

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCCER FEDERATION PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE



R20,000 COCA - COLA
BOTTLERS
K. O. SHIELD FINAL

MANNING RANGERS

VS

P.G. BLUE BELLS

•••••••••••

SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER 1977 at CURRIES FOUNTAIN

Nº 4192

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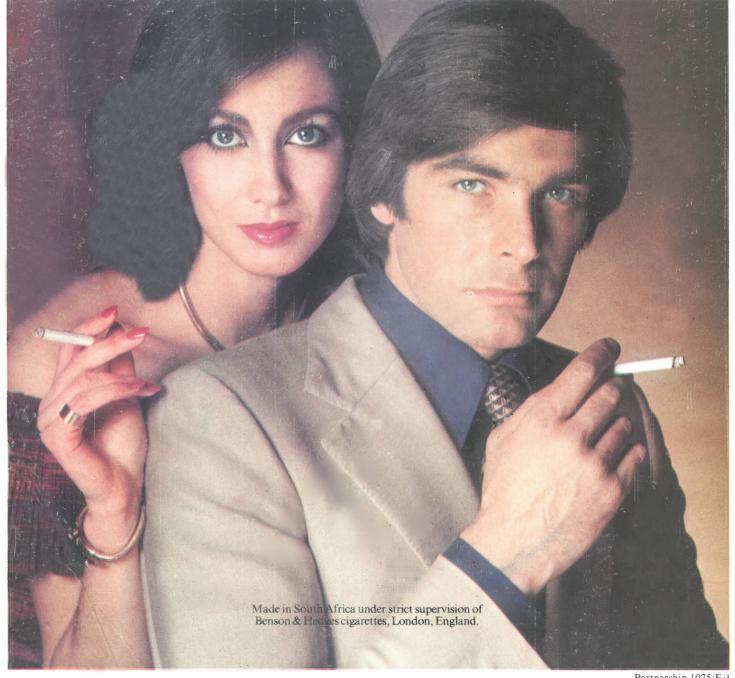


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My Company has for the past four years, enjoyed a proud sponsorship association with the S.A. Soccer Federation Professional League, which we look forward to maintaining it in the future. May the Coca-Cola Knock-Out Shield represent all of the best qualities of sportsmanship and goodwill amongst the peoples of all races in our country.

It is my personal wish as well as that of my Company that the 1977 Coca-Cola Knock-Out Shield final be contested in the very best sporting spirits, for which the S.A. Soccer Federation enjoy such a high reputation, with our best wishes to players of both teams, the referee and his two linesmen, for an exciting and enjoyable match, with the game of soccer the overall winner.

F.J. MEYER

MANAGER FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
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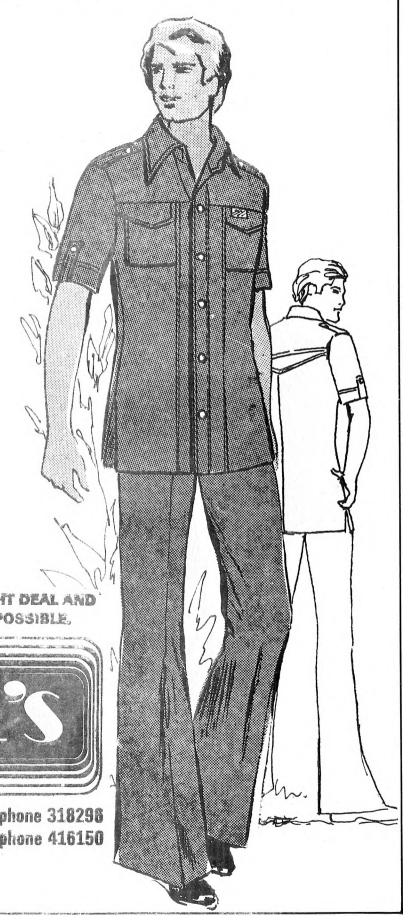
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MESSAGE FROM:

R. K. NAIDOO

President - South African Soccer Federation Professional League

The administration of sport in this country is a tricky business and is often like walking a tight rope. Faced with a set of circumstances, unique anywhere in the world, the non-racial sports administrator's task is an onerous one.



On the one hand he is faced with such crushing difficulties as a near total lack of proper amenities, until recently almost a total publicity blackout by the white media and political harrassment. The organising of sport in these circumstances represents a challenge which calls for dedication and application of a rare quality.

We have been fortunate in that throughout the years we have been blessed with individuals who were prepared to take up the cudgels on behalf of deprived black sportsmen and even in the darkest times when their cause seemed a lost one they went ahead unflinchingly.

To such people go my gratitude and deep appreciation.

Of late however, one or two individuals have blemished this fine record by using the sporting arena to vent their personal likes and dislikes. Such an attitude serves to split the ranks, cause discord and create a situation of disruption in which our detractors can only but revel. It is sad that this should happen at a time when there is need for the greatest solidarity and commitment. The cause should be more important than the individual.

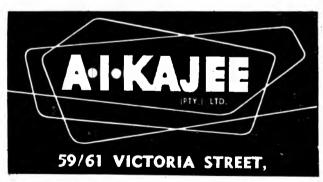
It is all very well to catch the headlines with the fiery rhetoric of protest but these are hollow when they are not backed by commitment and hard work. The Federation Professional League was founded not only on a noble cause but also through plain sweat and tears by those who were prepared to do the spade work.

I think the occasion is appropriate to call upon such people to examine their conscience and above all else, to put the cause of sport above personal interests.

Sounding like some glamourous knight on a white charger brandishing a noble cause does not get work done but plain elbow grease does. Let's get our priorities right.

Finally I want to wish both teams the very best of luck and in the traditions of sport, may the best team win.

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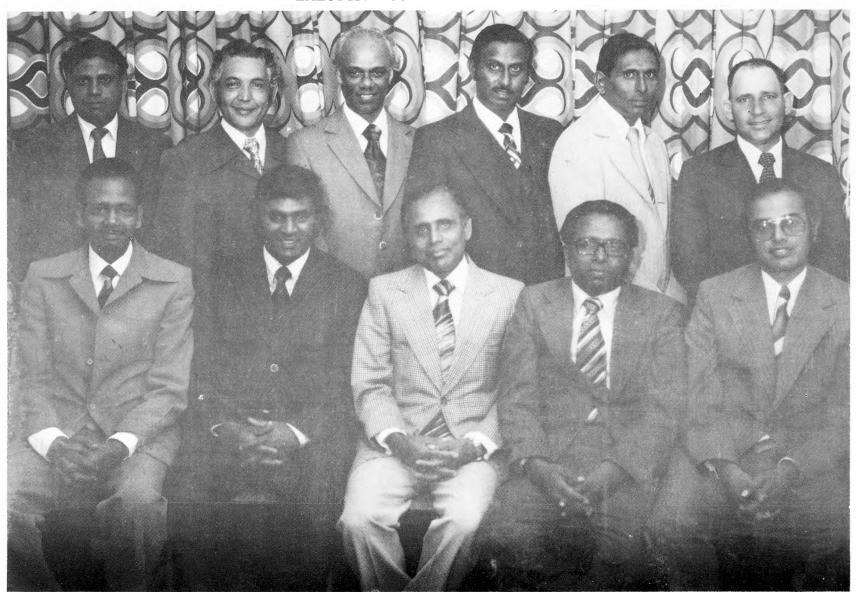


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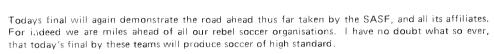


Standing from Left: D. Ramlall, A. Majid, (P.R.O.), M.N. Pather, Vic Pillay, Danny Naidoo, A.G.W. Bailey, (Record Clerk)

Seated Left: Bobby Naicker (Treasurer), Roy Moodley (Vice-Chairman), R.K. Naidoo (Chairman), S.K. Chetty (Secretary,), A. Trikamjee (Vice-Chairman)

MESSAGE FROM:

N.S. MIDDLETON (PRESIDENT S.A.S.F.)





Ever since the formation of the SASE, it has amply demonstrated that recreation in all forms of sport, is a prime necessity for the well being of every individual. It is therefore not strange in that all those opposed to our uncompromising stand on non-racialism have recently been speculating as to the future of the SASE and its affiliates.

To put the records straight once and for all let me emphatically say again that the SASF is the only soccer organisation in South Africa that conducts and plays soccer in accordance to the principles and requirements of FIFA. We are the only truly non-racial organisation of which you can be proud of. Therefore there can be no mergers whatsoever with any racial soccer organisations. Any soccer organisation wishing to join Federation, must first completely desolve its racial character and apply for admission in the normal way with absolutely no strings or conditions attached.

This was my clear message to FASA, NFL and NPSL recently. The SASF has no White players, black players, Indian players nor the so-called Coloured players affiliated to it. Our membership merely consist of soccerites. Race, colour or creed does not exist in our organisation neither do we believe or encourage playing under the government permits. The SASF has always and will always conduct its affairs in accordance to its laiddown objects and - principles and nobody, no organisation and no government will dictate to us how, where and with whom we will play soccer.

Our stand in regard our players/officials on non-racialism in sport is very clear and any of our members of officials violating this policy is automatically suspended.

May I call on you all present here today to "strive, to seek, to find and never to yield on non-racialism". May the best team win today but of more importance, may the spirit of the SASE be and remain with you till victory is won.

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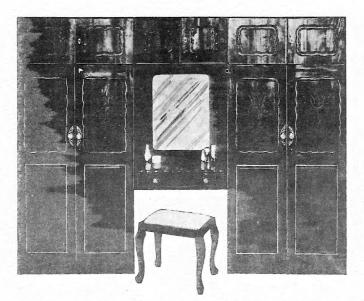
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MESSAGE FROM:

S.K. CHETTY Secretary. SASF. Pro. League.

It is one of those strange ironies that credit seldom goes where it is due. As one who has been proud to serve this organisation, I am often appalled that the Federation Professional League does not get the credit it deserves for its great achievements and the undeniable contributions it has made in the cause of non-racialism.



Without doubt it is the most powerful non-racial organisation in this country. Its membership is truly non-racial and while its officials have been commendably restrained in making blood and thunder speeches they cannot be faulted in their dedication to their cause and their industry in achieving it.

Be that as it may, this is hardly the occasion to be bogged down too much with such considerations. It is an occasion to celebrate.

Manning Rangers celebrate, win or loose, the fact that this is the first time that they have entered a final, while P.G. Bluebells United celebrate their second arrival in a final. We on the F.P.L. celebrate the great success of this competition thus far and most important the exemplary behaviour of players, officials and fans in an area where so much tension and rivalry reigns.

I have no doubt that we shall see a splendid final and that we can once more rely on our dedicated fans to rise to the occasion.

GOOD LUCK TO BOTH TEAMS.

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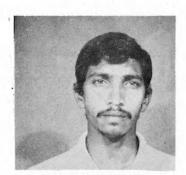
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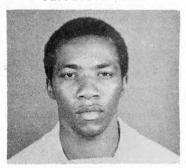
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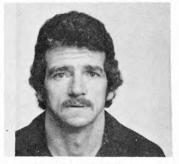
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Good Afternoon

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Cup Final day is here.

Can Rangers do it and win a cup for the first time? Yes, they can, but it will be hard work. Roy Jones and his Bluebells team beat Rangers 5-1 in Joburg less than two months ago, but today Rangers players will be determined to reverse that result.



Good support is shouting encouragement to your team. Rangers will need this today, so let Deena and his Boy's get all the support possible.

Today is a sad day for me — this is my last game in charge of Manning Rangers as I have an appointment as Sales Manager with Holiday Inns in Johannesburg.

The boys' have promised me a win but as the final whistle is blown, whether we win or lose a look of sadness will show on my face.

Thank you everybody connected with Manning Rangers and the Federation for making this a wonderful year for me.

Yours in Sport
GAVIN LAING



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Messages from:

MR. E. MOHOMED – Manager P.G. Bluebells Football Club

Soccer being our Premier Game, the name of Curries Fountain Sports ground will be on the lips of tens of thousands of sportsmen and will be the hive of activity during this important day of football. When some of the countries top players meet in Quest of the coveted Coca—Cola shield final.



The match this afternoon will undoubtedly create interest as never before. Both for players and fans alike to make material progress and to stimulate the game.

Despite the agony of playing 18 months of football on an open field suffering tremendous financial loss, P.G. Bluebells United weathered all storms, and last season secured a sponsorship from Plate Glass.

The success of this Final depends largely on the participants themselves by displaying the highest form of sportmanship, thereby creating a healthy and profitable public interest and support. I hope that all players will maintain the highest tradition of the game in every way and with the assistance of the spectators it should be an unqualified success. The beginning of a great and true South African football era will commence after this final and I wish it every success. May the best team win.

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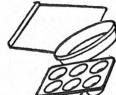
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Messages from M.R.S.C.

We take this opportunity of extending a very warm welcome to P.G. Bluebells United Football Team. We wish our opponents a happy, short stay in Durban. As far as the Final Match for the Coca-Cola Knockout Shield is concerned our good wishes go to both teams. May the game be played in a spirit of good sportsmanship. To our well-wishers we convey our sincere thanks for all they have done to encourage our players throughout the season. This is a great final for Manning Rangers and we are looking forward to witnessing a great tussle between these two fine teams of the F.P.L.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 1976 COCA-COLA SHIELD FINAL



Charles Carey the Berea Captain is carried off the field by excited Berea - Fans.



Charles Carey & Neville Williams exchange flags before the kick of. Looking on is Lingiah Moonsamy the Referee.

DAN MANICUM - The Leader

Cup games are notorious for their unpredictability, and the Manning Rangers, P.G. Bluebells Coke Shield Final will be no exception. Nevertheless, the side that makes the least mistakes and capitalizes on their chances should do the victory lap at Curries.

PADAYACHEE / Post

Any fed Pro League team that eliminates Berea from a Cup Final qualifying round deserves the highest praise and respect one can accord.

And this is where Manning Rangers make worthy Coca-Cola finalists against P.G. Bluebells United today.

The result of this match is anyone's guess but what is important is the staging of this soccer showpiece to crown yet another season of truly FIFA-styled NON-RACIAL football played under the folds of the Federation.

MARLIN PADAYACHEE – Post Newspaper

ANIL / Graphic

Congratulations to Manning Rangers and P.G. Bluebells United for making it into the final. To the players remember that opportunity comes in many ways. It has a sly habit of slipping through the back door and often disguised in the form of misfortune of temporary defeat. When this happens, determination is the answer. Don't give up when overtaken by defeat. You are just as the next man.

ANIL SINGH - The Graphic

LENNIE KLEINTJIES — Cape Herald

Cup Tie Fever has again hit Durban for this Coca-Cola Shield Final. Manning Rangers the home side after having beaten Cape Town Spurs in Cape Town earlier this season looked championship material and now having beaten Berea in the Semi-Final must go into this game as favourite. My friend from the Transvaal P.G. Bluebells United under the wonderful ball player Baldwin Molope failed in their first attempt for the honours 10th November, 1975 when they were beaten by Spurs in a game that needed an extra 90 minutes. This time they are determined to win and give Transvaal the double - now that Swaraj have become the first Transvaal side to win a major F.P.L. Honour.

IQBAL KHAN - Sunday Times

The big names are out but that doesn't make today's final any less significant than those of the past.

Both Manning Rangers and Bluebells United are our fighters and match performers of capable of hard, intense rivalry.

They both made in the mould of the rough and the tough and this is what promises to make the 1977 final a little different - bruising affair.

Times have been hard and with finance the motivating factor, there should be no let down in thrills and spills and I give Rangers the edge.

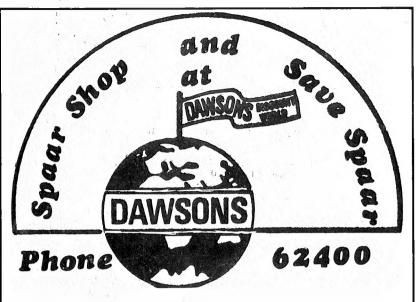
Iqbal Khan / Sunday Times

ZAF MAYET — Johannesburg Post

It's Cup Final Time . . . non racial soccer's argent supporters will be there; the Fed's big brass will be there; the sexy birds with their curvacious bodies and vivacious looks will add sparkle to the ocassion and P.G. Bluebells United will add another great note to Transvaal's year of triumph.

I say, the Blue Power Boys will beat Mighty Manning Rangers. The Grooving Molope, together with the tantalising purr of boss Pussycat Mahomed will light the mecca of Fed. League Football with their special kind of ball juggling antics, football artisty and soccer science.

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