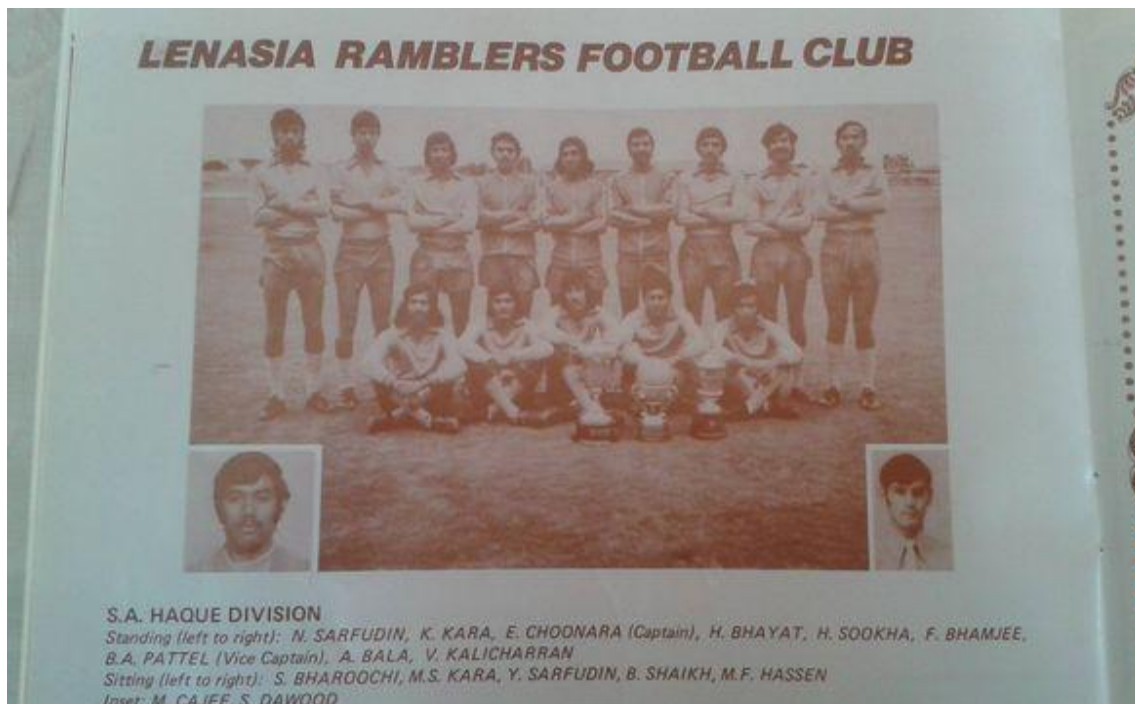


Short History of Lenasia Ramblers FC

Prepared by Haroon Mahomed (Bhera)

With assistance from Avinash Bhervia, Manoj Kara, Irshaad Rajah and MH



Lenasia Ramblers Football Club, originally known as **Cardiff City Football Club**, was established in **Lenasia in 1967**, during the final stages of the *Group Areas Act*, which saw forced removals of people of Indian origin from areas around Johannesburg to Lenasia. Communities from **Vrededorp (Fietas)**, **Fordsburg**, **Kliptown**, and other nearby areas were relocated, bringing together a diversity of footballing talent and experience.

The management and players of the club were a blend of individuals from these various communities. For example, the **Kara family** - brothers Harry, Ramesh, Balwant (Babes), and Kishore—relocated from Fietas and brought with them a wealth of experience from **Mohawks FC**. The Kara family would go on to play a major role in the club's history and contribute broadly to the development of soccer in the region. Their home on **Rose Avenue** became the hub of club activities, hosting team meetings and planning sessions.

- **Harry Kara** became a nationally recognized referee.
- **Kishore Kara** excelled as a defender for **Vereeniging Old Boys** and **Swaraj United FC**, earning league, KO Cup and best player accolades.
- **Sam Khan**, the long-serving chairman from Kliptown, went on to serve in local, provincial, and national soccer associations.
- **Dhanjee Mithal**, originally from Fietas, was a trainer and manager in the youth teams, later playing an instrumental role in the revival of the club post-1992.
- **Vinod Kalichuran**, also from Fietas, went on to chair **Swaraj United FC** in the **Federation Professional League (FPL)**.

- **Haroon Mahomed (Bhera)**, who moved from Kliptown, went on to represent Southern Transvaal, became a player-coach at Swaraj United and contributes as a coach and official at local, provincial, school, and federation levels.
- **Hoosein Saifuddin** - went on to play for Bluebells in the FPL, represent SACOS team and serves as coach and official at various levels.



Club Identity and Achievements

Lenasia Ramblers quickly earned a reputation for playing an attractive, short-passing style of soccer. The club prioritized regular training under dedicated coaches, travelled widely for matches, and provided support in the form of **bursaries, medical aid**, and the **organization of national-level tournaments**.

Originally competing in **local Lenasia leagues**, Cardiff City moved on to play in the **Southern Transvaal Football Union** based in Fietas before returning to the Lenasia league structure in later years.

The club was known for its **youth development programs** and commitment to community involvement, helping foster a strong footballing culture in Lenasia. Among the many talented players were:

- **Ebrahim “Babes” Choonara** – a skilful and prolific striker.
- **Hassen “Hassie” Loonat** – known for his powerful shot.
- **Kishore Kara** – who also shone as a striker during his time.
- **Yunus “Bones” Sarfoodien** – an attacking centre-back who used his height to great effect.
- **Haroon “Barnes” Bhayat** – a speedy and hard-tackling defender.
- **MS Kara, Ashraff “Archie” Moosa** – talented and tricky midfielders.
- **Ismail “Sugar” Patel** – rose through the ranks to a successful career with **Swaraj United** and **Bluebells** in the FPL.

Many others also made their mark through the club’s ranks.



LFA SEMI-PRO LEAGUE								LFA PREMIER LEAGUE	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		Pts
1 Lenasia Ramblers	12	10	2	0	44	11	32	1 Lobelia Spurs	17
2 Valachi Chiefs	12	7	2	3	27	9	23	2 Torino Spurs	11
3 Liverpool	12	6	2	4	22	21	20	3 Tigers	11
4 Botafago	12	6	1	5	24	16	19	4 Casa Mia	11
5 Flamengo	12	4	1	7	9	21	13	5 Celtic United	11
6 Protea Mighty Greens	12	3	2	7	17	36	11	6 Crystal City	11
7 Fordsburg United	12	1	2	9	11	36	5	7 Rovers	11
								8 Inter Milan	11
								9 Olympians	11
								10 Valachi Chiefs	11
								11 Stars	11
								12 Leeds	11
								13 Fordsburg	11
								14	11

KFKI



Community and Inclusivity

Lenasia Ramblers won several **league titles and cup competitions**, and its legacy lies not only in trophies but in its commitment to **non-racial football**. The club actively recruited players and coaches from all surrounding communities, including **Eldorado Park, Bosmont, and Soweto**.

Revival and Legacy

The club was **revived in the 1990s** by **Dan Mithal**, who teamed up with the **Moosajee brothers**. Under their leadership, the club secured local league honours and affiliated with the **top SAFA league** of the time.



HEEL BO: Die span van die Transvaalse Lenasia Ramblers, wat onlangs in Kimberley aan die Suid-Afrikaanse Sokkerfederasie se Interklubtoernooi deelgeneem het. Die spanlede is van links voor: Nazier Ebrahim, Kevin Mohlokoane, George Nkosi, Mohammed Mayet, Rhee Mokati, Donovan Arends, Ahmed Moosajee, Fazel Moosa en Arthur Semesme. Agter: Walter Chuluka, Shamssoen Moosajee, Yunus Omar, Mohammed Momoni, Ismail Habbib, Yunus Bismilla, Mobien

Ebrahim, Irshaad Rajah, David Mokoena, Patrick Mafaesa en Dan Mithal (bestuurder). **BO:** Spades van Kimberley, het ook meegeding in die Interklubtoernooi van die SA Sokkerfederasie. Die spanlede is van links agter: Simon Modise, Petrus Tunka, Cuan Hartzenberg, Arlon Wilson, Howard Ross, Cive Fredericks en Graham Ross. Voor: Moses Kruger, Theo Ontong, Clifton Segoli, St. Augustine Williams, Rowan Ortell, Shawe Feltman en George Solomon.



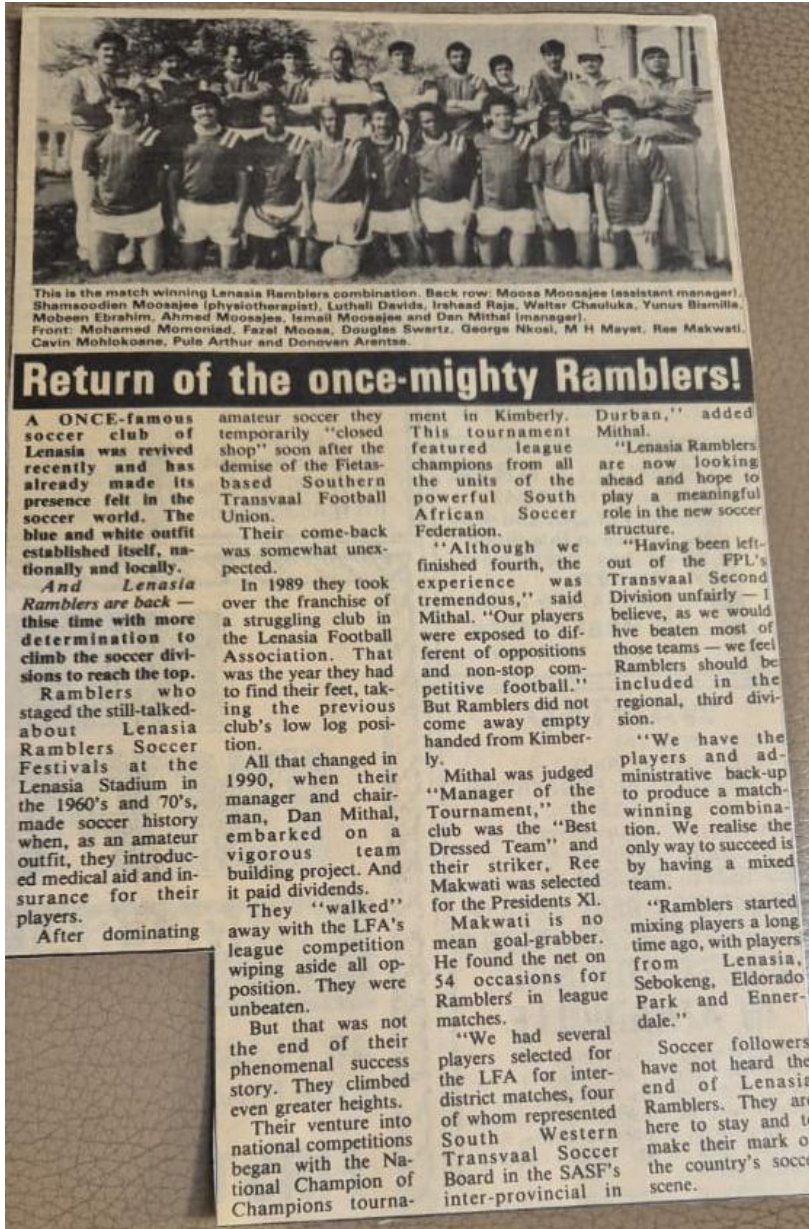
● It affords me great pleasure to comment on the practice sessions in relation to the game of Soccer. Every aspiring footballer should remember that consistency and dedication in training is of utmost importance. Players should undertake a great deal of training on their own and the adaptability of methods here requires top priority.

Practice and coaching situations vary a great deal and here I call upon players who are coached in new techniques and who are given attention to individual strengths and weaknesses; some players respond to intensive repetitive practice while others may work under fairly closely controlled circumstances. The encouragement of players to coach each other will result in the improvement of the standard of the game, at all levels.

It is my fervent hope that ALL our footballers will be consistent, self-disciplined, and dedicated in their training programmes as only this will ensure the improvement in the standard of our soccer.

D.M. BHERVIA
Manager – Coach
Lenasia Ramblers F.C.





Although the club no longer exists today, the **spirit of Lenasia Ramblers FC lives on** through various community initiatives and the enduring love of football among its former members and the wider community. The club's history is a testament to the power of sport to unite people, create opportunities in disadvantaged communities, and challenge social barriers.