

Round 1 – 2006

Season 2006 has got underway amidst great fanfare. The huffing and puffing of tired unfit men at least provided the fan and the fare was on offer in the clubhouse after.

Barnstoneworth has had a busy off-season with extensive recruitment and the advent of a development squad of young under 35 year olds to eventually feed into the prestigious Over 35 teams in the coming years.

The Red & Whites have proved so financially successful under the creative accountancy of George W Hodges that we were able to triple the number of multi-million dollar contracts to those offered last season. Pierre Littbarski was one name mooted to take over the football side of things but it was decided to use more local talent and Chris Jacobs has taken on the role quashing the rumours that he was headed to Europe.

The early games for Barnstoneworth provided quite a contrast with the young lions struggling to find their form against an even younger Saints outfit. Turbulence managed to slot past 7 goals to Barnies' 1. Part of the reason for this is that some players were unavailable as they were still getting releases from their overseas clubs. The next few weeks should prove decisive in this.

The younger of the old sides are a new name to locals but legendary to Barnie Army. Denley Moor Academicals are synonymous with Barnstoneworth but there will be more on this next week as part of the local derby celebrations.

Denley Moor (DMA) took on the older version of Saints and showed what a class act they are. Three goals to the good at halftime and six by the final whistle saw a convincing start to the season. Some say they have peaked early but only time will tell. Bruce Hogben decided to take on the role of 'show pony' by bagging four goals.

DMA were surprisingly full of running which may cause problems, as it doesn't really fit into the Barnies mould. No doubt as various breakdowns and constant injuries set in, they will become slower and slower.

In the final game Barnstoneworth United were up early against Canobolas and it is not known yet how the match ended.

The city and the world of football now holds its breath as it waits for the first match between Barnstoneworth United and Denley Moor Academicals in 71 years occurs on Saturday. Will Denley Moor reverse the result of that famous match or will the DMA get the jitters again and be distracted by getting the autograph of Sugden, the follically challenged gun of United.

Round 2 - Barnstoneworth Report for Saturday 13th May 2006

The world of modern sport is a strange one. It could even be said to be a parallel universe. This week's match between Barnstoneworth United and Denley Moor Academicals (DMA) in the Over 35s competition is a perfect example.

The last time these two sides met was in 1935 in what was apparently the Barnstoneworth Swansong before the original ground was sold to the Arthur Foggin Scrap Company. Today Barnstoneworth is the monstrous multi-billion dollar empire covering the globe and have gone to the extraordinary step of revitalizing the flagging fortunes of DMA by taking them under their wing.

This is an event that could not be comprehended by any true Yorkshire man. They would look at you like you are speaking another language. To understand their incomprehension we will need to travel back nearly 300 years to the first local Barnstoneworth v Denley Moor football encounter. This of course does not consider the territorial disputes that ebbed and flowed for over 1000 years previously.

The local vassal, George W Hogshead who wanted to add something to the monthly market and festival day, conceived the first football match. They say the W in the name related to the straightness of character and we can see his legacy in his descendant, Phil "*George W*" Hodges, still sitting atop the Barnstoneworth heap as President.

Hogshead it was who oversaw the start of the legend. It was a day in which Haxby Thurckle was made notorious as the original Butcher of Barnstoneworth. A striker in those days played a far different role to that of the modern variety and Haxby was a prodigious striker and legend says Haxby is a nickname derived from 'hacks by'.

Another difference between the modern and traditional derby is that a rather tame hack by the modern Butcher, Ewan Powell was seen to be foul. Thurckle would have been stunned to hear the whistle as there was no loss of limbs nor was there any blood evident.

The latest instalment in the rivalry was won 2-0 by Barnstoneworth at the modern Stadium Barnstoneworth. Second half strikes to Serbian striker Sinisa Kosarac and zippy Steve Adams saw them prevail. Old legs of Rob Young and Aidan Sugden were full of running in a solid defence.

Powell is said to be contemplating retirement after a woeful performance all over the paddock culminating in a lamentable keeping effort. It depends whether the prospect of revenge will keep him going.

Barnie Army was revelling into the wee small hours of the next afternoon. DMA will be glad to be alive again but will need to improve markedly to have an impact on their foes this year.

The fledgling Barnstoneworth development squad recovered from last week's 1-7 humiliation to this week beat the KWS students 5-2. With the talent on show that will hopefully feed into the older ranks over the years, the Barnstoneworth Empire is set to continue its great traditions.

Round 3 – 2006

The Denley Code has been cracked. Denley Moor Academicals (DMA) managed to beat Waratahs, the competition favourites in Over 35s, to the tune of three goals to two at Stadium Barnstoneworth on Saturday.

Last week the cracks were in the defence, the keeper, wise versions from the opposition and plenty of builders cracks as heads, shoulders and bodies were slumped in shame.

“A week in sport ...”

DMA worked hard in the off season to find that extra something. It was decided that the Denley Code held the answers. It was decided at the pre-season training camp to take the Silas approach to life.

Although there are no albinos in the side there are many who are not far away. Pasty white flesh and silvery hair are as close as they will get but it appears to be enough. Also, after an initial aromatic disaster when many didn't quite get the meaning of self-flagellation the players took on board the philosophy and punished themselves in unique and inventive ways.

It has been said that it was about time the players copped what the Barnie Army has been getting for years with the disappointing offerings from the field. The tactic appears to have finally paid dividends as DMA took their punishment and were down two goals before making a strong resurgence and putting away three of their own.

Two others people should be applauded for looking into the mythology behind success in football. Professor Aidan Sugden and famous Serbian techno geek Sinisa Kosarac are said to have studied many legendary football artefacts. In studying “Maradonna of the Rocks” they have developed a number of ideas about greatness.

Apparently it all has to do with ratios; ratios of distance to goal and opposition; ratios of steps to be taken and height of the flight path of the ball. Many detractors say its all a load of Baloney and they are only borrowing from a crackpot philosophy of the failed Lithuanian '38 World Cup campaign. Whether it is just a flash in the pan or not it gives the Barnie Army hope.

It was a good day all round for the Barnie Army as the development squad in All Age managed their second straight win and Barnstoneworth United moved to the top of the table with a grafted 6-2 win against Saints.

It looked desperate for United as they were down 2-1 well into the second half in a game they were expecting to win. They found some resolve and may have cracked a code of their own to get the win.

Barnstoneworth All Age used the bare eleven players to overcome Canobolas Pink. There still appears to be some settling in for the young blokes but signs are looking good for the year.

Round 4 – 2006

With recent events in Rugby League there has been a focus on the conduct of all sportspeople. With their high profile the players of Barnstoneworth are no exception.

“We have decided to look elsewhere for our inspiration when it comes to looking after our players.” said CEO Ewan Powell. “Aidan Sugden has spent some time researching ideas used by the US Army.”

Suggo, or RSM Sugden as he prefers to be known, explained why Barnies will not face similar problems. “Our camps are not namby-pamby Club Med style atrocities. Our camps last the entire season and we don’t let our players out.”

Sources revealed that one player did manage to get out but was soon shepherded back to the fold by the dogs. Apparently he only missed a few matches following his injuries.

“They really enjoy their solitary confinement. It allows them time to contemplate their play. They also appreciate the times when they see others at training sessions,” continued Mr Sugden.

“We also save a great deal of money as they only need clothes for training or when dignitaries arrive.”

Sources within the club revealed that the main benefit of the clothes was to cover up the chaffing and other marks caused by the training regimen. This was denied by the Sergeant Major.

Whatever the activities are behind the club there appear to be results on the field. The Division 1 side remains undefeated at Stadium Barnstoneworth this year after their 6-2 victory in the local derby against Waratahs.

Brenda Gordon managed a superb hat trick and some in the crowd thought he looked as if a savage dog was chasing him.

The over 35 team also had their local derby against Waratahs next door at Barnie Stadium. While they went down 3-2 there were signs of strong performances to come.

Last time these side met Barnies were lucky to keep the score at 2-3 while the same score line this time saw the luck more on the side of Waratahs. Dave Craig worked tirelessly in the midfield while Eric Jacobs and Phil Totten had some very near misses up front.

The over35’s are finally getting it together and the Barnie Army are waiting for their season to rise and rise.

Round 5 – 2006

The trophy cupboard at Barnstoneworth has been sadly bare in recent years. A minor premiership in C Division last year was not followed up with the Grand Final victory so the Barnie Army is getting restless.

To rectify the problem there has been a push recently to sell their souls for a Championship this year. Many thought there was value in this until more consideration was given to the situation.

The first stumbling block came when looking for a soul to sell. Old Mother Hubbard had her age-old problem. Many saw this as explaining the strife the club perpetually seems to wallow in.

It was thought that the Very Right Reverend Dr Sid Grindley would have something to offer. Sadly it was discovered that in his impetuous youth he had made an exchange for his silky skills. An appeal was lodged recently as Sid has made no material gain but the likelihood is that the appeal will fail because the awe in which his skills are held.

The other major stumbling block was seeing what happened to the NSW Origin side who made the deal for a series win this year. It doesn't take Solomon's wisdom to question the worth of their decision. Smart money says you can put your house on a Blues win this year but leave your life well out of the reckoning.

There is now no option left but to win some matches on merit and with this aim the Over 35's took to the field at Brabham on Saturday to take on Canobolas Rangers.

The first half saw numerous chances with the big miss being that of Canobolas Rangers. The first shot had gone off the inside post across the goal to sit nicely. If anyone would like to ask how to miss an open goal from one metre, I'm sure John Colgan will be very happy to relive the experience.

The second half continued very much in the way of the first until Barnies were awarded a penalty. Gary James ran up from his sweeper role and carefully slotted the ball away. Gary was called upon again later when Paul Hopkins was taken down.

Barnies were in some ways fortunate to come away with the win but no-one wearing Red & White was complaining in any way.

Meanwhile the first Division had their first loss this year at Stadium Barnstoneworth on Saturday. There was some hope of holding on for a draw against competition heavyweights CYMS Gold but for the second time this year late goals proved the downfall.

When it gets to the end the legs are not working as well and the Barnie Boys are feeling all their years these days. It was creditable performance but another loss in the books.

Round 6 – 2006

Many have believed that the history of Barnstoneworth started in the little village in Yorkshire. As it happens the traditions are far finer than this. It is now known the tiny Republic of Banistovok in the Caspian Sea is where our tale begins.

The reason why this island Republic is not well known is that it spends most of its time under water. It habitually surfaces at irregular intervals and takes its place on the world stage.

The first submergence of the island was not until the 6th century AD and it had until then thrived. Seeing the trouble coming the governors of the day commissioned Boris Kennovic, an ancestor of our own Dan Kennedy, to sail away to find a new home for the republic.

And so it was in 492, coincidentally 1000 years before another famous explorer, Boris set sail and after travelling through Russia and Scandinavia eventually settled in the area now known as Yorkshire.

The new home of the Republic was eventually swallowed by Great Britain but there have always been a group aware of the surfacing of their home. The last emergence occurred in 2001 and the Republic was renewed.

With soccer being the dominant religion they quickly made application to be considered for Euro 2004 and they are now ready to take on the Heavyweights in Europe. They hope the island will last long enough to make an assault on the 2006 World Cup.

In order to get their team together Banistovok officials have visited all the various Barnstoneworth franchises to select true Sons of the Republic to defend her honour.

Andrei Heidnitski, known to us as Andrew Haydon & Alexi Vazonova (aka Alex Vaz) have already been selected from Orange. Selectors had heard that Yuri Jamovich (Gary James) had struck a rich vein of goal scoring form recently and they wanted another look at him.

Yuri's form continued and his goal on Saturday proved the difference between the sides when Barnies Over 35's took on All Saints at Brabham Park.

The previous week Gary's brace had separated the teams and he kept another connection to that game. Like John Colgan last week Gary managed to miss a relatively open goal from only a couple of metres. This surprised fans as only minutes earlier, Gary had deftly turned a cross into the goal and many thought the latter was an easier chance.

Another side of Gary's nature was revealed in the first goal. His generosity led him to slot the ball in his own net to let All Saints go marching in to the regular tune accompanied by a 2-1 scoreline.

It was at times a scrappy affair and has shown the closeness of the comp apart from the undefeated Waratah outfit. It is now up to the other teams to take Waratahs down a peg or three.

Round 9 2006

With Peter Garrett in the headlines recently it may come as a surprise to many that there is a connection with Barnstoneworth. Andy James, the original bass guitarist is brother to none other than our very own Gary James.

With other clubs the celebrities are usually given prominence as No 1 Fan. The midnight Oil entourage have no such luxuries at Barnies and are the 534, 745th to 534, 752nd ranked fans and will have to wait many years for a chance to get higher.

No 1 Fan Walter Fitzherbert is looking strong and hopes to be around for many years to come. "Peter who?" Fitzherbert asked when spoken to about the Oils frontman. "Oh, yes. Nice young fellow. Met him at the club a while back."

Not the club to dwell on celebrity Barnies faithful were far more interested in the on field activities on Saturday. So it was 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and we're away.

In the Over 35's against Canobolas Rangers, Barnie started well with Dan Kennedy slotting in a goal. The start proved to be a *koala sprint* as there was a scream in blue as Rangers got one back through their frontman Fordy.

It appeared that Rangers had the *Power and the Passion* where *only the strong* would prevail. An early second half goal gave them the lead and with a *short memory* the Blue Boys told the Barnie Army to *read about it*.

A penalty by Gary James was pushed onto the post by the Rangers keeper capped a *dreamworld* day where he jumped and dived to thwart thirty odd Barnies shots.

The miss sparked something and for Barnies, *when the generals talk at who can stand in the way*. Dan Kennedy heard the call and ignoring *head injuries* came in like a *bullroarer*. His goal got the Red & Whites *back on the borderline*. His third soon after had the Barnie Army going crazy with *bells and horns in the back of beyond*.

A Phil Totten strike had the boys on *Kosciusko* and at *minutes to midnight* the game was beyond doubt. After the *diesel and dust* had settled Barnies were *king of the mountain* and hoisted their *Red & White sails in the sunset*. There was *no reaction* from the Boys in Blue and *I don't wanna be the one* to say it was the *basement flat* for them.

Round 10 – 2006

With some big signings over summer and last year's relocation of Stadium Barnstoneworth to Waratahs, the coffers at Barnies are rather low. There have been a number of ideas bandied about but the latest earner involves the new baby bonus.

The first setback came when it was revealed to the players that looking pregnant was not good enough. Otherwise Barnies would be close to millionaires without trying.

There were a number of great efforts in the 1-1 draw with All Saints at Brabham on Saturday. It was an inauspicious start however when Phil Hodges missed the mark and had kittens on the field after a typical Barnies defensive lapse. No goal resulted and the efforts improved from there.

Eric Jacobs was back after his recent national duties and was slicing away up the middle. Many thought this was perfect for a Caesarean section and believed it would have worked except for the lack of a goal.

After much pushing and shoving and puffing and panting the old fellas went to the break at nil all. In the second half Mick Carpenter went for a pregnant pause at the back only to see Saints pounce on the ball and reap the reward.

Barnies keeper Powell knocked a few up and the Red & Whites went close once when Paul Miskell latched onto one of these but the ball curved wide. Miskell's labours were rewarded later when he was able to pop one through the channel while lurking at the back post.

Mick Jessop had a superb day and appeared to be revelling in the fact that his Aged Pension would add to the clubs finances. With a number of Over 50s in the club there is some thought that this will be the best source of income for in years to come.

The Division 1 side were no less valiant in their efforts despite going down 1-4 to Blayney while playing at Stadium Barnstoneworth.

Jose Dioses stepped up to the mark when it was generally acclaimed that he "had a baby" on the field. The yellow card was small sacrifice as noted Paediatrician Paul Bloomfield was on hand to vouch for the birth. Apparently the cheque is in the mail.

Aidan Sugden also did his best late in the match when he spat the dummy. He also took the yellow on the chin knowing that, while not eligible for the baby bonus he should however get the one off child payment.

A reasonable start but the smart money is on for the "one big happy family" angle. With over a million children in the clan the Family Allowance is expected to set the club up for a very comfortable future. Either that or an average week in the beer allocation.

Round 13 – 2006

For the first time in nearly three years of Over 35s competition in Orange, Waratahs are not at the top of the table. It is time now to look at why Denley Moor Academicals (DMA) have been able to usurp their position.

What sets DMA apart from the rest is now the question. It has been said that they are **Demented Medical Atrocities Defying Mobility Arguments**. This they do by simply making it onto the field each week. This does not set them apart however as it simply describes Over 35s football.

Dodgy Marking Abilities of opposition may have something to do with their success but again this would not be unique. We need to find some way to explain why DMA are **Deflecting Mercurial Ambition**.

While other teams are racking up double figure scores against the lesser lights DMA are **Determinedly Miserly Attackers** in such situations. From the table we see that the Waratah show ponies have slotted in 74 goals this year to DMA's paltry 37 and yet DMA are at the top.

It is obvious that DMA are the **Definitive Masters of Achievement Dodging Mighty Accolades** and doing just enough to win. Most of their wins are by the solitary goal. To highlight the fact we note that Waratahs have only conceded 11 goals, 6 of which were to DMA, while Canobolas Cardiacs have conceded 64 and DMA are only responsible for 7 of these.

It must be said then that **Defence Makes Amends for Depleted Moribund Arsenal**.

Denley have Big Brother Barney to thank for their position as it was the 0-0 draw of Barnstoneworth against Waratahs that enabled DMA to clamber to the top of the heap. For a scoreless draw it was a dramatic game under lights that saw tight defence and interesting adjudications.

Waratahs played the second half when Derek Trotter failed twice to control his tongue. Perhaps Barnies needed that luck or maybe they would have got there anyway but it added some spice to the game. The defensive unit was a no holds barred team and no quarter was given.

Many there thought Bruce Middleton was fortunate to stay on the field as a tearaway Gary Simpson was brought down just outside the box. It was a defining moment in the match as it epitomised Barnies ruthless defence and caused Waratahs to concentrate more on the decisions than on winning the game.

The Barnie Army obviously had much to cheer about although the Youth And Development Squad (YADS) playing in C Division had little to add to the celebration. The Barnie Chronicles have been in hiatus of late and in that time YADS had managed to get to the top of their table.

Sadly the results have not gone their way and consecutive losses has seen them lose top spot on the table. Their season is certainly not over as they will still finish importantly in the top two but the timing of the form slump is not good with finals just around the corner. The Barnie Army is expecting that their class will win through in the end.

Round 14 – 2006

In football parlance, Barnstoneworth is synonymous with scandal. The next chapter of the story was written on Saturday night with young son, Denley, taking on dad, Bernie, at Stadium Barnstoneworth under lights.

The fracas started just after the toss with the Barnstoneworth side taking the uncustomary decision to switch ends after winning the toss. Denley Moor then inspected the ball and thought things looked out of shape and had probably been tampered with. Was this a case of Age & Treachery trying to overcome youth and skill?

The referee got in on the act and thought there was a case to be answered. Barnstoneworth then retired to the shed to consider their next move. For the next nineteen minutes the initial buzz was replaced by an expectant hush.

Finally a slow handclap saw the ref move to the Bernie dressing room to ask their intentions. It was as the ref was on his way that the other match officials had a conference that determined correctly the only thing out of shape were the players themselves. Disaster averted and the game & players rolled on.

With Denley Moor Academicals (DMA) being almost assured of the Minor Premiership with a win over Barnstoneworth it was a tense affair. Some thought that there might be some club tactics with the possibility of Barnies throwing the game so that DMA could finish top.

Pride won out over club spirit and the game was contested. It is highly likely that this decision also averted another match fixing scandal.

Fathers Day came early for Bernie as DMA gifted them a goal in the 32nd minute of the first half. Alan Sharp has been a great find in his debut year as keeper with DMA. His agility and skill has saved many games. It was therefore a shock when he dived onto a ball only for it to roll underneath him and sit only a metre or two from his now open goal. Sinisa Kosarac, the elegant Barnies striker, pounced like a Tigger onto the lonely ball. OK the pounce was more Pooh-like but it got the job done and Barnies were now one goal to the good.

It was not until midway through the second half when DMA midfielder Darrin Chambers turned and shot from the top of the box in a move that caught everyone by surprise. The ball edged past Bernie keeper Jackson to set up a thrilling finish.

The game opened up at this point and Steve Adams had a chip over Sharp that oh so narrowly went wide. At the other end there were very good chances to Simmons, Dioses, Chambers and Kennedy. Dan 'The Man' Kennedy looked to emulate his feat from last week when he chipped the ball from wide out. This week has was not so lucky and it grazed the woodwork.

The washup from the match has seen some extraordinary events. It appears that Orange District Soccer Association has had enough of the scandals that reek through Barnies Sale St headquarters. In a confidential email obtained by yours truly it

appears they made an offer to Barnies of \$5,000 to never darken a football field again. Moreover Soccer NSW were willing to add their own \$500,000. It is believed that Football Australia, now flush with cash after the World Cup were willing to part with \$10m to see the end of Barnies.

Not to be stymied the Bernie Army made their own efforts at fundraising with an appeal to the Red & White faithful. With the advent of electronic connections it is believed the first 24 hours of endeavour raised over \$15m which will see Barnies march on for some time to come.

The question now remains as to whether DMA can continue their recent victories over Waratahs and wrest the Over 35s title from them for the very first time.

Round 15 – 2006

Harsh words were heard out at Stadium Barnstoneworth on Saturday as Barnies played the final game of the regular season. They managed to overcome The Saints to the tune of 3-0 but all was not well.

The furore started when two players in particular played above themselves and ran for more than the allotted time. Barnies have only managed to beat The Saints once this year before Saturday and the play of Phil Totten and Mick Carpenter helped them to another win.

Dan Kennedy was livid at the end of the game. “I’m a foundation member of this club and it’s taken us years to foster complacency and idleness. I had to work harder than I should to squander 3 or 4 chances today.”

Player manager Phil Hodges was more circumspect, “Look we’re all a bit emotional at the moment and I’d rather not say too much. I imagine a psych assessment for those two would help though.”

Another foundation player in Gary James was trying to keep himself in check but did say “I can understand with Mick as its his first year in the club but Totto has been round for ages and should know better. Our team works well in mediocrity and they weren’t part of the team today.”

With the finals starting next week it remains to be seen whether Barnies can pull themselves together in time to take on minor premiers Waratahs in the Over 35 major semi. At the moment it looks doubtful.

The unfortunate thing is that Saturday was the time when they finally managed to get their form together and win the game in style. Then again that may be the problem. Winning in style is not the Barnies way. Normally any wins are rather ugly which is only fitting when you look at the players.

While Kennedy did a fantastic job of missing sitters it can only be seen as a result of the practice he had at last week’s game. Against Rangers last week he managed 2 shockers but took it to new heights this week with four shockers.

When Hodges was asked what it will take to overcome Waratahs next week he did manage to reveal a plan. “We’re talking to our medical team to see if we can nobble them somehow. I guess you’d better not print that we’re planning that!” Too late.