

SOCCER

Mr. Jim Carpenter,
752 Foster, Richmond, B.C.

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Interviewed: October 13, 1973.

1921 - Came from England with his mother and family to Winnipeg. Played soccer there: juvenile, junior and senior soccer. His division won Winnipeg Cup twice and Manitoba championship twice and played against England twice.

1946 - His wife and two children came to visit parents in Vancouver, and decided to live here.

1947 - Jim Carpenter and family moved to Heather Street in Richmond. This year Jim visited old lacrosse box where soccer was played.

1948 - Jim became manager and coach; in senior soccer.

1957 - Richmond Juvenile Soccer started to keep boys off the streets. . . went in the hole. . . \$1500 to start but ended season fine. Richmond Municipality did a tremendous job for soccer, including: Mayor Anderson, Alderman Bob McMath who played senior soccer on team while Jim Carpenter coached, Archie Blair (former Alderman), Alderman Stewart Thomas (died), Alderman George May (who played for Jim Carpenter) and Alderman Ivan Cruickshank.

To Start - Juvenile Soccer had 10 teams with 100 boys.

Now - There are 600 boys in soccer here.

Money was a problem in all organized sports. . . to supply shorts, shirts etc.

Dances were held in the old Brighthouse clubhouse where the old race track was located and where the Centennial Pool is to-day . . . to earn money. Jim recalls incidents in detail of conditions . . . old small building that "bounced" when it held 100 people . . . building held up and served the purpose and Richmond Council helped. Later, dances were held in larger Cambie Gym where with 250 people Jim recalls no fights. Still later soccer dances were held in the Recreation Hall (R.C.A. Forum) Sea Island with 1,000 people and no fights.

Soccer people are fair minded, Jim believes. They can take a slap or a dirty look, and still play the game. Jim's motto: Play the game and play fair.

1959: First Soccer Day held . . . at South Arm Park . . . planned giving hot dogs on buns to kids, players. Committee included Mrs. Betty Hedges, Mrs. Eileen Gibson (now, Dawson), Mrs. Turner, and Mrs. Carpenter. Problem: there was no way to keep hot dogs warm because no stove, just a camp stove to boil water for coffee. So the ladies brought blankets and hot water bottles. A huge success - so had Soccer Day ever since.

Eileen Gibson was Recreation Director then and did a lot of work scheduling, arranging halls for soccer events. She welcomed calls or visits day or night regarding soccer fields.

"Only one sport in the world - that's soccer".

You had to be in good condition to play soccer - 45 minute intervals. Soccer has done well in Richmond, and teams have won the B.C. Championship, or Sun title.

The Sun newspaper runs a yearly tournament with 60 teams competing from districts all over the province. Eventual winners come down on a particular spring day to play final. Winner is recognized as best team in B.C. An all-star team is picked. Also soccer player who is most valuable to his team, and showed the best sportsmanship. A stand-out for his team. His age could be 10 years . . . or 16 years.

A Nor West player won this honor five years ago. Richmond players have been close to winning several times.

1953 - Jim Carpenter coached senior soccer for Richmond Legion team, formerly Richmond United. Explains picture. Traces his early coaching. First year in Division 4, won it. Went on to Division 3 and won. Then Division 2 and won. Then final of Imperial Cup, Vancouver (open to all teams) and got beaten, but made \$60.

Went to Mission B.C. to defend the Cup . . . Won in the valley the year before. They growled so much that

Dennis Hedges threw the Cup at them.

Next year Jim took the Cup back to Mission and Richmond team won it again.

Carpenter pays high soccer tribute to Hedges, and his quick thinking.

That year, the team won the Packingham Cup. Jim Wilkie who lost part of his leg training in the Air Force, was the coach that year and very active in soccer.

Jim was awarded a framed certificate awarding him a life membership in the Richmond Juvenile Soccer League, 1970 at a soccer dance. It was earned by being active in soccer coaching for at least 10 years. Jim was on the executive 12 years, since the League started, looking after the Pee Wee League of seven and eight year old boys.

Jim relates incident of going to Sea Island Saturdays to help out juvenile soccer when a voluntary referee could not handle it.

Incident of Mrs. Carroll, mother of players, chasing referee with her umbrella, because of an "interest in the game".

Biggest enjoyment of coaching juvenile soccer with the kids sitting on his front doorstep Saturday mornings, waiting for the coach - was when two or three boys knocked on his door at Christmas saying "Merry Christmas Mr. Carpenter" and gave him a package of cigarettes. Then it was all worth while.

In 1957 - the juvenile soccer all started at Bill Smith's house, or Wilf Hampson's.

Jim Carpenter

-5-

For money: it was decided to go to Sperling Sports Goods, Vancouver, and get strip, and balls "on trust", around \$1500. Everyone dug it turned out all right. Juvenile Soccer people are doing a fine job, got sponsors. Had to get insurance against boys getting hurt, teeth knocked off, two or three broken legs. Not bad in dealing with 600 to 1,000 boys.

(Not on Tape) Re: Early Days

Municipality donated the field for juvenile soccer. The fieldhouse since built, with heating facilities, etc. - best in Canada. Bud Thornton, Hugh McLeod, Dennis Hedges and Tom Finlay all helped.

Jim Carpenter is asked to present the Cup or Trophy for Juvenile Soccer each Soccer Day, yearly.

Dellis Cleland