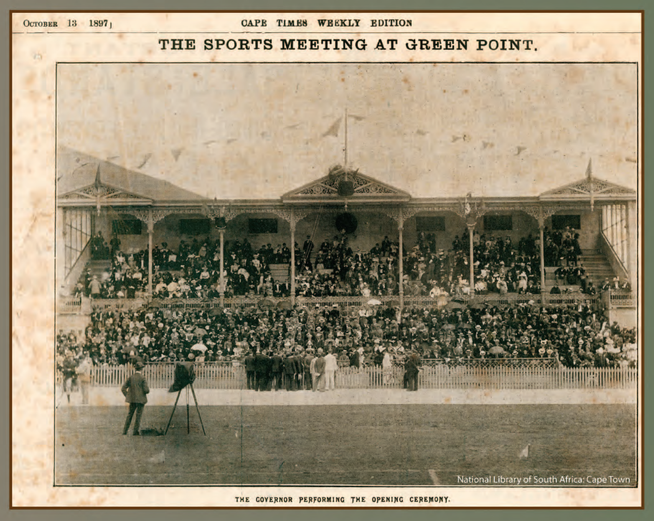
# Green Point Track

CITY OF CAPE TOWN ISIXEKO SASEKAPA STAD KAAPSTAD

THIS CITY WORKS FOR YOU

It was with the invention of the inflatable pneumatic tyre for bicycles by John Boyd Dunlop in 1888, patented in 1889, that the move was made from the bone-jarring, iron-wheeled, penny-farthings of the day, to the modern 'safety' bicycle and a world-wide cycling boom was launched.

In South Africa this was so much the case that the Cape Town City Council was compelled to allocate the unheard of sum of ten thousand pounds for the development of a cycle track and sports ground on Green Point Common.



OCTOBER 13 1897] CAPE TIMES WEEKLY EDITION

THE SPORTS MEETING AT GREEN POINT.

National Library of South Africa: Cape Town

THE GOVERNOR PERFORMING THE OPENING CEREMONY.

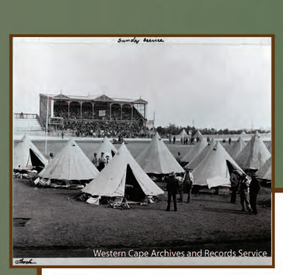
The cycle track and sports ground was opened on 13 October 1897. Just two years later it was the scene of a momentous event when local Green Point cyclist, Jack Rose, later Colonel J. Rose, rode around the track 90 times (three laps equalling one mile). He covered this distance of 30 miles in just over an hour and in doing so, set the World Amateur Speed Record for non-motorised transport. The next year he bettered his record by cycling the same distance here in under an hour.

National Library of South Africa: Cape Town

Photograph of Green Point Track (c.1900) clearly showing the banked cycle track and spectator pavilion.

## *Sketch plan of the City of Cape Town's future vision for Green Point Track*

In 1900, the Western Province Athletics Union leased the cycle track to the British authorities and so began its time as a Boer prisoner-of-war camp until May 1902. The prisoners continued to play conventional sports on the field and as evidenced in the picture immediately below, introduced new ones to the Common, such as boxing and jukskei.



Western Cape Archives and Records Service

Anglo Boer War Museum, Pretoria

Western Cape Archives and Records Service

T.K. SPEARING LIONS A.F.C.

CHAMPIONS OF THE CAPE TOWN AFRICAN SOCCER BODY 1960

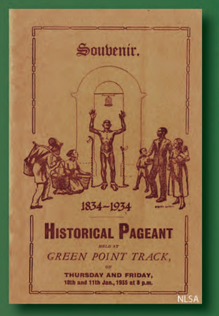
CORINTHIANS A.F.CLUB

League Champions 1940

Green Point Commonage

Cape Town May 1940

As the century wore on, the Green Point Track became an ever more important sports facility and also a venue for cultural events. Of these, pride of place has been taken by the Cape Minstrels or 'Coon' Carnival which began in 1908.
With traditions that go back to the end of slavery at the Cape in 1834 and the celebrations that surrounded this event, minstrel troupes parade through the streets of Cape Town each New Year with a final revue at Green Point Track and more recently, Green Point Stadium.



Souvenir.

1834–1934

HISTORICAL PAGEANT

OF GREEN POINT TRACK,

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,

NLSA

THURSDAY, 26th June, 1902.

The City of Capetown.

Coronation of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII.

THURSDAY, 26th JUNE, 1902.

MILITARY TORCHLIGHT TATTOO

Corporation Athletic Grounds, Green Point.

THE COMMITTEE STAND

NLSA

Photos: *Bruce Sutherland* City of Cape Town

In time, Green Point Track came to be recognised as the home ground to many cricket, rugby and soccer clubs, unions and associations representing the surrounding marginalised communities, in particular. It was here that many sportsmen of the calibre of renowned Bo-Kaap born cricketer, Basil D'Oliveira, honed their sporting skills. One can but imagine the international acclaim these sportsmen and women, could have won for South Africa during the years of discrimination and forced removals under apartheid - if only given the chance.

**Ramblers defeat Swallows**

THE Cape Town Ramblers, playing like champions from the start, bombarded the Moroka Swallows' goal during the first five minutes of their professional soccer match at Green Point this afternoon.

First Jansen, then Cousens, sent in some accurate shots which Meyer did well to save.

But it was only after ten minutes that Ramblers scored when Beijuins scored a penalty for obstruction.

Beijuins scored again from a full-line movement. Meyer had no answer to his shot.

Swallows tried hard to score but Cacia, in goal for Ramblers, saved. Half-time:

C.T. Ramblers 2: Moroka Swallows 0

Midway in the second half, Ramblers went further ahead with Johnson scored.

Final score:

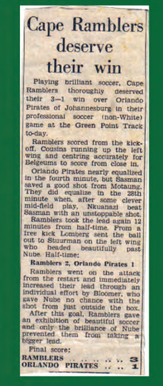
CAPE RAMBLERS . . . 3

MOROKO SWALLOWS . . . 0

Best BEREA 2-1

CAPE RAMBLERS

BEREA



**Cape Ramblers deserve their win**

Playing brilliant soccer, Cape Ramblers thoroughly deserved their 2-1 win over Orlando Pirates of Johannesburg in their professional soccer (non-White) game at the Green Point Track to-day.

Ramblers scored from the kick-off. Cousins running up the left wing and centring accurately for Beijeuins to score from close in.

Orlando Pirates nearly equalised in the fourth minute, but Shamon saved a good shot from Motaung. They did equalise in the 28th minute when, after some clever mid-field play, Motaung beat Shamon with an unstoppable shot.

Ramblers took the lead again 12 minutes from half-time from a free kick Lomberg sent the ball out to Bouzenas on the left wing who headed beautifully past Nube. Half-time:

Ramblers 2, Orlando Pirates 1

Ramblers went on the attack from the restart and immediately increased their lead through an individual effort by Bloomer, who gave Nube no chance with the shot from just outside the box.

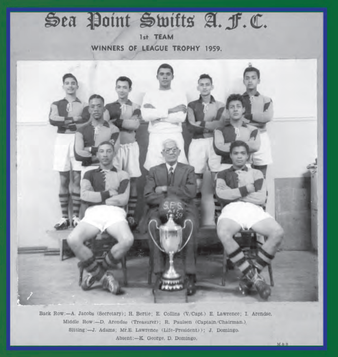
After this goal, Ramblers gave an exhibition of beautiful soccer and only the brilliance of Nube prevented them from taking a bigger lead.

Final score:

RAMBLERS . . . 3

ORLANDO PIRATES . . . 1

*Moroka Swallows team (1950s).*



Sea Point Swifts A.F.C.

1st TEAM

WINNERS OF LEAGUE TROPHY 1959.

Above photographs and clippings courtesy of District Six Museum - Individual donors
Corinthians: Ivan Williams
Transkei Spearing Lions: Zolani Mkiva
Moroka Swallows: Scan from *Laduma* Peter Alegi
Cape Ramblers: Henry Lakay
Sea Point Swifts: S. Lopes
Newspaper clippings courtesy of Valda Cousins