18	12	4	2	35	17	28	2 <sup>ND</sup>	BERT ORMOND
73	18	9	3	6	25	22	21	3 <sup>RD</sup>	BERT ORMOND
74	18	8	4	6	32	23	20	5 <sup>TH</sup>	BERT ORMOND
75	18	9	5	4	29	21	23	3 <sup>RD</sup>	BERT ORMOND
76	18	6	5	7	24	22	17	5 <sup>TH</sup>	BERT ORMOND
77	22	7	7	8	23	33	21	8 <sup>TH</sup>	BILL STILL
78	22	10	8	4	38	28	28	3 <sup>RD</sup>	WALLY HUGHES/RON LEAKEY
79	22	6	6	10	31	41	18	8 <sup>TH</sup>	TERRY CONLEY
80	22	5	5	12	30	43	15	11 <sup>TH</sup>	TERRY CONLEY
	210	91	53	66	352	291	235		

## THE REST OF THE SEVENTIES!

After the tremendous success of that first season, Blockhouse Bay remained a power in the National League. Their finishing position, in order, starting from 1970, was 1st, 4th, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 3rd, 5th, 8th, 3rd, 8th and then in 1980 they were 11th out of twelve and were relegated back to the Regional league.

For the first seven years Bert Ormond remained as Coach. He was in charge for 122 National league games of which 63 were won, 27 drawn and just 32 lost. Bill Still was coach in 1977 and he was followed by Wally Hughes and Ron Leakey in 1978. Terry Conley took over in 1979 and was there for the last two seasons in the National League. In total, Blockhouse Bay played 210 games in their 11 seasons in the National League. John Morris played in 204 of those games, an outstanding appearance record. Gary Lake (169), Iain Ormond (120), Mike Farac (120), Kevin Stratful (114), Colin Campbell (86), Duncan Ormond (86), John Batty (80), Colin Shaw (75), Jim Hogg (75), Warren Cantley (60), David Cantley (59), Alex Metzger (41), Glen Adam (41), Glen Root (39), and Bill Hunter (34) were other players with impressive records.

More Chatham Cup excitement was provided in 1975. In a wonderful run Blockhouse Bay eliminated Eastern Suburbs, Metro, Dunedin City and Stop Out on their way to the final. Christchurch United were the opposition in the final played at Newmarket Park.

Blockhouse Bay started as if they meant business with two goals in the first ten minutes! Two up at half-time and one hand on the Cup, it was looking good for the Bay. Christchurch



were far from finished though and scored early in the second half. Then disaster, 10 minutes from the end and Gary Lake, in trying to clear, put it in his own net! Extra time Christchurch United scored two more and ran out winners by 4-2. It was reported in the press as one of the great come back wins for Christchurch but we should not forget the part Blockhouse Bay played in one of the most exciting finals ever.

The team that day was: John Morris, Gary Lake, Dave Cantley, John Batty, Warren Cantley, Duncan Ormond, Kevin Stratful, Colin Shaw, Gary Paddison, Mike Farac, Iain Ormond, Willie Clark (sub for Shaw).

### **THE EIGHTIES!**

1981 and Blockhouse Bay are in the Country Foods Division One. John Morris and Maurice Tillotson started the season as coaches but after nine games Bryan Holman took over. With most of the National League players gone it was always going to be a tough year. With just 23 goals in 22 matches they were never going to win it and in the end finished 6th. Among the regulars were David Kelsall, Jim Hogg, Rod Weir, Peter Morris and Doug Cowie with names like Gerard Leeuw and Ronnie Perez starting to appear. The team drew 1-1 at Ellerslie but were beaten by them 6-0 at home! There is a story there somewhere! Rod Weir top scored with 7 goals followed by Steve Patterson with 6. The team did taste success, though, in the Country Foods Cup. After a goal-less 120 mins they despatched Papatoetoe on penalties!

**1982** 7th place and again a lack of goals, with just 26 in 22 games, was a problem. Lilo Olla was the only one ever present with Kevin Burge, Doug Cowie, Gerard Leeuw and a certain Neil Woodhams just one game behind.

**1983** A funny sort of re-organisation year with the Swiss Maid League due to start in 1984. Eventually, the Bay finished fifth in section "A" which qualified them for the new league. Bryan Holman was still the coach and Steve Patterson was ever present and leading scorer with 8 goals followed by Dave Lovell on 4. Neville Cole and Bernie McMahon were among the regulars.

**1984** and the new ten team Swiss Maid Yoghurt League gets under way. This was the way back to the National League for aspiring clubs. A new coach in Juan Schwanner and many of the players from the previous season ( I'm assuming this as I can't find any record of the team!). Well, unfortunately the Bay could only manage to beat Mt Roskill and Waitemata City and finished last.

Six draws boosted the points tally but we were still 5pts behind Mt Roskill. Relegation to the Country Foods League ?

**1985** Another re-organisation sees the League increased to 12 teams. Blockhouse Bay are back in the Swiss Maid having never left it! Bill Still comes back as coach, well, for the first fourteen games anyway. After that it is over to Jack Cowie to complete the season. Unfortunately, the twelve team format didn't suit us any more than the ten team had and we finished last again! Last place two years in a row is a record that will never be beaten. This time it was relegation to the 1st Division. With only one solitary win over Metro to show it was a tough year for the players. Robin Ada, Gerard Leeuw, Steve Patterson, Paul Cropp, Peter Morris, and Neville Cole were among the regulars. Steve Patterson was again top scorer.

**1986** We are now in the Country Foods Northern League Div One. Bill de Graaf comes in as player coach assisted by Brian Turner. Most of the players were retained, with the addition of Mark Clayton and Bill MacLeod with Jimmy Hogg departing. After the two previous horror seasons, 5th place has to be regarded as a success, even in a lower league. Ronnie Perez top scored 8 goals, followed by Nick Francis who netted 7 in 8 games. The 1-0 away win over the eventual champions AFC Waikato being a highlight.

**1987** De Graaf and Turner in charge again. Now called the Sound Plus Northern League Div One. The best season for some time saw Blockhouse Bay finish in third place. After round 16 (of 18) the Bay were still in with a chance of winning the league but losses to Birkenhead and Eastern Suburbs put paid to those ambitions. The 6-1 win over eventual runners-up Manukau City was the performance of the season. Lee Root played every game and Bill MacLeod, Shayne Martin, Brian Turner, and Bill de Graaf were other regulars. Bill MacLeod top scored with 6 followed by Craig Patton with 5.

**1988** That third place finish in 87, on goal difference over Eastern Suburbs, proved to be vital as in yet another re-organisation the Premier Division was increased to 14 teams for 88. This meant that the top three teams from 87 were promoted, and that saw Blockhouse Bay back in the Sound Plus Panasonic Premier Division for the 88 season! Brian Turner was the coach and Glen Adam re-joined the club. Along with Glen, Mario Nola, Wayne Roach, Shayne Martin, Ronnie Perez, Steve Tasker, Bill MacLeod, Neville Cole, Mark Slane, Steve Laus, Ian Masson, Lee Root and Ronnie Murrock were regulars. 7 wins and four draws was only good enough for 12th place out of 14. Victories over Lynndale and Manukau City were the highlights of a tough season.

**1989** John Morris returned to Blockhouse as coach (played in one game as well!). Only Ronnie Perez, Bill MacLeod, Lee Root and Neville Cole remained from 1988. Martyn Miller was now a regular and in came players like Steve Goddard, John Atkinson, John van Dort and Glen Sheppard. A much better season than the previous one. 13 wins and 6 draws resulted in a 5th place finish out of 14. Alastair Elder top scored with 8, followed by Steve Goddard with 6. Due to the state of Whitney St, three home games were played at Avondale College and all three were won! Maybe we should have stayed there!

**The Nineties! 1990.** Dave Dewsnap comes in as coach. Only 4 games lost out of 26 but we still didn't win it! Perhaps it had something to do with the ten draws! Mt Albert-Ponsonby won the league by 3 points. A great finish by Blockhouse Bay, winning five of the last six games. The other game was a draw with Mt Albert-Ponsonby! Glen Sheppard top scored with 11. Regulars included Jason Batty, Neville Cole, Marty Miller, Richard Harris, Brent Edwards, Steve Tasker, Lee Root, Frank Kassai and Alistair Elder.

**1991** Same coach, many of the same players, you would expect another good season. Football doesn't work like that! With the league now down to 12 teams, with Bluebird the new sponsor, Blockhouse Bay managed to come a lowly 11th out of 12. At least we had 3 wins, poor old University didn't get any. Andrew McAllister top scored with 6 from ten games. Goals for 28, goals against 37 is not a winning formulae.

**1992** Glen Adam returns as player/coach. Geoff Gray, Reece Braithwaite and Marty Miller are ever present. An improved season, finishing 8th out of 12 but we still conceded more than we scored which tends to hamper progress up the table! Glen Sheppard grabbed 8 goals and Geoff Gray 5. The 0-5 home loss to Mt Albert-Ponsonby was a low point and the 0-1 away win over Mt Roskill, who finished 4th, a high point. In the Chatham Cup, National League winners Waitakere City spanked us 5-0 and showed us the gap between the National and the Regional leagues.

**1993** Glen Adam continues in his player/coach role. The bulk of the work was done by Tony Garrett, Marty Miller, Kevin Gratwick, Daniel Dobrec, Mark Nayler, Shayne Howell and Graham Leaming. 8th place was a repeat of the previous season and Daniel Dobrec's 4 goals won the teams Golden Boot! The two wins over Kawerau Town, who finished 4th, were among the better performances.

**1994** Bill de Graaf returns as coach and Glen Adam remained as a player. A mixture of new, old and returning players made up the squad. Stephen Goddard, Todd Hunter, Steve Laus,

William Thompson, Stu Roberts, Wayne Roach, and Huw Anderson were among the regulars. 29 goals in 22 games would make you guess a middle or bottom half of the table finish but Blockhouse Bay with 13 wins were a creditable 3rd. An away 0-1 victory over eventual champions Mt Maunganui was a great result. Although a much better season, after winning 6 of the first 7 games maybe third place was a little disappointing in the end. Steve Laus topped the scorers with 6 goals. To top the season off, Blockhouse Bay won the Premier League Knockout by beating Melville 1-0!

**1995** With Bill de Graaf coaching again and newcomers Craig van Kan, Gene Granger and Darryl Christian backing up Huw Anderson, Marty Miller, William Thompson and Stu Roberts, a repeat of the 94 season was on the cards. But, as has been said before, football doesn't work like that! Failure to score in 7 games out of 10 in the middle of the season resulted in 11th place in the 12 team league. Roberts got 7 and Thompson 5 but 20 goals in 22 games is not enough.

**1996** New coaches in Don Maguire and Kevin Mulrooney. Marty Miller and Jason Root along with Hoani Edwards, Thomas White, James Stewart, Daniel Mulrooney and Neil Maguire were the regulars. Jon Gwin made the keepers spot his own. It took a while for the team to find its feet, losing 3 of the 1st four games. They only scored 29 goals in 22 games but finished runnersup, very similar to 94. James Stewart with 10 and Thomas White with 6 led the scoring. LynnAvon won the League by 3 points but there could be no complaints as they beat Blockhouse Bay twice.

**1997** The same coaching staff as in 96 but some changes to the team. Hamish Carmody, Marty Miller and Jason Root played every game. Paul Colegate, Triss Clark, Kane Lynch, Thomas White, Andrew Dixon, Craig Smith, Darren Ashwell and Stacey Howell were all regulars. A middle of the table season, 9 wins and 9 losses and 7th place. The Bay conceded 36 goals but when you consider half of them came in just three games you wonder what might have been. Hamish Carmody top scored with 8 goals.

On the 7th September, Blockhouse Bay beat Waitakere City 1-0 at Whitney St in the last home League game played under the Blockhouse Bay name. The following week, Blockhouse Bay played its last official game as "Blockhouse Bay". In 1998 they would still be at Whitney St but they would now be known as Bay Olympic.