

Lacrosse: Interview with Harry 'Silver' Minns, August 9/73

Interviewed by Joyce Schuss (no tape)

Minns recalled the following as early Richmond Athletic Club members:

Bill Easterbrook	'Pop' Foster	Art Savage
Wilf Hamson	Lexie Skuse	
Wilf Gilmore	Montgomery (Miss)	
Dave Gilmore	Honey Ross Patterson	
Eric Anderson	Bill Morphett	Doug Savage
Walt Plumbley	Rudy Grauer	Glen Lougheed
Plumbley	Carl Grauer	Harry Minns
Vic Marchant	Les Grauer	
Anna Rolston	Lambert Duff	
Pete Rolston	Dunc May	

Box Lacrosse: Vancouver took lead in bñxla c.1936 and Richmond followed.

Richmond Intermediate League:

Bridgeport:

Gordie Lawley (G)
Ed Ciminelli
Buster Ciminelli
Lambert Duff
Glen Lougheed
Bob Harvey
Ernie (Z) Babuin
Les Grauer
Carl Grauer

Brighthouse:

Chas. McCullogh
Jack Travers
Lawrence Bissett
Bill Bissett
Wilf Hamson
Harry Minns (G)
Gordie Kartner
Eric Anderson
Bud Noble
Fred Ashcroft (alt G)

Sponsor:
Brighthouse
Merchants

(Sponsored by Home Gas.)

South Arm Sovereigns:

Sam Gilmore (C)
Ray Harris (G)
Wilf Gilmore
Dave Gilmore
Lyll Grath
Doug Gilmore
Bill Simpson
Jimmy Laing
Gordon McKay
Bob Reese
Cliff Cross

Sponsor:
Phoenix
Canneries

Steveston:

John Spargo (G)
Frank Hepworth(G)
Gordie Wallace
Gilmore 'Jumbo' Jarvis
Kenny Elston
Bill Gilmore
Karl Kobayashi
Tor Kobayashi
Mick Burdett
Bud Young

Sponsor:
Imperial
Cannery

East Richmond:

Art Savage
Doug Savage
Gordon Lawley
2 May brothers

(Cannery sponsored? 'Terra Nova'
Sam Gilmore coach?)

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General notes on the Intermediate League (p.1)

1. Strictly Richmond League with some exhibition games with Westham Island and Ladner.
2. South Arm won just about every year. Toughest team in league. Brighthouse beat S. Arm with Minns in goal.
3. Championship was 2 out of 3 games series.
4. Regularly scheduled games.
5. Miss a practice or game meant automatic one game suspension. (benched) Faced team scorn. Often meant no supper, straight from the fields to game or practice.
6. Three boxes...Brighthouse at present site, Steveston at present site, Bridgeport (torn down long ago). All boxes had grass playing surfaces.
7. Wore gloves, home-made pads (blue felt), no helmets. Goal masks optional...usually adapted baseball catchers masks.
8. No medical insurance. Injured player supported by Benefit Dances at Cambie Gym. Always a sell-out. Glen Chamberlain and his 12 piece orchestra.
9. Art Turner (plasterer) super spectator, ex pro boxer. Never missed a game.
10. Harry Gilmore often reffed intermediate games. No problems getting referees. If there was any spectator abuse towards the referee, it was not as personally directed as today.
11. Penalties: Boarding, slashing, cross-checking and fighting. There were more fights then than today.
12. Hometown competition drew big crowds. Standing room only at Brighthouse.
13. Coach was boss. 100% respect. No parental interference. (Too much parental interference today. Lack of respect for the coach. Too much competition today.)

World War II Lacrosse: Part of physical fitness program... Tri-services combined to form team in Victoria. Carl Grauer (Navy) was coach. Minns (called Johnny then) played forward. Ken Fethersone, Doug Kazan (former Adanad) and Max Turner. Played James Bay team, Bay Jokers and _____ (4 teams in all) Sticks and rifles moved across Canada. Played Moosejaw, Saskatoon.

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On Senior Lacrosse c. 1936:

The Richmond team was sponsored by the St. Helen's Hotel. The team played the Salmonbellies, Adanacs and North Shore Indians. They played at the Denman Street Arena in Vancouver. People would stand in line all night for play-off tickets. Standing room only. Up to 12,000 spectators.

Team roster:

Les Dickinsen (coach)
Bill Gilmore
Sonny Errington
Doc Nichol
George Mackie
Mickey McGuire
Horace Hamson
Eddie Gilmore
Bill Morphett
Angus McDonald
Billy Montgomery
Harry Gilmore (super-fast runner)
Bobby Reese
Willie Ross