

Swaraj Football Club 1938



ONCE again we dig deep into the "Gems" archives to bring you photographs of soccer stars from yesteryear.

This month we bring to you a 1938 photograph of the Swaraj Football

Club, which was established in Pretoria in 1925.

This club were winners of the Pretoria and Districts Indian Football Association knockout cup in 1938. They subsequently went on to

win several league and knockout titles.

Three "Springboks" were included in that famous side — the late Kanabathy "Bavoo" Moodley, who gained his "cap" in 1934, the late Rajendran Pillay, (1953)

and Nithia Moodley (1960). Moodley represented the South African Indian XI in three tests against visiting All India XI.

It should also be noted that the late Govind Muthaya represented the Transvaal Indians against All India at the Caledonian Grounds in Pretoria.

"Gems" Archives place on record their appreciation to Sathia Kollapen of Pretoria and Dr P G P Naidoo for the donation of photographs to the archives.

The photograph of the Swaraj team of 1938 shows (top row) M Nadesen, C Bhana and V Govindasamy (all of whom were vice presidents).

Second Row: C Vadiveloo, M Govind, P Vella, Jeeva

Mahomed (vice president), V Soobramoney, G Ponsamy and G Ananda.

Sitting: W J Charles (treasurer), G H Ellemdin, G Moothoo (captain), C Ambalavan (secretary), G Perumal (president), H Mohideen (vice president), R Varthu (vice captain), S Ganesan and C Kanabathy.

Front: S Coopoo and D Hassen.

● In our next issue we hope to bring you a photograph of the equally famous Delfos Football Club of Pretoria.

We also hope to bring to you photographs of Sam China and the two brothers who were "top" administrators in the soccer world.

At the same time we request readers to be patient with their requests. We can only deal with one club at

a time. Requests for photographs of the deadly Rovers teams as well as others will be published soon.

● While we had promised to publish a photograph of the Browns Band (JHTI Orchestra), we had to delay it because of the poor print quality. However, we are making efforts to obtain a better quality print and will publish that as soon as it is received by Gopal Naransamy's archives.

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