BOSMONT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

celebrating its

50th

year

anniversary
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BOSMONT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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INTRO

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

I am deeply humbled and honoured to be serving this great organisation during this its 50th anniversary. I never dreamt that I would one day be the chairperson of such an illustrious organisation, when celebrating such a milestone. What I have learnt in the last year was the fact that it was the excellent work done by our forefathers that have groomed so many of us to take up leadership roles in our communities.

Each one of the current serving executive is a product of the Bosmont Football Association. It was the values instilled by the leaders that started the BFA and those that followed in their footsteps that ensured that the legacy they started continues through the current products of their hard work, perseverance and commitment to Non Racialism. The history being developed points to the values we all on the exco still hold dear today 50 years on.

To all our special guests, clubs, players, and officials, welcome to this special occasion. This evening marks the end of our year's celebration of this milestone. All we planned for the year was not achieved because of factors beyond our control. These include the devastation caused by Randwater, the failure of Council to upgrade and maintain the sportsfields, the looming environmental disaster in addition to meaningful financial support.

Despite all these problems we completed a very successful season all be it a month after our normal conclusion to the season. We held our 50th anniversary tournament, delivered training to referees and coaches. This, in addition to providing association football to hundreds of children weekly.

Our Transformation documents points to many more aspects of the administration, and technical application of the game that we need to improve. However this improvement can only be realised if all in the community begins to support and assist in providing association football for our children.

The single biggest challenge facing us is the most basic. Building strong clubs. BFA was started by 5 strong clubs 50 years ago. This is what is required here today. The club structures in our community have virtually disappeared. Dazzlers FC strengthened their administration improved their coaching and got the support of more parents. They dominated the leagues and knockout cups, had representative players in all divisions. What a turnaround in one year. Perfect example.

I would call on you all here today to start building the BFA for the next 50 years by building and strengthening the clubs you belonged to. Through building strong clubs the BFA and this community will be enriched. Let us all commit to building an organisation for our children and grandchildren.

Isaac De Jongh
BFA Chairperson
November 2015
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BFA:
Celebrating Fifty Years of Glorious History

The fiftieth anniversary of the Bosmont Football Association (BFA) is an important moment in South Africa’s sports history, and should be the cause for widespread celebration. There are few football associations that have such a proud and colourful history as the BFA, which is a microcosm of our collective story from the dark days of apartheid into the democratic era. In half a century, the world and our country have been completely transformed. Narratives of these far-reaching changes are usually told in political registers, which tend to erase other equally significant dimensions of people and their histories. Pausing to celebrate and reflect on half a century of the BFA allows us a wonderful opportunity to think differently about our collective past.

In 1965 a handful of football enthusiasts established the Central and District Coloured Football Association, which in 1968 was renamed as the Bosmont Football Association (BFA). It was a time when National Party rule cast a dark shadow over nearly every aspect of people’s lives. The association’s history was shaped by apartheid’s policies but also by people’s opposition to the destructive and divisive character of the system. The implementation of the Group Areas Act from the 1950s led to the forced removal of black people from mixed residential areas in or close to the city, and their relocation to racially exclusive areas. Fietas, Doornfontein, Jeppewartown, Sophiatown and Albertville gave way to places such as Coronationville, Bosmont, Lenasia and Soweto. In the former areas people of all colours lived and socialized together: the streets, yards and school grounds were the spaces where the seeds of non-racial sports were planted. The famous Natalspruit sportsgrounds epitomized the practice of integrated sports, as did other grounds dotted across the city. But these spaces of non-racialism were anathema to the white government’s racist project and were closed down, leading also to the demise of bodies such as the Transvaal Independent Football Association (TIFA). Apartheid broke up established communities and segregated communities.
The creation of the BFA should be viewed in this light: its evolution is inextricably tied up with the history of the community, especially of Bosmont/Coronationville/Newclare/Westbury, but also beyond.

them into racial enclaves. However, many people did not passively accept the system imposed on them. In fact, communities were rebuilt through multiple social, educational, religious and other activities. The creation of the BFA should be viewed in this light: its evolution is inextricably tied up with the history of the community, especially of Bosmont/Coronationville/Newclare/Westbury, but also beyond.

Over the years numerous people contributed to the growth of the association, helping it navigate the treacherous waters of apartheid and the rapids of unification in the early 1990s. The BFA has benefited from the commitment and expertise of administrators and referees, who constituted the backbone of organisation. At the heart of the association is a deep commitment to voluntarism and the ideal of serving community, which allowed it to stay alive and thrive often under extremely difficult circumstances. Over the course of half a century, thousands of players have come through the ranks of the BFA: they were the lifeblood of the association. Supporters (usually mothers, wives and families) entrenched the essential community-based character of the association, which differentiated it from many other football bodies. There were undoubtedly towering figures in the BFA, but its survival, growth and success were the product of the collective efforts of the communities that made up the association. Indeed, a salient feature of BFA’s history is the constant emphasis given to grassroots sports, which has regrettably been neglected in contemporary South Africa where the focus is on elite sports and spectacular events. The BFA’s continued commitment to grassroots football is arguably one of its signal contributions and should serve as a model for the development of sports in the country, as part of a broader endeavor to build strong and vibrant communities.

Above all else, the BFA was principally about the great game, football. Week after week players of various ages, backgrounds and talents found their way onto the fields of the BFA to enjoy themselves for 90 minutes. The association has an enviable record of having produced a pantheon of football greats over the years. Paul Sangion, Rashid Khan, Noel Goodall Stanton ‘Stiga’ Fredericks, Cavin Johnson, Graham (Doggie) Johnson, Zunaid Hartley and Steven Pienaar are only among the most well-known. There were many other football greats who came through the ranks of the BFA who, under different circumstances, could easily have become national and international stars. Despite internal and external challenges, the association endeavoured to promote professionalism among its players, referees and administrators, without much, if any, financial reward.

The BFA was also a stalwart of the South African Council on Sports (SACOS), which was the pre-eminent anti-apartheid sporting body in the country. Its iconic slogan, ‘No normal sport in an abnormal society’, rallied tens of thousands of sportspeople behind a common and just cause. Standing firm on principles meant that many SACOS members consciously gave up any benefits that could derive from playing in apartheid’s abnormal sports. It is often forgotten that while BFA and other football associations that were affiliated to SACOS suffered from the lack of sponsorships, basic facilities and recognition, people like George Thabe and his associates benefited enormously from being complicit with apartheid.

It is therefore imperative to cherish this rich history, not for the sake of nostalgia, but in order to draw the lessons and to be inspired by the spirit of voluntarism, commitment to principle and for the love of the game: Pro Amor Ludii!

Noor Nieftagodien
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Local Histories, Present Realities
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Bosmont Local Football Association

- DEVELOP THE GAME
- TOUCH THE WORLD
- BUILD A BETTER FUTURE
- ONE GAME ONE FAMILY
The 1960s was a decade of profound changes in the country. Apartheid was in the ascendancy and characterised by political repression, forced removals and the creation of racially segregated residential areas. Every aspect of life was deeply affected by these changes, including sports. Until the determined imposition of the Group Areas Act, black communities (African, Coloured and Indian) attempted against heavy odds, to maintain their integrated lives in the various locations around Johannesburg, and elsewhere. Places like Fietas were meccas of such interaction, while sports grounds such as Natalspruit and Albertville exemplified early experiences of non-racial sports. For example, Dazzlers football club (BFA founding member) used to play Sunday games with African Municipal workers at the TB hospital grounds in Albertville. For these individuals, non-racialism meant that anyone who wanted to play soccer played. But apartheid destroyed these spaces and the organisations that sought to uphold sports across apartheid’s racial divisions. The Transvaal Independent Football Association (TIFA) was one of the main sports bodies that crumbled, in 1964, under the weight of apartheid’s segregation laws.

Established in 1965, the Bosmont Football Association (BFA) was created from the ashes of TIFA by the people who were forcibly removed from Fietas, Sophiatown, Albertville, Doornfontein and Jeppes town. Reflecting the character of the newly created Bosmont, the football association was first called the Central and District Coloured Football Association. In 1968, it was formally renamed Bosmont Football Association (BFA), signalling its principal community base and taking a stand against racial classification. The founding teams of the new association were: Newclare United, Dazzlers FC, Bosmont United, Leeds United and Burnley FC. These were undoubtedly modest beginnings and few would have dreamt at the time that the BFA would not only reach the landmark of half a century but also establish itself as one of the most successful local football associations in the country. In the course of its five decades of existence, there have been many trials and tribulations, and numerous glorious moments. Many people contributed to the association’s success — men, women, players, administrators, referees and supporters. In other words, the community. From the outset, however, there was a core group of individuals who variously dedicated their lives to the BFA.

Freddie Hiebner was the first chairperson and Patrick Finn was secretary from 1965-68. Other members of the first executive committee included Dowy Bagus, Reggie Thomas, Errol Beckett, Harry Tim, Ismail Sadullah, Edgar Mills and Cecil (Chong) Meyer. Between them, they created the vision for the association. Over the years,
several individuals played leading roles in the BFA. Thus, in 1971 the committee consisted of Barney Gaffney (Chairman), Carrim Dharsey (Vice Chairman), Fred Beukes (Secretary) Dawood Bagus (Treasurer) and Vernon Fortuin indicating that there had been a change in the guard. Undoubtedly, the most prominent figure was Barney Gaffney who succeeded Freddie Hiebner and Edgar Mills (brief spell as chairperson) in 1968.

BARNEY GAFFNEY
Barney Gaffney was a pillar of the BFA, and served as chairman for forty years, from 1968 to 2009 (when he retired at the age of 76). Gaffney is remembered as a very disciplined, strict and principled man, whose commitment to the BFA was unequalled. A show of his passion was when he responded to urgent need for an office of the BFA in the 1970s by converting a bedroom at his home for this purpose. In so doing, his home effectively became the headquarters of the BFA. Members of the association recall that if they wanted a letter for something related to football, they would find their way to number 1 8 Hamilton Street in Coronationville, where the chairman would type letters and correspondence of all sorts. Fixtures would be taken there for copies to be made. As a result, his family’s life changed forever. In recognition of the responsibility taken on by the Gaffney household, the BFA executive committee decided to pay him a stipend, at the less than princely sum of R200 a year, which increased over time.

Barney Gaffney was a teacher, which gave him the skills to run the association with considerable professionalism and to produce a vision for the association that would guide it through challenging times. He drew up the formal governance of the association, helped to build the stadiums, including welding all the steelworks railings and burglar bars, and mobilised people to plant trees at the stadium. One of his lasting contributions was to improve the technical part of the game. Thus, in the late 1960s, a sub-committee for referees was initiated, led by Reggie Thomas (Chair) and Cecil ‘Chong’ Meyer, both senior BFA members. Refereeing became a cornerstone to develop clubs while encouraging a deeper engagement with the laws of the game. Cecil ‘Chong’ Meyer, the most senior referee during that period, facilitated the coaching of the referees. This was followed by people like Cyril Linden, Aubrey Fisher and Carlos Hendricks who helped with the lecturing of aspirant referees. Anthony (Tony) Francis has since 2010 taken over the mantle from his mentors.

The services of the BFA referees structure was highly valued by other football bodies. For example in March 1987, Western Transvaal Soccer Board requested the referee association to run lectures/clinics in order to establish an association in Western Transvaal. Permission for this was granted by the BFA executive. In keeping with the aim of running a professional association, it was stipulated that all referees had to possess a referee’s card. Proper attire for referees became obligatory and those who did not own such a kit were required to purchase it from the BFA at R35 per set.

Another development was encouraging teams to select players and juniors for administration training. A by-product of this exercise was skills development and transfer to others who would not generally have been involved in the administration of the game. Barney ensured that meticulous minutes were taken, which now serve as an integral part of the archives of the association. He bought an electronic IBM typewriter, photocopier and even created a letterhead for the association.

Barney believed in equality, demanded the best for his people from the council while also working for things himself. For his extra-ordinary service to the organisation, Barney Gaffney had the Bosmont Stadium named after him, now known as the Barney Gaffney Stadium.

In 2008 Barney Gaffney was succeeded by Isaac De Jongh, himself a former player and who continues to serve in this capacity.

THE ASSOCIATION
From the beginning, BFA meetings were held at in people’s homes, Bosmont First Primay School (Now GR Harris Primary School), Bosmont Recreation Centre, Coronationville Hall and recreation centre and when the Bosmont Hotel was built in
the 1970's it became the meeting place. A highlight of the association's history was the establishment of the Bosmont grounds, which became headquarters of the BFA. From political principle to everyday practice — BFA practiced non-racial football as an alternate sport avenue for non-whites later adopting the SACOS slogan of "no normal sport in an abnormal society" in the late 70s.

The executive consisted of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer and organising secretary. There were also 5 members of a management committee who supported the executive in executing its duties. Since inception, there have only been 4 chairpersons: Fred Hiebner (1965-1967), Edgar Mills (1968) Barney Gaffney (1968-2008) and Isaac De Jongs (2008-present). During this time, he following people served as secretary of the BFA: Patrick Finn, Fred Beukers, Clive Thomas, Pat Mulligan, Abdul Hassen, Michael Kahn (2008/9) and Neville Daniels 2009.

One condition for joining BFA was that clubs had to be properly constituted, which became a cornerstone of the membership. Strong clubs were emphasised — which included bringing their own 2 referees along. To encourage teams, administrators would go to BFA referees' classes to learn the rules of the game. This started during the time of Freddie Hiebner, Reggie Thomas (Referees' Chair) with Chong Meyer (Senior Lecturer and referee), and Cyril Linden the secretary. Some of the notable referees included Colin Lewis, Boebi Salie, Dennis and Basil Peters, Tony Francis, Gus Malgas and Lawrence Pienaar. During the football season, Monday evenings were dedicated to reviewing the referees' performance in the games of the previous weekend. This practice continues and BFA still conducts refereeing classes.

The growth of clubs and their affiliation to BFA proved its popularity. One of the older clubs, Dazzlers (1949) still carries on today. The club produced one of the most talented teams in the mid 1970's, with the Dazzlers U15 team consisting of talents such as Gregory Thomas, Donovan Eastwood, Ernest Basson, Noel Goodall and Timothy Stein. Rangers took first treble in 1971, the league title, the challenge cup and the knockout trophy. Other clubs which include Gorretti, Thames and Everton were the great teams of the early to mid-1980s. Other clubs worth mentioning too are Sporting Football Club, Burnley, Bosmont United, Aston Villa, Caledonians, Universals and Barcelona. In particular, Bosmont Chelsea formed by Ronnie Hicks deserves mention as it rose through the BFA ranks to play in the Transvaal Soccer Board (TSB) 2nd division and then to professional football in the South African Soccer Federation Professional League. They were one of only three teams that made it to the current PSL, together with Manning Rangers and Santos. Managed by Patrick Sass who merged 2 Bosmont teams (Bosmont Chelsea and Chelsea United), they were the only local team to reach those heights.

Interestingly, former players sometimes started clubs after retiring. Gandhi Adams, a former Blackpool great, started a club under the instructions of father McCulloch (Catholic Priest Riverlea) called Gorretti after the Catholic Church in Riverlea. Swifts FC one of the first members of the BFA in the 1960's also established out of the Seven Days Adventist Church. Calvin Tracey and Michael Kahn established Everton around 1981/2; Aziz Khan created Flamenco and Faisel Van Dorsen started Thames, which later merged briefly with Dazzlers in March 1985 to form Dazzlers-Thames. Mandy Davids, a former Orlando Pirates goal keeper, started Bosmont Pirates.

Affiliation fees per club were adopted as a transition to changing times where it became more important to create prize money incentives at the top levels. For example in 1986 the charges were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual affiliation Fee</th>
<th>Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R1 000</td>
<td>Premier division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R500</td>
<td>First division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R120</td>
<td>per club from the promotion down</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BFA transitions came in the late 1970s and early 1980s when the first division was renamed the Premier League — with increased affiliation and prize money. It was changed later to the Super League. These tactics worked as there was a marked
BFA had its share of successful players who came through its structures in every era. Of great players and administrators were honoured by the BFA between 2010 and 2014. There will, regrettably be some who are not mentioned here due to space constraints. Widely renowned as one of the best players in the country in the 1970's and early 1980's was Paul Sangion. Paul played for Barcelona from Coronationville. Other famous players among many included Noel Goodall (ex Dazzlers) who in 1982 was FPL player of the year. Stanton ‘Stiga’ Fredericks played for Rangers FC/United and was coached by Reeshwan Paulsen. Stiga is the nephew of Owen and Randolf (Jackal) Fredericks former Bosmont Chelsea and BFA greats. Cavin Johnson, also played in the BFA, then for Bosmont Chelsea. Later he became the U19 coach for Bosmont Chelsea. From there, he went and got his coaching licenses in Holland and Brazil. His brother Graham ‘Doggie’ Johnson was a great right back. Another player Brent Carelse, son of Dougie Carelse, played first for West Colts and then moved to Rangers both in the BFA. The examples of Cavin, Stanton and Brent reveal also the family connections of a few BFA players which were a common occurrence for so many families. Other greats were Steven Pienaar Westbury Arsenal) and Zunaid Hartley who played for Aston Villa.

The BFA's success in producing outstanding players, who were in demand by other clubs, led Barney Gafney, to become a scout for Leeds United and England Manager, Don Revie. Thus in 1970, Albert Johansson who played for ‘Oom Zebras’ in Germiston, went to play for Leeds United Football Club, becoming the first black player to play in an FA Cup final (England). Another of Barney Gaffney's finds, Rashid Khan, also went to Leeds United in 1972, but could not adapt to the weather and eventually came back. Gafney supported the Kaizer, 'bay boy' Motuang to play in the US for Atlanta Chiefs. It was through Barney's connection with Mickelson, brother to Phil Mickelson the US golfer, that Barney was able to successfully place Kaizer Motuang with the Atlanta Chiefs. Other players who went overseas include Leroy Fortuin (Chelsea) and Percy Moloi.
spike in membership and competition when these changes we made. At its pinnacle in the 1990s-2000s, BFA had 37 registered affiliates clubs between them making up to 80-120 teams, playing up to 64 games on 7 fields and the stadium. Notably during this period, BFA was competing with the TSB 2nd Division league and other leagues.

REACH OF BFA
In 1985, the Eastern Transvaal Football Association invited BFA under 14 league champions to their October tournament, which was approved by the executive because it demonstrated how influential BFA was at the time. BFA representative teams and clubs received invitations from the late 1960s to play in various parts of the country like Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Kimberley, Potchefstroom and more. In the mid-80s Orlando Pirates had 5 players that came through the ranks of the BFA and Bosmont Chelsea. These were Graham Johnson, Jero beam Koert, Hilary Jooste, George Lodge and Vincent Rabie who. This cohort followed in the illustrious footsteps of Ralph Hendricks, Gareth van Der Haer, Bernard Hartse, Rashid Khan and Hans Moses who also played in the same Pirates’ team. Unfortunately, the latter were forced out of Orlando Pirates because George Thabe, a leading figure in football, embraced the government’s racial segregation and was instrumental in creating the NPSL, which did not allow coloureds and Africans to play together .The Orlando Pirates team including the famous 5 was widely regarded as the best team in the country at the time. It was an unfortunate episode, which revealed the willingness of some black people to implement apartheid policies. This marked a turning point and led to the formation of the South African Soccer Federation (SASF), which became an important affiliate of the South African Council on Sport (SACOS). SACOS was widely regarded as the foremost anti-apartheid sports organisation of the 1970s and 1980s, which mobilised under the powerful slogan of ‘no normal sport in an abnormal society’.

TOURNAMENTS
The Carrim Dharsey Challenge Cup was the most prestigious knockout cup tournament among BFA competitions that teams looked forward to playing. Born out of the tragedy of Carrim Dharsey’s murder on 2 June 1979, he had been Vice Chairperson of the BFA and Aston Villa [chairperson] at the time. The Dharsey family donated 22 trophies in May 1984 as mementos for the Dharsey Challenge Cup. On the 2 June 1979 the BFA and football lost a great leader-and football person in Carrim Dharsey.

Following that, Barney motivated the naming of competitions after those people who contributed to football. For example, CA MEYER LEAGUE AFTER (CHONG MEYER)
CC Lewis league after Colin Lewis a leading official and referee. He eventually emigrated to Australia.

Sponsorships in the 1980s became a central focus of the BFA. For instance, Rays Magic Motors confirmed their sponsorship of the Premier League to the tune of R1 000 in 17 July 1984. Cyril Linden (Vice Chairman) successfully negotiated a sponsorship from Coca Cola. Coca Cola went on to sponsor the BFA for over 30 years and played a major part in the developments including the erection of the main stand in the stadium.
donating 3 portable fields in 2010 and kit for all the juniors during the FIFA World Cup. Other corporate supporters include Edgar Mills, Gencor Development Fund who sent a letter of support plus a donation of R500. BB Jobbers donated kit for wearing in tournaments.

Sponsorship for the premier league to the amount of R2 000 was accepted from Curtin and Sons Motors (June 1987). At a general meeting held at the Bosmont Hotel on the 16th June 1987, the sponsorship for the premier league was raised to the amount of R3000 as given and accepted by the league from Curtin and Son Motors. This was a big leap from the 1985 league sponsorship. In this regard, clubs were requested to support the sponsors.

However, BFA was not always receiving but also made some donations. For example, it was decided on 20th March 1984 at a meeting held in Coronationville Centre that an Easter tournament would be held in aid of Operation Hunger which was under the auspices of the Institute of Race Relations. Every club entering the tournament was required to pay an affiliation fee of R25 with the profits that were made being donated to the cause. Later in 1987, Operation Hunger received a R100 donation following an appeal made to the BFA management committee. Meanwhile, following an appeal to the association from the Methodist Church of SA, Jordan House to sponsor one of their projects; it was agreed that the appeal was above the association’s ability. Nonetheless, the committee agreed to donate an amount of R100.00 for the aged. The Johannesburg Child Welfare organisation once received a donation from BFA. Evidence of this is supported by a letter of gratitude sent by JHB Child Welfare which was noted by BFA in the general minutes of 25 July 1999.

**FIGHTING FOR ‘HOME GROUND’**

There were a number of boardroom battles fought with the council on BFA’s behalf. Late 70’s practice lights were installed by council. Yet this was a period of fighting for the gravel pitches to be supplanted with grass.

Bosmont Chelsea was allowed the use of the Longdale stadium (now Bill Jardine Rugby stadium) on Sundays as their home ground. Close working relationship among SACOS sports codes always evident. Longdale stadium was a Transvaal Independent Rugby Union (TIRFU) ground yet allowing football to be played there. TIRFU shared the Bosmont ground in the early 1970’s before they won the right to dedicated rugby grounds in Newlands Oval and Longdale stadium. Two BFA pitches would be marked for rugby and football. Rugby was played on a Saturday afternoon and on Sunday morning the football. The BFA led the fight for their own enclosed ground or stadium. Bosmont Chelsea officials Pat Sass and Dr. Vernon Meyer wholeheartedly support this initiative. The city council had by March 1984 enclosed the ‘F’ pitch at Bosmont following a protracted process of negotiations with BFA since the early 70’s. The association had contributed R2 000 towards the construction, matching the city council rand for rand, so that BFA could at least have a larger stadium than what the council had planned. This eventually became Bosmont Chelsea’s home ground. By 1985, Mr Fisher reported that after a meeting with the city council by Messrs B. L Gaffney and F. E. Benkes that preparation for the erection of a security fence on the ‘F’...