

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT RUGBY UNION



MOVE MADE ON COLOURED

RECREATION FACILITIES

A move is being made to improve recreational facilities available to Grahamstown Coloured community, and it is backed by findings of a survey to be sent to the City Council.

The survey shows that about half the community plays sports in spite of the fact that only one field is available for all activities.

The investigation has been done in his spare time by Mr. Dore Albert, Rhodes University sports officer.

Mr. Albert's interest was aroused when he was approached by representatives of the local Coloured primary schools for advice on their five-year athletics meet now planned for this month.

IMPROVEMENT
"After consultation with the Coloured community, I have made a survey of sports facilities with a view to improving them," Mr. Albert said. "I am submitting a report to the municipality."

In his report Mr. Albert stresses the importance of recreational activities in any community's development and their part in bettering social conditions.

The only sports field available to members of the Coloured community in Grahamstown is Lavender Valley, which must be used by all the Coloured schools as well as by adults.

GREAT INTEREST
"In spite of the shortage of facilities, there is still a great interest in sports," said Mr. Albert yesterday.

His survey shows that 188 children had almost 500 adults play sports, an

extremely high percentage of whom had the community.

Mr. Albert said the percentage of Grahamstown's white community playing sports would be much lower.

The more than 2 000 Coloured children and adults have one size field for all their activities.

There are rugby, cricket and football teams, and now the adults are starting athletics as well. Soccer and hockey clubs are inactive because of lack of facilities.

SERVICE CLUB
Mr. Albert intends approaching the Grahamstown Rotary, Ramad Tjalle and Lions clubs for financial help in buying equipment.

"The idea is to get enough facilities so that all sports can operate and all the people will be able to have regular recreation," he said.

"I will give the City Council a plan showing how I envisage it could be done."

The Rhodes Physical Education Department will be helping coach children and the Rhodes Athletic Club is also willing to help coach.

Black rugby bodies have joined forces

The two bodies governing black rugby in Grahamstown, the Grahamstown Rugby Board and the Grahamstown Rugby Union, have recently amalgamated under the South Eastern Districts Rugby Union (SEDRU).

Both bodies were previously affiliated to SEDRU, which in turn is affiliated to the South African Rugby Union.

The former Grahamstown Rugby Board had seven clubs playing in its league rugby, four local clubs, Swallows, Universals, Rainbows and Mary Waters, and three clubs from the neighbouring towns Port Alfred, Alexandria and Beesmansrivier. Due to the amount of travelling the visiting teams had to do, they often failed to turn up for fixtures matches. This caused local teams to lose interest.

The Grahamstown Rugby Union consisted of six teams i.e. Wanderers, Lily White, Winter Rose, Old Collegians, Easterns and Rovers. There were in fact those bodies controlling rugby in the area, causing dissatisfaction and misunderstanding, particularly with the selection of the provincial team SEDRU.

At a recent meeting of the South Eastern Districts Rugby Union it was proposed that the two sub-unions unite as part of SEDRU. This move was accepted by both sub-unions, and SEDRU was

recognized as the sole governing body.

The office-bearers of the new amalgamated union are Mr. A. Gekke, president, Mr. L. Zake, vice-president, Mr. G. Acoon, general secretary, Mr. N. Williams, assistant secretary, Mr. W. Peter, recording secretary, Mr. R. de Vos, match secretary, Messrs. D. Ngqala and M. Mngqoko, trustees, Mr. T. Qoko, committee member, and Mr. A. Siza, treasurer.

The clubs affiliated to this Union are Universals, Lily White, Wanderers, Old Collegians, Swallows, Rovers, Winter Rose, Mary Waters and Easterns, catering for both First and Second League. Third League matches are played on a friendly basis for the time being. Matches are played on both Saturdays and Sundays at either Lavender Valley or the J.D. Dieps Stadium, starting at 1.00 p.m.

General meetings of the new body are held on Wednesdays at the Currie Street Library, starting at 8.30 p.m. All interested players are welcome to register.

Financial backing for black rugby struggle

An anonymous Port Alfred resident has entered the power clash between the two black rugby organizations in the city, promising the non-racial Grahamstown Rugby Union R100 for every season it is disbursed from the J.D. Dieps stadium outside Mankoskop.

The donor, a retired Grahamstown businessman, has asked that his identity should be kept secret. Early last year the Bantu Affairs Administration Board disbursed the S.A. Rugby Union-affiliated Grahamstown Rugby Union from playing at the J.D. Dieps stadium, the only one available. The union represents the majority of rugby enthusiasts in Grahamstown.

Mr. M. Fuku, general secretary of the Grahamstown Rugby Union, said this week that the recent publicity given the situation had brought a wave of consent and reaction from the public.

Apart from the promised donation of R100 a season, another prominent Grahamstown businessman has offered to organize a fund to help the Union. Mr. Fuku said anyone wishing to assist could do so through the union's patron, Mr. K. Rippon of Goldfields and Co.

The power-struggle between the Grahamstown Rugby Union and the rival National Rugby Board of S.A., which is pushing for the J.D. Dieps stadium to be renamed the Bush Manana stadium, has reached official level.

Mr. Fuku said he believed both rugby unions had submitted memoranda to the BAAB on the subject of changing the name of the stadium. The Grahamstown Rugby Union regards the proposed change as a "retrogressive" step.

Meanwhile concern grows in the Black community about the widening rift which the rugby field issue is causing between supporters of the two unions.

SARU beats top local side

THE arena of the South African Rugby Union (SARU) Tzengberg, gave a shining display of running rugby when they beat the South Eastern Districts Rugby Union (SEDRU) 20-4 at a weekend's play on Saturday after leading 11-0 at the half-time.

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Black Rugby Union condemns B.A.A.B.

The Grahamstown Rugby Union, at its recent annual meeting to condemn the actions of the Cape Midlands Bantu Affairs Administration Board, which closed the J.D. Dieps Stadium to local Black rugby clubs belonging to the Union last season.

Members of the Union also resolved to affiliate to the South Eastern Districts Rugby Union, which is now should affiliate to the non-racial S.A. Rugby Union. Furthermore, they decided not to negotiate for the reopening of the J.D. Dieps Stadium to member clubs.

Mr. N. Mjekula, the retiring president of the Union, congratulated local clubs on another outstanding rugby season, impressed attendances and profitable matches.

A disturbing feature was the closing of the stadium to all member-clubs, for the entire season, but for ungrateful players for making the sacrifices needed to continue fixtures under difficult conditions.

The treasurer announced a balance of R107.53 in the Union's account, and the meeting decided fixtures would start on March 31. During the Easter holidays all teams will play against visiting teams.

Mr. Mjekula declined to stand for re-election as president. Mr. M. I. Fuku was elected president for the Union.

Mr. Mjekula, vice-president, Mr. W. Fuku, general secretary, Mr. S. Dili, assistant secretary, Mr. D. K. South, match secretary, Mr. K. T. L. Qoko, organizing secretary, Mr. L. Mpati, treasurer, Mr. P. W. Nondindko and Mr. S. Mazinga trustees, and Mr. P. Lamba, auditor.

Mr. E. M. Kade was elected chairman, with Messrs. I. Ntshona, E. Kade and M. Fuku as selectors. Delegates to S.E.D.R.U. are Messrs. N. Mjekula, S. Dili and L. Mpati.



Richard Mngqoko (Rovers), referee, Phumzile Adam (Eastern), Sandile Dude (Old Collegians), Luntl Tjalle (Homesweepers, Port Alfred), Boy Teki (Wanderers) and Mveliswa Huluse (Eastern). They are posing for a photograph in front of the Deals Hotel in Oxford Street in East London. They represented SEDRU in the Rhodes Tournament which was held at Sisa Dukashe in Mdantsane and Zwelitsha Stadium in King William's Town in 1980.



Nekile 'Nike' Mjekula, one of the founder members of SEDRU, 1972



Humphrey Sikhumbuzo Nojoko SEDRU flyhalf and centre 1973-1978

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT RUGBY UNION



GRAHAMSTOWN RUGBY UNION – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1973

(1-1) Back Row: R. Mncono (Trustee), K. T. Ooko (Junior President), P.W. Nkosinkulu (Trustee), E. Nyezwa (Assistant Secretary), J.T. Ntuntu (Selector), H.M. May (Auditor), L.M. Ngqawana (Selector). Front Row: D. Smith (Organising Secretary), M.L. Fuku (General Secretary), N. Mjekula (Vice President), Mr S. Estment (Patron), M. Pinini (President), D. Veliti (Treasurer), E. Radu (Match Secretary).

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GRAHAMSTOWN RUGBY UNION – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1976

(1-1) Standing: L.M. Ooko, W. Nkosinkulu, S. Dili (Recording Secretary), L. Mpati (Treasurer), P. Lombo. Sitting: W. Mngongo (Trustee), W. Faltein (General Secretary), M.L. Fuku (President), E.M. Radu (Chairman), R.D. Smith (Match Secretary).



The South Eastern Districts Rugby Union executive committee held its first planning meeting for the new season, last week. In front are: Mr A. Adriaan, general secretary; Mr L. Mpati, president; Mr B. Mentoor, treasurer. In the back row are: Mr C. Douglas, vice-president; Mr M. Klaas, recording secretary; Mr A. Meyer and Mr B. Kula, both additional executive members. Absent were: Mr Kulati, Mr D. Stuurman, Mr T. Mafani and Mr P. Hewana.