

Wattles

A brief history of the...

WATTLES FOOTBALL CLUB

While there were 'Wattles' Rugby League, Cricket, Vigoro and Tennis clubs playing in Ipswich, I could not see any connection between them and 'Wattles' Football Club. The first sighting of a 'Wattles' FC. was a Juvenile team playing in the 1925 season. Club colours could have been Navy/Dark Blue with Yellow/White trim and of course a sprig of wattle as an emblem. Their field was at Bergins Hill Road, Bundamba (now the bottom oval of the Bundamba State Secondary College)

They were primarily a junior club during this period, fielding teams in Juvenile, Junior Minor and Junior grades. Players would have been drawn from the local suburbs of Blackstone, Bundamba, Booval and Ebbw Vale.

They appear to have remained a junior club during the 20's and were still active in 1933 with success in winning numerous trophies, but then seem to disappear until 1944. During that period, there were many teams coming and going in Ipswich with the 'big four' of Rangers, Rovers, Saints and Bush Rats prominent, along with Rosebells, Dinmore Wanderers and Booval Stars to name a few others. Also, the Second World War from 1939 to 1945 had a huge impact on sport and life in general in Australia and a number of clubs disbanded. Reformed in 1944, 'Wattles' came back as a Junior club but with ambitions to expand further...and they did!! They fielded teams in all three junior grades and in the following year won the 'double' the Brooks & Callow Cups in Junior and the Eric Stewart Cup in Junior Minor. This was regarded as an outstanding achievement for the club just back in their second year. As well as performing so well in all Junior competitions, the club fielded a team in the B Senior Division in 1947 and the following years until they reached the QSFA 4th Division competition in 1950.

From there, they had an amazing run of success by gaining promotion each year by winning the 4th Div. Premiership in 1950, the 3rd Div. Premiership in 1951 (Undeclared) and Runner Up in 2nd Div. in 1952. **However, as we know in football - good things don't always last! (see over)**

1952 would be the swan song of Wattles Football Club. Why? Why? Why?

Hellenic, who had won the 1952 Premiership, decided to stay in 2nd Div. and Wattles were offered promotion to 1st. Division. However, they also declined and the club disbanded. Why did they fold up when they had done so well to get there? It was reported that they only had 10 players available and if they went up it would make 5 Division One clubs in Ipswich. It would have been a tough decision for their committee to make, but in reality, how would they have survived in First Division in an era when the 'big four' were so powerful? The QSFA ruled that Bulimba FC, who should have been relegated stay in Div.1, Hellenic stay in Div.2 with new teams YMCA and Oxley replacing Wattles and Wynnum. Many talented players passed through Wattles and were playing higher standard football with other Ipswich clubs prior to 1952. Wattles Football Club should be remembered as a family based 'grassroots' type of club that Ipswich was famous for in the early history of Queensland Football. It provided the opportunity for it's juniors to compete and reach a high standard in local, intercity and state competition. Many well known local football family names appear in their history including the Hughes (Ron, Col, Bill, Allan, George, Morrie, Len, Darryl), McKenna (Bill & Duncan), Pitcairn, Petie (Max & Graham), Brown, Jones, Dobbie, Warren, Cowan, Williams, Greisbach, Erskine, Woolley & Malcolmson to name a few. Al Warren, Alan (Oscar) Pitcairn, Ron Hughes and Duncan McKenna all played with Wattles in their early careers before becoming State and International representatives.

To finish, here are just a few 'snipits from the past' that I came across in the pages of the "Queensland Times".....

1945... Juniors. In the final played at Bundamba, Wattles defeated Rangers to win the Brooks Cup. Also in 1945... Four Wattles juniors selected for Intercity series, R & C Hughes, Pitcairn & Dobbie.

1947... B Senior. In the Tedman Cup final played on Saturday, Wattles defeated Bush Rats 1 – nil. Goalscorer C. Hughes.

1950... Blackstone Rovers 'Gala Day' 5-a-side Football Competition. Runners Up were Wattles (T. Jones, D. McKenna, Andrew. Cowan G. Hughes & J. Malcolmson). 1953... There has been talk of reforming the club (Wattles) that they abandoned last year. *The other district clubs were all opposed to the idea and it never eventuated.*

I think that is a good place to finish. I hope you have enjoyed the information I have compiled and thank you for your time. I can't guarantee every detail is correct but history is one persons' interpretation of events over time. My family connection to Wattles FC has come about through my

Grandfather John (Jock) Brown (Committee), Uncle Cec Brown (Player) & my Father

Gordon Hallett (President 1950). I'm told he was elected to the position because he took the team to away games in the back of this coal truck.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS!!

ROSS HALLETT

May, 2020.





-1945-

Wattles Junior Football Club
Winners of Callow Cup and Brooks Cup

Back Row: L-R R Dobbie, Col Hughes, G Liddell, Cliff Hales, Basil Young, Alan Pitcairn

Second Row: Thomas Dobbie (Selector) Len Warrell, Mervyn Dobbie, Eric Greisbach, Alan Williams, William Hughes (Treasurer)

Sitting: J Brown (Selector) William McKenna, C Brown (Vice Captain) E King (Chairman) Ron Hughes (Captain) Ken Franklin, T Morgan (Honorary Secretary)

In Front: D King (Mascot)

Source Private collection Lost Ipswich



-1947

Wattles B Senior

Tedman Cup Winners

Back Row: Thomas Dobbie (Manager)

Second Row: L-R---Arthur Dobbie, ---, Leslie Williams, Mervyn Dobbie, ---

Front Row: William Hughes (Treasurer) Keith Imhoff, Ron Hughes, Ron Dobbie (Captain) Norm Edwards, Col Hughes, K Brown (Secretary)

Inset: Ken Franklin

Source Private collection Lost Ipswich

-1948-

Wattles Junior Minor Soccer Club

Undefeated Premiers Winners Callow Cup, E(Dad) Verrall Cup, Joe Francis Cup



Back row: Leslie Williams, William Wensley, James Malcolmson

Second row: N Brown, Donald McKenna (Selector) George Hughes, Andy Cowan, W McKenna (Selector) Gordon Cowan

Front Row: K Brown (Secretary) Keith Irnhoff, T Jones (Captain) H Brennan (Vice Captain) William Hughes (Treasurer)

In Front: Daryl Hughes (Mascot)



-1950-

Wattles Fourth Division Soccer Club Winners of the Peebles Cup

Back Row: A Heaton, Alan Hughes, Leslie Williams, Alwyn Warren, James Malcolmson

Middle Row: Dobbie (linesman) Col Greisbach (Vice President) D Smith, W McKenna (Vice President, K Buckenham (Vice President) Leslie Stanley

Second Row: E King (Chairman) N Edwards, E Perry (Vice President) A Murphy (Vice President) T Jones, Jake Tapp (Trainer)

Front Row: Keith Imhoff, William Hughes (Treasurer) Duncan McKenna (Captain) Gordon Hallett (President) Andrew Cowan (Vice President) J Martin (Secretary)

In front : Daryl Hughes (Mascot)

Junior
Champions

-1950-
Wattles Junior Soccer Club
Premiers and of Brooks Cup



Back Row: Jake Tapp (Trainer) Morris Hughes, William McKenna (Committee) Max Berry, William Tonner

Third Row: Col Greisbach (Vice President) D MacDonal, Cecil Anderson, L Spall, Leslie Stanley (Vice President)

Second Row: E King (Chairman) Eric Thorburn, E Perry (Vice President) A Murphy (Vice President) Nicholas Rail, K Buchenham (Vice President)

Sitting: Max Petie, William Hughes (Treasurer) Graham Petie (Captain), Gordon Hallett (President) Keith Rush (Vice Captain) L Martin (Secretary) Graham Anderson

In Front: Roy Martin (Mascot)



-1951-

Wattles Soccer Club - Third Division

Undefeated Premiers and Winners of Johnny Fern Cup and Ipswich Management Cup

Back Row (L-R):Morrie Hughes, Leslie Williams (Vice-Captain) Mervyn Dobbie
Second Row:Harold Webb,A Evans,S Price (Committee) A.W McKenna (Selector) James Malcolmson
Sitting: William Hughes (Treasurer) George Hughes,Thomas Tonner,T Jones (Captain) D.Smith,K Brown,Jake Tapp (Trainer)
In Front: Daryl Hughes (Mascot)