



ALUMNI

— THE LEGEND —

"The Scotsman Who Sparked Argentina's Football Passion"

MARTÍN EMANUEL DE VITA



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ALUMNI
— THE LEGEND —

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The legacy of
**ALEXANDER
WATSON HUTTON**

In memory of William Allerton Jordan

"That heritage of our football endures. It remains intact with the immense moral strength that gave it life and established a legacy. It is the historical treasure of the great sport. It is the steadfast pillar upon which rests, unshakeable and secure, the idealistic, generous dream...

It is the everlasting example of the great dream achieved and the beautiful work fulfilled.

In vain can the thoughtless diversion cast a dense curtain of shadows before it... For that reason, its immortal name shall not be eclipsed, nor shall its soul be disfigured, nor its spirit wounded!... Alumni is the beacon that marks the safe path...

May that light never be extinguished!"

Ernesto Escobar Bavio

ALUMNI
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



It all began in the '80s, on one fateful 10 January, when I discovered love.

That day, my parents gifted me a beautiful “Tango” ball for my birthday. I was around six years old. However, love sometimes challenges us with unforgettable lessons: I discovered that the ball was deflated. For reasons that have long since faded into memory, the iconic ball was returned and in exchange, another toy arrived that wasn't meant to roll on the floor. The frustration, although unnoticed, stayed with me for a long time. It wasn't until December 25th, 2013 that everything would change, thanks to the magic of Christmas. That year, I found myself celebrating with the family of my then-girlfriend, now-wife, Lala, in her hometown, Rolândia, in southern Brazil. Despite being far from home, Father Christmas had not forgotten me and brought the ball that would be used in the upcoming 2014 World Cup, coincidentally held in that very country.

I remember spending my entire stay clutching the colourful “Brazuca” with the same fervour that a first-time father embraces his newborn. In her unassuming gesture, both Lala and the ball came to heal the long-held heartbreak of my childhood.

From then on, little by little, I started to collect the balls that were used in the World Cups. I kept adding more and more items to my collection, things that had been part of history, and the older, the better. Each time I managed to acquire a ball, a shirt, a pair of boots, or anything, I would delve into its origin, diving into the history of football until I reached the end, or rather, the beginning of it all. There I was awaited by Alumni, the pioneers who became the focal point of my interest and passion. A team that not only marked a turning point in the history of Argentine football, but also struck a deep chord in my heart, linking my personal and emotional love for football with the historical legacy of their legend.

Alumni comes into my life

My obsession with Alumni, that sleeping giant for over 100 years, began one day when, while doing my usual searches about football on the Internet, I stumbled upon a blog post from San Luis titled: "Jordan's legacy that is preserved in San Luis." Not knowing exactly what it was, I clicked on it and read the article.

Then came everything else, including the tattoo I got on my leg with Alumni's crest, the perfect excuse to "proclaim" its history to anyone who sees it and asks me: What team is that?

The article turned out to be the biography of William Allerton Jordan, born in the Belgrano neighbourhood, who later adopted the province of San Luis as his place in the world. William was the son of an English immigrant engineer and, among various activities in his youth, he was part of the first football teams of the English High School and later of Alumni.

All of this was endorsed by his granddaughter, a lady named Verónica Jordan; like her grandfather, she was technically a porteña (from the port city of Buenos Aires) but was a puntana (from San Luis) at heart. She appeared shyly in one of the photos alongside two extremely old red and white wool jerseys, possibly the oldest in the history of our football. They had belonged to her grandfather Guillermo (the Spanish translation of William) between 1901 and 1905.

Until that moment, despite knowing of Alumni's existence, I didn't know much. After reading the article carefully, something inside me awakened. I felt an overwhelming need to learn more about this team.

Why is it considered "The First Greats" of Argentine football? What made its founder so important? What is special about its history? If you ask me today, I would answer: EVERYTHING.

When I arrived at Alumni, the world was going through the fierce COVID-19 pandemic, and as we had been forced to stay at home without knowing for how long, I had plenty of time to investigate. I searched for Verónica Jordan on social media, found her, and immediately sent her a message asking to speak on the phone; she kindly replied and agreed, albeit with some hesitation. Days later, on a rainy Saturday in September in Buenos Aires, we spoke for nearly two hours, and at the end of our conversation, she recommended I read a book. And so I did, falling into the trap of a great writer, who with each page injected into my veins a fanaticism for Alumni as an antidote to the pandemic.

Alumni Cuna de Campeones and Escuela de Hidalguía (1953, Difusión Publishing) by Ernesto Escobar Bavio will be very present throughout my narrative; it served as the eyes for all the fans who were not fortunate enough to experience that moment in time. He succeeded in turning words into moving images in my mind, as there are only scant seconds of video footage of Alumni, alongside rich written accounts.

There is also a film titled *Escuela de Campeones*, with a script written by the poet Homero Manzi, based on Ernesto Escobar Bavio's book, albeit with some temporal variations and additions to make the story more impactful.

Mr. Jordan's granddaughter and I never stopped talking after that. Gradually, our discussions about football shifted to conversations about life, discovering many commonalities. She opened the door to her story and made me feel a part of it, even going so far as to say, "I authorise you to say that you are a relative of William Jordan." Unknowingly, she inspired me to continue searching for other descendants of those legendary players to share their memories with me. And the truth is, I can't say it worked out badly for me.

For instance, this search led me to the family of the great Jorge Gibson Brown, an Alumni player and our first football idol. It was thanks to the contributions of his grandchildren, Alicia Luongo and Mr. Jorge Brown, along with the special assistance of his great-granddaughter, Sofía Brown, who has since become a good friend, that I was gifted this unexpected journey. Even more magically, I reached another branch of the legendary Brown family, that of Carlos Carr. Almost serendipitously, I found myself speaking to Alice Arscott, his granddaughter, on the very day I wrote about him for this book. Moreover, we discovered that we are relatives! What more could I ask for?

Destiny had even more surprises in store for me: the chance to get to know and actively connect with the "CASA" of Alumni, the place where it all happened. The very Buenos Aires English High School, to which I entrusted my most precious possession: my son's education. A decision that might be deemed selfish, perhaps, like that father who wants his son to achieve what he himself could not. In my case, it was experiencing through my son that we were part of Hutton's legacy.

I believe I might have been the only parent, in the 140-year history of the school, who, upon completing the admission form, answered this:

Reason for wishing to enrol your child at the Buenos Aires English High School:
I am an admirer of the model created by Alexander Watson Hutton.

Today I can say that I have the pleasure of taking Manu to "his school", to "our school" every day, and even better, picking him up—whenever I can—just a few minutes before the end of the day to connect with the magic of the place. A place whose backdrop is the wonderful Avenida Melián, with its cobblestones, its English-style houses, and its characteristic tunnel of trees that filter the sunlight, making the scene magical.

Here I had the privilege of meeting one of the most qualified people to speak on this subject, who dedicated most of her life to the service of the institution. Estela Alzugaray de Rueda recounts, time and again, with the same enthusiasm and in exquisite detail, everything she knows. And so generously, she invited me to participate in the Museum that the School founded for anyone who wishes to learn about what happened both inside and outside of it.

At BAEHS (Buenos Aires English High School), I often found myself chatting about football with some parents while we waited for our children to finish. I subtly asked if they knew what had happened in that place, but the responses were not encouraging. That's why I decided to do something about it. I just needed to awaken the Giant in my own way. So here we are.

What made Alumni a legend was not its footballing success, but its unparalleled legacy.



FOREWORD

ESTELA ALZUGARAY DE RUEDA

HEADMISTRESS OF THE BUENOS AIRES ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL

Argentinian football is a phenomenon that has left an indelible mark on the culture and identity of the country. To understand its roots, it is essential to know the history of one of its most emblematic pioneers: the Alumni Athletic Club. In *Alumni, the Legend*, Martín De Vita takes us on a fascinating journey back to the dawn of football in Argentina, offering us a profound and enlightening perspective on the club that laid the foundations of this sport in our nation. The passion, enthusiasm, and meticulousness with which Martín De Vita approaches the topic of the origins of football, not only in our country but globally, also lead him to explore the origins of the essential element in this sport: the ball and its transformations over time.

Alumni was not just a football team; it was and continues to be a legend that embodies the passion, dedication, and competitive spirit that would define Argentinian football for many decades. Founded by Alexander Watson Hutton in 1898, Alumni quickly became a symbol of sporting excellence and popularity, achieving feats that remain a source of admiration and study today. This book unravels the keys to its success, from the vision of its founder to the strategies that allowed it to dominate the football landscape of its time.

Through his exhaustive research, Martín De Vita captures not only the sporting aspects of Alumni but also its social and cultural impact. He offers us a comprehensive and nuanced view of how football, through clubs like Alumni, became integrated into the daily lives of Argentinians, reflecting their aspirations and values. By exploring the beginnings of this sport in Argentina, we also discover the first steps of a passion that would become an integral part of the social fabric of our country and a symbol of unity and pride for our community.

PRÓLOGO

Alumni, the Legend is not merely a sports chronicle; it is a work that pays tribute to the pioneers who, through their effort and dedication, shaped the history of Argentine football. It is a homage to those early players and officials who, with limited resources but immense passion, managed to build a legacy that endures to this day.

I invite readers to immerse themselves in the pages of this book and discover the world of Alumni, a club that not only won titles but also inspired generations of footballers and fans. May this journey through the history of football be as enriching and exciting as it has been for Martín De Vita to write it.

Welcome to *Alumni, the Legend*.

Estela M. Alzugaray de Rueda

June, 2024

INTRODUCTION

THE FLAME THAT IGNITED THE SACRED FIRE OF OUR FOOTBALL

You are about to delve into a little-known and often forgotten fragment of our history, the source of the pride we feel every time we call ourselves “World Champions”. Our roots, our football in its purest form.

I want to clarify that this book is partial and does not cover the entirety of the story, but rather a span of it that, in my view, is the most “legendary”. It does not aim to be an encyclopedia of raw data and statistics; quite the opposite. The story of Alumni goes beyond football results. The only premise is to keep alive the flame of the first Great Argentine Champion and of the person who made all this possible, Mr. Alexander Watson Hutton, simply the most famous protagonist of a team filled with Scots and their Argentine descendants, who played a fundamental role in the early years of the formation of our football.

An influence that endures even today, more than 130 years after the foundation of the AFA, that can be seen in figures like Alexis Mac Allister, a key player in securing the World Cup in Qatar 2022, whose roots can be traced back to Fife, the sunniest region in Scotland, not far from Edinburgh; or looking back a bit further, to the final in Mexico '86, where the first goal in Argentina's 3-2 victory over West Germany was scored by José Luis Brown, a direct descendant of a Scot who set sail for Buenos Aires in 1825.

We reflect on the time of our first encounter with a ball, the moment of the spark, of learning. A simple spherical object that arrived in our lands and, years later, made us known to the world for the wonders we knew, know, and will continue to create with it.

INTRODUCTION

The same instrument that was played by Jorge Gibson Brown, Di Stéfano, Maradona, Messi, and many others yet to come—because nothing was a coincidence; everything is causality. It was the same one that motivated more and more people to engage in sports, the one that became our true “national sport”, without intending to offend our gauchos with their traditional sport of “pato”—but if you ask any foreigner about us, I am sure they will respond with something related to football, despite the fact that we have a country immensely rich in attractions and history.

Football taught us to discover skills that, until then, were unknown to us; to share, because it cannot be played in solitude. It taught us to work as a team, to trust our teammates, to defend them, to be loyal, to respect those behind, beside, and above all, those who are occasionally in front of us.

A sport in which social barriers fade away, where both the rich and the humble find equality behind the ball. The perfect excuse to gather for much more than 90 minutes and, for example, to forget our problems with just a game or by watching a match. It has given us conversations, discussions, hugs between friends and strangers, and made us experience feelings that are difficult to explain with words.

It taught us how fleeting a triumph can be and how painful a defeat is.

It taught us to be happy with very little, yet believing we have it all. That, for me, is football.

A game shaped by and for the British elite, played exclusively by Englishmen, but shortly after it set foot on our lands, it was snatched away by the only “creole team” in our country, the one that formed a family, the only one of its time: the legendary Alumni.

A team that dominated the football scene throughout its existence. With its style of play, it managed to transform its essence from being exclusive to a few into something popular.

It captured the admiration of the first female fans drawn to the sport's aesthetic, filled a stadium with supporters for the first time, captivated the President of Argentina—initially Julio Argentino Roca and later José Figueroa Alcorta—and, as if that weren't enough, Alumni formed the first Argentine National Football Team.

While active, it was a beacon of inspiration, encouraging the creation of new teams and advocating for the continuity of football.

Always fighting for its nationalisation, promoting the transition from English to Spanish, and defending the amateur spirit of playing for fun, for honour, and for a true love of the game, so that it would never be corrupted by money.

Finally, the team knew how to step aside at the right moment, retiring at the peak of its career and being remembered forever as: "The School of Argentine Football."

Its story has been immortalised:
Alumni, the Legend.



CHAPTER I

WHO INVENTED FOOTBALL?

It is appealing, at least to me, to learn about the origins of those global phenomena that have left us with indelible marks, and in the case of football, this knowledge takes us on a fascinating journey through time. Football, as we know it today, is the result of centuries of evolution and development.

The Origin

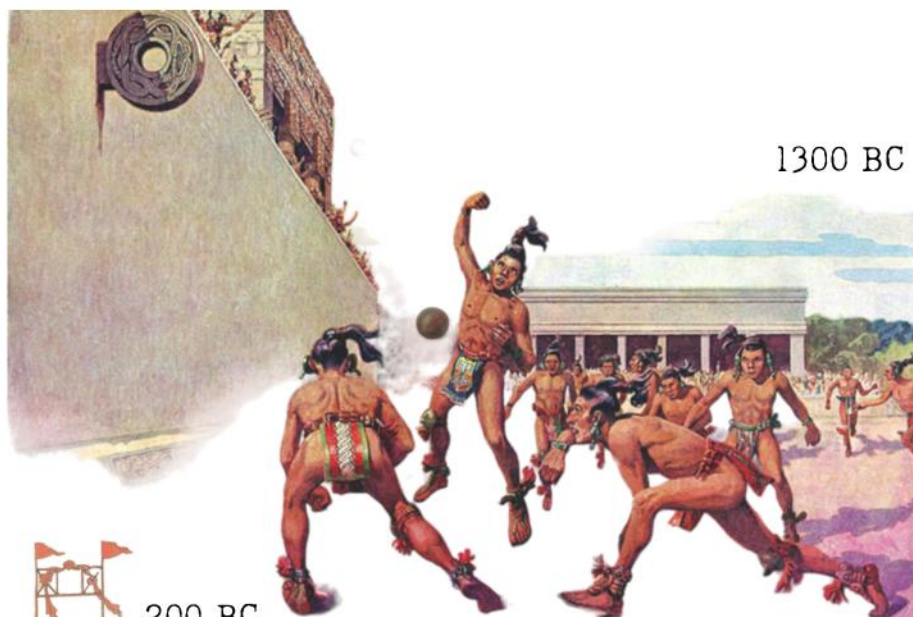
Although it is difficult to attribute the invention of football to a specific person, various cultures throughout history have shared a close relationship with a round object—imperfect and made from countless materials—that they would kick or move abruptly with different parts of their bodies for entertainment. Thirteen hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the Mesoamericans in Mexico played the first team sport involving a ball.

Using a rubber ball, players had to pass it through a stone hoop positioned high above, relying solely on their hips.

The Mayans adopted this same game, where the ball symbolised the Sun and the captain of the losing team was sacrificed.

In China, during the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC, they practiced "Tsu Chu," played with the feet, but unlike the Mayans, they celebrated life rather than death. This game soon spread, reaching Japan in the year 600 AD under the name "Kemari."

The Romans also had close contact with a ball and developed tactical lines for the goalkeeper, defence, midfield, and attack. It is possible that this game was brought to the United Kingdom during the Roman conquest (43 AD), although it cannot be claimed that it is the same game that later evolved into the football we know today.



1300 BC



200 BC

EVOLUTION OF FOOTBALL

1550 AD



During the first half of the 16th century, the so-called "Calcio Fiorentino" also developed, a violent game that pitted two teams against each other on a field, where they had to carry a ball with their hands towards the opponent's goal. Despite its brutality, it was very popular among the public.

There were no clear rules, and crowds of people would chase after a ball, which could be anything from an inflated pig's bladder to a leather object stuffed into a more or less round shape. It didn't matter if someone got knocked down in the process or if the goal was simply to carry the ball to the other side of the village — anything went.

True football spoke English

It is true that, since the Middle Ages, an unorganised and violent sport played with a ball was practised in the open fields and streets of the British Isles. In those times, the game was called "mob football" or "carnival football". It was absolute chaos.

Playing is prohibited

From 1314, under the reign of Edward II of England, football was banned in London. By that time, the "shopkeepers" were tired of the increasingly popular, wild, and noisy game turning their streets into a veritable chaos, thus damaging their goods and driving away customers.



Ilustración del artista Amédée Forestier en 1905 para *Illustrated London News*
 Retrata una escena típica del fútbol en el siglo XIV, cuando el Rey Eduardo II prohibió jugarlo en las calles

This is why they sought the mayor's prompt intervention. He had the support of the king, who issued a royal proclamation on 13 April prohibiting the game under penalty of imprisonment. It is worth noting the growing importance of football at the time; despite England facing more pressing concerns—such as the recent war sparked by Scotland's fight for independence, led by their national hero William Wallace—they still had to address the issue. All of this occurred two months before England lost the pivotal "Battle of Bannockburn" at the hands of a now free Scotland (portrayed at the end of Mel Gibson's film "Braveheart"). Continuing the trajectory of football, and following the English example, King Philip VI of France banned "**La Soule**" in 1331, a game played with a ball in the French woods. A century later, Scotland aligned with France and England when King James I issued a declaration stating that *"no man shall play football under penalty of fifty shillings until he is trained as a warrior."*

During the "Hundred Years' War" (1337–1453) between England and France over control of territory, football was not welcomed at court for strategic reasons.

Kings Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV, and Henry V punished those who played it, as they preferred people to focus on more useful military exercises, such as archery. Despite its illegality, the passion for football continued to grow in notoriety and was played in the shadows of England. By 1608, in Manchester, the ban resurfaced due to the large number of broken windows resulting from its street practice.

Football is expelled from the city

At the beginning of the 19th century, the arrival of the famous "Industrial Revolution" transformed the British Isles economically, socially, and technologically, and subsequently, the rest of the world. The new cities left no room for pre-industrial games, as such "brutality" was deemed to hinder growth.

As a result, prohibitive laws were once again enacted to prevent these games from taking place in the streets, forcing people to seek new locations where they could ensure their continuation.

Football goes to school

Paradoxically, it was the private English schools and universities that rescued football from oblivion.

By around 1850, enrolments were plummeting, and the student body was exceedingly violent. The teachers, mostly clergymen, were concerned about the situation. At that precise moment, football finally found its acceptance and its horizon, a resurgence. It would be used as a tool to "tame" the youth. It also became a place for them to release their hormonal tensions through physical effort on a playing field rather than in the classroom.

Religion became the backbone of this sporting revolution, asserting that **"a sound mind is accompanied by a sound body."**

Football had, unwittingly, transformed into an elitist sport, initially played by the middle and upper classes, who could introduce their children into the educational system, while the lower class had to work.

From there, each school developed its own version of the game, some placing more importance on the use of hands and others on feet, but all under the same name: "foot-ball." This was the starting point of the modern sport.

The game is tamed, modern football is born

This new educational approach, which incorporated a ball into the curriculum, was an immediate success. However, a problem arose when students from different schools met at the same university: whose rules should they follow? In 1848, representatives from various English schools convened at the University of Cambridge to establish a unified set of regulations, resulting in the "Cambridge Rules."

For the first time, there was an attempt to "domesticate" football, whose growth continued to rise astonishingly. The idea was clear: it was necessary to distance the game from its rough and wild nature, as until that moment it was common for players to be removed from the pitch, victims of multiple fractures, fainting, and at times, even fatalities.

The eleven initial rules established at that meeting prohibited actions such as violent conduct and handling the ball. They also defined the dimensions of the playing field, the goals, throw-ins, and offside.

On 24 October 1857, the Sheffield Football Club was founded in England, recognised by FIFA as the oldest club in the world.

CHAPTER I

It was the turning point for a sport whose rules were very broad.

This is how the division between what we now know as football and rugby was officially formalised. From that moment on, they ceased to be one and became two distinct games. Although in the days following their separation it was common to play one half with the rules of football and the next half with those of rugby, it simply needed to be clarified before starting the match.

This new movement led to the birth of "modern football," officially dated 26 October 1863, with the creation of the F.A. (The Football Association), the English Football League. This is the mother of all other leagues that would later spread across the world, and to which our country was among the first to be accepted by the British authorities outside of the islands in 1904, due to the quality and seriousness of its play.



Monument to the Cambridge Code 1848

Located in Parker's Piece, Cambridge, England



Rugby



Football

CHAPTER II

THE ARRIVAL OF FOOTBALL IN ARGENTINA

Football likely began its arrival in Argentina during the early to mid-19th century, serving as a small "taster" of what was happening in the British Isles. On one hand, the failed English Invasion of our country in 1806 left a significant number of English people stranded on our soil, including many military personnel, some of whom were prisoners. By staying, they also brought their customs, so it would not be illogical to think they played football or something similar. This was the case for Thomas Hogg, whose children would mark a milestone in the history of Argentine football.

On the other hand, the growing economy of the Isles, driven by the Industrial Revolution, saw a prosperous future in our country for making their largest investments outside their territory. They were banking on the political stability fostered by Bartolomé Mitre's assumption of the presidency of Argentina in 1862.

Little by little, Argentina developed with the opening of trade, banks, and the railway. The latter was decisive in the history of our football, as it planted "potreros" (playing fields) at each station. At that time, our trains, in their heyday, were being born and rapidly connecting the country internally, facilitated by foreign companies and capital.

The English community during these times of Creole prosperity also grew, as we lacked skilled labour for such a tremendous revolution. Many English professionals, such as engineers, lawyers, and accountants, arrived and concentrated largely in the southern area of Buenos Aires (Temperley, Lomas, Quilmes). This community remained quite closed off to its customs, among which was football, which they kept closely guarded until 1867.

This concentrated English migration developed its sporting practices, culminating in the founding of the Cricket Club, the oldest sports club in Argentina, established, of course, by the English.

Many of the British-origin clubs that emerged in Argentina owe their existence to the railways, to religious institutions, or both simultaneously.

Following the term of Bartolomé Mitre, Domingo Faustino Sarmiento assumed the presidency in 1868. It was during his administration that a significant increase in migration occurred with the arrival of 280,000 foreigners. D. F. Sarmiento believed that this mobilization was necessary for our progress as a society, as it would enrich us culturally. He dreamed of the arrival of cultured European immigrants eager to seize the opportunities of a growing country.

The ball is rolling in Argentina

On 9 May 1867, just four years after the founding of the Football Association (FA) in London, the body that established the rules of this wonderful sport, Thomas Hogg, a true English sportsman, arrived in our country in 1860 with his brother James and founded the Buenos Aires Football Club.

The first football club in South America. Thomas stated: "I consider football to be the best pastime, and the cheapest for the youth of the middle class as well as for the people."

The first Hogg to arrive in Argentina had been his father, also named Thomas, who, along with General William Carr Beresford, stayed during the first English invasion of Buenos Aires in 1806. His children were born in Leeds, but like their father, they settled here.

Thomas Hogg wasted no time and, together with his brother, decided to organise the first football match in Argentine history, or at least the first for which there are clear records.

The inaugural match was set to take place on 25 May 1867 in the neighbourhood of La Boca, on the grounds next to the railway station of the same name, which connected Buenos Aires to the Port of Ensenada. Coincidentally or not, this would be the neighbourhood that would see the birth of Argentina's two most popular clubs, Boca and River, although the latter, after several relocations, would eventually settle in Núñez. However, all of this was thwarted due to the heavy rain that fell that day.

Thus, the introduction of football in Argentina was postponed.

Fate had reserved the opening kick-off for another place, more precisely in Palermo, the site that today houses our beautiful and iconic Planetarium Galileo Galilei.

Thus, on 20 June 1867, during the Corpus Christi holiday, football officially planted its flag in Argentina.

Through an announcement in The Standard newspaper, everyone interested was invited to gather in Palermo for the practice of an unprecedented sport in the country: football.

“At the arrival of the 12 o'clock train, a meeting will be held on the field to consider the rules of the game, and the match will start immediately afterwards. By order.”

The game began at 12:30 in the afternoon, at the Buenos Aires Cricket Club ground, founded before 1864, in the times of “pre-football,” with cricket being one of the preferred sports of Argentines alongside rowing, fencing, athletics, and rugby.

The two teams were made up of eight players each, led by Thomas Hogg and Walter Heald, who were chosen before the match. After two tireless hours of play, Thomas Hogg's team triumphed 4–0 over their rivals, marking the beginning of something that would become part of the Argentine DNA.

It is curious, but the names of the goal scorers, the first four in history, remain unknown.

We also do not know how the teams were distinguished, but for the rematch held on 29 June, an invitation was issued again through The Standard, including a unique request to the players:

“On Saturday 29 of this month, a football match will take place in Palermo, and all those interested in playing are asked to obtain two caps, one red and one white, from Messrs Galbraith and Hunter, to distinguish them during the match.”

On one side played Thomas and James Hogg, Thomas Barlow Smith, William Forrester, James Wensley Bond, E.S. Smith, Norman Harry Smith, and Ramsbottom.



Thomas Hogg

CHAPTER II

On the other side side, *Walter Heald, Herbert Thomas Barge, Thomas Best, Urban Smith, John H. Willmott, R.M. Ramsay, Edward T. Simpson, and William Boschetti.*

That day, James Hogg's team, wearing white caps, faced H.T. Barge's team, who wore red caps. James Hogg's team won, 3 to 1. Thus, the coloured caps constituted the first local method of identification.

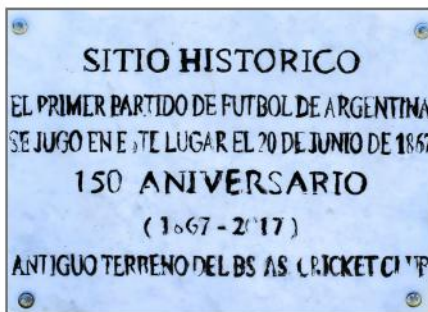
Although the Hoggs had sown the first seed of this new sport in our country, it took time for football to truly take root. Records of the game being played between 1870 and 1880 are scarce, but it is unlikely that it did not occur among the city's inhabitants or the crews of English ships docked in our port for several days.

Just as in the United Kingdom, it was education—or, in our case, a Scottish educator—that came to the rescue of Argentine football.



Historic Site

Monument to the First Football Match Played in Argentina. (1867)



The team of Buenos Ayres Football Club in 1867
W. C. Roberts, F. Davis, E. T. Simpson, W. Jacobs, T. B. Smith, T. Hogg, and W. Rose

Buenos Aires Cricket

CHAPTER III

THE MOST PRECIOUS OBJECT: THE BALL

If we delve into the origins of the legendary Alumni and consequently those of football, we cannot overlook the story of its protagonist: **the ball.**

Who invented the ball?

As we saw earlier, the first instances of a sport involving a "ball" as the central element are attributed to the Mayans and Aztecs (around 1300 BC). The ball was made of rubber, crafted from the sap extracted from the rubber tree.



Rubber ball used in the game of Maya Ball
(National Museum of Anthropology of Mexico)

Later, it was used by Chinese culture in the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC as part of their game "Cuju" or "Tsu Chu", made from animal skin filled with hair,

forming a rather imperfect sphere. They also used a variant constructed from bamboo rods, which facilitated its bounce.



*"Cuju": CU meaning "to kick"
and JU "a type of leather ball"*

The Egyptians and the Greeks made theirs with seeds wrapped in linen or with animal hair inside sheets. The truth is that each advancement in the manufacturing of this object was always in search of its roundness and stability, laying the foundations for a ball to be what it is today. From 1800 onwards, with the beginning of the sporting era in the United Kingdom, the football continued to be refined to prevent it from breaking during a game and to standardise, as much as possible, its properties, size, weight, and materials.

CHAPTER III

At that time, balls were made from inflated pig bladders using the mouths of the "manufacturers," covered with pieces of animal leather called panels or segments, which were hand-stitched together, completely enclosing their circumference.



First hand-stitched leather balls

Made from round bladders

Their shape and size depended exclusively on the bladder used, meaning no two balls were the same. The more irregular the bladder, the more unpredictable and imperfect its behaviour.



Painting by Godefridus Schalcken

Depicts the inflation of a pig's bladder

Thus, the more oval-shaped ones were used with the hands, as they were easier to grip (rugby), while the rounder ones were more suitable for kicking with the feet (football). It was quite common for the bladders to burst upon a strong impact, quickly rendering that ball unusable. As a result, the revolutionary "tiento ball" emerged.

Essentially, it was similar to its predecessor, with the difference that it lacked the traditional seam joining two segments, using this opening to easily and quickly inflate or replace the bladder inside as needed.



First Balls of "Tiento"

It was called the "tiento ball" because the opening was then closed with a fine leather cord called "tiento," which was threaded through small holes. This action was very similar to lacing up shoes. This new system made it relatively easy to open and close the ball.

Despite being contemporary with the "Industrial Revolution" unfolding in the British Isles, its production remained entirely artisanal; no machine could replace the skilled hand of a craftsman.

Goodyear's Invention

In 1836, Charles Goodyear, an American inventor who we now associate with vehicle tyres, patented "vulcanised rubber." This is a process in which raw rubber is heated with sulphur to make it harder and more resistant to cold.

A few years later, in 1855, Goodyear designed and manufactured the first football using this type of material. However, they were still somewhat irregular in shape and size, making them difficult to control. This is considered the first link in the chain leading to the modern football we know today.



Goodyear latex ball

The ball is now round

In 1862, Richard Lindon, a shoemaker, developed one of the first inflatable rubber bladders or "cameras" for balls, quickly becoming a recognised manufacturer.

Lindon was likely inspired to develop his invention after the tragic death of his wife, who contracted a lung infection from inflating pig bladders with her mouth, some of which carried diseases from the animals. This event led Lindon to create what became known as the "first round football."

Although innovative, the ball still had an uncomfortable button at each end to hold its leather panels together. Its main flaw was deformation, meaning balance and a truly spherical shape were not yet its strengths. Additionally, the tallow ropes hardened and sharpened when exposed to water and sunlight, causing cuts to players' skin when heading the ball. For this reason, some players wore berets to avoid injury. To make matters worse, its poor waterproofing significantly increased its weight on rainy days.

When the English Football Association was formed in 1863 and the rules of the game were established, none of them specified the qualities of the football.

It was not until 1872 that it was stipulated that footballs must be spherical, with a circumference of 27 to 28 inches (68.6 to 71.1 cm). Their inflation pressure had to be between 1.6 and 2.1 atmospheres, and the outer casing made of leather or other "approved" materials.

This led to the mass production of footballs. Higher quality balls were made from the leather of the "rump" (pelvis) of the cow, while lower quality ones were made from shoulder leather. They were entirely hand-stitched, meaning there were minor variations and inconsistencies, now reduced, between one ball and another.

Subsequently, there were variations in the morphology of the outer panels, leading to a plethora of stitching models, all in the clear pursuit of roundness.



Richard Lindon

Argentina and its Creole Ball: The First Attempt

When we want to play football, all we need is a ball, as simple as that. It seems easy, but if we think about it 150 years ago, it wasn't. So... where could one be obtained?

Between 1866 and 1867, Tomás Hogg and other members of the Buenos Aires Football Club used to rent a ranch that had a ball and rackets court for their entertainment. The owner of the place had an old "criollo" at his service, who was very skilled at working with leather. One morning, it was Tomás Hogg who interrupted him with a particular request: "When it suits you, could you make us some footballs?"

Accepting the challenge, the worker put in his effort and used his best skills, employing raw leather as the raw material. However, the result was not as expected; the balls were misshapen and unusable. No one ever had the heart to break the truth to him; he was paid for the task and offered a job more suited to his skills, that of "groundsman" for the BAFC.

Despite the frustrating start in sourcing materials for our football, this unknown Creole worker became the first Argentine manufacturer of footballs.

By 1886, the first import of T-shirts and balls from the United Kingdom would take place, at the request of one Alexander Watson Hutton.

As recorded in the "Overseas Entries", on 27 July 1886, several packages arrived for the recipient Watson and H., on board the British ship Caxton, coming from the city of Liverpool. The customs at the Argentine port, upon inspecting the packages and not quite knowing what they were, classified them as "things from the crazy English" and charged a fee of three pesos for each package.

By the 1900s, football was becoming so popular that it required higher quality balls, more resistant and durable to meet the demands of a more intense game.

They continued to be made of leather, with synthetic bladders inside, to which a small inflation tube was added that remained hidden within the seam. Unfortunately, they still had many defects and it was very unlikely for a ball to last an entire game without breaking. Moreover, the seam remained a nuisance.

In the 1905 match between Alumni and Nottingham Forest, the latter brought their own ball from England as a clear demonstration of their industrial prowess. At the time, Argentina had yet to dream of

manufacturing its own ball, though it would later revolutionise the industry and this wonderful sport with its remarkable invention.

It was not until 1929 that an improvement in water absorption was introduced. Synthetic paints began to be used, resulting in balls that were increasingly waterproof and, consequently, lighter.

The diversity in their manufacturing was such that by 1930, during the first World Cup, it was believed that the outcome of the final between Argentina and Uruguay was largely due to the type of ball used in the match.



Model: 12 Panels



Model: T-Shape or T-Panel

In the first half, Argentina imposed their familiar style of play with a 12-panel ball, ultimately winning the first half 2-1. Then, in the second half, Uruguay chose to continue the match using the T-Shape model, achieving a comeback to finish with a home victory of 4-2, thus being crowned the first World Champion.

The "Superball": The Argentine invention that revolutionised world football

Three friends from the city of Bell Ville, Córdoba—Antonio Tossolini, Luis Romano Polo, and Juan Valbonesi—listened intently to the radio broadcast of the first-ever World Cup final on 30 July 1930 when they noticed the repeated complaints from a Uruguayan commentator about the ball: *"We must find a way to remove this protrusion from the ball"*, clearly referring to the inflation tube. It became evident worldwide that the leather lace was complicating its essence... the roundness. It was then that they devised a way to eliminate the two main problems the ball had: the tube and the lace. These three Argentines created a real revolution with their so-called Superball, thanks to two simultaneous inventions.

On the one hand, there was the "internal inflation valve," which replaced the protruding tube—a brilliant invention consisting of a tiny valve attached to the bladder, through which the inflation nozzle

is inserted and which, when removed, stays closed, preventing air from escaping. The other invention was the internal invisible stitching, which eliminated the lace that so inconvenienced players.

Finally, a truly spherical object had been achieved, with a smooth surface capable of rolling without alteration. From this point on, the entire world played with an Argentine invention for over 30 years, especially after 1939, when the United Kingdom, regarded as "the workshop of the world," entered World War II, halting its factories, including those producing balls and sports equipment. Argentina took the lead in their manufacture, culminating in 1950 when the Superball was chosen as the official ball for the World Cup in Brazil, famously remembered as the "Maracanazo."

"Tiento" Ball

Imperfect when rolling and very painful when catching the closure cord.



"Superball"

An Argentine invention that eliminated the inflation tube from the bladder and the tying cord.

CHAPTER IV

ALEXANDER WATSON HUTTON, THE FATHER OF ARGENTINE FOOTBALL

In 1882, the directors of Argentina's oldest private school, Saint Andrew's Scots School—founded in 1838 by the first wave of Scottish settlers and still in existence today—unknowingly made a request that would change the lives of all who love our football.

Forty years after its founding, they needed to modernise their teaching in order to place it at the forefront of British education in Argentina. They then set out to find a “Head Master”, or in our language, a “Director” who could carry out the longed-for school transformation.

This is where Alexander entered the scene, a young Scottish teacher of just twenty-eight years, recently graduated with a Master of Arts from one of the most prestigious universities in Edinburgh.

But why would a professional with the highest honours in education leave everything behind to go to the other side of the Atlantic?

There is an answer; we just need to know a bit more about Alexander.

Alexander Watson Hutton was born on 10 June 1853 in Glasgow, Scotland. His parents, Robert and Ellen, came from humble families involved in agriculture and coal mining, who arrived in Glasgow in the 1840s.

Over time, and thanks to hard work, Robert managed to open his own general store, which would support the life of his newly arrived son Alexander and his siblings.

However, not long after, they decided to leave the city to try their luck in the capital, Edinburgh. But their story would take a tragic turn.

At the age of two, due to the fierce advance of an epidemic spread by the harsh Scottish weather, Alexander lost his father, and two years later, he lost his mother and one of his brothers. All due to tuberculosis.

CHAPTER IV

This disease, known as "phthisis" until 1839, is an infectious condition caused by a bacterium that primarily affects the lungs.

It spreads through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or saliva. The disease had reached its peak prevalence from the mid-18th century to the end of the 19th century, in the context of mass migrations of peasants to cities and the development of the Industrial Revolution, which demanded long working hours, overcrowding, homes with a high concentration of humidity, and poor ventilation leading to little renewal of "clean" air.

Alexander, at five years old, was sent to live with his maternal grandmother, Helen Bowman, in Logie Green until she passed away in 1862.



Alexander Watson Hutton

At the age of nine, he entered the "Daniel Stewart Hospital" in Edinburgh, which had recently begun operating as a boarding school, providing free education and accommodation to needy children.

Without a doubt, this saved him from a life of destitution and taught him the transformative powers of education.

During his youth, Hutton was already a football enthusiast. This sport was growing by leaps and bounds within the English educational systems.

Upon turning 18, a new misfortune alerted Alexander when the same disease that had claimed much of his family was now affecting his brother Robert. From that moment on, he began to pay greater attention to his health. This would prove decisive for his future.

A year later, in 1872, he enrolled at the University of Edinburgh. It took him almost a decade to complete his studies, as he simultaneously had to cover all his expenses. He found work and discovered his vocation at "George Watson's College," where from 1874 he held the position of "head teacher," guiding a class that was, in the words of the headmaster, "a model of excellence."

Thanks to the British National Census of 1881, we discover that Alexander was a tenant that year in the house of a widow named Alexandrina Waters, who lived with her three children and two other ladies.

Census Details of 1881:

Address: 4 St Patrick Square, Newington, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Members:

- **Alexandrina Waters** - 41 years old (head of the household).
- **Elizabeth C. Waters** - 19 years old (daughter, student teacher).
- **Catherine B. Waters** - 17 years old (daughter, hat maker's apprentice).
- **William G. Waters** - 15 years old (son, cabinetmaker's apprentice).
- **Henrietta F. Thomson** - 43 years old (lodger, preacher).
- **Alexander W. Hutton** - 27 years old (lodger, teacher).
- **Margaret Drew** - 53 years old (tenant).

This incidental biographical detail had significant consequences, both for Alexander's personal life and for the future of Argentine football. Some of these individuals will reappear throughout his history.

The choice of his life

At the age of 28, now a graduate, a medical board advises him to improve his quality of life by staying away from that fierce latent illness. This meant seeking a better climate to live in.

Heeding the advice of health professionals, Hutton considers two job alternatives in vastly distant countries, Australia and Argentina. He decides to apply for the position of "Headmaster" at the Saint Andrew's Scots School in Argentina, competing against over a hundred other applicants.

Thanks to his impressive curriculum vitae, accompanied by several letters of recommendation—including one from Simon Somerville Laurie, a leading authority on education in his country—Hutton was selected for the role. He accepted the challenge of changing the course of his life by leaving home to teach on another continent.

The Great Village

At that time, Buenos Aires had a population of 300,000. Our city was known as the "Great Village." It had yet to experience the transformation that would elevate it to a magnificent capital. Its progress was beginning to take shape in the ideas of its people before evolving into concrete actions. The words from the preamble of our young National Constitution, enacted on 1st May 1853, resonated like a hymn dedicated to work, peace, and hope, more intensely than ever before:

".....for all the men of the world who wish to inhabit Argentine soil."

Hutton set sail from the port of Liverpool as a missionary of knowledge towards this land. His heart burned with loyalty, and in his hands, he held the prosperous, valuable, and blessed seed, ready to be sown in the fertile ground of study and physical activity. Alexander was convinced that he would be able to educate his boys through sport, under the same motto that had been imposed on him during his time as a student: *mens sana in corpore sano*, and this would be achieved... by playing football.

At that time, migration movements between Argentina and Uruguay were often interconnected. In its early days, the port of Buenos Aires was not adequately equipped to receive large transatlantic ships, so disembarkations usually occurred in Montevideo. Subsequently, immigrants would make their way to Buenos Aires on smaller vessels.

In command of Saint Andrew's

On 25th February 1882, after a long journey with stops along the way, Alexander arrived at the port of Buenos Aires, where he was welcomed by the authorities of San Andrés College. He brought with him little luggage, his hat, a ball, and many ideas in his head ready to be put into practice.

Hutton was not alone on this "mission of knowledge"; he was accompanied by a colleague from George Watson's College in Edinburgh, Miss Margaret Budge, who would be exclusively responsible for teaching the girls and the younger children.

As time passed, by 1885, Margaret would become his first wife.

A year later, on 20th August 1886, they welcomed their first child, Arnold Pencliff Watson Hutton. Two more daughters would follow, Edith and Mabel.



The landing in Buenos Aires was carried out using carts
(Photograph from the General Archive of the Nation of Argentina)

Once he assumed his role as Director, he quickly recognised the outdated educational system he was up against. For example, the school had only one classroom, which lacked windows, so he immediately set an improvement plan into motion.

However, not everything went as planned. While some initiatives were approved—such as installing a window at the cost of five pesos, as recorded in the minutes—he did not receive institutional support for others.

This marked a turning point.

Firm in his roots—since in the United Kingdom, schools and universities were where football was taught—Alexander Watson Hutton, a year into his role in 1883, requested the incorporation of a sports field and gymnasium, as well as the inclusion of sports, particularly football, in the school's traditional curriculum.

In return, he faced repeated refusals, as they deemed it outside the school budget, also viewing football as a rough and dangerous game.

Tired of not being able to achieve his goal due to external reasons, and with his contract nearing its end, it was Alexander himself who informed his superiors that he would not renew his position and would leave the institution at the conclusion of his duties at the end of January 1884.

In his mind, he was already nurturing the utopian idea of creating his own school, built on his own ideals, where, of course, sport—led by the banner of football—would have a central role.

Simultaneously, he set his master plan into motion, and by the end of 1883, while still working at St. Andrew's, he launched a series of newspaper advertisements announcing the imminent opening of a new educational institution.

The impact of his departure was so significant that St. Andrew's felt compelled to repeatedly publish a notice throughout January 1884 in the prestigious Argentine newspaper *The Standard*, publicly announcing Hutton's successor. They first needed to receive the new director and ensure they were settled into the role before his definitive departure.

Hutton had carefully planned strategies to attract both former and prospective students. For instance, he offered significant discounts to former students joining him, families with more than three children, and students travelling by train. In 1881, to prevent potential expropriation by the government, the British-owned Southern Railway company operating in Argentina agreed to extend its routes. As a result, in 1884, the line connecting Buenos Aires to Bahía Blanca was inaugurated, reducing the journey to just 24 hours.

Hutton was committed to providing an education of excellence, one capable of transcending the boundaries of the capital.

The Father of Football and the Father of the Classroom

It is an incredibly captivating event, brought to life in the film *School of Champions* by Homero Manzi, which reimagines a possible meeting between two great figures: the 'Father of the Classroom,' Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, and the 'Father of Football,' Alexander W. Hutton.

Under the first presidency of Julio Argentino Roca, on 1st February 1881, D. F. Sarmiento was appointed as Superintendent of Schools, driven by his belief that education was the key to transforming societies. (Let us remember that he had been President of Argentina from 1868 to 1874).

Although there is no information about a meeting between the two, the film recreates the moment when Hutton, just before opening his own school, visits Sarmiento's office to seek his endorsement, to which the Father of the Classroom responds: **"Teach, by kicking, by punching, by pushing... but teach!"**

In 1869, Sarmiento conducted the first census of the country, which revealed a population of 1,877,490 inhabitants, among whom 70% were illiterate. This last figure undoubtedly motivated him.

Between 1869 and 1898, sixty-one female teachers and four male teachers from the United States travelled to Argentina, hired by the government to establish normal schools in some of the country's most remote and inhospitable regions. Beforehand, they had to learn Spanish, a language they were previously unfamiliar with.

THE STANDARD NEWSPAPER

NOTICE.
—
OPENING
OF
BUENOS AIRES
English High-School
—
THIS SCHOOL
WILL BE OPENED
ON
Friday, Feb. 1st.
At 10.30 a.m.
When all pupils, except those who have been exempted, are expected to appear, and former pupils to bring their books with them.
—
Parents and Guardians earnestly invited.
—
Opening Address
BY
THE RECTOR
A. Watson Hutton, M.A.

24 January 1884
Prior to the opening

BUENOS AIRES
ENGLISH
HIGH-SCHOOL
FOR
BOYS AND GIRLS
258—Peru—257.
—
THIS IS THE
Only really select
English School
IN TOWN.
The premises are commodious, light and airy; they contain three large patios, one fitted up as a
GYMNASIUM
For the boys; another as a
Lawn Tennis Court with Swings
For the girls.
Pupils enrolled daily.
A few vacancies for Boarders.
Fees moderate with all particulars on application.
—
EVENING CLASSES
At the request of former pupils, Mr Hutton begins to open next month
Evening Classes for Adults.
In the following subjects: English, French, German, Arithmetic and Mathematics, Book-keeping, Drawing and Dancing.
Early application necessary to complete arrangements.
—
A. Watson Hutton, M.A.
RECTOR

11 June 1884
Subsequent to the opening

CHAPTER V

BUENOS AIRES ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL: THE SCHOOL OF ARGENTINE FOOTBALL

From Utopia to Reality

The determination of Alexander Watson Hutton to teach was so strong that his utopia became a reality.

"On Friday, 1st February 1884, at Peru Street 253-257 in the heart of the city, he inaugurated his masterwork: Buenos Aires English High School."

In the words of its founder:

"A select school in every sense of the word. Failures of character and conduct, when deemed too serious to be corrected or contained, result in immediate expulsion. In a word, this institution offers its students an education of the highest calibre."

Alexander Watson Hutton did not aim to create wise men, but rather true gentlemen. He understood that he would teach using both the mind and the body.

Excellence in teaching was guaranteed in the classroom, but there would be no better complement to achieve the best results than the release of energy through physical effort. Thus, the idea of promoting the development of physical education from childhood, through sports, including football, was conceived.

Hutton's school had no connection to any religious organisation, as these were relegated to the home and places of worship. Furthermore, there was no intermediary between the students' parents and the Rector, who was the sole authority.

Quickly, its educational system began to stand out from the rest, and this success translated into enrolments. This is why, shortly after its inauguration, BAEHS would experience various relocations before finally settling in the Belgrano neighbourhood in February 1906.

Where our football was taught

There's nothing like leading by example. Hutton was clear about this. He taught and inspired his students to play football. He employed various methods: playing alongside them as part of one of the teams and participating in plays, providing instructions from the sidelines, and even officiating as a referee.

He took it so seriously, as evidenced by the numerous announcements published in *The Standard* throughout 1885, that he even brought William G. Waters from Scotland.

William, the young son of Alexandrina, the woman who had hosted Hutton just before he came to our country, was already a former sergeant and a gymnastics teacher by then.

His role at BAEHS was to train his students to become future champions.

It was common to see Alexander playing in the first division of his institute, as he did between 1892 and 1893. The latter year was emblematic for the history of Argentine football and also marked a significant moment in Hutton's personal life, as he would suffer the loss of his wife, Margaret.

De algún tiempo á ésta parte vienen llamando la atención las fiestas de la índole de las que dejamos reseñada, organizadas por éste colegio.

Es en efecto digna de especial mención la habilidad y destreza que despliegan en las diversas suertes que realizan, unos niños á quienes solo por incidencia se les dedicó á juegos atléticos.



English High School

directa relación con ésta parte del sistema educacional entusiasmo á los colegiales al punto de experimentar un vivo placer en perfeccionar por este concepto su instrucción general.

Cunde así la afición y ésto á mas del efecto directo, puramente material, que tiene sobre el organismo de los educandos contribuye muy poderosamente á robustecer las nociones de moral que se inculca á los chieuelos, no solo porque la conveniencia de la propia fuerza implica el sentimiento de protección al débil.



Carreras de bicicletas



Carreras á pié



Ejercicios de pesas



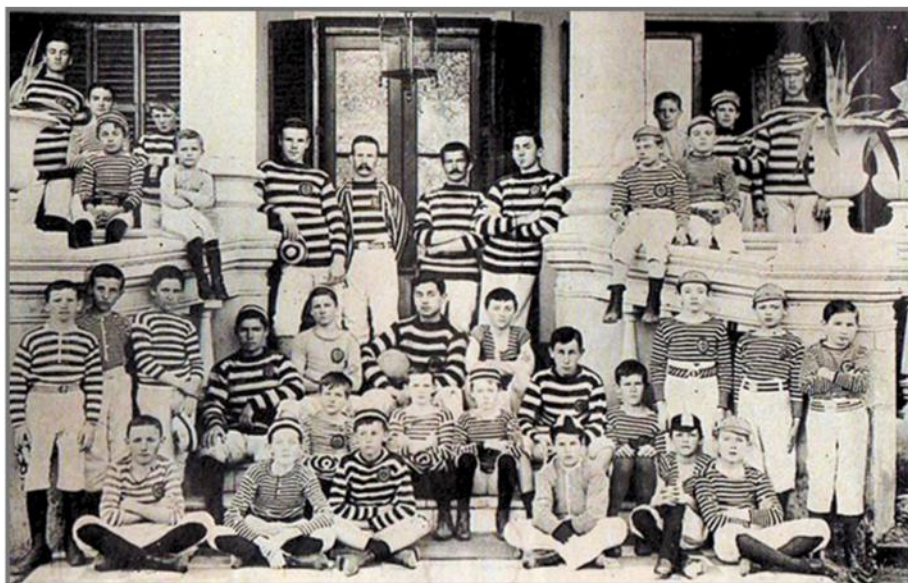
Esto prueba bien claramente cual es el poder de la enseñanza mixta en lo que respecta á la interacción del perfeccionamiento en los ejercicios físicos. Todo aquello que tenga

rosamente á robustecer las nociones de moral que se inculca á los chieuelos, no solo porque la conveniencia de la propia fuerza implica el sentimiento de protección al débil.



Salto en altura

Magazine The Gladiator
(28th November 1902)



Alexander Watson Hutton and his students form the English High School Athletic Club
The School of Champions of Argentine Football



English High School Athletic Club
In the background, the old stand of Coghlan. One of the first in our country.

The locations where the Buenos Aires English High School operated

They were all also home to Hutton and his family

Perú 253

(1884 to 1886)

Inside an old house at 253 Peru Street, between Belgrano and Venezuela, in what is now the Monserrat neighbourhood—just 300 metres from St. Andrew's—the first premises of the Buenos Aires English High School operated. It was inaugurated on Friday, 1st February 1884.

A new concept of school was opening its doors. It was co-educational for all three levels of education (kindergarten, primary, and secondary), with the option of boarding and evening classes for adults (possibly for young Englishmen with temporary work in our country) and offered promotional rates, despite these being double that of its predecessor school due to the extensive amenities and activities it would include. As we have noted, Hutton aimed for an education of excellence, without ties to the church, catering to a wealthy and demanding clientele.

This was announced the day before by the contemporary newspaper *The Standard*:

"By the kind invitation of Mr. Hutton, we were able to tour the excellent

facilities on Peru Street where he will inaugurate his "High School" next Friday. There are no better school facilities in the city. The house is very spacious and has been painted, wallpapered, the floors renovated, and the entire building refurbished for educational use down to the last detail, featuring patented fans, the most modern desk designs, lavatories, and everything that contributes to the health and comfort of the students." "It has three large courtyards, the first for boys, the second for girls, and a third for Gym."

From day one, we can see the importance that physical education would hold for its students, with a third of the school dedicated to their development.

"The classrooms are located at the back, away from the noise of the street. The entire place exudes a pleasant air of freshness and is suitably equipped for its use, demonstrating that Mr. Hutton is thoroughly acquainted with his trade. We wish him every success in his new school."

This place witnessed the first football practices, along with the first broken windows caused by the impact of makeshift balls. The boys played in the three courtyards, which

were divided by corridors that served as football goals. Headmaster Hutton, rather than reprimanding them, sought to resolve the issue: he commissioned the local blacksmith to fit grilles on all the windows.

The day after its inauguration, *The Standard* again referred to the important event:

"Mr. Hutton's new school on Peru Street opened its doors yesterday to great jubilation. The large gathering of students, parents, and friends demonstrated that the new school has secured support from the outset."

The school would follow the same educational system as the Scottish School, emphasising strict discipline and high moral standards. These were the fundamental principles essential for success.

By 1885, Hutton had rented land in the Constitución neighbourhood exclusively for sports practice.

Thus, football began to develop within the confines of his model institution. However, he soon faced a challenge that would prove to be recurrent over time... The space was insufficient to accommodate such a cultural and sporting revolution.



Facade of the English High School (Peru Street)

Pencliffe House

(1886 to 1892)

By 1886, the success of the educational model developed by Hutton was reflected in the exponential increase in his student enrolment. This required more space, prompting the need to relocate.

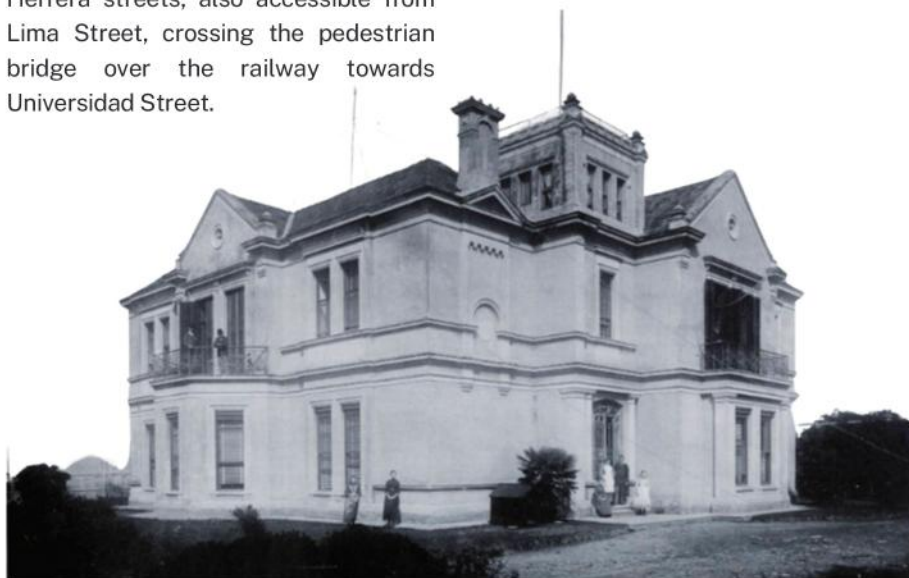
Thus, they arrived at Pencliffe House, also known as Quinta Langdon, in the Barracas neighbourhood. The land belonged to the Cambaceres family, and later to John Langdon, who had built a sports field for athletic practice.

Hutton's new school had space for 100 students and was located at 21 Montes de Oca Avenue, which was accessed via a long "corridor." Geographically, it was situated between Universidad and Herrera streets, also accessible from Lima Street, crossing the pedestrian bridge over the railway towards Universidad Street.

Located just a few blocks from Plaza Constitución, spread over two floors and near the Hospicio de las Mercedes, later known as the Borda Psychiatric Hospital.

For the detractors of football at the time, who viewed it as a sport for the mad, the choice of location was fitting. Here, on 20th August 1886, Arnaldo "Pencliff" Watson Hutton was born, the first child of Alexander and Margaret. Curiously, he would carry the name "Pencliff" as a second name, perhaps in honour of the joy of the moment and the place. Later, Edith and Mabel would arrive.

In 1892, the need to expand arose once more, and for reasons of convenience, the Buenos Aires English High School relocated to a new site.



Pencliffe House

Quinta Garrigós

1892 to 1905

After six years at 'Pencliff House,' the BAEHS moved to Quinta Garrigós, located in the Palermo neighbourhood on Avenida Santa Fe at 3500/3600. Here, it earned the title of 'the largest private school in Buenos Aires and its surroundings,' with an enrolment of 200 students, 50 of whom were boarders. This was made possible by an impressive annex.

We noted that under the presidency of D. F. Sarmiento, Argentina experienced a significant wave of European migration, including from Sweden.

In 1890, during the "International Industry Exhibition" held in Buenos Aires, Swedish professionals developed two detachable wooden pavilions to showcase their products. Once the exhibition concluded, one of these pavilions was purchased by Hutton as an annex for his establishment. This would house classrooms divided by curtains, similar to a rural school.

Thus, it managed to accommodate 500 students, and although the demand was greater, its high standards for student selection resulted in a considerable number of rejections for those who did not meet these criteria.

By 1898, the Hutton education model was so successful that they decided to replicate it.

This led to the decree that established the requirement for every school to have an Athletic Club, resulting in the formation of the English High School Athletic Club. It was a sports space open to students, alumni, and teachers.

To commemorate this significant event, Hutton leased a plot of six blocks adjacent to the Coghlan train station for exclusive use.

This became their sports field, which included, for the girls, a spacious garden with a tennis court. For the boys, there was cricket, a gym, and, of course, a football pitch with a wonderful covered wooden stand capable of accommodating 200 seated spectators.

Hutton was truly satisfied; mind and body finally united in one place.



Swedish Pavilion



Interior view of the Pavilion



Quinta Garrigós

View over Santa Fe. To the left, the Pavilion peeks out from among the trees.



The stand of the Coghlan pitch

Belonging to the EHS. One of the first in our country.

Melián 1880

1906 to the present

Located in the Belgrano neighbourhood, BAEHS established itself here permanently.

Hutton settled down with his second wife, Catherine Waters—Alexandrina's daughter, with whom he had lived in 1881, though they had no children together—and his children from his previous marriage, Arnoldo, Edith, and Mabel, in the pre-existing building at 1810 Avenida Melián. The boarding girls were also accommodated there, on land now occupied by two large buildings.

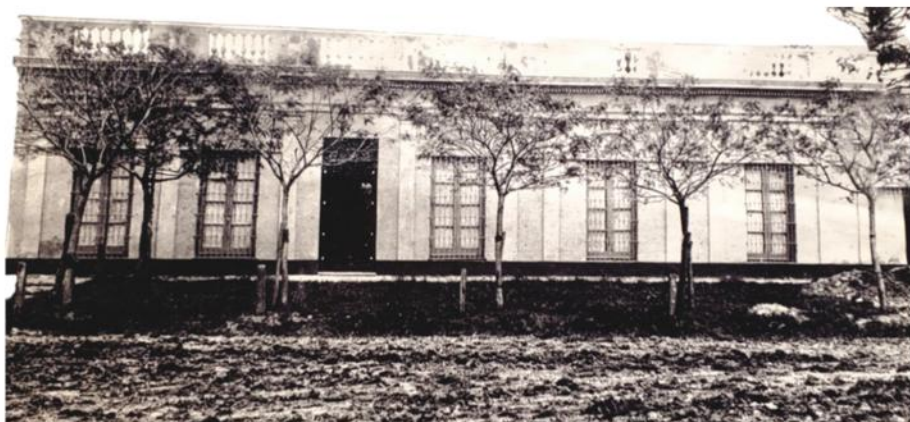
Later, a new building was constructed, which still stands today at 1880 Melián Avenue, serving as accommodation for the male pupils and the staff who had travelled from the United Kingdom to work.

The final building that completed the ambitious school complex was the institution itself, housed within the old Swedish Pavilion, which had been relocated from 'Quinta Garrigós' to what is now Sucre Street—a thoroughfare that had not yet been opened at the time. Once again, curtains were used to divide the various classrooms.

As a great visionary and promoter of sport, Hutton commissioned the construction of what ultimately became the first outdoor Olympic swimming pool in Latin America within his own school. In 1910, it measured over 35 metres in length and was generously made available for several famous Argentine swimmers of the time for their training. Over time, its dimensions were reduced when the street General Enrique Martínez was opened. Years later, it was removed entirely.



Avenue Melián 1880. The historic building that Hutton constructed as a residence, which was later restructured to accommodate classrooms, administration, and subsequently its Museum.



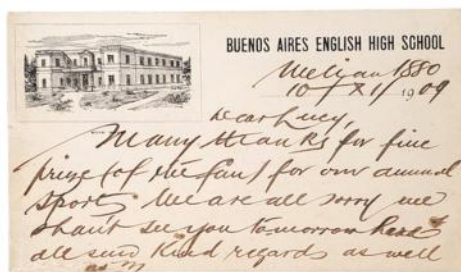
Hutton's residence and his pupils at 1810 Melián Avenue



1880 Melián Avenue. The current building next to the "Swedish Pavilion."



Handwritten postcard by Hutton in 1909. On its front, the large Olympic swimming pool.



One hundred and forty years since its founding, the Buenos Aires English High School remains more relevant than ever in its wonderful new location, situated in one of the most exclusive and sought-after areas of Buenos Aires.

With great pride, it upholds the responsibility inherited from its founder, having become one of Argentina's most traditional schools, renowned for its excellence in education.

CHAPTER VI

HUTTON BRINGS THE A.F.A. TO LIFE.

UNDER THE NAME *ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE*, THE MOTHER OF OUR FOOTBALL RISES AGAIN, STRONGER THAN EVER

With the arrival of the 'Hutton model' of education, which incorporated football, many other schools of British origin and even English companies were inspired by its momentum. From the 1880s onwards, this internal practice within each institution created a desire to test their skills against others, leading to the first friendly matches.

This gave rise to the first athletic clubs in Argentina, more precisely in Buenos Aires, which organised their match calendars at the beginning of the year. This trend quickly spread to Rosario and Montevideo. For example, cricket was played in the spring and summer seasons, while football was reserved for autumn and winter.

Alexander Watson Hutton soon became synonymous with and a reference point for this new sport, seizing every opportunity to promote it.

In 1888, he was invited to join the Club Atlético Ferrocarril del Sud (G.S.R.F.C.), the first football team in Argentina organised under the rules of the F.A. (The Football Association).



Alexander Watson Hutton



Club Atlético Ferrocarril del Sud

*T. Gregory, F. Briggs, P.G.Shaw, B.O.L.F.J. Norwood, A. Hughes
J. Rowland, A. W. Hutton, E. Morgan, "Tiny" Norwood, J. Fairbanks, V.
Sketchley.
F. Gobby, -, W. Mathews.*

Two years later, on 8 June 1890, Hutton had the distinction of being the referee for the first international match played in Argentina (Hurlingham) between Buenos Aires and Montevideo.



**Buenos Aires and Montevideo mixed
together for the photo.**

*To the right, wearing a vertically striped jacket and a hat,
is Alexander Watson Hutton.*

The growing movement culminated in the need to provide a serious structure to a sport that was clearly outpacing others. Thus, in 1893, the roots of what we now know as the Argentinian Football Association (A.F.A.) were laid by Hutton, its first president, at that time known as The Argentine Association Football League.

The First Attempt

While it is true that there was an initial attempt to organise our football in 1891 under the same name, it never managed to develop properly due to a lack of support from the clubs.

This initiative was driven by a group of sports enthusiasts. Among them, notable figures included Alec Lamont — Secretary of the AAFL and an employee of the South Railway, with a special connection to the Saint Andrew's club — and Arnot Leslie, who, along with his brothers, would be part

of the first teams of the Lomas Athletic Club.

As pioneers in the field, they organised a tournament in a format familiar to us today: a league system with home and away matches. The conclusion of this first championship offered not only recognition but also immortalisation, with medals awarded to the victorious team—a symbolic gesture that, for the first time, honoured a champion of Argentine football. In this experimental tournament of 1891, five teams participated:

- **Belgrano Football Club**
- **Buenos Aires & Rosario Railway**
- **Buenos Aires Football Club**
- **Caledonians**
- **Saint Andrew's**

At the end of the tournament, both St. Andrews and Caledonians were tied on points, so the Association declared both teams as champions. As there was only one set of medals for the celebration, a play-off match was decided to determine which of them would receive the honours.

Thus, St. Andrew's won the match 3-1, with three goals from their top scorer: **Charles Moffatt**.



Champion Medal 1891

Charles Douglas Moffatt (Saint Andrew's)



Champion Medal 1891

Charles Downes (Saint Andrew's)

Coincidence or not, the captain and coach of that Saint Andrew's was William Waters, who had hosted Hutton and his family in Edinburgh, and who would later become his brother-in-law in 1902, as well as being responsible for the athletic training of his students.

And what about Hutton's team?

Although in 1891 Alexander Watson Hutton did not enter his lads in the tournament, he did not go unnoticed, as he made his mark by acting as a referee. This was the case, for instance, in the 3-2 victory of St. Andrew's against Buenos Aires & Rosario Railway played in May 1891.

Meanwhile, the English High School took a different route. Despite not participating directly in the competition, they maintained their passion for football through friendly matches with other educational institutions, including the Collegiate School of Flores.

The ambitious attempt to promote our football by replicating developments in the United Kingdom fell short by 1892, meaning the initiative to establish our own league lasted only a year.

This setback, far from being an end, became a mere hiccup on the path to the consolidation of football in Argentina. Mr. Hutton, who had established his own educational model, found himself in the perfect moment to take a firm next step in our history.

The Argentine Association Football League (by Hutton)

The increasingly local Scotsman, who arrived in our lands to teach us how to play football, took on the difficult task of organising it.

In clear recognition of what had occurred two years earlier, and once again drawing on Alex Lamont's experience as secretary — this time representing Quilmes A.C. —

Hutton founded the Argentine Association Football League (AAFL) on 21 February 1893. This organisation became the governing body of Argentine football and the oldest in the continent. The founding took place at Venezuela 1230, in the heart of the city. Today, we know it as the A.F.A.

The early years of the Association

With the A.F.A. established, the Official First Division Tournament began that same year, with the participation of 5 teams:

- ***Buenos Aires & Rosario Railway***
- ***Buenos Aires English High School***
- ***Quilmes Rovers***
- ***Flores Athletic Club***
- ***Lomas Athletic Club***

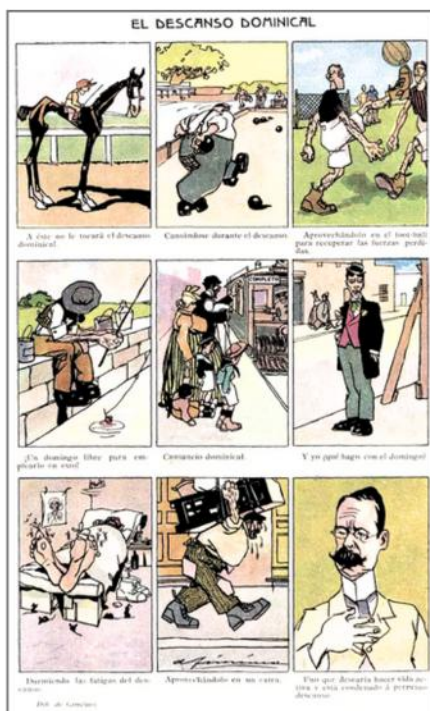
It was on a Sunday—23 April 1893—that the chosen day of the week for football to officially begin in our country was established, under the auspices of an entity that would support it throughout its history.

Thus, football began to take its first breaths in the "Buenos Ayres," in a bustling city, a melting pot of races, which by then already housed a population of 660,000 inhabitants, whose main modes of transport were trains and trams. Furthermore, horse-drawn carts, sulkies, and the first imported automobiles were still visible, beginning to leave their mark on the city's history.

In this context, our football development began, and the social conditions of the time played a fundamental role.

Sundays became the ideal day for playing, for a simple reason: The amount of labour did not keep pace with the development our country was demanding, which is why working hours stretched from 10 to 16 hours a day under terrible conditions. There was still no regulation guaranteeing a fixed day of weekly rest, and that right, alongside the reduction of working hours, were the main demands of the first trade unions, which often resorted to strikes to achieve their aims. Many detractors of this right, including employers, wondered what these workers would do with their free time.

One of these strikes culminated in a general strike, resulting in the enactment of the National Labour Code in 1904. This Code established an eight-hour workday and a day of rest on Sundays, marking another milestone in Argentine history.



"El Descanso dominical"; "Aprovechándolo en el foot-ball para recuperar las fuerzas perdidas".

Revista Caras y Caretas

"Sunday Rest"; "Making the most of it in football to regain lost strength." Caras y Caretas Magazine

On that Sunday, 23rd April 1893, two matches took place:

- **Lomas Athletic Club 3 – Buenos Aires & Rosario Railway 0**, held in Lomas de Zamora, in the south of the Greater Buenos Aires area.
- **Flores Athletic Club 2 – Quilmes Club 4**, in the field of Flores, now a neighbourhood of Caballito.

The remaining team turned out to be the **Buenos Aires English High School**, which inaugurated the famous "free date" due to the uneven number of teams.

The first goal in the history of the Argentine football league was scored after 30 minutes of play by J. Gahan, the left winger of Flores AC.

As it was a tournament with only five teams, two rounds were organised with home and away matches, plus an additional round. At the end of the second round, Lomas was the comfortable leader with 15 points, followed by Flores with 10 and Quilmes with 9. Buenos Aires English High School, with 4 points, and Buenos Ayres & Rosario Railways with 2, decided to withdraw from the competition without playing the third round as they had no chance of winning the title. Thus, the race for the championship was reduced to Lomas, Flores, and Quilmes.

It was Lomas Athletic, after a 2-1 away victory against Flores, who secured first place in the tournament, which led to the cancellation of the third round of competition. In this way, they were crowned as the inaugural champions of the first official football tournament held in Argentina.



Lomas Athletic Club

The first champion of Argentine football

Not everything was joy for Hutton

That emblematic year for our football and for Hutton's life also had its harsh side. On 21 August 1893, Hutton suffered the loss of his first wife, Margaret Budge, at the age of 39, due to pancreatic cancer. Her remains rest in the British Cemetery in Buenos Aires, beneath the inscription: 'Her sun went down while it was yet day.'



Grave of Margaret Budge
British Cemetery in Buenos Aires.

Keep rolling

In the coming years and up until 1899, Lomas Athletic would be the clear dominant force in the football scene, achieving five titles in seven years, while the English High School would make a disappointing appearance in 1895, finishing at the bottom of the league table. This inconsistency in the performances of Hutton's school team was merely a precursor to what was to come.

The team was still not consolidated; it just needed time and maturation.

On 5 April 1897, Hutton stepped down as president of the Argentine Association Football League, with Alfredo P. B. Boyd as his replacement.

English High School Athletic Club

Little by little, Hutton infected our entire country with his passion for sport, to such an extent that on 18 April 1898, a decree was issued, in which Article XVI stated: "In each school, an Athletic Club will be organised, composed of all students and former students of the institution, as well as professors who wish to be part of it, under the presidency of the current teacher."

Thus, the "**English High School Athletic Club**" was officially founded on 3 October 1898, although this had already been happening informally much earlier at Hutton's school. It would later become Alumni and ultimately, a legend.



English High School Athletic Club (1898)
Alexander Watson Hutton at the centre of his students in sportswear participating in training sessions.

The Second Division is born

By 1899, the AAFL had created the "Second Division" of Argentine football, and Hutton saw an excellent opportunity to register his now English High School Athletic Club, a more established team. The result was a promising second place behind Banfield, who had the already "historic goalscorer" Moffatt among their ranks.



Banfield Medal Champion of the 2nd Division 1899
Charles Douglas Moffatt

The first Champion Cup "La Copa Campeonato"

The history of Argentine football was being written; everything was new, and improvisation was the order of the day.

For this reason, the championships of 1893, 1894, and 1895 lacked a trophy for the champion, although, as we have seen, medals were awarded as a form of recognition.

It wasn't until 1896 that the Association established the "Copa Desafío" or "Copa Campeonato". A trophy to crown the much-anticipated achievement, also inscribed with the winners' names for posterity.

Article 26 of the regulations stated: "The Copa Desafío from the A.A.F.L. shall be contested annually, and the champion clubs from the first, second, and third divisions of each season shall have the right to retain the respective Cups for one year. In the event that any club wins it three years in a row, the Cup shall be awarded in perpetuity to that club."

The first to achieve this feat was Alumni, with their championships in 1900, 1901, and 1902.



The "Copa Campeonato" of the First Division

Although the first of these was under the name of the English High School, everyone understood it was the same team. To dispel any doubts, they also won it in 1903. As we noted, the "Copa Campeonato" was awarded starting in 1896, but the first division tournament had begun three years earlier.

CHAPTER VI

For this reason, Lomas Athletic, the fresh victor of the first three tournaments in succession (1893-1894-1895), never had it in their trophy cabinet, whereas Alumni did and had the right to hold the trophy indefinitely. However, this ultimately did not come to pass.

When we speak of the “legacy” left by Alumni, we refer to certain attitudes that reflect their greatness beyond their victories. Therefore, what mattered was not boasting about their achievements but promoting this beautiful sport, which is why they chose to return the “Copa Campeonato” to ensure that it could continue to be used by future champions. This act of generosity was accepted by the A.A.F.L. and reciprocated with the delivery of a commemorative cup in reference to this accomplishment, named the “Copa Challenger”.



Front

Back

Copa Challenger

The recognition bears the following inscription engraved on its silver surface: *"1900-1901-1902. Trophy presented to the Alumni Football Club by the Argentine Association Football League for having won the first division cup on 3 successive occasions."*

Alumni would repeat the feat of becoming champions three times in two further instances: 1905-1906-1907 and then 1909-1910-1911, during which they were awarded a new trophy called the “Copa Recompensa” with the inscription:

"Argentine Football Association. Copa Recompensa to Club Atlético Alumni. First League Championship. Winner of the First League Championship. Years 1905-6-7-9 and 10." Finally, the title for 1911 would be added.

Were players being bought?

It is worth remembering that the entire football revolution our country was experiencing was driven selflessly, out of love for the sport and, in this case, for amateur sports. There were no player transfers or sales, or at least they would not have been accepted.

The arrival of money in football would later be "legalised" with the advent of professionalism in 1931. Despite this, in 1898, the Committee of the Association convened to discuss an issue that was beginning to show its threads: the poaching of players. Paying to play. Years later, it would also be referred to as "brown amateurism."

It was established: *"that any player committed to play for one club shall not do so for another in League matches, without having given written notice to the Association one month in advance,"* and that all members of the League *"should strive to prevent this pernicious practice that has recently become fashionable."*

Despite efforts to control this practice that corrupted the purity of football, we cannot assert that it did not exist in the shadows.

Argentinian football also spoke English

For the championships of 1899, both in the first and second divisions, a greater number of Spanish-speaking players began to emerge.

Until that moment, it was a game practically exclusive to Britons and their descendants.

Over time, the Association underwent the process of "Argentinisation" of football, leading to it being spoken in Spanish, driven among others by Alumni, thanks to the active participation of William Allerton Jordan.



Argentina National Team 1928
First shirt with National Emblem



Argentina National Team 1937
First shirt with the inscription A.F.A.

The transformations of the A.F.A.

The names of the governing association of Argentine football and its respective presidents have evolved over time as follows:

(excerpt taken from the Statutes of the A.F.A.).

THE ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

- Alejandro Watson Hutton (1893-97)
- Alfredo P. B. Boyd (1897-99)
- Charles Wibberley (1899-1900)
- Francis H. Chevallier Boutell (1900-03)

ARGENTINE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

- Francis H. Chevallier Boutell (1903-06)
- Florencio Martínez de Hoz (1906-07)
- Emilio Hansen (1907-09)
- Hugo Wilson (1909-12)

ASOCIACIÓN ARGENTINA DE FOOTBALL

- Hugo Wilson (1912-15)
- Adolfo Orma (1915-18)
- Ricardo C. Aldao (1918-19)
- Federico Luzio (1919-21)
- Benjamín Toulouse (1921-22)
- Aldo Cantoni (1922-24)
- Virgilio Tedín Uriburu (1924-26)
- Natalio Botana (1926)
- Aldo Cantoni (1926-27)

ASOCIACIÓN AMATEUR ARGENTINA DE FOOTBALL

- Adrián Beccar Varela (1927-29)
- Juan Pignier (1929-31)

ASOCIACIÓN DE FOOTBALL AMATEURS Y PROFESIONALES

- Juan Pignier (1931-32)
- Carlos P. Anessi (1932)
- Silvio J. Serra (1932-33)
- José A. Claisse (1933-34)
- Alejandro Ruza (1934)

ASOCIACIÓN DEL FÚTBOL ARGENTINO

- Tiburcio Padilla (1934)
- Dr. Ernesto F. Malbec (1935)
- Mr. Angel Molinari (1936)
- Mr. Eduardo Sánchez Terrero (1937-38)
- Dr. Adrián C. Escobar (1939-40)
- Dr. Ramón Castillo (1941-43)
- Dr. Jacinto C. Armando (1943)
- Dr. Agustín Nicolás Matienzo (1944)
- Gral. de Brigada Eduardo J. Avalos (1945)
- Mr. Pedro Canaveri (1946)
- Mr. Oscar L. M. Nicolini (1947-49)
- Dr. Cayetano Giardulli (h) (1949)
- Mr. Valentín E. Suárez (1949-53)
- Dr. Domingo Peluffo (1953-54)
- Mr. Cecilio Condit (1955)
- Mr. Arturo A. Bullrich (1955-56) // Interventor
- Mr. Raúl H. Colombo (1956-64)
- Dr. Francisco A. Perette (1965-66)
- Mr. Valentín E. Suárez (1966-67) // Interventor
- Mr. Armando Ramos Ruiz (1968-69) // Interventor
- Dr. Aldo J. Porri (1969) // Interventor
- Dr. Oscar L. Ferrari (1969) // Interventor Interino
- Dr. Juan Martín Oneto Gaona (1969-71) // Interventor
- Mr. Raúl D'Onofrio (1971-73) // Interventor
- Dr. Horacio E. Bruzone (1973) // Interventor
- Dr. Baldomero M. Gigán (1973-74) // Interventor
- Mr. Fernando R. Mitjans (1974) // Interventor y Presidente
- Mr. David L. Bracutto (1974-76)
- Mr. Ernesto A. Wiedrich (1976)
- Dr. Alfredo F. Cantilo (1976-79)
- Mr. Julio Humberto Grondona (1979 - Julio 2014)
- Mr. Claudio Tapia (2017 - up to the present)

CHAPTER VII

UNDER THE EHS, THE PATH TO ETERNITY BEGINS

1900

The return to the Premier League



After their magnificent stint in the Second Division, Alexander Watson Hutton re-enrolled his boys from the English High School (EHS) in the First Division of the "Copa Campeonato", as well as in other competitions that took place concurrently throughout the year.

This was due to the good results achieved in the previous season, as the League had prohibited the Lobos team from registering, due to not having a pitch within the limits of the Capital. No one wanted to travel more than 100 km to play against them. Former students of the EHS, who were part of this team, as well as the one from Lanús, where someone who would soon become our first football idol was participating, returned to represent their beloved school that season.

The number of players under Alexander's wing was so great that he also fielded teams in the second and third divisions, the latter being newly created.

The "Copa Campeonato" Begins

The protagonists of the 1900 season were: English High School, Lomas AC, Belgrano AC, and Quilmes AC.

The first opponent to face on this glorious journey would be none other than the multi-champion Lomas Athletic (1893-1894-1894/1897-1898) —a unique opportunity to discover what the students were made of.

In a closely contested match played at home in Coghlan, the result was a draw of 1-1 that felt like a victory. English High School went on to win every other match in the First Division championship of 1900, thus crowning themselves champions for the first time in their history, and in an unbeaten manner.

CHAPTER VII

A surname was beginning to revolutionise Argentine football: **'The Browns.'** Among them was a certain Jorge Gibson, the central figure in what was to come.

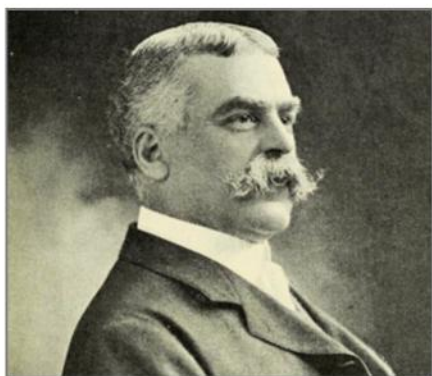
It was a dream start for a team unlike any other, where they upheld just one condition for playing: 'to do it with friends.'

Six matches played, one draw, five victories, eighteen goals scored, and only three conceded.

The "Copa Competencia" is born

The traditional "Copa Campeonato", which began in 1893, was joined by a new tournament, the "Copa Competencia".

By 1900, football on our continent was not only strong in Buenos Aires, but also in other cities such as Rosario and Montevideo. This led to the idea of creating a competition capable of measuring their strengths in a knockout format, similar to what was happening in the English FA Cup.



Francis Chevallier Boutell

It was named the "Cup Tie Competition," or "Copa Competencia," donated by Francis Chevallier Boutell, who was then president of the Argentine Association Football League.

The format of the tournament was as follows:

From the three cities, four semi-finalists would qualify, but with the stipulation that Buenos Aires would contribute two of them, while the others would provide only one each. The final was also played on the capital's turf.

By 1904, for the first time, a Uruguayan team, Peñarol, arrived to contest a final in the Argentine capital. In 1907, the regulations were modified, requiring a final match between an Argentine team and a Uruguayan team.



Tie Competition Trophy

In the first edition, Alumni, after having won their opening match against Quilmes, was eliminated in the semi-finals by Rosario, who went on to become the champion.

Despite this disappointing start, Alumni boasts the achievement of having been crowned champion on six occasions.

The most popular in Argentina

After drawing level in the Championship against the formidable Lomas and achieving a valuable victory that secured their place in the semi-finals of the Copa Competencia against Quilmes, the newspaper *The Buenos Aires Herald* decided to launch a poll to determine which team was the most popular in our country. The demonstrations of well-played football were bearing fruit—the EHS swept the contest, garnering a total of 6,942 votes, doubling and even tripling the number of their competitors. The prize awarded for this public recognition was a silver punch bowl along with its corresponding ladle.



"Silver bowl" for the most popular team

The first to make history

The players who made up the first great team of the English High School were:

Armando Coste, Walter Buchanan, Carlos A. Buchanan, Tomás Brown, Andrés Arturo Mack, Jorge G. Brown, Juan Moore, Guillermo A. Jordan, Spencer U. Leonard, Heriberto Jordan and Eugenio Moore.



Belgrano Athletic, the derby

EHS, and later Alumni, found in Belgrano Athletic the opportunity to experience—perhaps for the first time in Argentine football—the sensation of playing 'a true classic,' a rivalry that would endure for over a decade: English versus Anglo-Argentines. A pure and unblemished contest from start to finish, devoid of violence and focused solely on the sport, as both teams were among the most skilled in football.

So much so that, as we will later see, the pattern of alternation during those years was clear: if Alumni did not become champions, Belgrano would.

Friendships and mutual respect were demonstrated through camaraderie; nothing hindered the post-match gatherings that one team would host for the other after receiving them as the home side.



Belgrano Athletic
Founded on 17 August 1896

CHAPTER VIII

THE BROWN BROTHERS

The main virtue of Alumni was its brotherhood. Two forces supported its prestige: Alejandro Watson Hutton and the Brown family.

Alumni and the Browns were one and the same.

Origins

On 22 May 1825, the ship *Symmetry* set sail from the port of Leith, in Scotland, north of Edinburgh, bound for Buenos Aires. On board were Mr. James Brown, his sister, and his wife Mary Hope.

Once on solid ground, they went to Monte Grande. They were part of a Scottish agricultural colony called Santa Catalina, organised by brothers John and William Parish Robertson. Four years later, the colony failed, and its members dispersed across the country, including the Browns, who settled in the Quilmes area, now part of Florencio Varela.

Little by little, they began acquiring hectares of land, eventually giving life to the Beatlaws estate in honour of the Scottish farm where James was born.

James and Mary had nine children. The youngest, James, was born on 12 July 1846. He was better known by his Spanish name, Diego. From a young age, Diego Brown became familiar with farm work, but his path soon led him to Buenos Aires, where he became a student at St. Andrew's.

During his youth, he excelled in athletics. He participated in the annual tournaments organised by the British community at the Buenos Aires Cricket Club. His skill in sports always set him apart from the rest.

At the age of 20, he worked as a manager at a building supplies store, but after seven years, he decided to return to his rural roots. When he went to withdraw the remainder of the money he had earned from his work,

he was pleasantly surprised to discover that he had saved a small fortune. With that money, he bought the "Viamonte" estate in San Vicente, which had belonged to General Viamonte.

By that time, he had already married Eliza Jane Carrow Gibson, who was born in Buenos Aires and was the daughter of a Scottish tailor who had arrived in Argentina in 1840. They had fourteen children, of whom eleven were boys and three were girls. All, of course, were Argentine.

Most of their sons, as they grew physically, joined the teams of the English High School and consequently those of Alumni. This included Jorge, Alfredo, Carlos, Eliseo, Tomás, Ernesto, and Juan G. (Juancito). A cousin, Juan Domingo, also joined them. Many of them were also part of the first Argentine national football teams.

They contributed to the nickname "team criollo" in a competition that had, until then, been purely English. The term "criollos" was well-founded, as under President Sarmiento, in 1869, the "Citizenship and Naturalisation" Law was enacted, defining as Argentines "all individuals born or who are born in the territory of the Republic, regardless of the nationality of their parents"; thus establishing a strong "right of soil."

The "right of blood" was also established, which made the children of native Argentines Argentine, even if they were born in a foreign country, provided they preferred our nationality.

Thus, match by match, each member of this family became a fundamental piece of the team.

The Club's social headquarters

The Browns settled at 819 Brasil Street in the Buenos Aires neighbourhood of Constitución. Don Diego worked from Tuesday to Friday in the countryside and returned to the big city on Saturday, with nothing stopping him from going to watch his boys play on Sunday.

The Browns' house was truly the house of Alumni, their social headquarters, the meeting place before and after matches. On Mondays, they gathered to play cards and discuss the previous day's game.

Always ready to welcome both friends and strangers, even the South African team after their historic victory in 1906.



The Brown House
Brazil 819 (left)

The 14 siblings

The first two children of the Browns were the twins Alberto and Diego, born in 1874. They did not join the teams of the famous school. The daughters were Jessi, Grace, and Elisa, the latter two having both passed away at the age of 8. Another tragic death occurred with Eduardo, the youngest in the family, who also died very young at the age of 6, run over by a tram while trying to retrieve his rubber ball that had accidentally fallen onto the street.

Born in 1899, Guillermo was the last of the few siblings who did not participate in the team due to his small size. When Alumni withdrew from the football scene, he was only 12 years old.

The 7 footballing brothers were:

- **Carlos Carr**

He joined the first division of the team in 1900, alongside his brothers Tomás, Ernesto, and Jorge. He was part of the Argentine National Team on two occasions between 1903 and 1905.

- **Tomas Guillermo**

He had little involvement, mainly in the early stages.

- **Ernesto Alejandro**

Nicknamed "The Calm One" for his tranquil style of play, he played as a midfielder and forward within the team from start to finish (1899 to 1911). At the age of 17, he made his debut for the national team, playing 15 matches in the Argentine jersey.

- **Alfredo Carrow**

He was a student at the English High School. From the age of 13 (1899 to 1902), he participated in the School League competitions as a defender and later as a forward. He then moved to the second division of Alumni, playing simultaneously in both competitions. In 1904, he made his significant move to the first team as an attacker.

He played 10 matches for the Argentine National Team, making his debut in the Lipton Cup in 1906. That year marked him for life, as well as our football, for being the scorer of the only goal against South Africa.

- **Eliseo**

Trained at the EHS like his brothers, he was nicknamed "The Grass Cutter" for his powerful and low shot. He went through the lower divisions of Alumni until June 11, 1905, when he made his debut in the first team against Belgrano. His primary position on the field was left midfielder.

He participated in ten matches for the Argentine National Team.

- **Juan Gibson**

"Juancito" was the youngest player in the family. He joined the team in 1907 intermittently, until in 1910 he started participating regularly as a forward, up to the last official match of Alumni on November 26, 1911.

- **Juan Domingo (cousin)**

He was the son of Guillermo Brown, the brother of Don Diego. He was not a student at the EHS but rather at St. Andrew's.

His debut in the team was quite unusual, as he came on directly in the match against South Africa to replace his injured cousin, Ernesto. That same year, he was also part of the Argentine National Team, playing 37 matches in this shirt.

- **Jorge Gibson**

The oldest of the footballing brothers, the great Jorge, deserves a chapter of his own.



The Brown Family

*Standing from left to right: Jorge G., Alfredo, Alberto, Diego, Carlos, Ernesto, Eliseo
Seated: Tomás, Elisa Gibson from Brown and her baby Eduardo, Guillermo, Don Diego Brown, Jessie and Juancito
Once there were two brothers and a sister. Later, two more sisters would be born: Grace and Elisa.*

JORGE GIBSON BROWN

THE FIRST ARGENTINE IDOL



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)

FOOT-BALL

LOS BROWN

UNA FAMOSA FAMILIA DE FOOTBALLERS

1. Ernesto, 2. Alfredo, 3. Tom, 4. Juan, 5. Jorge, 6. Eliseo, 7. Johnny, 8. Carlos.

La familia de Brown constituye algo como un "record" mundial. Son ocho jugadores de fama—8 de los más brillantes exponentes del gran juego de football. Pareja de backs más fuertes y seguros que Jorge y Juan, nunca ha defendido colores de club alguno en la América del Sud. En el difícil puesto de contre-forward son pocos, muy pocos, los que se han lucido como Alfredo. Como winger Eliseo por mucho tiempo ha sido jugador sin igual. Ernesto de

contre-half ha sido un elemento de gran valor, tanto en la defensa como en el ataque. Carlos, Johnny y Tom han jugado en varias posiciones y siempre con éxito completo. Y no solamente en las canchas de Football se han distinguido los Browns, sino también en el Chickiet, Rugby, Tennis, Remo y hasta en el Ping-Pong. Son atletas todos y verdaderos sportsmen en todo el sentido de la palabra.

Mundo Argentino - 10 May 1911

CHAPTER IX

JORGE GIBSON BROWN

THE FIRST ARGENTINE IDOL

Some words from the writer Ernesto Escobar Bavio, from his book **“Alumni. Cradle of champions and school of Knighthood.”**

“One day, the bust of that other gentleman of sport, noble and skilled like few, will be seen in the House of the governing body of football, alongside that of the undisputed organiser, Mr. Alejandro Watson Hutton. And then, having paid the deserved tribute, players and fans, directors and referees, will have, cast in bronze or marble, a figure that was an example and will continue to be in one of the athletic manifestations that, having ignited most vigorously in the soul and in popular preferences, most needs to perpetuate the illustrious memory of those who played on the fields driven solely by the most elevated ideal and animated, exclusively, by the most fervent purpose to demonstrate that chivalrous correctness and athletic skill are not antagonistic.”

“Gentleman of sport. Lord of the fields. His name and his achievements form the best pages of Argentine football, shining from the magnitude of his feats, truly glorious for the exemplary influence of the austere morality that inspired them. Of that breed, of that lineage, of that nobility, Mr. Watson Hutton wished for the missionaries of the sport he formed in his image and likeness.

None perhaps more complete than Jorge G. Brown. Exceptionally skilled on the field, impeccable in his conduct. The perfect type of gentleman.”

Each of the seven Brown brothers played a prominent role within the team.

But Jorge stood out. He was the oldest of all the footballing brothers and the most complete in sporting terms. He played in various positions on the pitch, always in a brilliant manner.

A true gentleman both on and off the field, he knew how to be the "Great Captain." Not just of Alumni, but also of the Argentine National Team between 1908 and 1914, which was just beginning to play its first matches in its rich and endless history.

Jorge Gibson Brown was our first idol, our first point of reference, our "creole sportsman," and I emphasise "our" because he was one hundred percent Argentine.

"Jorgito" achieved the same laurels as those earned by Mr. Alfredo, Diego, and Lionel.

On April 3, 1880, in San Vicente, Buenos Aires Province, Jorge was born.

From his earliest days, he exhibited a special affinity for football. He was a student and graduate of the English High School, where he began his football career in the school's youth teams. At the age of 16, he took his first steps at Club Palermo. The following year, he joined Lanús, where he shone for three seasons. However, his love for his school led him back in 1900 to play in the First Division of the EHS, becoming the undisputed champion.

In 1901 – when Alumni emerged – he stepped away to prioritise his work at the Santa Elena meat packing plant in Entre Ríos. Fortunately for us, he returned the following year and never left the institution again.

Initially, he excelled as a midfielder and forward, alternating between these positions before finally settling at the centre of attack, distinguished by his speed, powerful shot, and enthusiasm for always playing. In 1904, against Belgrano, he contested a ball with the goalkeeper, and both their heads collided violently. He lay on the ground, unresponsive, for a long seven minutes, and the doctor diagnosed him with a concussion. Fifteen minutes after the incident, he managed to recover and continue playing so as not to leave his team a man down. It's worth remembering that at that time, substitutions were not allowed.

In 1905, Jorge changed his position to play as a defender, first on the left side and then on the right, where he would find his permanent place. In this position, he honed his technique and became famous for his "turn," a manoeuvre he used to dispossess opposing attackers.

With the disappearance of Alumni, Jorge Brown joined Quilmes A.C. in 1912, where he played until 1914.

His last international match was on 6 September 1914, marking the end of a distinguished career with the Albiceleste, which began on 20 July 1902 in Montevideo when he donned the shirt of the first Argentine national team in history during their 6-0 victory. However, his legacy was not confined to football. Jorge Gibson Brown also left his mark on cricket. For many seasons, he served as the Captain of the Buenos Aires Cricket Club and, for over a decade, held the position of its president.

This versatile athlete was also a life member of clubs such as Gimnasia y Esgrima, Lomas, and Belgrano A.C. In addition to his commitment as a player, he worked as a referee for the Football Association and took on the role of selector, representing Alumni in dealings with the organisation.



Our President
Mr. George Brown

Jorge G. Brown

President of the Buenos Aires Cricket Club

As he could never let go of sports, Jorge teamed up with his friend Guillermo Mc Hardy to establish "Mc Hardy & Brown" at Esmeralda 340 in downtown Buenos Aires, an iconic sports shop that would endure for several years.

On 3 January 1936, Jorge Gibson Brown passed away in San Isidro, Buenos Aires. His memory was honoured at an emotional event in the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo, which hosted an international night tournament between Independiente and Nacional. The minute of silence and the illuminated sign in his honour testified to the respect and admiration he inspired.

Both the Uruguayan League and the Argentine Football Association expressed their sorrow at the loss of this exceptional athlete. The influence of Jorge Gibson Brown on River Plate football and his contribution to the progress of sport in the region are undeniable.

In his memory, it was decided on 12 January 1936 that the winner of the first division football tournament would be awarded a trophy bearing his name.

The life of Jorge Brown serves as an eternal reminder of how a passionate and versatile athlete can leave an indelible mark on the world of sport.

Jorge Brown, el formidable back de "Alumni", recuerda el surgimiento del football argentino

EL PRIMER GRAN TRIUNFO DE NUESTROS MUCHACHOS FUE OBTENIDO CONTRA EL TEAM DE "SUD AFRICA" EN 1906

Por Ernesto E. de la Fuente

Jorge Brown, el inolvidable gran back que fue figura destacada de "Alumni" y de "Quilmes", dentro de su apacible vida actual de comerciante respetado y rico, ha recordado algunos momentos salientes del football argentino, en los tiempos de su iniciación en nuestro país. Con la palabra de este destacado deportista, que aún juega con algunos de los compañeros de entonces, iniciamos la serie de entrevistas que publicaremos, con los "ases" que fueron y cuyo recuerdo se mantiene fresco en los anales deportivos del país.

CÓMO se inició el football en la Argentina?

Don Jorge Brown, el back no superado hasta hoy, parece remontar sus recuerdos en aquel pasado memorable que vivió en su juventud.

—La memoria del maestro Alejandro Watson Hutton—nos responde—está vinculada íntimamente con los primeros pasos del football en este país. Hombre de iniciativa y de espíritu progresista, creyó que nuestra juventud tenía necesidad imperiosa de la práctica de los deportes. Buscó entonces a personas jóvenes de su amistad que tenían algunos conocimientos de ese juego, y ante la estupefacción general de la sociedad de la época, constituyó el primer team, que fue formado casi en su totalidad por residentes ingleses, allá por el año 1881...

—¿Recuerda usted algunos antecedentes de los primeros encuentros que hubo en la Argentina?

—Sí, señor, pues años más tarde fui introducido al juego en el "English High School" y dentro del alumnado, el entusiasmo surgió como por arte de encantamiento. Recuerdo que en el amplio patio del colegio habíamos instalado al principio nuestro campo de deportes, lo cual no dejó de causar sus malos momentos a las autoridades del establecimiento, por cuanto los vistidos de las ventanas y las plantas de los jardines fueron los que pagaron su tributo primero al juego que estaba llamado a tener tan amplia difusión en el futuro del país...

LA RESISTENCIA PÚBLICA HACIA EL FOOTBALL

EN los primeros tiempos, según nos dice el señor Brown, que hoy está convertido en un comerciante rico y progresista, costó no poco trabajo amoldar el juego a las costumbres y prácticas habituales. Eso de jugar con los pies y golpear, a lo mejor, con la pelota a los contrincantes, tenía ante la mayoría de las gentes un carácter un tanto salvaje, y no era raro, años después, observar que se retiraban de la cancha jugadores que sólo habían recibido un pelotazo fuerte o un pechazo más o menos violento.

—¿Y cómo lograron ustedes transformar en favorable el ambiente hostil que existía?

—Mediante la continuidad de esfuerzos y una perseverancia decidida y continuada. Así es como logramos marchar adelante, pues ya en el año 1900 eran muchos los clubs que se habían integrado con elementos puramente argentinos, que fueron desplazando lentamente a los jóvenes ingleses que habían sido los iniciadores...

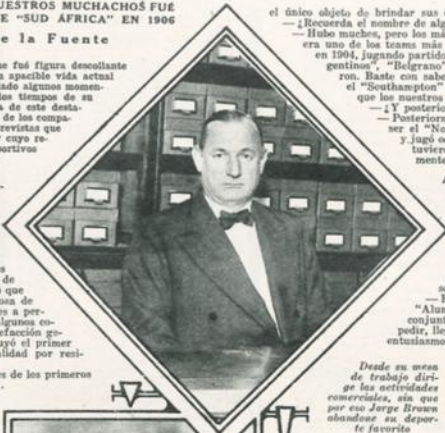
LA VISITA DE LOS CONJUNTOS DE JUGADORES INGLESES

Y no hubo otros factores que contribuyeran a aumentar el entusiasmo popular?

—Indiscutiblemente, y uno de ellos fue la visita de los primeros conjuntos de jugadores ingleses que vinieron al país, llamados así con

Componentes del club "Alumni", tal como actuaba en nuestras canchas en el año 1905: Lafourcade, Weiss, Bucha, Brown, P. B. Brown, Letti, Moore, E. Brown y G. C. Brown.

Foto Cabada



Tal como era en la época que defendía los triunfos colores de "Alumni".
Foto Cabada

el único objeto de brindar sus enseñanzas a los deportistas que surgían.

—¿Recuerda el nombre de algunos de esos conjuntos?

—Hubo muchos, pero los más destacados fueron el "Southampton", que era uno de los teams más destacados de Inglaterra, y que nos visitó en 1904, jugando partidos con "Alumni", con "Británicos", con "Argentinos", "Belgrano" y otros clubs, todos los cuales perdieron. Baste con saber que en los seis partidos que se jugaron, el "Southampton" hizo un total de cuarenta goles, mientras que los nuestros solamente se anotaron cinco...

—¿Y posteriormente?

—Posteriormente vinieron otros teams poderosos, como ser el "Nottingham Forest", que nos visitó en 1905, y jugó ocho partidos, en los cuales los visitantes obtuvieron cincuenta y siete goles, contra tres solamente de los clubs portenos...

ALUMNI Y SUD AFRICA, Y EL PRIMER GRAN TRIUNFO DEL FOOTBALL ARGENTINO

AL año siguiente, en 1906, nos visitó Sud Africa, que aun cuando no se trataba de un conjunto profesional, sino de amateurs, se colaba en aquella época bien alto, por los grandes triunfos alcanzados con potentes clubs ingleses.

—En esa época, nos dice el señor Brown, "Alumni", el gran club argentino que tuvo el conjunto más perfecto y homogéneo que se podía pedir, llegaba a la plenitud de su desarrollo. El entusiasmo público surgió a raíz de la visita de los extranjeros había aumentado, y era fácil ver en los grandes encuentros, concurrencias que llegaban hasta ocho mil personas...

—Haciendo una interrupción, ¿cuál fué el origen de "Alumni"?

—Los jugadores que formábamos parte del team del "English High School", cuando se constituyó la Federación Argentina de

gentina de



Rodeado de objetos deportivos, el famoso back evoca los viejos tiempos de nuestro football.
Foto González Arvill

Football, no podíamos ingresar a ella si manteníamos nuestro carácter estudiantil, y renunciamos, en consecuencia, cambiar el nombre de ese título por el nombre de "Alumni", con el cual nos consagramos.

—Ya nuestro prestigio—agregó—estaban sólidamente asentados por los triunfos obtenidos en los encuentros contra otros clubs locales, de manera que cuando llegó el Sud Africa, fuimos los componentes del "Alumni" luchar con todos nuestros bríos para obtener un triunfo rápido, que, felizmente, obtuvimos, si bien es cierto que por el mismo score, en el primer encuentro, pero que sirvió para alentarnos de una manera decisiva, y aumentar el empuje que habíamos tenido hasta entonces.

EL MEMORABLE ENCUENTRO CON SUD AFRICA

EL primer encuentro que sostuvo Sud Africa en este país, fué con "Universitaria", re-

(Continúa en la pág. 27)



CHAPTER X

ALUMNI ARE BORN THE LEGEND BEGINS

At the end of the year 1900, after excelling both in the "Copa Campeonato" and in the popularity vote through the newspaper *The Buenos Aires Herald*, the Governing Council of the Argentine Association Football League, then presided over by Mr. F. H. Chevalier Boutell, instructed the English High School to change its name if it wished to continue playing in the top tier of Argentine football.

What were the reasons?

- On one hand, it could be seen as advertising in favour of a private school. This action is incompatible with the selfless aims of a sport where nothing was paid.
- At the same time, it caused confusion by associating school students with an adult competition.
- Finally, that same year (1900), with the creation of the Third Division of football intended solely for players under 17 years of age, they were invited to continue using their name but relegated to this category. This offer would not be accepted.

Returning from a match held in Lanús, and before the year came to an end, several members of the EHS gathered at the old café in Constitución station: Carlos Bowers, Carlos Buchanan, Tomás Juan, Eugenio Moore, Heriberto and Guillermo Jordan, and Spencer Leonard, among others. There, they proposed various names but failed to reach a consensus until Carlos Bowers, an alumnus of the school, spoke up: *"Lads, a few years ago I was fortunate enough to visit some universities in the United States where I was struck by their 'Alumni Associations', centres that bring together former students to maintain connections and camaraderie, as well as to support and encourage current students with scholarships and donations."* *"What do you think about calling ourselves... ALUMNI?"*

Alumni, a single word capable of encapsulating all their ideals. The perfect blend of the mother tongue of our language, Latin, meaning "students", with an American expression "Graduates" or "Former students".

CHAPTER X

At that table in the bar in Constitución, the acceptance was complete. A new name had been born, Alumni, and with it... the legend.



*The exact moment when EHS becomes Alumni
Constitución, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

1901



The Buenos Aires English High School, now under the name Alumni, debuted its new name and title this year in a friendly match against Quilmes, where it suffered a defeat of 3 to 1. This match had two peculiarities: it was played with a substitute team, and it also featured the participation of none other than Alexander W. Hutton as a left winger (aged 48) among its 11 players. This situation was also repeated in the Copa Campeonato.

That year, Alumni achieved, for the first time in its history, the two titles that were contested.

Copa Campeonato

Following the absence of "Jorgito" Brown, the same teams from the previous year faced off again: Alumni (formerly EHS), Lomas, Belgrano, and Quilmes.

The Championship commenced on 6 June 1901, with Alumni playing away against Belgrano AC. After starting the first half with ten men, Mr. Hutton joined the team in the second half, this time officially and in the same position. Alexander did not contribute much in terms of football but motivated the team to unlock the game and win by the narrowest of margins. The rest of the matches in the championship were a monologue

of victories for Alumni, who crowned themselves once again as unbeaten champions.

Ideal score: 6 played, 6 won, with 10 goals in favour and only 1 against.

Copa Competencia

After leaving Lomas behind, Alumni had to face Peñarol in the semi-final in Montevideo. It was the first time Alumni travelled outside Argentina, the first of many in the following years, an action that generated great expectations.

Players and family members boarded the ship Eolo to the neighbouring country. They were welcomed on the same day as the match by the captain of Peñarol in a boat alongside the anchored vessel in deep waters, and he took them to the central station.

The reception continued with a lunch that also included the local players. In the afternoon, four thousand people lined the edge of the pitch to attend the match.

In a tough, rough, and intense encounter, Alumni managed to score the 1-0 only in the second half, thanks to a collective play finished off by H. Jordan. This goal secured their place in the final.

On 25 August 1901, the final was played against Rosario A.C. at the Lomas field, where the result was repeated, 1-0, crowning Alumni as Champions of the Copa Competencia.



Alumni 1901. In the background, wearing a hat, is Mr. Alexander Watson Hutton.
*W. Buchanan, J. G. Brown, E. Brown, J. McKechnie, C. Buchanan, C. Brown
 E. Moore, A. Mack, S. Leonard, J.J. Moore, P. Dillon*



Alumni 1 - Lomas Athletic 0 (30/08/1901)

Standing: W. Buchanan, A. Coste, C. Brown. in the middle: E. Moore, E. Brown, A. Mack, T. Brown, W. A. Jordán
 Seated: H. Jordán, S. Leonard, J. Moore

1902



Copa Campeonato

In 1902, Alumni welcomed back Jorge G. Brown. Arnaldo Watson Hutton, the son of Alexander, also made his debut at just 15 years old, participating only in the friendly classic against Quilmes (a 7-1 victory). He then travelled to Great Britain, where he enrolled at the University of Edinburgh. In 1906, he made his return and had his official football debut against Belgrano.

This was also the year of the emergence of the Argentina national football team. Alumni was the club that contributed the most players in its early years.

The champion continued to maintain their impressive unbeaten streak at a high level, demonstrating this throughout the entire championship. A new participant joined the competition, the Barracas team. Their goalkeeper, the "Basque" Laforia, attracted increasing crowds who wanted to see him in action.

Of all the matches Alumni played that year in the championship, they only drew against Belgrano in the first leg. The rest were victories with unmatched scores, such as 8-1 against Barracas or 10-0 against their traditional rivals Belgrano, with a historic record of eight goals scored by Jorge G. Brown. Alumni was crowned champions—unbeaten for the third time in their history—with 26 goals for and 3 against.



Alumni 1902

Standing: Jorge G. Brown, Patricio Dillon, Carlos Carr Brown, Juan McKechnie, Carlos Buchanan, Ernesto Brown, and Roberto Rudd (referee). Seated: Walter Buchanan, Juan José Moore, Andrés Mack, Spencer Leonard, and Eugenio Moore

Copa Competencia

After overcoming Barracas and Peñarol, they faced Rosario A.C. in the final. This final was contested three times, as neither side managed to gain an advantage in the first two encounters. Ultimately, it was the Santa Fe team that broke the deadlock with a 2-1 victory.

Alumni forms the first Argentine National Team in history

Sunday, 20th July 1902, marked a significant moment in the history of football in America, in the Río de la Plata.

For the first time, the Argentine National Team officially played an international match against their Uruguayan counterparts, with a silver trophy and the prestige of our football at stake. Argentina made its official debut in Montevideo, playing as the away team at the Albion Football Club stadium, in an exciting match that heralded the beginning of a rich footballing tradition.



Argentina National Football Team (1902)

Thus, the oldest classic in the history of football was inaugurated, and moreover, the match that has been contested the most between two national teams.

The words of the secretary of the Uruguayan Association, Domingo Pratt, were: *"This is the first occasion in which a team composed essentially of Argentine players and another of Uruguayans will fiercely compete on Uruguayan soil for the costly laurels of victory."*

Five players from Alumni were part of that first selected team:

- Walter Buchanan.
- Carlos Buchanan.
- Ernesto A. Brown.
- Jorge G. Brown.
- Juan Moore.

The team was completed by:

- Laforia. (Barracas A.)
- Leslie. (Quilmes A.)
- Morgan (Quilmes A.)
- Duggan. (Belgrano A.)
- Dickinson (Belgrano A.)
- Anderson. (Lomas A.)

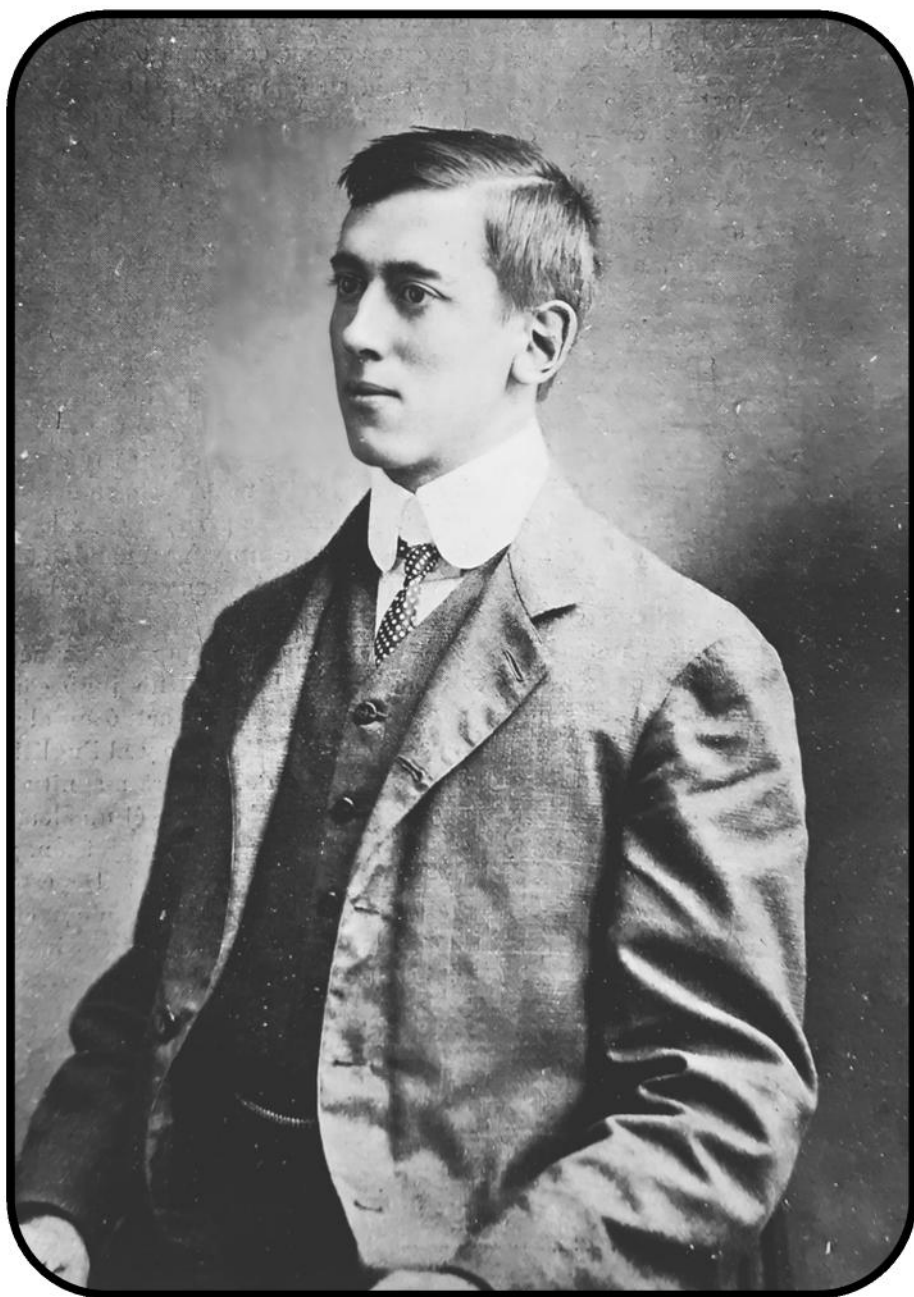
Result: **Uruguay: 0 - Argentina: 6**

Standing: Frank Chevalier, Eduardo Duggan, Carlos Buchanan (Alumni), Ernesto Brown (Alumni), Robert Ruud (refer).

In the middle: Eduardo Morgan, Juan Moore (Alumni), Juan Anderson, Carlos Dickinson, Jorge G. Brown (Alumni).

Seated: William Leslie, Walter Buchanan (Alumni), Jose Buruca Laforia.

LEONARD UNWIN SPENCER



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)

In the early days of our Argentine football team, unlike today where players from various clubs and leagues around the world come together, the structure was notably different. During the era of Alumni, the prestige of a club was often measured by the number of its footballers called up to the national team. In those early years, representative teams were formed from the most prominent clubs, integrating some additional talents from other clubs to strengthen weaker areas.

As the most outstanding team of its time, Alumni naturally became the backbone of any selection, providing a solid and reliable foundation for the national team. From 1902 until its withdrawal, every match played by the Argentine team featured several 'alumnistas' in its line-up, at times including as many as eight simultaneously.

This constant presence underscores the unbreakable bond that has always existed between Alumni and the National Team.

Players from Alumni who were part of the Argentina national football team

- *Brown Jorge G. (34).*
- *Brown Juan Domingo (24).*
- *Brown Ernesto (19).*
- *Hutton Arnoldo P. (14).*
- *Brown Eliseo (14).*
- *Weiss Gottlob E. (13).*
- *Browne Patricio B. (13).*
- *Brown Alfredo Carrow (12).*
- *Laforia José Buruca (8).*
- *Jacobs Arturo (8).*
- *Lett Carlos (8).*
- *Buchanan Carlos (7).*
- *Brown Carlos (6).*
- *Moore Juan J. (6).*
- *Moore Eugenio (5).*
- *Buchanan Walter (4).*
- *Dickinson A. L. (4).*
- *Yates Peel L. (4).*
- *Lawrie J. Henry (3).*
- *Mack Andres Arturo (3).*
- *Gonzalez Tomas M. (2).*
- *Campbell Guillermo (2).*
- *Dillon Patricio (1).*
- *Brown Juan (1).*
- *Reyna Mariano (1).*
- *Mckechnie Juan (1).*

() number of matches.

1903



This was a significant moment for Alumni. Of the sixteen matches played in 1903, they only lost two and drew one. The rest were victories with substantial margins, such as the 10-0 win against Flores in the Championship, and furthermore, they conceded few goals.

Just like in 1901, they repeated the double win in both competitions contested.

The governing body of our football changed its name from "The Argentine Association Football League" to "Argentine Football Association."

Copa Campeonato

That year, seven teams registered for the Championship: Alumni, Barracas, Belgrano, Quilmes, Lomas, Flores, and Estudiantes. However, the latter withdrew before playing their first match, leaving six teams in competition.

For the 1903 edition, the number of matches in the Championship increased. Alumni won all their games comfortably except for the last against their "classic" rival Belgrano, ending their almost four-year unbeaten streak, losing 1-0 away on 26 July 1903.

Nothing can overshadow the magnificent campaign of the newly crowned Champion, who achieved nine victories, one defeat, scoring 39 goals and conceding just 3.

Copa Competencia

After eliminating the Uruguayan team Nacional in Montevideo with a score of 1-0, a match regarded by several team members as the best played in their history, Alumni qualified to compete in the final against the same opponent who had snatched it away the previous year, Rosario A.C. Once again, in a very tight contest, it was the multiple champions who lifted the Copa Competencia 1903. With this victory, Alumni claimed all the trophies contested that year.



Alumni vs Nacional in Montevideo for the semi-final of the Copa Competencia (2/08/1903)

*Standing: C. Buchanan, E. Moore, E. Brown, A. Mack, J. Moore, J. McKecnie, S. Leonard, J.G. Brown, P. Dillon
Seated: W. Buchanan, C. Brown*



Caras y Caretas Magazine, 16 August 1903
Alumni defeated Rosario A.C. 3 to 2, crowning themselves champions of the "Copa Competencia".



May 1903. Alumni are set to face the Uruguayan team Nacional in Montevideo as part of a friendly match. The result was a draw, 2-2.

1904

A historic year for our football. The governing body of this sport worldwide, the FA (The Football Association) of London, affiliated a non-British entity for the first time. Our Argentine Association was officially recognised, demonstrating to the world the quality of our football. Thus, the first friendly match against a British professional team, **Southampton**, took place.

Alumni changed their players' positions in each match. They lost their identity on the pitch. The results did not go their way, and they contemplated a possible end to the year.

The Champion faced an unfamiliar reality: sporting failure.

The first professional team arrives in Argentina

By 1904, all Argentine sports were at a high level, and of course, football was prominently part of this movement.

It was thanks to Baron Antonio de Marchi that a significant step in history was taken towards improvement. This Italian, who arrived in our country at the end of the 19th century and married María Marcela Roca, daughter of

President Roca, had a great business vision. He was a promoter of tango in high Argentine society, aviation, and of course, football. He aimed to bring a "famous and good" British professional team to our country. The Argentine Football Association was only responsible for organising the exhibition matches, while the public would enjoy the best football in the world.

That year, Southampton secured their sixth title in the Southern Football League in just ten editions of the tournament, an achievement that placed them among the elite of English football. Motivated to showcase their football prowess to the world, they accepted the challenge to come and compete in the Río de la Plata. This expedition would require six weeks of navigation: three to arrive and another three to return.

Thus, Southampton arrived in Argentina on 25 June 1904, received with honours on a gala night by the highest authorities of our country, except for the President of the Nation, who reserved his attendance for the following day.

The big day arrived, with eight thousand people gathering and overflowing the Hípico de Palermo grounds. No one wanted to miss this moment, not even the women who had previously shown some disinterest in football.

Everyone prepared for a unique event. Julio Argentino Roca finally made his presence felt in the presidential box. The Argentine champions, Alumni, were ready to face the great English power.

The Match

Both teams took to the field. On one side, Alumni surprised everyone by dressing entirely in white, as their traditional red-and-white striped shirt was exactly the same as that of the English team. Additionally, they had significant absences in their starting line-up.

On the other side, Southampton debuted five professional players that day, star players from other English teams at the time. In terms of the match, the British team demonstrated a certain superiority over our "Criollos," which translated into what seemed to be a considerable scoreline. However, it was far from the reality experienced that day on the pitch, where Alumni, while imprecise in many of their plays, proved to be at the level of a professional team. The match ended Southampton 3, Alumni 0. Yet, at the end of the day, everyone had won.

A special mention goes to the outstanding performance of Carlos Brown, whom the officials of the visiting team attempted to buy to take him to the islands, but the player

rejected them firmly. Southampton's visit to Argentina included other scheduled matches, one of which was also in Uruguay.

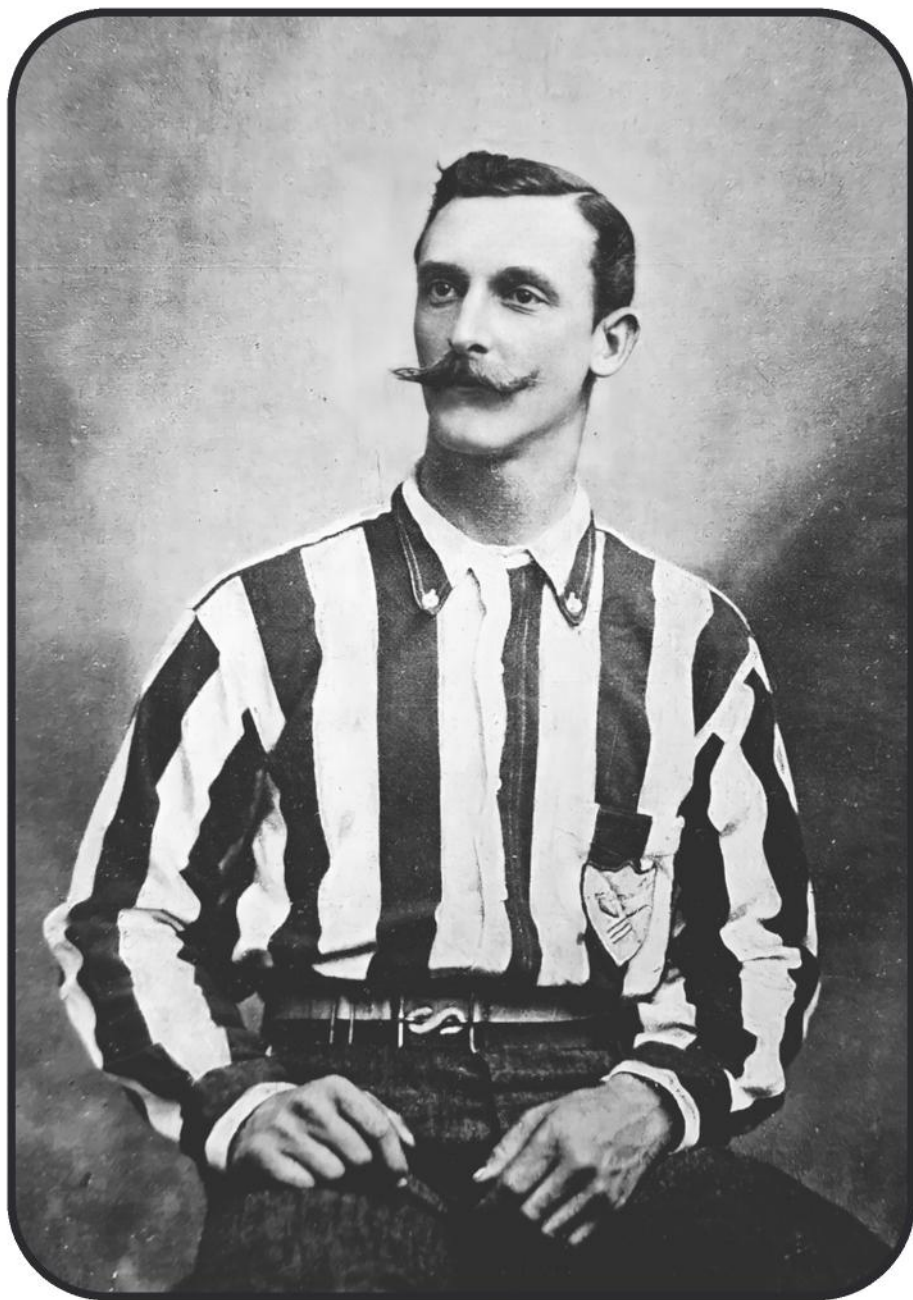
Copa Campeonato

Alumni started the Championship with two consecutive victories against Barracas and Quilmes, but then fell to Belgrano by 3 to 1. They completed the year with some ups and downs, finishing in second place behind Belgrano AC, who would be crowned champions, interrupting Alumni's streak of four consecutive years of winning. In total, they played 10 matches, achieving 5 victories, 2 losses, and 3 draws. They scored 20 goals and conceded 9. Perhaps this last statistic clearly reflected the "alarm" that had been set off within the team.

Copa Competencia

Alumni had a brief run in this edition of the 'Copa Competencia,' winning their first match 1-0 against Quilmes before being eliminated in the quarter-finals by Barracas by the same scoreline.

CHARLES JAMES BUCHANAN



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)

MATCH INTERNACIONAL DE FOOTBALL

Prueba evidente del excepcional desarrollo que entre nosotros van alcanzando los sports, ha sido la fiesta del domingo último realizada en el local de la Sociedad Hípica, con motivo del match internacional de football.

La concurrencia, calculada en 8500 personas, demuestra el interés que hoy despierta el varonil juego inglés, que



LOS JUGADORES INGLESES MOMENTOS DESPUÉS DE DESEMBARCAR

ya puede considerarse como totalmente incorporado a nuestras costumbres. Gran parte del éxito alcanzado, debe reconocerse, pertenece a la Sociedad Hípica Argentina, quien ha contratado el team de Southampton que goza merecida fama en el mundo sportivo y de cuya visita sabrán sacar provechosa enseñanza a nuestros footballers que tan especia-



LA TRIBUNA PRESIDENCIAL



CONCURRENCIA EN LAS TRIBUNAS



DEVOLVIENDO LA PELOTA, DESPUÉS DE UNA JUGADA DECLARADA OUT



EL POPULAR JORGE BROWN PREPARANDO UN PASE

Caras y Caretas magazine covers the match between Alumni and Southampton.

1905



Football became our national sport. More and more local players and teams are emerging. The Spanish language began to overshadow English within football. This led to a vote to Argentinise the Association. Alumni supported the initiative through its spokesperson William A. Jordan. In a tie of 8 to 8, it was the very president of the entity, Francis Chevallier Boutell, who decided that English would continue to be spoken, thus leaving the initiative unfulfilled. At least for that moment.

Once again, a British professional team arrived on our shores to test their strength: **Nottingham Forest**.

The year began with a signing that matched the circumstances. **José Buruca Laforia**, the goalkeeper who played with a hat, took charge of the goal to avoid the problems of the previous year, although for him "*Alumni did not need a goalkeeper.*"

Alumni rose again for this season, returning with a hunger for glory after a year of fasting. This quickly translated into their great scoring power. Most of their goals came against Lomas, and they also conceded few. Despite this, they suffered the worst defeat in their history against their classic rival Belgrano.

In addition to the Copa Competencia, this year saw the emergence of the Copa Honor (Cusenier) at the club level and the Lipton among national teams.

Alumni vs Nottingham Forest

On 25 June 1905, Alumni faced their second test against a professional team, this time Nottingham Forest, who arrived in the Río de la Plata to showcase their football.

As with the match against Southampton, Alumni faced difficulties in assembling their team. The crowd did not disappoint, turning out in large numbers, with a notable presence of women and girls in the stands. As for the match itself, the English team won 6-0. Despite the heavy defeat, both Alumni's defence and attack displayed moments of quality football.

Copa Campeonato

A new team joined the championship, Reformer, founded by workers from the *The River Plate Fresh Meat Co.* slaughterhouse, which had British capital. It was named in honour of the ship that transported their meat.

CHAPTER X

Alumni started the tournament with a stunning display of goals, defeating Lomas 7 to 1 (two weeks earlier, they had handed them a 10-0 loss in a friendly match). The next victim was the rookie team Reformer, who suffered a heavy defeat of 14 to 0. Subsequently, Alumni continued with a series of modest victories until 6 August, when Belgrano, their closest rival, halted their momentum with a surprising 5 to 1 win. Until that moment, no team had ever scored that many goals against Alumni.

They quickly recovered from the setback with an 11 to 1 victory over Lomas, finishing with a draw against Estudiantes, which ended 1 to 1, crowning them champions of the Copa Campeonato with 19 points, having played 9 matches, winning 7, drawing 1, and losing 1.

Copa Competencia

Alumni lost in the semi-finals to Peñarol by 1 to 0, resulting in their elimination from the competition.

Copa Honor (Cusenier)

In 1905, a new competition emerged called the Copa de Honor or Copa Cusenier, named after the liquor company that donated the trophy. This international football tournament was jointly organised by the

In its inaugural edition, Alumni lost the final to Nacional (URU) by 3 to 2.

Copa Lipton

Another competition that began in 1905 was the Copa Lipton, also known as the Copa Caridad. This event was not only a football contest between teams of native players from Argentina and Uruguay but also served a noble charitable cause, with ticket proceeds donated to philanthropy. It is regarded as the first international football trophy contested between non-British nations.

Donated by Thomas Lipton, the Scottish tea magnate who lived near the Hutton family in 1848, it is likely they knew each other at the time. Lipton stipulated as an essential condition of the prize that revenue from ticket sales be allocated to charitable works in the country where the annual match took place.

The design of the cup was a true work of art, featuring a base adorned with the emblems of Argentina and Uruguay. Above it, three players are depicted holding a large football, culminating in a finely sculpted statue of Victory.

All matches were alternated between Buenos Aires and Montevideo. This cup was contested over several decades and was revived most recently in 1992. Of the 29 editions held, Argentina claimed victory 18 times, while Uruguay won it 11 times.

During several of its early editions, the Argentine national team included numerous players from Alumni. For instance, in the first edition:

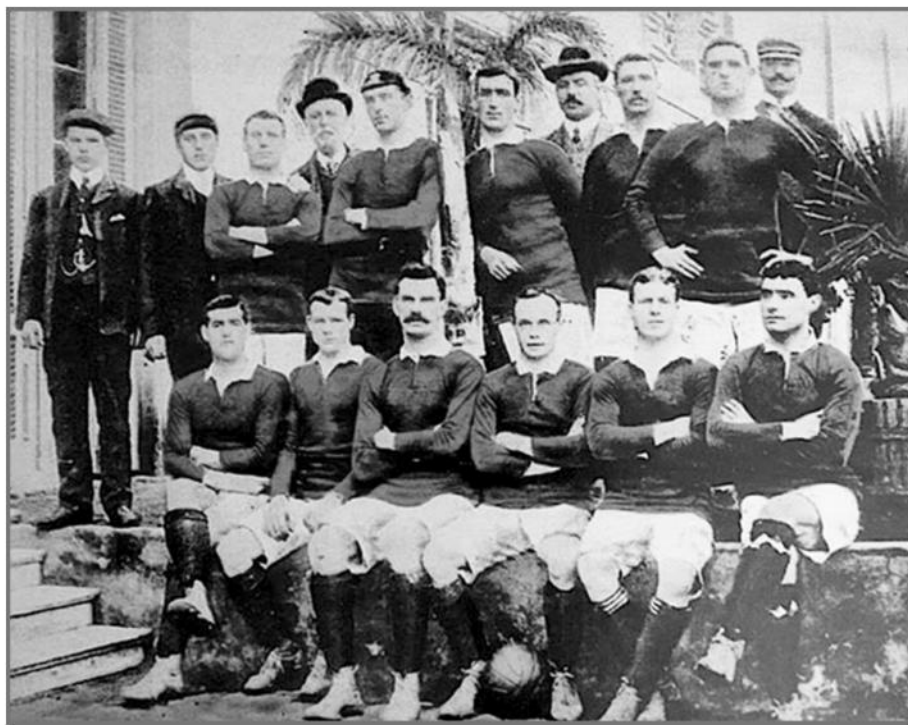
José Buruca Laforia (Alumni); **Carlos Brown** (Alumni) and **Jorge G. Brown** (Alumni); J. Rodman (Quilmes, debut), Patricio Browne (Alumni) and Carlos Dickinson (Belgrano); **Gottlob Weiss** (Alumni), **Juan Moore** (captain, Alumni), Arturo Forrester (Belgrano), **Carlos Lett** (Alumni) and Pablo Frers (Belgrano).



Copa Lipton

Argentiniens vs. Uruguayans
1st edition Lipton Cup. Referee: **William Allerton Jordan**





Nottingham Forest (1905) Posing at the Argentine Sports Society

*Standing: Albert Holmes, Sam Timmins, George Henderson, Harry Linacre, Tom Clifford, Harry Hallam, Bob Norris, Walter Dudley - **William Allerton Jordan (referee)***

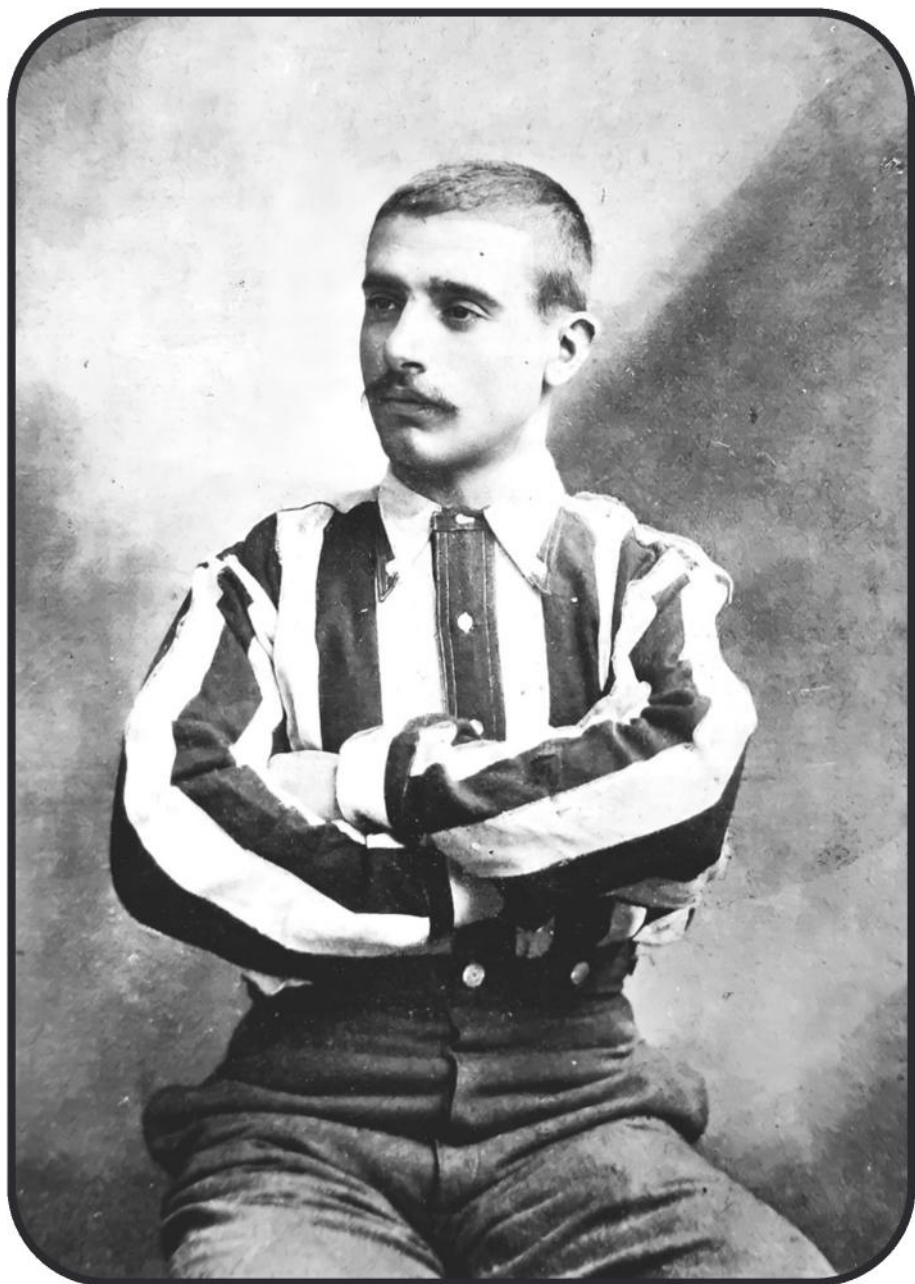
Seated: Bill Shearman, Fred Lessons, Charlie Craig, Alf Spouncer, Tom Davies, Tom Niblo



Alumni vs Nottingham Forest (25/6/1905)

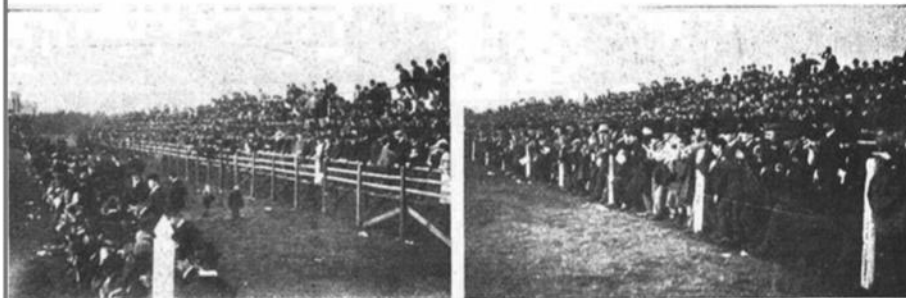
José Buruca Laforia, Gottlob Weiss, Carlos Buchanan, Jorge Gibson Brown, Patricio Browne, Carlos Lett Juan Moore, Andrew Mack, Alfredo Brown, Eugenio Moore, Ernesto Brown, Carlos Brown

JOSÉ MARÍA BURUCA LAFORIA



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)

SPORTS.—FOOTBALL



Durante el match entre «Nottingham Forest» y «Alumni».—Espectadores en las tribunas

Con el mismo entusiasmo que el domingo anterior continuó la afluencia de público a presenciar los interesantes matches jugados en el local de la Sportiva Argentina en los días jueves, sábado y domingo último entre «Nottingham Forest» y «Británicos», «Rosario» y «Alumni».

El sábado la concurrencia hubo de soportar una desagradable neblina que se prolongó durante toda la tarde. Uno de los encuentros que mayor interés había despertado era el de los jugadores ingleses con «Alumni», team que ha desempeñado siempre lucido papel.

Dados los elementos de éste, se esperaba que el «Nottingham» se viera obligado a desplegar todas sus energías y la esperanza no fué defraudada, pues efectivamente tuvo que jugar con un empuje como hasta ese momento no había demostrado.

El resultado final de la reunión, tras interesante lucha fué de 8 goals para «Nottingham» y 0 para «Alumni».



Team «Alumni»

Es esperado con justo interés el partido anunciado para la semana próxima en el cual los jugadores del «Nottingham» se dividirán en dos bandos contrarios completados con jugadores argentinos.



Team «Rosario»

Caras y Caretas magazine No. 352 - 1905 - Nottingham Alumni



Honour Cup Final. Nacional vs. Alumni

1906



1906 was the year of Alumni's third consecutive championship. Argentine football resonated around the world under the red and white colours.

The local influence within the governing body of Argentine football was so strong that Spanish was already being spoken in meetings. However, it was not until 1912 that it changed its name from Argentine Football Association to Asociación Argentina de Football.

This year, the arrival of a South African team marked a milestone in our sport: the first victory in history for an Argentine team over one of English origin.

Copa Campeonato

The number of teams in all categories of the competition increased significantly. In the First Division, two groups were created to compete against each other before meeting in the final.

GRUPO A: *San Isidro, Estudiantes, San Martin, Reformer, Barracas, Lomas.*

GRUPO B: *Alumni, Argentino de Quilmes, Quilmes, Belgrano and Belgrano Extra (second team).*

Lomas qualified for the final by winning Group A, while Alumni topped Group B,

(*) see page 151

having won all their matches except one, against Quilmes (4 to 2).

The final took place on 7 October, with a resounding 4 to 0 victory for Hutton's team. Alumni became the champions of the tournament.

Copa Competencia

Alumni had to win four matches before reaching the final to face an old acquaintance: Belgrano. Without any mercy, they humiliated them with a resounding 10-1, crowning Alumni as the champions of the Copa Competencia.

Copa Honor (Cusenier)

In the first match, Alumni defeated Rosario Central 6-1. They then eliminated Argentino de Quilmes and subsequently Estudiantes, before finally facing Nacional (URU) in the final. A 2-2 draw necessitated a replay, in which the Argentine team secured a 2-0 victory, crowning them champions.

Alumni became champions of the Copa Honor Cusenier for the first time. After the match, the Argentine team headed to the port of Montevideo in a tram that was fiercely stoned by the local crowd. This unfortunate incident led Alumni to decide not to participate in the Cup

any longer, as the final was always held in Uruguay.

Alumni vs. South Africa

The legendary match

By 1906, the British team invited for the now-classic South American tour was Fulham Football Club. However, due to their refusal to come and the disagreement among many about pitting professionals against amateurs—believing it would not improve the quality of our game but rather demoralise our players in the face of heavy defeats—the A.F.A. opted to invite a team of South African amateurs. This selection was made up of players from various regions, including Scots, Englishmen, and natives of British descent.

With the opponent already determined and awaiting their arrival, the match against our newly established representative, Alumni, was postponed twice. This was due to adverse weather conditions affecting the ship transporting the players, which, due to inadequate ballast, struggled against the tide, causing significant delays in their arrival in Argentina.

They were supposed to leave on 21 May and arrive on 9 June, but they eventually made it on the 17th.

These extra eight days at sea led to a shortage of food, forcing them to rely on “bread and butter”.

Once on Argentine soil, just days before the big match, South Africa faced and crushed an Argentine university team at the Sociedad Sportiva, winning 14-0. This result did not go unnoticed by Alumni, motivating them to concentrate for what lay ahead.

Thus, 24 June 1906 arrived, and everything was ready for the toughest challenge the visiting team would face.

The stands at the Sportiva were packed, with over 12,000 souls eagerly awaiting the start of the game. It was the second time in history that a president attended a football match, in this case, Mr José Figueroa Alcorta.

According to Jorge Brown:

“At that time, Alumni was the great Argentine club that had the most perfect and homogeneous team one could ask for; it had reached the peak of its development” (...) “when South Africa arrived, we, the members of Alumni, swore to fight with all our might to achieve a resounding victory, which, happily, we obtained.”

As the game began, both teams were evenly matched, with a slight superiority from the South Africans. Thus ended the first half.

More accounts from Jorge follow:

“Contrary to what everyone expected, our attacking and defensive lines maintained such a unit of action that the visitors had to respond to our attacks with maximum effort.” “We had been playing for seventeen minutes when Weiss managed to gain possession of the ball. From the centre of the pitch, with admirable dribbles and swift runs, he evaded all the opponents who crossed his path in his triumphant advance, until, just a few metres from the goal, faced with the possibility of evading Robinson, he passed to Alfredo Brown, who was closely following Weiss’s play. He collected the ball and, with a clever ruse that drew the goalkeeper’s attention elsewhere, took a shot with such power that it beat the opposing defence. The crowd responded to the first Argentine goal with a round of applause that lasted a long time. The game continued to be balanced, but the score could not be changed, ending with our longed-for victory, which, despite all our enthusiasm, we had thought was distant...”

As a side note, William Allerton Jordan was the referee for the match.

Once it was over, the experience of that day was unforgettable—not only for those present but also for those who read about it in the newspapers of the time, which recounted such a feat.

- **The Buenos Aires Herald** titled:

“A glorious day in the history of Argentine football.”

The Standard referred to the victory with these words:

“It was a glorious triumph, and the events of yesterday at the Sportiva are promising for the future of football in Argentina. There was a record attendance and a great victory.”

- **Caras y Caretas**

“The public, upon learning of the event on Monday, gave it the importance, or nearly so, of a national triumph, and those less accustomed to physical games had their moments of concern and their words of pride while commenting on the lengthy and detailed reports that the newspapers provided, as befitted an event of ‘palpitating current relevance’. And indeed, they were right. Every journey begins somewhere.”

“And Alumni’s triumph in football signifies the beginning of a new era for the republic. With the ice broken, we shall surely enter the warmth, and today in physical skill, tomorrow in scientific knowledge, and the day after in literary substance, we will astonish the world with our triumphs and win for the homeland the honour and glory so long desired.”

"The defeat of the South Africans does not diminish their strength as footballers, far from it. Alumni is the strongest club in Argentine football, and therefore it is very difficult for any other team to replicate the feat that they achieved."

• **El Diario**

"I knew that it was their duty, more than anyone else's, to defend the burgeoning prestige of national football. After all, they are our champion.

And the champion showed such resilience that they almost rose to the level of their rival; their victory was one achieved fairly. We can say, then, that for at least one day, we have had a great team."

"Due to their sportsmanship, their correct conduct on the field, and for being the most Argentine of our teams—since only one of their players is foreign—Alumni has long been the darling of the public."



Alumni 1906

*The most representative photo in its history
Its players posing with the trilogy of Cups won that year*



Distintos lances del partido

Alumni 1 - South Africa 0. "The Match"

Sunday 24 June 1906

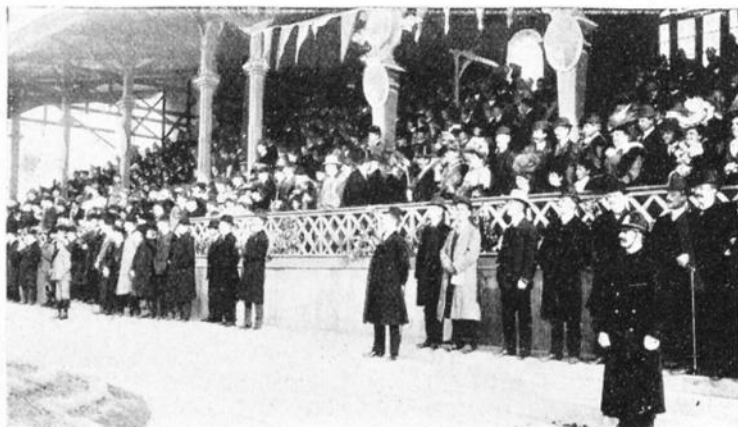
acto de su entierro fué una popular manifestación de duelo, y no era lo menos interesante de la comitiva la presencia de las escuelas de la Conservación de la Fe, que tantos motivos de gratitud tiene para con el virtuoso sacerdote, y las de Santa Filomena, de que era el fallecido uno



Llegada del señor presidente

sas familias. — El sentimiento que produjo la muerte de la señora Dolores Miranda de Ponce de León, puso de manifiesto en el acto del sepelio de sus restos verificado en el cementerio del Norte, acto que fué presenciado por numerosa concurrencia.

— La señora Rosa Carrara de Morello,



La tribuna oficial

de los más entusiastas colaboradores. Presidió el duelo el arzobispo mons. Espinosa y en la necrópolis hablaron, elogiando a su colega y amigo los reverendos La-
phite y Escalero. Asistieron numero-

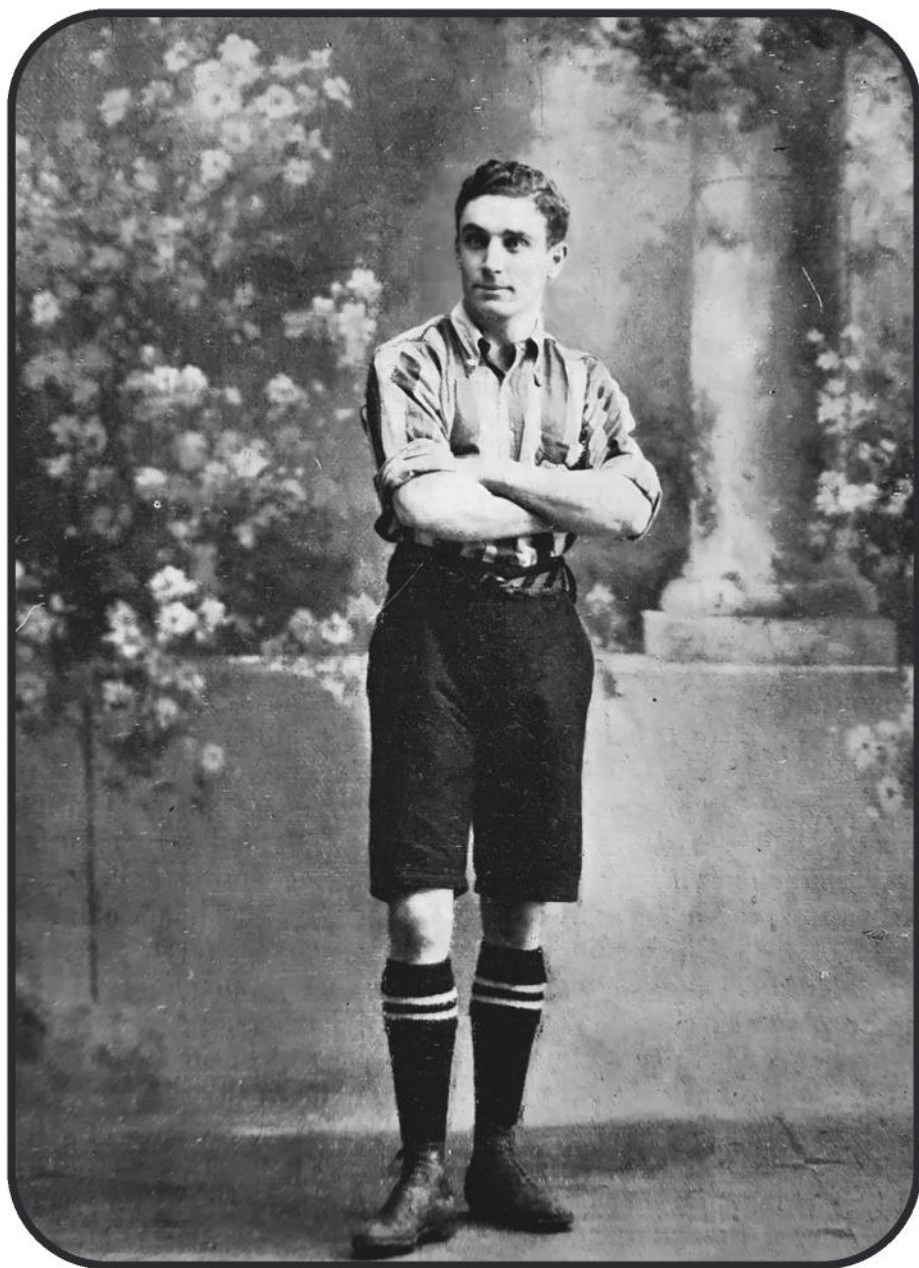
cuyo sepelio en el cementerio de la Recoleta efectuóse el día 21 á las 4, era una dama llena de merecimientos personales, cuyo recuerdo vivirá por largo tiempo en la mente de cuantos la conocieron.



Alumni 1 - South Africa O. "The Stands"

Sunday 24 June 1906

CARLOS ARTURO LETT



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)



Team Alumni

—Una de las más conspicuas personalidades de la colonia alemana era el señor Otto Straube, recientemente fallecido a los sesenta años de edad. Una larga existencia dedicada al comercio, consagró la intachable reputación de honorabilidad de que gozaba.

—Para desempeñar el curato de San Miguel, vacante por fallecimiento del P. Delheye, ha designado el señor Arzobispo al ilustrado P. José Américo Orzali que desempeñaba la parroquia de Santa

Lucía, promoviendo a este puesto al presbítero Ignacio Passo Viola, sacerdote argentino. Ambos son sacerdotes que hacen honor al clero de la república.

—En la basílica del Socorro se verificó el jueves la bendición de un magnífico estandarte de la congregación de la Inmaculada y San Luis, siendo padrinos el Sr. Arturo Z. Paz, el Sr. Leonardo Pereira y el Sr. José M. de Iriondo con sus respectivas señoras.

—Para examinar los carruajes destina-



Team Sud Africano

Alumni 1 - South Africa 0. "The Teams"

Sunday 24 June 1906

1907



On 14 August 1907, by a decree from the President of the Republic, José Figueroa Alcorta, the Argentine Football League was granted legal status.

Fifteen years had passed since the founding of the governing body of Argentine football, and now more than ever, it was dedicating all its efforts to maintaining an amateur sport, far from any desire to professionalise it. Pure football.

Once again, Alumni remained unbeaten this season, achieving record figures in goals scored.

Copa Campeonato

Alumni, A. de Quilmes, Lomas, Reformer, San Martín, Quilmes, Barracas, Estudiantes, Porteño, Belgrano, and San Isidro participated in the 1907 edition of the championship.

Out of the 19 matches played, they did not know defeat, with only 2 draws. They scored 76 goals and conceded 13.

With these overwhelming numbers, Alumni was crowned three-time champion of this competition for the second time in its history under this name (1901-02-03 and 1905-06-07).

(*) see page 151

Copa Competencia

It began with a resounding 8-0 victory against Porteño, followed by a 5-0 win over Rosario Central. Then, with the same scoreline, they eliminated Reformer.

Belgrano was the opponent in the semi-final, which they won 4-2, a result that once again placed them in the final.

Finally, on 29th September, Alumni defeated Peñarol 3-1, crowning themselves champions of the Copa Competencia.



Alumni 3 vs Peñarol (C.U.R.C.C.). Copa Competencia Final (29/9/1907)

William Campbell, Jorge Gibson Brown, Carlos Lett, Arthur Jacobs, Guillermo Ross, Juan Dodds Brown
Gottlob Weiss, Alfredo Brown, Ernesto Brown, Eliseo Bron, Henry Lawrie
(Field: Ferro C. O.)



Alumni 3 vs Peñarol (C.U.R.C.C.). Copa Competencia Final (29/9/1907)

Shot by Alfredo Brown



Alumni 3 vs Peñarol (C.U.R.C.C.). Copa Competencia Final (29/9/1907)

Alumni Attack

1908



In 1908, just like the previous year, we did not receive any visits from foreign teams.

Alumni's performances were far from the superiority demonstrated in past seasons. The team ended with discontent among its players, and there were thoughts of a possible conclusion.

The championship was interrupted for a month due to the Argentine team's trip to Brazil, specifically to São Paulo, where they played against the Liga Paulista, securing a 4-0 victory. Seven Alumni players were part of the squad.

Copa Campeonato

The tournament began with the same teams as in the previous season. During the competition, Alumni lost four matches, two of them crucially against Belgrano. This left the path clear for Belgrano to be crowned champions for the last time, while Alumni had to settle for the runners-up position.

Alumni thus completed 18 matches, with 13 wins, 4 losses, and 1 draw. They recorded a total of 76 goals scored and 18 conceded.

(*) see page 151

Despite everything, they finished as the team with the highest scoring power and the least goals conceded.

Copa Competencia

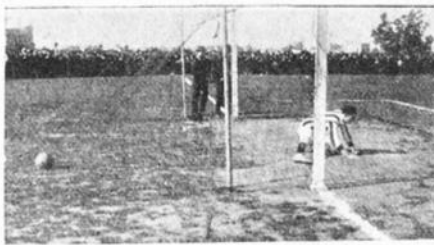
Alongside the Championship, Alumni triumphed in the 1908 Copa Competencia, without conceding a single goal.

They played a total of three preliminary matches before reaching the final, eliminating their nemesis of the season, Belgrano, with a 3-0 victory.

In the final, they faced Wanderers, securing a 4-0 win and crowning themselves champions of the Copa Competencia.



Un goal en perspectiva



Un goal á favor de "Alumni"



El team "Alumni", que ganó la copa de "Competencia" por 4 goals contra 1 de "Wanderers"



El team "Wanderers"



Sr. Jorge J. Murphi, goal-keeper del team "Alumni".



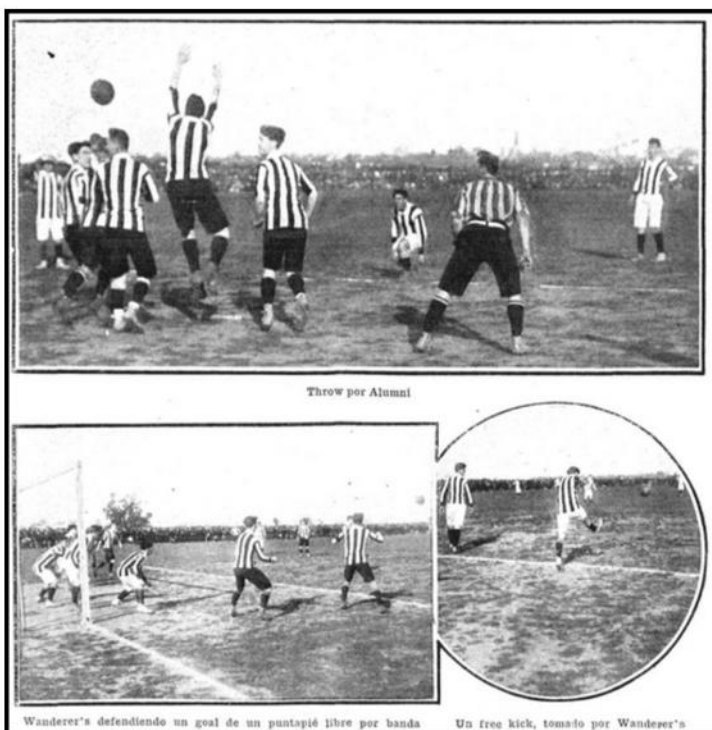
Señor Cayetano Saporiti, goal-keeper del team "Wanderers".



La tribuna de los socios y la popular

Alumni 4 vs. Wanderer's 0

6th September 1908. "Copa Competencia" Final.



Throw por Alumni

Wanderer's defendiendo un goal de un puntapié libre por banda

Un free kick, tomado por Wanderer's

Alumni 4 vs. Wanderer's 0

6 Septiembre 1908. Copa Competencia Final.



El team Newell's Old Boys

El team Alumni, vencedor del match

El domingo pasado se jugó un importante partido de foot-ball en la cancha de la Sociedad Sportiva Argentina, entre los clubs Alumni y Newell's Old Boys, este último de la ciudad del Rosario.

El partido era a beneficio de la asociación del Divino Rostro, una comisión de la cual fué á recibir á los campeones rosarinos y ofreció á los dos teams un almuerzo en el Pabellón de los Lagos antes de que se trasladasen al field.

Representaban á Alumni los señores J. Murphy, Carlos y Juan Brown, A. Jacobs, P. B. Brown, Ernesto Brown, E. Weiss, Alfredo Brown, J. Watson Hutton, Eliseo Brown y J. H. Lawrie. El team de

Conduciendo al señor Pupley, que se hirió en un pie durante la partida

Newell's Old Boys estaba formado por los señores J. Mac Master, T. Hamblay, D. Barcelona, T. Puppel, T. Moodys, T. Duwayer, M. González, A. Gimocchio, C. González, H. Mallet y J. Viale.

El sorteo fué favorable á Alumni. Desde el principio llevaron ventaja los de este club, pues ya en el primer minuto de juego marcaron un goal, hecho por Alfredo Brown. El partido terminó con el score siguiente: Alumni, 5; Newell's Old Boys, 1.

De Alumni sobresallieron el goal-keeper y los hermanos Eliseo, Alfredo y Juan Brown. Del Newell's Old Boys, Barcelona, Viale y González.

Fot. de CARAS Y CARETAS.

Alumni 5 vs. Newell's 1

Friendly match played on 3rd May 1908.

Foot ball.—La copa "Competencia"



Señora L. G. de Cumming, Willie Brown, A. D. Mitchell, y señoritas Bruce, Gallacher, Jordán y Mc Lean

El match final de la Copa Competencia celebrado el domingo último en Belgrano entre los teams Wanderer's Uruguayo y Alumni Argentino fué una fiesta sportiva de todo punto brillante.

Ambos teams disputaron el triunfo con un entusiasmo indescriptible, ofreciendo el partido situaciones e incidencias de mucho interés para los footballers.



La tribuna oficial



El team Alumni, ganador del partido, con la copa Competencia

1908 Copa Competencia Final. Alumni Champions

MARIANO REYNA



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)

Foot-ball.—El triunfo de San Isidro



El team San Isidro, ganador por 2 goals contra 1



La concurrencia



Durante el partido



En el field del Caballito se jugó el domingo último, ante una concurrencia extraordinaria, el match de foot-ball entre los cuadros Alumni y San Isidro.

Componían los teams los señores Wickers, Bertorini, Gallino, Valle, Vernet Amadeo, Estrada, Burgos, Jones, Gil, Rossi y Scho'k, del San Isidro; los señores Cool, Juan y Carlos Brown, Mack,

Browne, Jacobs, Weiss, A. Brown, Watson, Hutton, E. Brown y Lawrie, del Alumni.

Después de una lucha tan reñida como interesante, las posiciones de los cuadros permanecieron fijas en 2 goals á favor de San Isidro y en 1 de Alumni.

El match decisivo de la victoria lo jugarán el 24 de mayo próximo.



Un goal de San Isidro

26 April 1908. The magazine Caras y Caretas covers the friendly match Alumni 1 - San Isidro 2.

1909



Alumni prepared to overcome the setback of the previous year, which had already left a deep mark on their hearts, evident in a certain fatigue among their players.

New friendly matches were arranged against teams from England, this time featuring Everton and Tottenham. Alumni was the only team to face both, while the remaining matches involved combinations of local players.

In May 1909, the Banco de la Nación Argentina Club inaugurated its ground in Colegiales, on Moldes Street between Pampa and Céspedes. Alumni used it as their home ground until 1911.

A new team joined the Primera División: **River Plate.**

Alumni vs. Everton

On the afternoon of 10 June, the match between Alumni and the English side Everton was scheduled to take place at the Sociedad Sportiva de Palermo ground. That morning, the Argentine team decided to test themselves against a combined League team to prepare and finalise details, securing a 4-0 victory.

Hours later, an intense rainstorm caused confusion over a possible postponement of the match. Some Alumni players were

absent, necessitating the last-minute inclusion of players from other teams who had attended as spectators. Despite this improvisation, the British side secured a resounding 4-0 victory.

For many in attendance, the difference lay not in the quality of play but in physical performance. The superiority of a professional player who trains for a living over an amateur was evident.

Alumni vs. Tottenham

On June 24, in what is remembered as one of Alumni's worst performances, they were defeated 5-0 by Tottenham, leaving everyone bewildered.

Copa Campeonato

That year, the Championship included: *Alumni, River Plate, Quilmes, Estudiantes, Belgrano, San Isidro, Porteño, A. de Quilmes, Reformer, and Lomas.*

Alumni started strongly with a 4-1 win against Porteño, marking an unstoppable path of victories with significant results that were reflected at the end of the year in the goal tally. The only stumbling block they encountered was against River Plate the second time they faced them that year, playing at home in Colegiales, where they lost 1-0.

Despite this result, nothing prevented them from being crowned Champions of the 1909 Championship.

18 matches played, 15 won, 1 lost, 2 drawn. 74 goals for and 19 against.

Alumni vs. River Plate

It is curious to think that these teams coincided in time and space. This happened not just once but several times.

River Plate, a team founded in 1901 from the merger of two teams from the La Boca neighbourhood: La Rosales and Santa Rosa, played for the first time in the Primera División of Argentine Amateur Football in 1909. Their debut in the top division came on March 25, 1909, with a narrow victory of 6-5 in a friendly against Porteño, who played at home.

The official match came shortly after, on May 2, at home in Dársena Sur against Argentino de Quilmes, where they achieved a resounding 5-0 victory.

It was not until July 4, 1909, that Alumni, as the visiting team, faced River Plate for the first time in Dársena Sur. Alumni welcomed them in their own way, making no exceptions. They won 3-1, marking River's first defeat in their history within the top tier of Argentine football.

On September 12, 1909, they were to meet again, with Alumni undefeated in the Championship up to that point. It was time to host River as the home team in Colegiales. On the day of the match, the teams lined up as follows:

Alumni: G. A. Scholefield ; J. G. Brown and J. D. Brown ; J. H. Lawrie, Carlos A. Buchanan and A. G. Jacobs ; G. E. Weiss, A. P. Watson Hutton, Eliseo Brown, E. Padilla and D. L. Chalk.

River Plate: A. Capdevielle; A. A. Chiappe and F. Gómez; P. Grifero, José Morroni and F. Chagneaud; A. García; Santiago Sayanes, H. Rodríguez, J. Diggs and Elías Fernández.

Referee: Luis Salvarezza, an active employee of River Plate and a fervent admirer of Alumni. The sentimental bias did not interfere with his officiating decisions. As the match began, the visitors pressed forward, quickly seeking an advantage on the scoreboard, which did not take long to arrive. After 20 minutes, following a cross from Elías Fernández, Rodríguez scored for River, but it was ultimately disallowed for offside.

Just 10 minutes later, Rodríguez found the net again, this time legally, making it 1-0 in favour of River Plate.

"A well-worked and beautiful goal that drew applause from part of the crowd and a thirst for revenge from the rest. But Alumni could not find redemption for the remainder of the period," announced the report from the newspaper *La Nación*.

Alumni felt the blow and made changes in the second half to turn the match around, but it was in vain. A new goal from River was disallowed for offside in the 26th minute of the second half, marking the last dangerous play of the day and sealing the only defeat suffered in the Championship.

Alumni: 0

River Plate: 1

The Grandstands played their part

The crowd, correctly identified and divided by sectors, provided the final touch to a match eagerly anticipated by all.

"River Plate, River Plate!" and *"Alumni Viejo!"* (Old Alumni!) were the deafening chants that echoed from the stands of the Club Atlético Banco de la Nación Argentina stadium in Colegiales, where Alumni played as the home team.

These encounters between the two teams have left an indelible mark on both institutions.

In total, Alumni and River Plate faced each other six times between 1909 and 1911, all in the Copa Campeonato:

- 4/7/09 Alumni 3 (V) - River 1 (L)
- 12/9/09 Alumni 0 (L) - River 1 (V)
- 1/5/10 Alumni 3 (L) - River 0 (V)
- 1/11/10 Alumni 3 (V) - River 0 (L)
- 2/7/11 Alumni 3 (V) - River 0 (L)
- 2/9/11 Alumni 5 (L) - River 1 (V)

Despite the difference in history between the two, no one will ever take away from River the remarkable achievement of having defeated, at least once, the first great team in our football.

Copa Competencia

They began their participation with a 4-0 victory against Provincial. Next, they faced and eliminated Rosario Central with a score of 3-1, followed by a 3-2 win against San Isidro. In the semi-final, they thrashed Newell's 5-1 and subsequently played the final against Peñarol, defeating them 4-0.

Alumni, champions of the "Copa Competencia".



Frente al arco de River Plate
Alumni vs. River Plate

EVERTON-ALUMNI



Schoefield atajando un «shot» de Lacey

Desgraciadamente, el jueves y el domingo anterior los partidos internacionales de foot ball defraudaron en mucho la expectativa creada por el brillante encuentro Everton-Tottenham Hotspur. El partido del jueves se realizó en las peores circunstancias debido



Freeman gambeteando

pio de lo aceptable, y hemos visto á un footballer inglés Wilkes, tomar á Weiss por la manga de la camiseta. Por su parte, creemos que Alumni desperdició la ocasión de empatar.



Jorge parando una corrida de Freeman

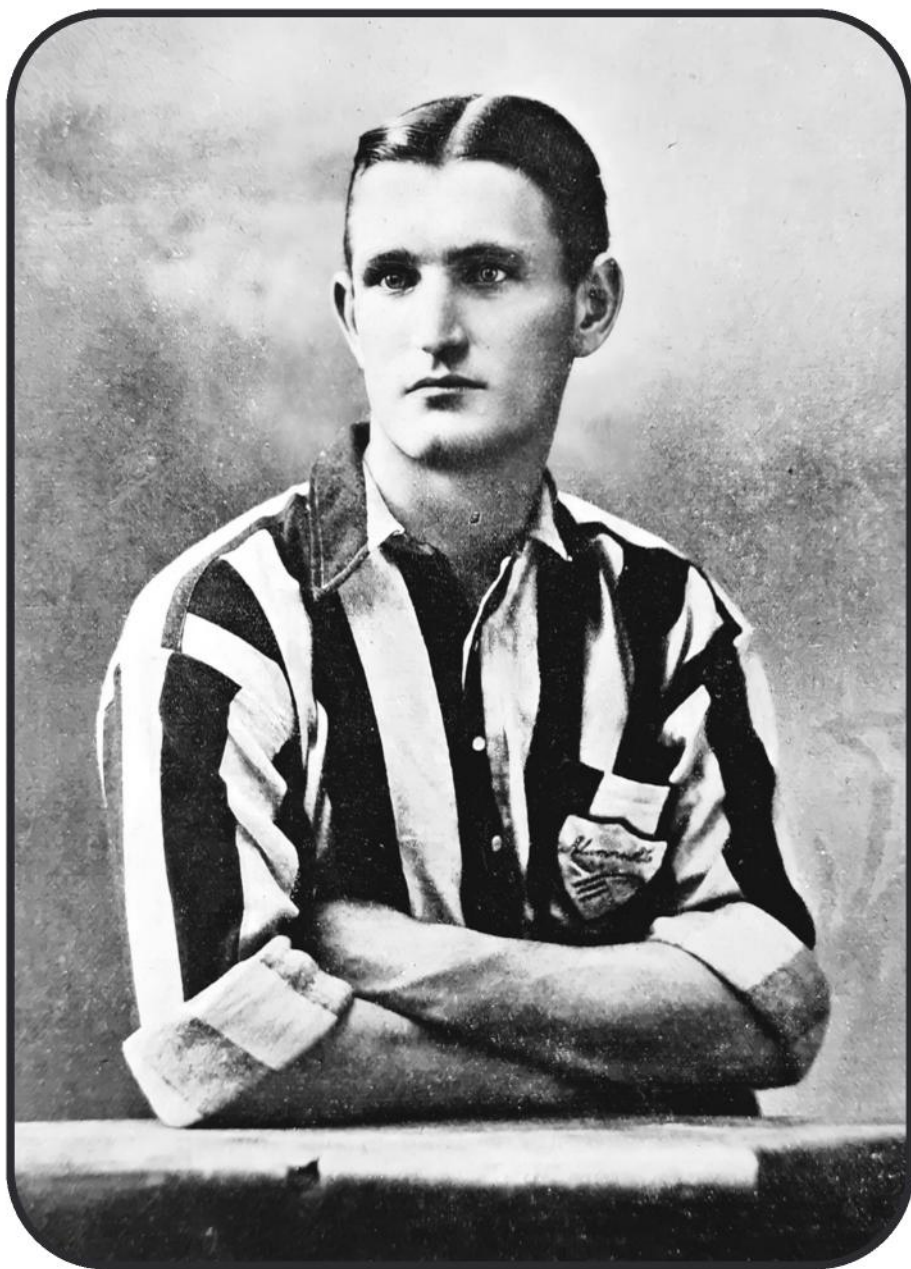
al mal tiempo, y si bien Alumni se condujo en debida forma durante el primer half time, el segundo tomó excesivamente cansados á sus hombres, que á duras penas pudieron defender su valla. En cuanto al match del domingo, entre Tottenham Hotspur y Argentinos, si lo tomáramos por base de nuestro juicio, tendríamos que decir que los teams visitantes, irreprochables cuando se miden entre sí, no observan igual conducta en los partidos internacionales.

Su juego fué mucho menos lim-



E. Brown, P. B. Browne, Jorge Brown (capitán), A. Jacobs, J. Brown, E. Brown, M. Susan, I. A. Schoefield, A. Watson Hutton, M. Reyna (referee), Hugo Wilson (presidente de la A. F. A.), A. Brown, C. Brown, A. A. Mack, H. Jordán (presidente del Alumni).

ERNESTO ALEJANDRO BROWN



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)

Foot ball.—El match internacional del domingo

Entre los teams River Plate de la vecina orilla y Alumni, tuvo lugar el domingo, en el field del Club de Gimnasia y Esgrima, el primer partido internacional amistoso.

La numerosa concurrencia que ocupaba las tribunas y todos los sitios de donde podían presenciarse el encuentro, demostraba el interés extraordinario que este había despertado, por tratarse de los

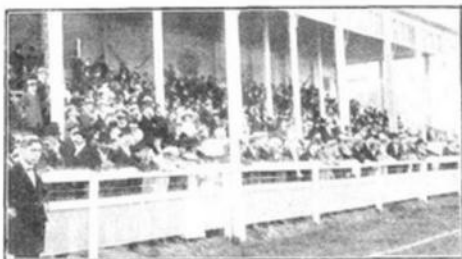


El palco oficial

teams compuestos en la siguiente forma:

River Plate:
Juan Guidotti;
José Benincasa y Miguel Benincasa;
Fernando Lourted, Francisca Branda y José García (capitán);
Vicente Modena, Pablo Daral, Oscar Sans, Raúl Ribeiro y Ramón Ríos.

Alumni: L. Schalefeld; Juan Brown y Jorge Brown; Maximiliano Sandoz, Ernesto Brown y A.



La tribuna

teams que cuentan con los más fuertes elementos en las dos naciones.

Los jugadores orientales fueron recibidos a bordo por una comisión de jóvenes argentinos e invitados a realizar una gira por la ciudad, que terminó con un banquete que se sirvió en honor de los huéspedes.

A las dos de la tarde se trasladaron a Palermo, dando comienzo poco después al partido.

El señor Ricardo Campbell, que actuaba de referee, llamó a los



Sasan apuntando un shot



Un shot de Juan Brown

Jacobs: F. Lawrie, Alfredo Brown, Eliseo Brown, R. C. Weiss y D. L. Clark.

El brillante match, en el que cada golpe hábil y certero de los jugadores era acompañado de entusiastas aclamaciones, terminó sin vencedores ni vencidos.

El team de orientales demostró poseer elementos de primera fuerza, que les señala desde ya un puesto difícil de disputar.



Team «River Plate», de Montevideo

Fot. de CARAS Y CARETAS.



El team de Alumni

Caras y Caretas Magazine. Friendly match played on 4 April 1909, Alumni 1 - River Plate (Uru) 1

1910



The change of decade brought the first breezes of a new illegal practice, which for lovers of amateur football—like the founding members of Alumni—would be their terminal illness: the so-called "brown amateurism." This issue had already been identified in 1907 by Emilio Hansen, president of the AFA, as evidenced in one of his statements.

Also known as 'covert professionalism,' this phase began in the early 20th century and became widespread during the 1920s, when several clubs secretly paid their players despite it being prohibited.

It is worth noting that during this period, English participation in our football remained predominant. In England, this practice had emerged much earlier and became unsustainable by 1885, when the F.A. decided to legalise it, paving the way for professionalism.

Meanwhile, Argentine football was already enjoying great popularity, drawing large crowds to the stadiums. Spectators paid for entry, generating significant revenue—especially during matches between the most popular teams, which attracted high levels of anticipation.

This phenomenon fostered a significant economic business for the clubs, making it essential to assemble and maintain a competitive team to continue attracting the public.

Although amateurism was still the norm at that time, compensations to players were made covertly, despite it being an open secret, and the press often echoed the rumours and attempted to unmask the deception.

Until that moment, Argentine football was conceived as a pastime, and teams had no qualms about replaying matches that generated controversy or exchanging players as a courtesy.

Regarding the footballing year, Alumni continued to feel a latent sense of fatigue among several of its players. This was reflected in the difficulty of assembling the team. The shortage of substitutes led to the presentation of different players for each match, failing to achieve stability in their game.

Despite the increasing discussions about dissolution, this was not the year.

Alumni played their last match in Montevideo in the context of a friendly against River Plate (URU), losing 2-1.

Copa Campeonato

(*Alumni, A. de Quilmes Belgrano, GEBA, River Plate, Estudiantes, San Isidro, Quilmes, Porteño*).

The championship began with a home victory of 3-0 against their only nemesis from the previous year, River Plate. After a series of draws, they found some wins and even suffered a defeat against San Isidro (2-0), which was the only loss in the year for this competition. Ultimately, they returned to alternating between draws and wins, which placed them at the top of the table, closely followed by Porteño, who became stronger the following year, coinciding with the last year of the Hutton boys' reign.

Alumni thus concluded the season as Champions of the Copa Campeonato.

16 matches played, 10 won, 1 lost, 5 drawn. 43 goals for and 13 against.

Copa Competencia

Alumni's participation in this edition of the Copa Competencia was minimal, starting on 5 May with a victory against Belgrano by 2-0. Ten days later, they were defeated by Provincial at the Parque Independencia in Rosario by 3-2, thus being eliminated from the competition.



J.D. Brown, E. Brown, C.C. Brown
 Juan.G. Brown, A. Jacobs, Jorge G. Brown, W. Hardie, J.H. Lawrie
 A. Brown, H. Eaton, Donald Chalk



Alumni 1910

1911



It began. Unbeknownst to most—though perhaps a few were aware—Alumni entered what would be their final year in football competition. Fatigue, both physical and mental, had reached its peak, foreshadowing a challenging year ahead.

At the same time, some clubs expressed discontent with the organisation of the tournament, which would have serious consequences a year later.

A new team arrived in the top division, which, following the disappearance of Alumni, was pointed out as its worthy successor: **Racing Club**.

Copa Campeonato

Despite starting the tournament with a victory against San Isidro by 2-0, the ghosts of discouragement quickly returned as they lost the next three matches in a row against Estudiantes, Belgrano, and Tiro Federal. This was followed by a fierce thrashing, defeating Quilmes 7-0, which seemed to restore the hopes of a team that was no longer the same as before. Then came defeats against Porteño, with a score of 2-0, and Racing Club itself, with a score of 3-1, putting Alumni back on the ropes with consecutive losses.

They were aware they were going through the worst moment in their history, but they still had courage and faith in themselves.

Thus, in the remaining 10 matches of the championship, which included facing their executioners once more, Alumni sought revenge, winning nine matches and drawing the last against Gimnasia y Esgrima de Buenos Aires.

With these results, they managed to secure the top spot in the table, albeit sharing it with Porteño, who matched them on points.

As if there could not have been a better ending to their story, Alumni and Porteño faced off in a final to determine which of the two would claim the championship title.

So it was that on 26 November, at the Gimnasia y Esgrima ground in Palermo, Alumni, unaware, played their last "official" match with these 11 players:

E. Bolinches; Jorge G. Brown and Juan D. Brown; L. Peel Yates, Ernesto A. Brown and J. H. Lawrie; Victor Weis, Alfredo C. Brown, Juan G. Brown (Juancito), Ernesto Lett and Arnoldo P. Watson Hutton.

As the sun set on the horizon, "the final act" was drawing to a close.

CHAPTER X

In a tightly contested and emotional match, Alumni defeated Porteño 2-1 in front of 9,000 spectators. Their last official goal was scored by Mario Genoud in the 39th minute of the second half.

In a twist of fate, the players had crowned themselves champions for the last time. The final whistle echoed through time, marking the end of a golden era for Argentine football.

In that eternal moment, the cry of "Champion!" rose to the heavens, intertwining with the emotions and dreams of generations.

It was a song of victory, and also of farewell, merging with the wind and dispersing into the air, as if the very spirit of the team was bidding farewell to its loyal supporters, who accompanied them in droves.

Alumni closed their final year with these numbers:

17 matches played, 13 won, 5 lost, 1 drawn, 50 goals for and 15 against.

Copa Competencia

They were eliminated in the first match against Tiro Federal, losing 2 to 1.

The statistics confirm that throughout the existence of the English High School and later Alumni, it was the best Argentine team of its time in every respect—both in goals scored and in goals conceded.



Quilmes vs Alumni. (05-06-1911)



The last match

26 November 1911. Alumni 2 - Porteño 1 at the Gimnasia y Esgrima stadium (Palermo)



Alumni in black trousers faces Porteño in their last official match to be crowned Champions 1911.

Alumni and its heir Racing Club

In 1911, Racing Club made its debut in the first division with a friendly match against Estudiantes in Palermo, achieving a resounding victory of 6 to 1. This initial triumph marked the beginning of a promising trajectory for the team.

Their official presentation came on 7 May against San Isidro, resulting in a 1-1 draw in Avellaneda. Although the outcome was not a victory, it demonstrated Racing's determination and potential in official competition.

On 25 June, they faced one of the greatest challenges of their nascent history: a match against the giant of the era, the powerful Alumni, in Avellaneda, for the Copa Campeonato.

Against all odds, Racing emerged victorious with a score of 3 to 1, showing signs of readiness to inherit Alumni's legacy. Our sport was thus growing, maturing, and transitioning from "school" to "football academy." This victory was a milestone in Racing's history, marking its rise as a serious contender in Argentine football.

However, Alumni still had lessons to impart. On 6 August 1911, in Quilmes, they demonstrated their supremacy by defeating Racing 5 to 1, reminding their young rival that the master still retained its relevance, even if it showed signs of fatigue. This encounter served as a valuable lesson for Racing, reaffirming the importance of humility and respect for tradition on their path to greatness.



Racing vs. Alumni (25/6/1911)

1912

Uncertainty

As the year 1911 drew to a close, a silent yet resolute decision loomed over the fate of Alumni. The time had come to bring an end to its glorious trajectory.

"In the city of Buenos Aires, on the second day of April in the year 1912, the members of the board of directors, whose names are listed alongside, having read and approved the previous minutes, declare the session open and adopt the following resolutions:

1st League: Having failed in efforts to form a team with sufficient strength to represent our institution honourably in this Division, it is resolved not to compete in this league, concentrating all the club's efforts on the intermediate and third leagues."

Source: Alumni Minutes Book - Page No. 4.

Despite this, the hope of seeing Alumni shine once more on the pitch at the start of 1912 remained alive in the hearts of the fans, who experienced moments of both hope and uncertainty.

The truth is that by the first quarter of 1912, the organisation of Argentine football, presided over by Hugo Wilson, was going through its worst moment since its founding in 1893 by Hutton.

Finally, in April, it was proposed to commence the championship of the Argentine Football Association, surrounded by controversies from some teams. Amidst this, the name Alumni still resonated.

On 5 April, several newspapers and magazines of the time published the list of clubs registered in the first division for the new season:

Alumni, Belgrano, Estudiantes (BA), Estudiantes de La Plata, GEBA, Porteño, Quilmes, Racing Club, River Plate, San Isidro.

To the surprise and hope of many, their name appeared first on the list. However, none of this could sway the resolve of the players behind closed doors.

Moreover, news circulated linking members of Alumni who would be playing this year for the Quilmes team, accompanied by comments from reporters, foreseeing what would truly happen: "It is easy to predict that the Quilmes team will be strong, almost invincible, we could say."

However, discontent among some clubs was growing. Among them was GEBA, which had always offered its pitch for major matches, yet received only 20% of the net gate receipts—even while facing considerable debt from upgrading the stadium.

On the other hand, members were required to purchase tickets to attend the matches. This last demand was seen as unacceptable, leading the club to decide to withdraw from the affiliation. This discontent was also echoed by Porteño and Estudiantes de La Plata.

The situation escalated, leading to the first 'schism' in Argentine football—its fragmentation. Ricardo Aldao, then president of Gimnasia y Esgrima de Buenos Aires, spearheaded a dissent against the Argentine Football Association (A.A.F.), driven by disagreements over economic and organisational matters.

As a result, GEBA and other clubs resigned from the Association and founded the Argentine Football Federation (F.A.F.). This division in national football history lasted until 1915, when both entities finally reconciled, paving the way for an expanded First Division with 25 teams—a milestone in the sport's evolution in Argentina.

For its part, Alumni stated behind closed doors: *"Mr Tedani, representing several members, requests the reconsideration of the resolution made in the previous session regarding the decision not to field a team in the First League. He states that, given the need to safeguard the position of our second team in the Extra Division or the Intermediary, he has gathered 11 players to represent our club in the Superior League.*

In view of the fact that this project would lead to dismemberment of our team competing in the second and third divisions and that the team would not adequately fulfil your representation in the first league, it is unanimously resolved to uphold the resolution of the previous meeting."

Source: Alumni Minutes Book - Page No. 5 - 12 April 1912.

A.A.F. Championship

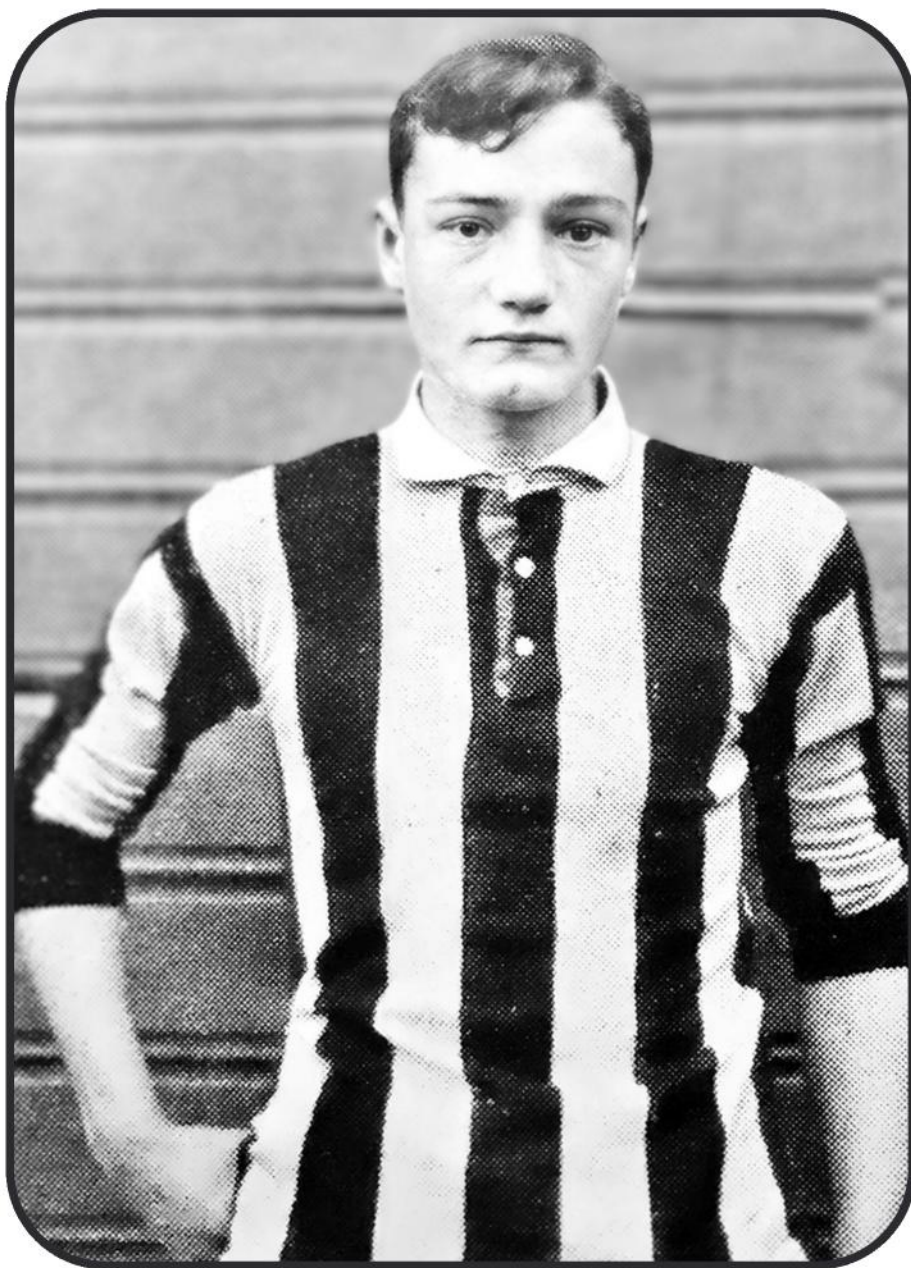
Following the first split in Argentine football, on 14 April 1912, the first division championship commenced under the organisation of the A.A.F., in which the following teams would participate:

- Alumni
- Belgrano
- Estudiantes (BA)
- Quilmes
- San Isidro
- Racing Club
- River Plate

"In the city of Buenos Aires, on the 23rd day of July 1912, the members of the C.D. whose names are listed on the margin, having read and approved the previous minutes, declare the session open, addressing the following matters discussed: Club Gimnasia y Esgrima. Requests our incorporation into the Argentine Football Federation. It is resolved not to join this new institution and to continue our affiliation with the Argentine Football Association."

Source: Alumni Minutes Book - Page No. 7.

VÍCTOR HERBERT WEISS



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)

Everyone was on edge about what would happen on the first matchday when Estudiantes (BA) and Alumni were set to face each other. To the surprise of few, the champion did not show up for the match.

The following Sunday, they were to face none other than Quilmes, but once again, they were absent; an absence that no longer surprised anyone.

Finally, on the third matchday, they were scheduled to play Racing but failed to turn up for that either.

The automatic application of the regulations took place: Alumni was eliminated for failing to appear in three consecutive matches.

Although the decision to stop playing had already been made and thoroughly considered, repeated efforts were made for them to participate in the tournament. However, due to differing opinions and disparate criteria among their players, Alumni decided to maintain their stance of not playing any further.

The impact of their absence was so significant that their name still appeared in the competitions of both associations, perhaps as a way to generate social pressure.

The final blow for the fans came when the Quilmes team took to the pitch with several former Alumni players, including their greatest idol: Jorge Gibson Brown.

Those who moved forward sought not only to keep alive the sporting legacy of the iconic shirt but also to pay tribute to something more: the friendship of old teammates, the camaraderie in a shared struggle, filled with romanticism and loyalty.

As faithful guardians of Alumni's prestige, they brought their talent and lineage to the old "club of the English," strengthening the brotherhood that was born in the days when, at the start of each season, they contested the first friendly match in the southern field.

FOOTBALL

¿UNA NUEVA LIGA DE FOOTBALL?
Rumores corridos ayer

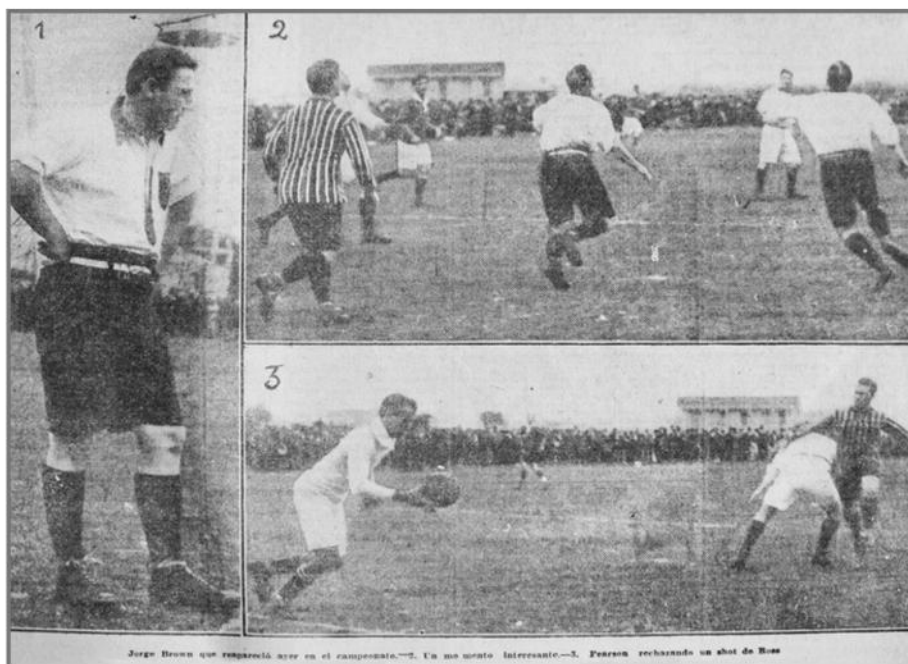
Ayer noche corrieron diversos rumores, cuyo grado de veracidad no hemos podido alcanzar. Refiérense esos rumores a la constitución de una nueva liga de football, agregándose hasta el nombre de la misma: Federación Argentina de Football.

Parece ser que ayer por la tarde ha tenido lugar una reunión de delegados de los más importantes clubs que militan en la Asociación Argentina de Football, llegándose a un completo acuerdo. Asegúrase también que los partidos por la nueva liga comenzarán apenas terminados los con el Swindon.

Circularon los nombres de varios clubs como adheridos a la nueva institución, recordándose los siguientes: Belgrano, Porteño, Estudiantes de La Plata, Gimnasia, Alumni, Independiente, Boca Juniors, River Plate, Atlanta, Argentino

Diario La Argentina. June 1912

The name of Alumni remains relevant.



Jorge Brown que representó ayer en el campeonato.—2. Un momento interesante.—3. Ferguson rechazando un shot de Bos

Jorge G. Brown playing for Quilmes

La Argentina newspaper, from the match Belgrano 3 - Quilmes 2 (13-4-1913)

The essential core of that great team still had much to offer, and thus, with invaluable collaboration, another name was engraved on the old trophy—one that shared the same ideals and aspirations, demonstrating its identity in both objectives and means.

So it was that during the memorable year of 1912—unforgettable for the southerners—they secured the First Division championship for the first time in their long history within Argentine football. It would not be until 1978 that they would achieve such a feat again, this time in the professional era.

The plaque on the cup inscribed with 1912: "Quilmes A. C." is much more than a simple reminder of a hard-earned victory. It is a testament to the honour and unwavering loyalty of a camaraderie that never faded.

G. A. Scholefield, Jorge G., Juan D., Ernesto A. and Juan G. Brown (Juancito), L. Peel Yates, A. L. Dickinson, and Víctor Weiss kept the passion of Alumni alive on the pitch, with the courage and brilliance of their finest days.

F.A.F Championship

For its part, the dissident association began its tournament later, on 14th July, with the participation of the following teams:

- *Independiente*
- *Porteño*
- *Estudiantes (LP)*
- *Gimnasia y Esgrima (BA)*
- *Argentino de Quilmes*
- *Atlanta*
- *Kimberley*
- *Sportiva Argentina*

The champion was *Porteño*, the great rival of *Alumni* in the previous season, although it was surrounded by controversy.

Porteño had finished the tournament level on points with *Independiente*, who had a greater goal difference in their favour than their rival. Despite the regulations supporting them as champions, *Independiente* offered *Porteño* a play-off match, demonstrating the main characteristic of amateur sport: sportsmanship.

On 22nd December 1912, the GEBA pitch was the venue for the final that pitted *Independiente* against *Porteño*. The match, filled with tension, was tied at 1-1 until, in the 87th minute, *Independiente* decided to leave the field.

This decision was motivated by a series of controversial refereeing decisions, including a disallowed goal and several expulsions that affected the team.

In light of this situation, the Argentine Football Federation acted swiftly and confirmed *Porteño* as the first champion in its history.

1913

The dissolution

On Thursday, 24 April 1913, two years after their last official match, the general assembly was held that would legally bring an end to Alumni's continuity.

Paradoxically, the most popular team of the time spent its final moments in striking solitude. With no sports press covering the news, nor any representatives from the governing Association of our football, a brief meeting commenced with only seven members in attendance, at a time when the organisation was still grappling with a severe institutional fracture.

The newspaper *La Nación* announced it in its "Societies and Companies" section with the following notice:

"Alumni A. C.: Members are summoned to the general assembly on the 24th of this month, at the A.F.A. premises, Maipú 131, at 9 p.m. to discuss the dissolution of the club and authorise the C. D. to distribute the funds in accordance with the regulations."

Thus, Alumni began its transition to immortality. While this event may be seen as a sign of society's indifference, it was anything but.

It was simply too soon to realise the magnitude of the loss for Argentine football. In time, the distance would put things into perspective.

The act formalising the dissolution was recorded on the last page of the "Minutes Book" dated 22 April 1913.

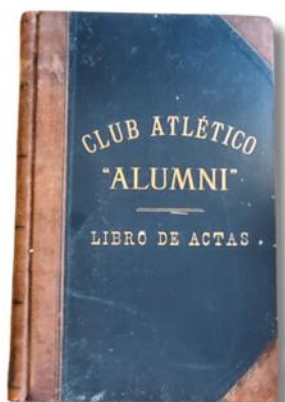
"Agenda: To discuss the advisability of the dissolution of the Club. Mr. Ricardo Ubert motions that, in view of there being fewer than fifteen members who wish to continue with the club, we proceed with its liquidation in accordance with the Statutes, donating the funds to charitable organisations."

The fate of the funds accumulated by the team throughout its existence, generated from the sale of countless tickets, was decided in a manner befitting its principles. In keeping with its values, Alumni donated all its money to various organisations dedicated to noble causes:

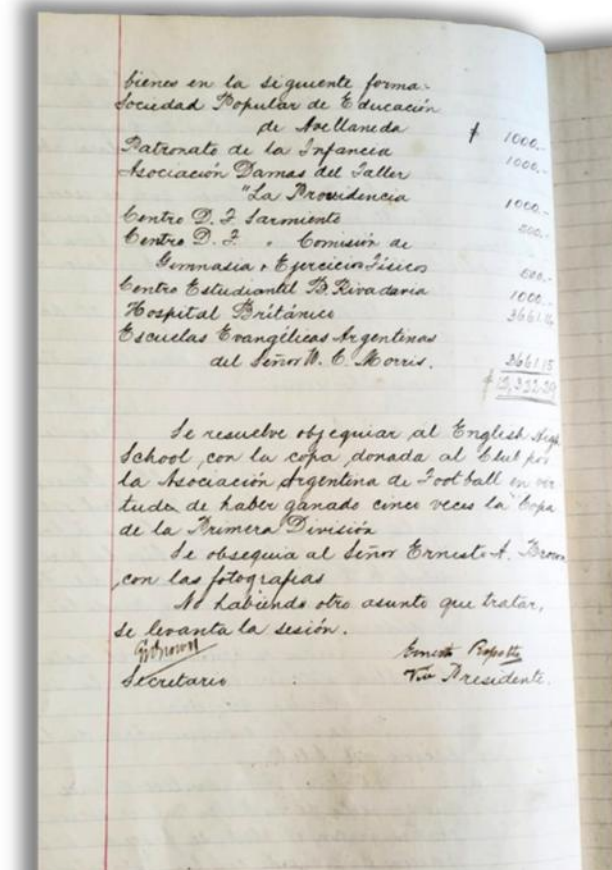
- "Sociedad Popular de Educación de Avellaneda": \$1000
- "Patronato de la infancia": \$1000.
- "Asociación Damas del Taller La Providencia": \$1000.
- "Centro D. F. Sarmiento": \$500.
- "Centro D. F. Sarmiento, comisión de gimnasia y ejercicios físicos": \$500.
- "Centro Estudiantil B. Rivadavia": \$1000.
- "Hospital Británico": \$3661.15.
- "Escuelas Evangélicas Argentinas del señor W. C. Morris": \$3661.15.

CHAPTER X

And finally: **"it is resolved to present the English High School with the cup donated to the Club by the Argentine Football Association in recognition of having won the First Division cup five times."** This trophy is currently displayed in their showcases.



Cover of the Alumni Minutes Book



The last page of their story

CHAPTER XI

ALUMNI IDENTITY

What was Alumni really?

Alumni, more than just a football team, was a social phenomenon that transcended the pitch to become an emblem of solidarity and unity. In an era where the sense of belonging was as important as the game itself, this team demonstrated that sport could be a bridge between communities and a driving force for larger collective projects.

Its spirit lay in its ability to transcend local rivalries and become a symbol of shared pride. Although it was not tied to a particular neighbourhood, its influence extended across our territory and beyond, fostering a spirit of brotherhood and cooperation.

What was remarkable about Alumni was its focus on human values above sporting competition. The players brought to the field an ethic of respect and excellence that inspired all who watched them play.

During its first period in the top tier of Argentine football, its name was purely associated with a 'football team,' one that increasingly attracted more and more supporters. Over time, its designation changed to 'Athletic Club.'

It was common to hear that Alumni "was not a club but a team." But... why?

Alumni did not fit the conventional sense of a club, as did its classic rival Belgrano Athletic, which had a very solid structure applied to various sports, with football being one of them, alongside rugby, tennis, cricket, among others.

Despite not being a club, it could be misinterpreted that this distinguished team lacked regulations, organisation, or written principles to guide its existence.

Since its inception in 1901 under this name, Alumni established its own fundamental rules, summarised in a set of 13 statutes officially sanctioned in 1903. These statutes recalled the essential foundations and necessary provisions to maintain the proper functioning of the team, based on those of the E. H. S. Athletic Club from 1898.

Among those 13 articles, it was stated:

- he name: **“This Club shall be called the English High School Athletic Club.”**
- Who would make up the governing committee.
- Who would be the team captains.
- Two sports disciplines: football and cricket.

Following the same path as Alumni were River Plate, Estudiantes, Racing, Independiente, Boca, and San Lorenzo. They began as a football team and later transformed into major athletic clubs.

From 1908, Alumni would restructure its statutes, increasing from 13 articles to 63.

The first of which states: ***“Under the name of Club Atlético Alumni, an association is established with the aim of promoting and practising all kinds of sports, especially football, and may acquire the real estate necessary for this purpose.”***

This clear intention towards expanding sporting activities could never be fulfilled, as three years later, the process of dissolution would begin, which became effective on 22 April 1913 at its final assembly.

THEIR NAME

Alumni began its legendary journey to eternity in 1900 under the name of the institution that saw it born, “Buenos Aires English High School” or simply “EHS”.

It took just a year for this team to prove to both supporters and outsiders that it was different from the rest—partly due to its great popularity, which led to a request for a name change. Thus, Alumni was born.

However, for all its members, and especially its founder, this was merely a subdesignation—the essence would always remain linked to its school name.

Under these names, the various trophies it won throughout its history have been etched.

- **1900 “English High School”**
- **1901 “Alumni Football Team”**
- **1902 “Alumni Football Team”**
- **1903 “Alumni Football Team”**

(Alumni Athletic Club)

- **1905 “Alumni Football Team”**
- **1906 “Alumni A. C.”**
- **1907 “Alumni A.C.”**
- **1909 “Alumni A. C.”**
- **1910 “Alumni A. C.”**
- **1911 “Alumni A. C.”**

THEIR FIELD

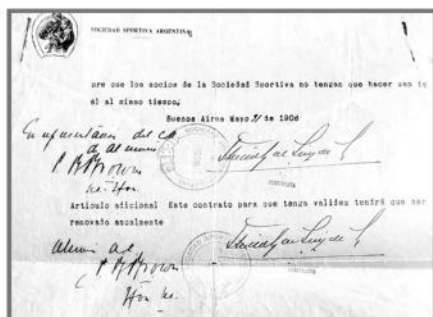
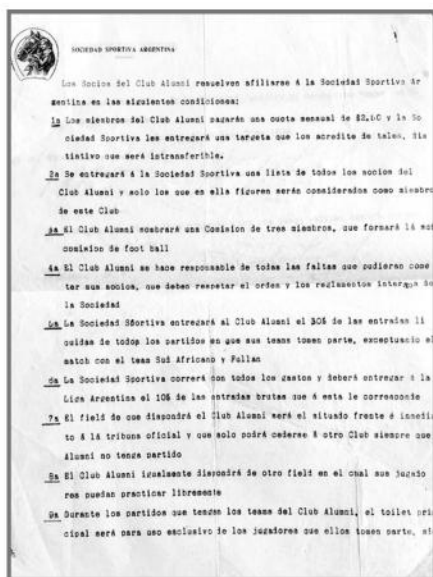
They were nomads of football, never anchoring their hearts to a home ground. However, the lack of a fixed home was not an obstacle but rather a source of pride. Alumni became a ‘mobile football school.’ They were at home on any pitch, carrying an identity not tied to a neighbourhood but to a philosophy of play.

Their journey began in 1900 at the school’s sports field in Coghlan. Over the years, their path took them to the Sociedad Sportiva in Palermo and later, in 1907, to the Ferrocarril Oeste ground. Between 1909 and 1910, Alumni left their mark on the newly inaugurated pitch of Club Atlético Banco de la Nación Argentina, located on Moldes Street between Palpa and Céspedes.

During the 1910 season, their spirit led them to play only once as hosts, in Colegiales against River on 1st May. All other matches were played as ‘pilgrims’ across various pitches in the neighbourhoods of Belgrano, Palermo, Caballito, and Quilmes—reaffirming the idea that Alumni never needed a fixed home to turn their story into a legend.

Their final match, in 1911, was played at GEBA against Porteño, closing an unforgettable chapter in the history of Argentine football.

THEIR FIELD



Contrato entre Alumni y la Sociedad Sportiva Argentina para el uso de sus instalaciones
(31/5/1906)

THEIR UNIFORM

ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL

In the year 1900, the team began the season in the top tier of Argentine football. The kit originally stemmed from the traditional school uniform of the English High School.



They wore shirts made from white and red wool in horizontal stripes and white trousers. It was the players' own mothers and grandmothers who knitted them by hand, without a specific pattern regarding measurements and sizes.





Shirt worn by William Allerton Jordan between 1901 and 1903

ALUMNI 1901 TO 1905

Starting from the 1901 season with the name change, Alumni also made a modification to their shirt. The colours remained the same, but from now on, the stripes would be vertical. The more stripes there were, the older the shirt was.

Between 1901 and 1905, they used "shirts" with a large number of stripes, generally consisting of 8 red and 7 white on the chest, with slight variations among them. Many were still handmade, which resulted in small differences within the same team. All of them had long sleeves and featured a pocket on the front, where the first badge of the EHS was occasionally placed.

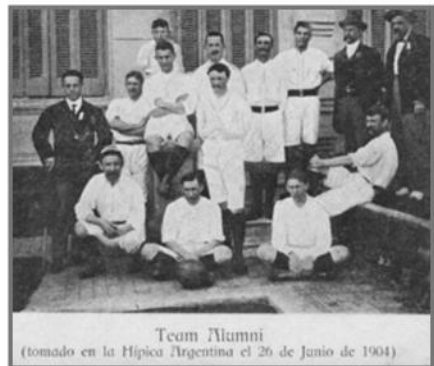
As the football season typically ran from April to September, a time of low temperatures, the shirts were made from thick wool, making them extremely warm and heavy. This was even more pronounced when they absorbed rainwater. Just four buttons at the neck made them slightly cooler on hot days. With the participation of more teams and competitions, the season was extended until November.



This is the first shirt that Alumni used in its entire history. It is possibly the oldest one still preserved today from Argentine football.

**Alumni 1902***Traditional uniform: Red and white shirt, white trousers, dark cap and socks.*

It is worth noting that on some occasions they used white for the entire outfit, as an alternative uniform. For example, when they faced the English team SOUTHAMPTON on 26 June 1904, as the visiting team wore the same red and white colours.



Team Alumni
(tomado en la Hípica Argentina el 26 de Junio de 1904)



In 1905, Alumni made a change to their attire. They switched to a model featuring a T-shirt with wider stripes and occasionally black trousers.





**Shirt preserved by William Allerton Jordan
Worn for the first time on 25 June 1905 against Nottingham Forest**

ALUMNI 1905 TO 1911

From 1905, following their match against Nottingham Forest on 25th June, Alumni introduced a variation to their shirt by widening the stripes, thereby reducing their number. On the chest, there were five red stripes and four or five white ones, depending on the stitching.

A notable feature was that these shirts were imported from England, specifically from the brand John Piggott, which at the time supplied a large quantity of sports goods and outfitted several English teams.

They retained long sleeves and a front pocket, which, from 1906 and on a few occasions thereafter until it fell into disuse, featured a new badge—now displaying the Alumni A.C. emblem.

There were also changes to their trousers, as they began wearing them in black and dark navy blue.



Label

*Different angles of the Alumni shirt in 1905
Accompanied by the label JOHN PIGGOTT*

ALUMNI “CIRCA” 1910

This shirt was worn by Jorge Gibson Brown and remains in the possession of his family.

Although no concrete photographic records have been found regarding when he wore it, it is a model similar to that in his iconic photograph, which appeared, for example, in the magazine *El Gráfico* or on the cover of Escobar Bavio's book.

Based on his apparent age at that time, it would coincide with the final stage in which Alumni played friendly matches after its dissolution.



Iconic photographs of Jorge Gibson Brown

ALUMNI VETERANS

Once officially dissolved in 1913, Alumni would play some friendly matches for charitable causes, using this type of shirt with rounded collar edges.



T-shirt worn by the Alumni Veterans



*El Gráfico Magazine
21 July 1923*



Alumni (0) vs. Veteranos (0) - River Plate Stadium (Alvear and Tagle)

SHIN GUARDS

Shin guards / Leg guards from the late 19th century and early 20th century, contemporary with the Legendary Champion.

Large and heavy, essential for absorbing the impact of the early leather boots, whose wooden studs were secured to the sole with small nails.

Fractured legs, and even fatalities due to injuries, became increasingly common.

BOOTS

These are the vintage boots used during the Alumni era. They are entirely handmade from cowhide leather. The design is akin to a "boot," where the lower part of the sole began to incorporate the first wooden studs to provide stability on the ground.



Eugenio Moore
(1902)



Sole with wooden pegs nailed in.



Jorge Gibson Brown
(Veteran Alumni)

THE BALL

*This is the famous "**Tiento Ball**". One of the first in Argentina.*

Handcrafted entirely from cowhide, its design varied according to its manufacturer, always striving for the perfect roundness.



Tiento Ball (front)



Jorge Gibson Brown and the ball



Tiento Ball (reverse)

CAPS

When modern football was born within the universities of the United Kingdom, around the mid-19th century, it was customary to award a cap to each player. In those days, teams did not wear a complete set of shirts, so each side was distinguished from the other by wearing a specific type of cap, as also happened the second time football was played in Argentina on 20 June 1867. The concept of using shirts to differentiate the teams emerged later on.

The fashion of wearing caps did not fade into oblivion but endured much longer in the history of our football. Not only were they worn as an aesthetic complement to the uniform during significant events or as a homage to their original function, but many players also found them beneficial for their physical well-being. For this reason, they were worn in various colours, shapes, sizes, and materials to cushion the impact when heading the famous leather ball. When soaked with rain, the ball could cause severe cuts and even lead to a player fainting if struck at the seam with force. Their use persisted until the mid-20th century.



The "Caps" of Jorge Gibson Brown



Alumni players pose with their "caps" (1902)

THEIR SHIELD

According to photographic records up to 1906, the Alumni shirt displayed the school's crest on several occasions, despite having changed its name from 1901 onwards. This "colourful detail" was not coincidental or an error; it was a clear demonstration of their sense of belonging. The colours they all defended were those of the E.H.S; Alumni was a sub-designation. They were proud of their roots.



The coat of arms of the Buenos Aires English High School featured the sun, intertwined hands, and the Phrygian cap from the national emblem.



Ancient brooch gifted by Alexander W. Hutton to his granddaughter Eileen Stocks.

From 1906 onwards, the traditional crest of the English High School was replaced by the Alumni crest, which was entirely handwoven by the mothers of the players themselves.



The embroidered shield of Alumni



THEIR FLAG

Perhaps this is the first known in the history of Argentine football, or at least one of them.

It is the flag that flew on the grounds where Alumni showcased its magic, attracting more and more spectators to its weekend matches.

Made from imported silk and entirely hand-embroidered, each letter of its name was crafted by Alicia Hardie Brown, the wife of the great Jorge G. Brown, who fell in love watching him play football and had great skill in sewing while spending her days as a pupil at the Colegio de la Providencia on Cochabamba Street in the Capital.

It was Alicia herself, and later her family, who took on the responsibility of keeping it in perfect condition alongside Mr Brown's shirt, trophies, and various other items belonging to our first Argentine football idol.

It is worth noting that in the institutional reorganisation of Alumni in 1908, Article 3 stated: *"The colours of the club's flag shall be the national colours, and the shirts worn by its players, when a uniform is required, shall be red and white striped."*



Alicia Hardie de Brown, wife of Jorge Gibson

Diario Crónica 17/11/1968



The Alumni Flag

THEY ALL MADE HISTORY.

They have worn the first team shirt of Alumni at some point:

- Almandos Juan Carlos.
- Aphalo, José.
- Bell Henry Francis Cleland.
- Bertorini Camilo Victor.
- Bowers, Carlos E.
- Bolinches Emilio.
- Bridge Thomas.
- Brown Alfredo Carrow.
- Brown Carlos Carr.
- Brown Eliseo.
- Brown Ernesto A.
- Brown Guillermo H.
- Brown Jorge Gibson.
- Brown Juan Domingo.
- Brown Juan Gibson.
- Brown Tomas G.
- Browne Patricio B.
- Buchanan Carlos J.
- Buchanan Walter.
- Campbell Guillermo.
- Canadá Juan.
- Chalk Dudley Leyton.
- Cools Fritz.
- Coste Armando.
- Croce Marcos Francisco.
- Curran Eduardo Agustín.
- Dillon Patricio.
- Dickinson Alfred Lawrence.
- Dickinson Frederick Sidney.
- Doubourg Carlos.
- Duncan Thomas.
- Eaton Henry.
- Faccione Emilio.
- Frediani Juan B.
- Garay Ramón.
- Galup Lanús Salustiano.
- Garcia Domingo.
- Garcia Uriburu F.
- Gonzalez Tomas M.
- Grehan Henry.
- Hardie William Samuel.
- Henman Héctor.
- Hirst Edgard Gerry.
- Hyland Harold P.
- Hunter William.
- Horton Henry Richard.
- Jordan Heriberto.
- Jordan Williams A.
- Laforia Jose Buruca.
- Lawrie J. Henry.
- Lea Norman Edward.
- Lett Carlos A.
- Lett Ernesto E.
- Leonard Spencer U.
- Mack Andres Arturo.
- Mc Lean Héctor.
- Mckechnie Juan.
- Miles Alfred Shakespeare.
- Minturn George.
- Moore Eugenio.
- Moore Juan J.
- Moore Tomas.
- Murphy George J.
- Otamendi Julio.
- Padilla Enrique.
- Peluffo José.
- Perkins Carlos Edmundo.
- Pintos Amilcar.
- Jacobs Arturo G.
- Reyna Mariano.
- Rezzano Pedro.
- Rodriguez Abelardo L.
- Ross Guillermo R.
- Rossi Santos.
- Rudd Roberto Whall.
- Ruffier E.
- Scharemborg Frederick W.
- Scholefield George Albert.
- Simmons Daniel R. Fitz.
- Smith M.
- Susán Maximiliano.
- Taylor Cyrill.
- Vedani José A.
- Watson Hutton Arnoldo P.
- Watson Hutton Alexander.
- Weiss Gottlob E.
- Weiss Victor.
- Weiss Walter William.
- Yates Peel Lionel.
- Young Gerorge Adam.

All of them participated between 1900 and 1911 in the first division of the EHS and later in Alumni. Only Andrés Mack and Ernesto Brown played every season.

Jorge Gibson, for his part, was the player who defended their colours the most. We cannot rule out the possibility that other players were also part of its history, even if only by having represented its name at least once.

THEIR TROPHIES

Copa Campeonato

First Division Tournaments.

- 1900
- 1901
- 1902
- 1903
- 1905
- 1906
- 1907
- 1909
- 1910
- 1911



Cup Tie Competition

Also known as the "Chevallier Boutel "Copa Competencia".

- 1901
- 1903
- 1906
- 1907
- 1908
- 1909



(From 1907, the second stage begins in conjunction with the Uruguayan Football Association.).

Copa Honor MCBA (*)

- 1905
- 1906



The Herald Football Trophy

Most popular team.

- 1900



Copa Challenger

Trophy in recognition of the three-time championship.

- 1900
- 1901
- 1902



Copa Recompensa

Trophy in recognition of the Copa Campeonato won in:

- 1905
- 1906
- 1907
- 1909
- 1910



Copa Honor Cousenier

- 1906



Copa Competencia Jockey Club (*)

- 1907
- 1908
- 1909



(*) Retroactive Recognition. Put into play by the Argentine Football Federation and later reassigned by the Argentine Football Association in 1915 to reward the winner of the Argentine series.

THE MUSEUM

Where the Great Champion rests

On 12th November 2004, coinciding with the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Buenos Aires English High School, Estela Alzugaray de Rueda inaugurated the 'MUSEO EHS - ALUMNI.'

With the aim of preserving and showcasing its magnificent history, she gathered countless objects that had remained in the shadows, giving them the prominence they deserved within a central space of the school grounds.



Some of the objects on display:

- The Copa Challenger, awarded in recognition of the championships won during its first three years of participation (1900, 1901, and 1902).
- The trophy presented by The Herald, recognising Alumni as the most popular team of the time.
- The medal awarded to Jorge G. Brown, commemorating the 1906 triumph against South Africa.
- The original match programme from the Alumni vs. South Africa fixture.
- Alumni's first-ever shirt, possibly the oldest preserved football jersey in Argentine history.
- Period footballs, boots, shin guards, and a wooden chair.
- Rare and unpublished photographs of the team.
- Books and personal belongings of founder Alexander W. Hutton.
- Countless historical documents from the school.
- And much more...





CHAPTER XII

CURIOUS EVENTS

Is travelling a pleasure?

In 1901, Alumni began competing against teams from within the country, more precisely those from Rosario, thanks to the Copa Competencia.

The journeys between the Federal Capital and Rosario were made by train with very few comforts. Generally, the train would leave on Saturday night and arrive the following morning. At that time, trains did not have "ballast," those small stones we see between the tracks today, which serve as cushioning for the carriages. It was unthinkable to get any sleep during the journeys. Thus, players arrived without having slept to compete in the matches.

Alexander Hutton plays for Alumni

The father of Argentine football officially played for Alumni at least twice:

On 11 May 1901, he played as a left-back in a friendly match against Quilmes.

Alumni 1 - Quilmes 3

Also, on 6 June of that same year, in the first match of the Championship against their classic rival, Belgrano Athletic. Hutton came on to play in the second half. Alumni 1 - Belgrano 0

Paying to play

"Many of the players from both Rosario and Alumni were forced to pay for tickets, in addition to providing the entertainment," reported the newspaper *The Standard* on 24 August 1902, in the context of the Copa Competencia, between Alumni and Rosario A.C. at the Hípico Argentino in Palermo. Additionally, 750 tickets were counted, but there were more than double the spectators. There were always "stowaways."

The first invasion

On 14 September 1902, in the second match of the final between Alumni and Rosario A.C. for the Copa Competencia (1-1), two extra periods of 15 minutes were added.

In the last play of the first extra period, during an attack by Alumni, Leonard Unwin Spencer scored the long-awaited goal. However, the referee disallowed it. This led to what would be the "first invasion of a playing field." The crowd rushed in, shouting both in favour of and against such a decision. The match was interrupted for 10 minutes.

No substitutes

In the early days of Alumni, there were no substitutes. Therefore, when a player was injured and could not continue playing, they could not be replaced, leaving their team with one less member.

Except in cases where the captain of the opposing team accepted the substitution. This happened against South Africa, in a replacement after 15 minutes of the first half.

Confusion

Almost ten years after its establishment, our football was still in the process of being tamed, both for the public and the players.

At that time, they were not very strict about uniforms during a match. It often happened that players did not wear their official shirts, for example, because they had forgotten them and had no spare.

This situation, on 2 May 1902, forced measures to be taken: *"The secretary of the League wishes to draw the attention of the club secretaries regarding the regulations stating that all players must play in championship matches wearing the colours that distinguish their club."*

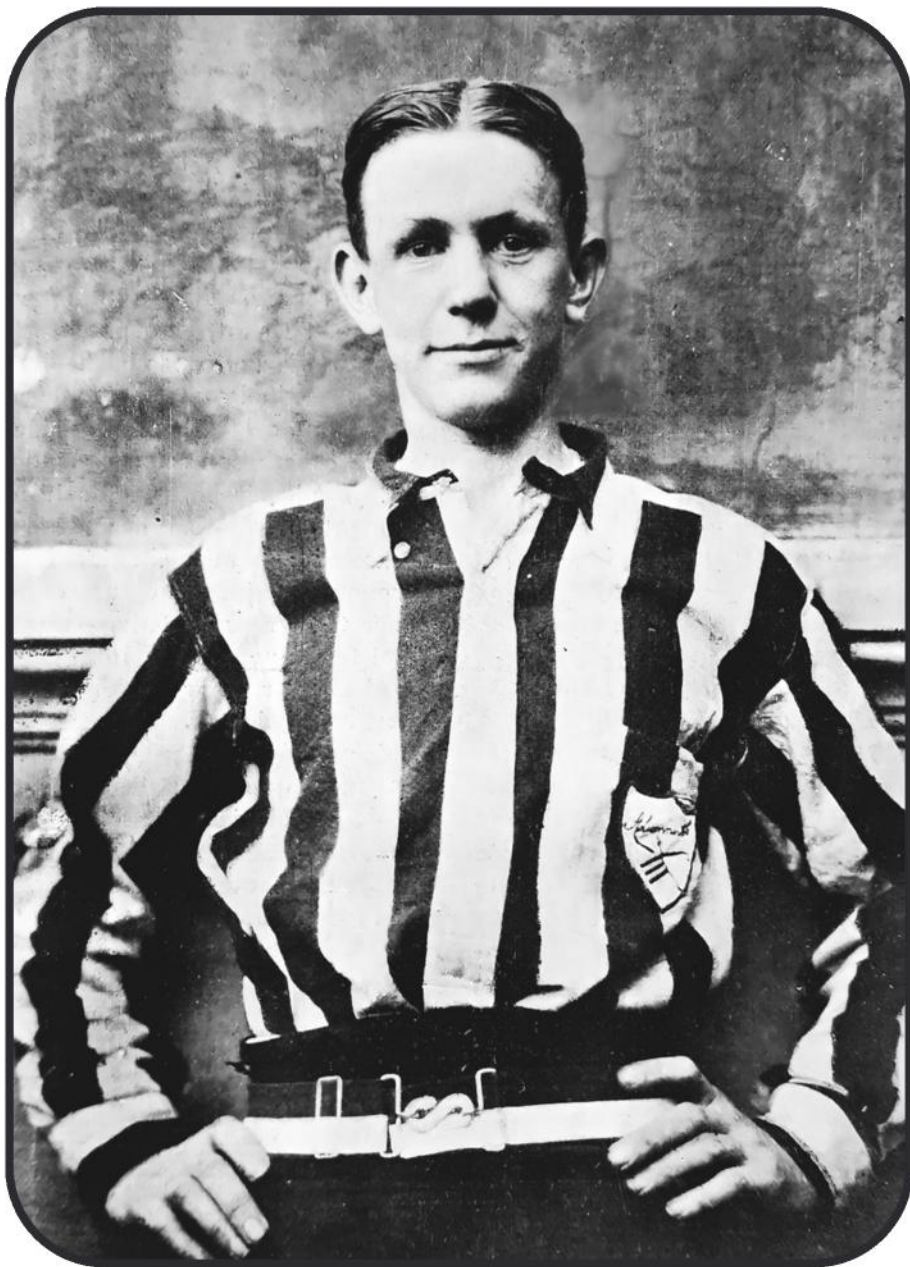
When two teams had similar or identical colours, as happened between Alumni and Southampton in 1904, one of the two would have to wear a different colour.

The birth of the sports correspondent

On 2 August 1903, Alumni travelled to Montevideo to face Nacional in the semi-finals of the Copa Competencia in what many agreed was the best performance in their history. Perhaps not due to the overwhelming result (1-0) but because of the maturity of their play.

Another important event was being born, more precisely in sports journalism, as the newspaper *La Nación* sent a journalist, Ángel Bohigas, for the first time to cover a sporting event abroad. This practice would become increasingly common and imitated by other newspapers of the time.

ALFREDO CARROW BROWN



Photograph of El Sportsman (1906) / 1900-1924 Cup Tie Competition (Osvaldo Gorgazzi)

The wire fencing

On 12th May 1904, Alumni crushed Barracas 4-1 in the Primera División Championship. This capped their streak of four consecutive years as champions (one under EHS and three as Alumni). That day, a violent incident occurred, setting a precedent in our football history — one that endures to this day.

On 17th May 1904, just days after the match, the Argentine Football Association announced that, due to a fight between a Barracas player and a spectator, wire fencing would be introduced to separate the public from the pitch. Until then, spectators had stood right up to the boundary lines of the playing field.

Saves penalties with his hat

From 1905, Alumni incorporated José Buruca Laforia, a goalkeeper who became a true institution: besides being very good in his position, he played wearing a black hat with a slightly tilted brim to the right as a good luck charm.

When it was time to save a penalty, "the vaco" Laforia would throw his "chambergos" forcefully onto his right post, causing the kicker to unconsciously choose that same spot to take the shot, allowing him to save it.

One hand was enough

Until 1904, José Buruca Laforia guarded the goal for Barracas Athletic, but in 1905, he joined the ranks of Alumni. Finding a replacement proved to be a real challenge for Barracas, as each team member attempted to take on the position without success.

Eventually, the role fell to the right-back, who was also one of the club's founding members. This player, of Irish descent, was named Winston Coe. Despite having only one arm — his left was missing — Coe volunteered to take on the role of goalkeeper.

"If you want, I can give you a hand, but you know I can't offer you two." Thus, he prepared for the match against Estudiantes de Buenos Aires.

Barracas lost 2-1. Winston Coe, despite his adversity, stood out and prevented an even heavier defeat.

Goals galore

On 21 May 1905, Alumni reached its historic mark for the number of goals in a single match. They won 14-0 against Reformer with two peculiarities: José Laforia decided to leave the goal to play as a left midfielder, and Carlos Lett scored half of the goals (7).

"Alumni never needed a goalkeeper."

In 1906, Laforia challenged the laws of football.

On 27 May, in the Copa de Honor, Alumni faced Rosario Central, where they achieved a comfortable victory of 6-1. The only goal for the Rosario team came from Miguel Green, who found the great Laforia's goal empty, as he was chatting on the side of the pitch with his friend Carlos Brown.

That year, on 1 July, he faced Belgrano Extra in the championship, where José "Buruca" Laforia, the goalkeeper of Alumni, joined the attacking line of the red and whites, demonstrating his team's supremacy over the others.

The Belgrano players failed to make a single shot on goal, while their defence was breached nine times. At 26 minutes, both captains decided to play only 30 minutes per half, as the score was 6-0 at that moment. To top it off, Laforia scored his team's eighth goal.

Strong police presence

On 12 May 1907, in the eagerly awaited match for the Championship between Alumni and Lomas, in their home ground, between 2 and 3 police officers were needed to control the fans who wanted to scale the perimeter fence.

The "cannon shooter from Estudiantes" saves Alumni

On 10 June 1909, Alumni was to face the powerful English team Everton during their tour of South America. The day began with torrential rain, casting doubt on whether the pitch would be playable. Two Alumni players, Weiss and Lawrie, who lived in Lomas far from the "field," called the Sportiva to see if the match would go ahead. On the other end of the line, an unknown voice informed them that the game had been postponed due to the flooded pitch.

However, this never happened. When the match was set to begin at the agreed time, Alumni was short of players. Among the spectators was the top scorer Maximiliano Susán, a player for Estudiantes and the Argentine National Team, along with some of his teammates. Jorge Gibson Brown asked the "cancho" of the Sportiva to call Susán to replace Weiss.

Alumni 100% "criollo"

Alumni was once again the visitor on 19 May 1907 against Reformer, in the city of Campana, Buenos Aires. Don Diego Brown, the team's adoptive father and a countryman, treated his boys to a barbecue made and served on the train they were travelling on.

Tribute Shirt

On 23 May 1909, the Banco de la Nación Argentina Club inaugurated its pitch in Colegiales, on Moldes Street between Pampa and Céspedes.

Alumni used it on loan until 1911. In gratitude, they wore the C.A. Banco Nación shirt as a tribute.

Orange incident

In an international match, Ernesto Brown was hit in the face with an orange thrown from the crowd. The game continued, but at the first attack, it was noticed that the Argentine right half remained motionless, firmly planted in his position, in protest. The pleas of his teammates were of no use. Later, Alfredo Brown and winger Weis were injured. The team was reduced to eight men. The score was still 0-0. Jorge convinced his brother to continue the game. They then won 2-0.

Versus Big Teams

Throughout its history, Alumni played against teams that today remain in the elite of South American football.

- 1901 Peñarol (Uru)
- 1903 Nacional (Uru)
- 1906 Rosario Central
- 1908 Newell's
- 1909 River
- 1911 Racing

Too many teams, not enough referees

As football progressed, its appeal also grew, but there was a shortage of referees.

Many first division players were called upon to act as referees, even to officiate their own team.

Father of Alumni and Rival President

Alexander Watson Hutton was a member of the Belgrano Athletic Club (1906), likely to support his two daughters who played tennis, as well as his son Arnoldo, a prominent figure at Alumni in football, who also played for the Belgrano rugby team.

In 1910, after leaving the directorship of the English High School, he was elected president of Belgrano A.C. and subsequently re-elected in 1911 until 1912.

“Arriba la Celeste”

On April 10, 1910, Alumni was defeated 2-1 in a friendly match during their last visit to Montevideo by the Uruguayan team River Plate, who wore sky blue that day.

It is said that this extraordinary achievement by the Charrúas received such recognition that the Uruguayan national team, previously without a distinct colour for their kit, would adopt sky blue as the emblem of their attire.

From the land of good whisky

"And let's not even talk about the whisky that the Browns drank during half-time of the matches. When I first started with them, I didn't understand anything. I was a 'little Spaniard' (my parents were Spanish) among all the English kids... We trained at Ferro Carril for the first time, and during the break, there appeared... not a bottle, but a box! Before long, there was nothing left..."
Emilio Bolinches, the last goalkeeper Alumni had.

The origins of the "Olympic Goal"

The feat of Cesáreo Onzari on October 2, 1924, had predecessors.

Diario Crítica, August 2, 1927, interview with Juan J. Moore, former Alumni player:

"Executing the corner as well as you did, you must have scored some direct goals from the corner.

-Indeed, several. On one occasion, playing against Rosario, I managed to get the ball into the net twice from the corner, without any player touching it; but it was of no use, because at that time direct goals were not counted."

Let them win!

By 1912, Alumni still existed as a team but had no football activity. Its players participated in other teams. Jorge Gibson Brown, for example, played for Quilmes and the Argentine national team. The national team travelled to Rio de Janeiro in September to face a Carioca team, one week before the anniversary of Brazilian independence.

Among the Argentine delegation was Lieutenant General Julio A. Roca, representing the Argentine government. The first half ended 3-0 in favour of the away team. Roca then approached the visitors' dressing room:

"Boys, we need to be more diplomatic. Don't forget that Brazil is celebrating its independence. It's not fair for them to lose the match. We should let them win. Do it for the peace of the Americas, boys! For the peace of the Americas, boys!"

But our team scored 2 more goals to finish with a 5-0 victory, disregarding Roca's plea and honouring the Argentine shirt.

The Fifth Greatest

There can be no more curious and significant fact than this. That's why I've left it for last.

Having passed more than 130 years in the rich football history of Argentina, even today, Alumni stands as the fifth most successful team of all time. This puts into context the relevance it had, has, and will always have. Time will pass, that table will continue to be updated, and Alumni will gradually lose positions. But no other team will ever replicate the feat of remaining in the football elite for over a century having played for only a decade.



TyC Sports - 24/04/2023 (Al Ángulo)

LA NACION		
EL TOP 15 DE LOS EQUIPOS ARGENTINOS MÁS CAMPEONES		
 74 Ligas: 37 Copas Nacionales: 15 Copas Internacionales: 22	 71 Ligas: 38 Copas Nacionales: 15 Copas Internacionales: 18	 45 INDEPENDIENTE Ligas: 16 Copas Nacionales: 9 Copas Internacionales: 20
 39 RACING Ligas: 18 Copas Nacionales: 15 Copas Internacionales: 6	 22 ALUMNI Ligas: 10 Copas Nacionales: 8 Copas Internacionales: 4	 22 SAN LORENZO Ligas: 15 Copas Nacionales: 2 Copas Internacionales: 5
 16 VÉLEZ Ligas: 10 Copas Nacionales: 1 Copas Internacionales: 3	 15 ESTUDIANTES LP Ligas: 6 Copas Nacionales: 3 Copas Internacionales: 6	 13 HURACÁN Ligas: 5 Copas Nacionales: 8
 12 ROSARIO CENTRAL Ligas: 5 Copas Nacionales: 6 Copas Internacionales: 1	 9 NEWELL'S Ligas: 6 Copas Nacionales: 3	 6 BELGRANO ATHLETIC Ligas: 3 Copas Nacionales: 2 Copas Internacionales: 1
 6 LANÚS Ligas: 2 Copas Nacionales: 2 Copas Internacionales: 2	 5 ARGENTINOS Ligas: 3 Copas Nacionales: 2 Copas Internacionales: 2	 5 ARSENAL Ligas: 1 Copas Nacionales: 2 Copas Internacionales: 2

La Nación Newspaper, 22 December 2023

Clarín

Alumni, el club fantasma del fútbol argentino que sigue en el "top ten" entre los más ganadores

Fue el gran campeón de la primera década del Siglo XX. Dejó de existir en 1913. Su nombre sigue vigente.

Clarín - 21/06/2019 (by Oscar Barnade)

CHAPTER XIII

REAPPEARANCES OF ALUMNI

Alumni played their final official match on 26th November 1911 against Porteño at the Gimnasia y Esgrima ground in Palermo.

Subsequently, on 24th April 1913, their administrative dissolution was formalised. Despite this, the deep-rooted passion they had inspired in the public could not simply fade away after twelve years of glory in the top tier of Argentine football.

True to their principles—the very ones that transformed them into a legend—Alumni chose to reunite their players, many of whom were already past their prime, to support charitable causes whenever needed. Their return to the pitch became an event of great anticipation, as the rumour spread that the Great Champion was set to perform once more.

7 September 1913

Alumni made their first reappearance just two years after their last official match. They did so against none other than Belgrano, their classic rival. This match was held to raise funds for the British Hospital of Buenos Aires.

Alumni: 3
Belgrano: 2

14 October 1917

Four years later, Alumni gathered again to face San Isidro at the Gimnasia y Esgrima ground, once more to support the British Hospital.

Alumni: 1
San Isidro: 1

15 August 1920

Having been retired for nine years, the public had not forgotten the most important classic of Argentine football from those times. Alumni and Belgrano faced off in their last sporting encounter in front of a packed crowd at the Belgrano field.

The explanation for the lopsided result could be found in the notable age difference between that legendary Alumni squad and a Belgrano team with players who had recently stopped playing.

Alumni: 1

Belgrano: 4

15 July 1923

Twelve years after their last official match and with a team of veterans led by their great captain Jorge G. Brown, Alumni played a friendly match at the recently inaugurated River Plate ground, which had moved from the La Boca neighbourhood to the intersection of Alvear and Tagle (Recoleta).

In this match, they faced another team of veterans (a combined team of former players) to raise funds for the Argentine Championship and help cover the expenses of swimmer Romeo Maciel's journey to Mancha.

Alumni: 0

Veterans: 0



El Gráfico Magazine, 21 July 1923



Jorge G. Brown clearing with a header.

Bolinches, Alumni's goalkeeper, stops a shot from Susán. Juan Brown closely follows the play.

7 October 1923

This was the last match in the history of Argentine football where the name of Alumni appeared on the scoreboard.

Played at the legendary Gimnasia y Esgrima stadium in Palermo, that champion donned the albirroja jersey for the last time to face a combined team of veteran players. It was evident that the cause bringing those legends together was related to some noble purpose. In this case, it was a charitable event for an Alumni player who had been hospitalised at the British Hospital due to an accident sustained during a football match. Once again, the public turned out in large numbers, motivated not precisely by a masterclass in football, but by heart and nostalgia.

That day, Alumni fans had their last opportunity to show their children and grandchildren that those eleven players were the same protagonists of the stories they had heard so much about.

"The game was rather uneventful, which is not surprising given the age and condition of the players involved. The champions still showed flashes of their former skill and the scientific football that their teams developed in earlier times when football was still in its infancy. They were the players who laid the foundations of the sport in Argentina, and it is to them that the country owes gratitude for the level of progress we have reached at this moment, when we are confident that no foreign team could teach us anything..."

Alumni: 1

Veterans: 2

This will not be the end of their story, but rather their passage to immortality.

**ALUMNI Y VETERANOS
JUGARON ANTE UN
NUMEROSO PUBLICO**

Los aficionados, entendiendo lo que significa la presentación del famoso equipo de Alumni, quisieron volcarse a la cancha de Gimnasia y Esgrima, sobre todo teniendo en cuenta que según se anunció, esta sería la última vez que los viejos footballers se presentarían a un field, a demostrar las habilidades que aun les restan y que en sus buenos tiempos dieron toda la gloria que hoy ostenta nuestro football como un blasón indestructible.

Antes de la hora anunciada, el fiel de Gimnasia y Esgrima, donde se realizaba la lucha, estaba ya lleno de aficionados, ansiosos de ver el encuentro.

Poco después de las 3 de la tarde dió comienzo el juego, a las órdenes del juez Alfaro, hallándose los equipos así constituidos:

Alumni: Bollinche; Juan D. y Jorge G. Brown; Buchanan y Jacobs; Weiss, Moore, A. P. Waltson Hutton, S. U. Leonard y Charik.

Combinados: C. T. Wilson; Alberto Oha-co y A. Forrester; Atilio Badaracco, J. P. Pena y J. Morroni; J. M. Luperne, Max Susan, J. Hospital, S. Sayanes y Morgan.

El juego se inició ante la expectativa general y desde su comienzo fué dado presenciar agradables incidencias que llegaron a emocionar a los aficionados presentes.

Tanto el primer tiempo como el segundo, se caracterizaron por una movilidad sorprendente, teniéndose en cuenta la forma de los contrincantes, que forzosamente debían hallarse fuera de training.

Al terminarse el match, el score era este:

ALUMNI	VETERANOS
1	2

The latest chronicle. Critica Newspaper



*The last time Alumni stepped onto a playing field
Alexander Watson Hutton on the right in a suit and hat*

CHAPTER XIV

BETWEEN MEMORY AND OBLIVION

Alexander Watson Hutton, once definitively removed from the football scene, gradually faded into obscurity until his passing into eternity on 9 March 1936, at the age of 82. Today, his remains rest within the picturesque British Cemetery in Buenos Aires, in section 9 E.

Few things can be as unjust and painful in the life of a person who dedicated their life to a noble cause as not receiving the deserved recognition for the magnitude of their work. A work that changed the lives of countless children, young people, and adults.

Alexander was not only forgotten by the thousands of fans who multiplied year after year but also by the very institution he helped bring to life — the AFA — where his bust should rightfully be displayed.

This is evidenced by the interview conducted in the magazine *Mundo Argentino* in 1931 with Alexander W. Hutton, whose title read:

“THE FATHER OF ARGENTINE FOOTBALL LIVES IN OBLIVION”.

The only institution that remains steadfast by his side to this day is his beloved school, currently led by Estela Alzugaray de Rueda, who visits him each year to pay the appropriate respects.

It is worth clarifying that there have been timid posthumous recognitions over the years, such as a plaque at his deathbed with the following inscription: “The Argentine Football Association to Mr. Alejandro Watson Hutton, 9 March 1996” or during the 130th anniversary of its foundation, where a small mention was made on one of the segments of the ball for the 2023 professional tournament.

Argentine football remains emotionally indebted to its early idols.

Not only to Alexander Watson Hutton for being its founder, but also to Jorge Gibson Brown, who holds equal

significance—just as vital to our national team as Diego Armando Maradona or Lionel Andrés Messi. And why not also honour William Allerton Jordan, regarded as Argentina's first great referee and a key figure in the nationalisation of the game?

For its part, the British Cemetery, under the management of John Hunter, President of its Board of Directors, requested that the National Commission of Historical Monuments declare Alexander Watson Hutton's grave a historical tomb.

This iconic cemetery is the final resting place not only of the father of Argentine football but also his son, Jorge Gibson Brown, and his grandfather, Thomas Hoog. Another emblematic figure buried there is Carlos Edward Dickinson, the scorer of the first goal in our national team's history and a legendary player for Belgrano Athletic.

Without a doubt, all of them deserve to be visited and remembered with the utmost respect.



Grave of Alexander Watson Hutton
British Cemetery of Buenos Aires



Mundo Deportivo 1931

CHAPTER XV

THE KNIGHT OF ALUMNI

William Allerton Jordan was born on 29 January 1876 in the Buenos Aires neighbourhood of Belgrano. He was the son of an English engineer, also named William, who came to Argentina to work on the burgeoning railway network, which his son would later join.

He was a student at the Buenos Aires English High School (B.A.E.H.S). There, he had his first contact with "criollo football," joining the youth teams. In 1894, he served as a member of the "Committee" of the Argentine Association Football League. That year, the English High School did not participate in the competition. William then joined the Flores team until 1896. From the 1897, 1898, and 1899 seasons, he represented the Lobos team, where he even served as captain.

In 1900, he returned to the senior team of the E.H.S. His position on the pitch in his early days was shared between midfield and attack, although he also played as a goalkeeper on several occasions.

The team was composed as follows:

Goalkeeper: *J. McKechnie*

Defenders: *Roberto Schindler – Walter Buchanan*

Midfield: *Alberto Schindler – Alejandro Watson Hutton – Eduardo Buchanan*

Full-backs: **Guillermo A. Jordan** – *Jorge Minturn*

Forwards: *H.G.K. Jordan – Claude Hill – Santiago Murphy*

Before the year ended, he was one of the key figures in approving the name Alumni to replace English High School.

The 1901 season concluded on 30 August with the match between Alumni and Lomas in Caballito. William A. Jordan played as right wing in one of his last matches. He later made other appearances, including on 19 April as goalkeeper against Quilmes, and on 29 June against Lomas as left winger, both in 1903.

An injury to his leg prevented him from playing further, leading him to take up refereeing, where he became a prominent referee in Argentina and across America. He officiated the most important matches of the golden age of football, such as the final of the Uruguayan Cup in 1903 between Nacional and Peñarol at the request of the authorities of that country, and on 24 June 1906, when for the first time an Argentine team defeated an English one, causing a revolution in the sport (Alumni: 1 - South Africa: 0).

William Allerton Jordan was the author of the project to professionalise football in our country and contributed valuable information for the creation of the book *Alumni: Cradle of Champions and School of Nobility* by Escobar Bavio, the most important in its history.

"Few men among us can offer a broader and firmer understanding of this matter. As a guide, his unshakeable principle was this: a referee must be, above all, the only one who assumes all the responsibility inherent to such a task on the field, but with exclusive and ample powers, conferred, moreover, by the very rules of the game," states Ernesto Bavio in his book.

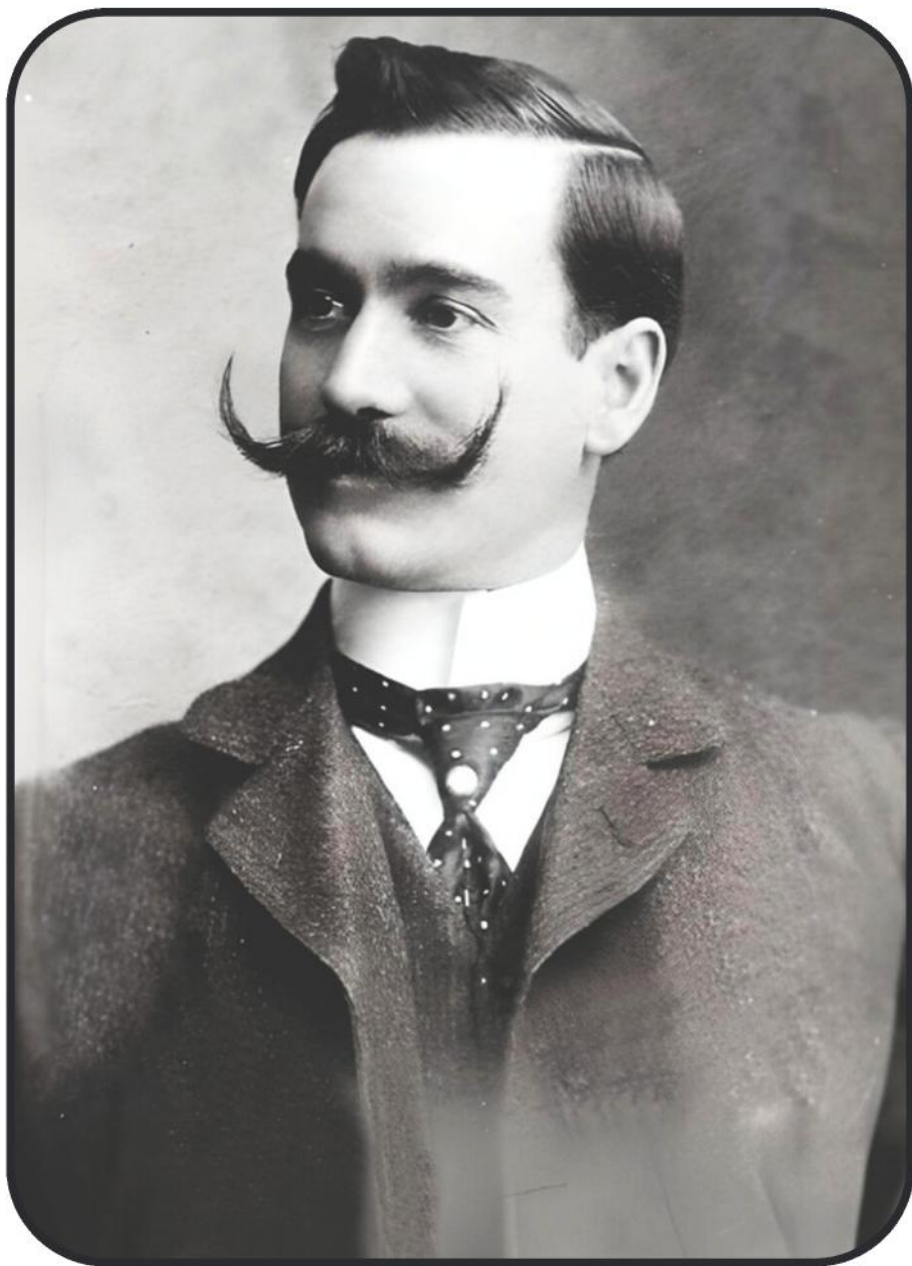
William also translated the laws of hockey from English into our language, all of which were of inestimable value. He was a respected sports speaker

and a master marksman.

He is, and we speak in the present tense because part of his work is still appreciated today, one of the founders of the first Argentine Referees Association; a member of the Council and treasurer of that association for several seasons. He served as President of the Commercial Football Federation; President of the Referees Committee of the Argentine Association; President of the Honour Jury of the same entity; and a full professor at the first Football Academy; President of Quilmes A.C. Cricket, football at B.A.E.H.S., swimming, rowing, hockey, and tennis all counted him among their enthusiasts.

In 1905, he served as treasurer of the A.A.F.L. (Argentine Association Football League). That same year, he was part of the Selection Committee, which was tasked with forming a representative team for Argentina. Another task he undertook in his new role as a leader was to advocate for the deliberations of the body to be conducted in Spanish. Argentine teams now held the predominance, as they had already embraced the sport as a national pastime, and therefore it was deemed inappropriate to continue speaking English, as was ultimately resolved in 1906.

WILLIAM ALLERTON JORDAN



Photography <https://inbincible.blogspot.com> (Jorge Rosales)

In 1907, he became the second vice-president of the Argentine Football Association, obtaining legal status that year.

Between 1924 and 1931, he was elected president of the Quilmes club, located in the city where he had his charming residence.

Of all the initiatives Jordan undertook, many consider this to be the most important. In this case, following a players' strike due to the rigid transfer system, he presented a project to the Association that for the first time incorporated the term "professionalism."

It was 20 April 1931, and at a meeting of clubs, he presented the latest balance of the league, along with the expenses incurred during the previous year's World Championship, to demonstrate that they were not dealing with amateur footballers.

He then warned: *"If they insisted on continuing to consider them as such, they would have to start anew in the organisation of football."*

In this regard, he believed that legislation was needed for this new category of player. He proposed appointing a committee to study the creation of professionalism within the Association and to raise what those conditions should be at the next assembly. "This was the starting point. The change came quickly," asserts Escobar.

Ultimately, Guillermo A. Jordan passed away peacefully on 10 August 1947 in Buenos Aires, although his spirit and contributions to football will remain eternal.

CHAPTER XVI

THE LAST WITNESS

Eliseo Brown became the last member of Alumni to pass into eternity, thus closing a golden chapter in the history of Argentine football and leaving behind a legacy that will transcend generations, turning memories into legends and passion into myth.

Once distanced from football, he spent his final years as a "scribe" at the "El 29" estate in Juan B Alberdi, owned by the Perkins family, descendants of English settlers who arrived in 1863. A scribe was essentially an administrator responsible for the various tasks that a farm required, such as recording rainfall, livestock movements, payments to suppliers, salaries, purchases, and so on. After retiring, he continued to live there until mid-June 1972, when at the age of 83, he decided to depart.

On June 21, the classic Argentine newspaper Clarín reported this event with the following account:

"At the age of 83, Eliseo Brown, the last member of the glorious Alumni, has died. His passing occurred at the Perkins estate, near Lincoln, where he had been for many years. His remains were laid to rest in the town of Alberdi.

Not long ago, Clarín had contact with him. It was a phone conversation regarding the Alumni Trophy, established by the Circle of Sports Journalists for the team with the best conduct in the Copa Libertadores. The dialogue was futile in its football essence. Mr. Eliseo was 'a thousand kilometres away from football.' And from his Alumni. And from all his brothers who made up the team. And from Watson Hutton, the mentor of that Alumni; the English teacher who brought the first football for his students to learn to play.

Mr. Eliseo was much closer to his native land than to the British school of his youth. He was far more connected to Hudson, the Englishman who wrote about La Pampa like no one else, than to Hutton, the Englishman who injected the football virus into the Argentine people.

Yet, he was still the last witness. He is no longer. With his death, Eliseo Brown has severed the cord that kept Alumni captive. Now, Alumni can ascend to reach the heights of great myths. It is now free. And it leaves behind a story that fills us with pride. The Brown family home, on Brazil Street, near where the humble Don Hipólito Yrigoyen once lived. The estate of San Vicente, where the father of the eleven Browns taught his 'gringuitos' to become horsemen. Those fields where Alumni played and which, for the first time, began to fill with people. There was born the first cry of football passion in Argentina. There, Alumni and the Browns (the same thing) opened the doors to international fame for the Argentine national team. And there burst forth, with the inevitability of destiny, Argentine football.

The death of Eliseo Brown has severed that cord that kept Alumni captive. The real and glorious history will now have, without the last witness, all the poetry that peoples add to their great phenomena to turn them into myths."



Eliseo Brown

CHAPTER XVII

THE GREAT QUESTION

Since I began with the idea of writing a book about Alumni, I wondered how I would attempt to explain **the reasons for its demise**.

One hundred and ten years after these events, I will attempt to offer my perspective. I have not found a definitive explanation. However, I have come across clues and various accounts from the time suggesting, for instance, that Alumni's disappearance was linked to financial difficulties, particularly the high costs of renting a pitch, as the club never had its own home ground. Another possible reason is the exclusivity of its players, who could only come from the school, leading to a lack of renewal within the team.

If these claims were taken as the only truths, it would not explain why, at the time of its dissolution, there was surplus money that was donated to various institutions, or how the great "Vasco" Laforia could defend the goal for Alumni while being a complete "outsider" to the institution until 1905.

And if we talk about continuity, the EHS was a true breeding ground for potential new players year after year.

The answer must be sought elsewhere, and in my view, it is much more encompassing than a specific fact and involves understanding its history and essence more deeply. To talk about Alumni is to talk about the English High School. Its name was merely a pseudonym for the school that arose almost inevitably and by default. They were boys who grew up together from their first steps, their first dreams. Many of them even lived under the same roof as boarders within the school. They were even desk mates. As was clear from the beginning, brotherhood was the great secret of their success, and it quickly and naturally transferred to the football pitch.

Because Alumni was not perfect, most of its players were probably not the best individually either; they made mistakes like all other teams.

The great difference with the rest lies in the fact that those flaws were quickly rectified by the closest friend in their position.

They were family. A family with a compound surname: Hutton-Brown.

My own Alumni

I have spent my entire life within amateur football, football with friends, sport for fun. I began my relationship with the ball at a very young age, in my beloved “Estrella de Maldonado”, and for the past 25 years, I have played with the same team, my dear Oruga, which also subsequently underwent a name change but not a change in essence.

Oruga had the same particularity as Alumni. We were a team of friends, the vast majority of whom shared the same secondary school, university, afternoons drinking mate tea, outings for fun, holidays, and even work. This could resemble any other team, but we had a plus that set us apart from the rest, a “driving force” like Alumni had, “Los Gambina”.

The backbone of Oruga was also a family that played the same role as the Browns.

Composed of four amateur footballing brothers, the unyielding “Panchi” as libero, the famous pelota or player, they were never passed by both. The winger Ale on the flanks, whose game matured year after year like an aged wine. And up front, the best attacking partner one could wish for, the great Guille, our Jorgito, the fuel of the team’s engine both on and off the pitch. Lastly, there was Marianela, who due to her young age and the sexist provisions of the tournaments, could not join the team.

A separate paragraph for the best fusion between Alexander W. Hutton and Don Diego Brown—Don Julio César Gambina, the father of the brothers and a bit of all of us who made up the team.



The day Oruga appeared in the sports newspaper *Ole*

“Con ustedes, los Gambina” (3/12/2015)

Julio was not only our coach; he was also our driver, our advisor, our mate, our first fan, and he even had the luxury of playing with us once when we were short of 11 players, just as Hutton did with his boys. The Gambina house (also thanks to Matilde's "support") was our social headquarters, the meeting place, the gathering point for barbecues, year-end celebrations, and the occasional championship won. The Gambina house was the Brown house.

As the years went by, we stopped being those 20-year-olds whose only obligation was to study and then have fun. None of us had the responsibility yet of supporting our families, so we had plenty of time to play football, two or even three times a week.

Time passed, we found jobs, started dating, some of us even had children, while others faced injuries typical of the passage of time. It became increasingly difficult for us to field a team, thus resorting to friends of friends who, little by little, outnumbered the historical members. Oruga ceased to be a solid group of friends; it had new faces that knew little of its origins, and the "old ones" that remained no longer had the same enthusiasm as at the beginning.

Did the same thing happen to Alumni?

Alumni had two warning signs in its history. The first came in 1904 when there was a significant rotation of players to face the year ahead. Nineteen in total, which led to a sudden loss of identity.

With the first defeats came frustration to the extent that they considered having fulfilled their cycle in football. When you become accustomed to winning, no matter how much, the first defeat hurts, and it hurts a lot. Even more so when you don't find yourself on the pitch. Alumni had come off four years as champions of the Copa Campeonato, three of them unbeaten, and this time they had to learn how to lose. Many may have decided to leave the team, while others chose to learn. Thanks to the great captain Jorge G. Brown, the team persevered and returned to winning as before. A stumble was not a fall.

In 1908, the second warning sign appeared, leading to the loss of the Copa Campeonato. This was precisely the year a restructuring occurred in its Board of Directors with the intention of truly becoming a "Athletic Club," a broader sports space. However, the fruits of this effort did not prosper. Many of their emblematic players stopped playing that year, some due to new commitments or simply due to injuries.

The reality was that that year—and the last three that followed—they had to rely on their reserve teams to fill the first team. Just as in 1904, Alumni regained its spirit but lacked its footballing prowess. Nevertheless, it was enough to continue winning championships.

Little by little, with each departure of a founding player, a piece of their history faded with them—just as it did with Oruga. The camaraderie that once united the members of Alumni, forged in the classrooms of the English High School, began to wane.

Here, I believe, lies a key part of their downfall.

Many new faces arrived, driven more by the unspoken pressure to keep winning than by a true sense of belonging. It is also true that in 1911, three or four of the Browns were still playing, including Jorge at the age of 31. But after all, no one maintains the same energy after a decade. The physical and emotional strain was undeniable.

To this growing sense of discouragement within the team was added the departure in 1910 of Alexander Watson Hutton from the direction of the English High School, who that same year took on the presidency of their classic “football rival,” Belgrano Athletic (until 1912).

In his book, Escobar Bavio refers to the conclusion of Alumni's campaign for 1910 as follows:

“The campaign that has just concluded has not been very honourable. Even the men of Alumni understand and acknowledge this. Thus, a purpose hinted at in 1904 and made known after the 1909 championship takes on more substance: the intention to ‘dissolve’ the team. Aside from the natural fatigue of several players, firmly determined to end their involvement, other difficulties arise. It is evident that the team is losing the strong stature it once displayed. With each appearance, there are real challenges to form the team, and there are no substitutes capable of filling the gaps. The best solution is indicated by the very facts: Alumni should no longer compete. This is said and asserted at the end of the 1910 championship. It continues to be asserted in the lead-up to the 1911 tournament. It will be seen that the seemingly unyielding intention is not yet fulfilled. Alumni plays one more season. The final decision is thus postponed for a year...”

Thus, they reached their last year of competitive activity, 1911. A footballing year where, in the first half, between friendlies, the Copa Campeonato, and the Copa Competencia, they were eliminated in their first match. They played a total of eleven matches until 24 June, winning four, drawing one, and losing six. A record in itself, but this time... tragic for what they had become accustomed to.

The latter half of 1911 saw the return of their lacklustre triumphs, culminating in their final title. The initial blow struck deep at the heart of the Great Champion, and despite the optimism generated by their first three matches of the 1912 season, there would be no turning back.

All these upheavals took place behind closed doors within the team; Alumni alone bore full responsibility for their unusual actions. However, significant external factors also played a decisive role in the difficult decision to withdraw from the pitch permanently. The increasing influence of money in football became evident through the rise of so-called 'brown amateurism' and the first schism in Argentine football, with the emergence of two rival associations.

Emilio Hansen, president of the AFA, stated on 11 July 1907:

"It is necessary to ensure that professionalism does not invade this practice, turning it into a mere trade, thereby distorting its true purpose, which is to serve as a school for youth."

"Our Association believes that professionalism is the gangrene of this manly sport in Europe, and is determined to combat its introduction into the Republic at all costs; and that its efforts in this regard have not been in vain is evidenced by the fact that today, after nine or ten years of the game becoming popular, there is still

not a single professional team or group of players in the country."

These two compelling and consequential facts were entirely at odds with the principles of Alumni: to play with loyalty, with friends, and for enjoyment. Being footballers would never be their job.

"I always kept in mind that my future lay in my work, that football was merely a youthful pastime, which is why I never neglected my duties, except for some exceptional trip abroad for which I made use of my usual annual leave."
Juan Brown, *Crítica* newspaper.

The sum of all these mentioned events, both internal and external, in my opinion, triggered the end of one of the most important phases in the history of our football, one that educated, instilled values—and above all—spread the love of football throughout Argentina.

Only the formality of 1913 remained, which legally brought an end to the Alumni Athletic Club but gave life to Alumni, the legend.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE LEGACY

PREMIO ALUMNI

Since 2002, an annual distinction has been established in the realm of our national sport, awarded by the Circle of Directors and former Directors of Argentine Football (CIDEDFA), recognising the excellence and significant contributions of colleagues, players, coaches, media outlets, and institutions related to local football. This memorable recognition is celebrated under the name "Premio Alumni".

The name of this award not only evokes the first great Argentine champion but also transcends to a deeper level. It pays tribute to his legacy, which laid the fundamental foundations of Argentine football.

The winners of the Premio Alumni are determined by the voting of officials from all divisions of Argentine football, which gives it special value, as it is a recognition granted by peers. The statuette awarded was designed by Argentine artist Salvador Costanzo. It is a creation known as "The Tower of Glory". The structure of the work features a base that symbolises the solidity and stability of ethics and morals, essential for achieving sporting glory. In contrast, the pinnacle of the tower, smaller in size, represents victory and the fleeting nature of success.

The "Premio Alumni" has become a symbol of recognition and prestige in the realm of Argentine football, highlighting not only sporting performance but also the values that should accompany excellence in sport.



LA ASOCIACIÓN ALUMNI

In 2023, Daniel Ginhson, one of the founders of the "Alumni Association," passed away. Alicia Ponce de León (granddaughter of Jorge Gibson Brown) and her husband Juan Carlos Luongo had the pleasure of knowing him. They recounted the following story to me:

By 1951, Ginhson, along with other former students of BAEHS, conceived the idea of promoting the discipline of rugby among children. The ideals of "Hutton teaching" were implicitly present.

Their intention was also to carry the legendary name of the Great Champion as a tribute and a mark of belonging. Due to the emotional weight this represented, they believed they should first seek "permission" not only from the Director of the Buenos Aires English High School, Mr. Mario Luis Data, but also from a notable figure of great Alumni.

In an exhaustive search, they found the one who would become the last survivor, Eliseo Brown, who, at the age of 63, was working as a "steward" for the Perkins family on their estate in the town of Alberdi.

Eliseo agreed to their request with one condition: that their jersey be red and white with horizontal stripes, thus distinguishing it from the iconic vertical stripes worn by Alumni.



TEAMS INSPIRED BY ALUMNI

Since its inception, Alumni has not only stood out for its sporting achievements but has also left an indelible mark on Argentine football culture. Its legacy continues to endure over time, thanks to the numerous teams that have emerged inspired by its mystique, proudly donning its colours in a clear tribute.



- **Barracas Central** (1904)



- **9 de Julio de Rafaela** (1904)



- **Estudiantes de la Plata** (1905)



- **Talleres de Remedios de Escalada** (1906)



- **Club Atlético Alumni (Casilda)** (1907)



- **Unión de Santa Fe** (1907)



- **San Martín de Tucumán** (1909)



- **Cañuelas** (1911)



- **Instituto de Córdoba** (1918)



- **San Martín de Mendoza** (1927)



- **Alumni de Villa María Córdoba** (1934)

SPECIAL MENTION

Estela Alzugaray de Rueda

From the age of five until she completed her schooling, Estela Alzugaray de Rueda was a student at Belgrano Girls' School. It was located next to the Buenos Aires English High School (on Melián Avenue), which her brother attended. Today, this site is occupied by two large buildings.

After graduating, she began her English teaching degree at the Joaquín V. González Higher Institute of Teacher Training. In 1961, the opportunity arose for her to become the English teacher for the 1st Superior (now 2nd grade) at BAEHS, as it was difficult at the time to find qualified staff.

Estela studied in the mornings and taught in the afternoons.

Some time later, due to her commitment and performance in her role, she became the Director of English. Her predecessor had decided to move to the United States.

After more than 60 years of service to the institution, she is currently the General Director, the highest authority, and above all, the one who loves and knows the magnificent history of the school and its alumni the most. Additionally, she is responsible for safeguarding the EHS Museum, which she herself founded, where invaluable relics are preserved.

Today, Melián Avenue at number 1800 has become more than just a location on the city map; it is a witness to Estela's life. From those first steps until now, she continues to walk it time and again, in an eternal commitment to education. A story that continues to be written with love and dedication, with the hope of inspiring future generations, leaving an indelible mark, just as Alexander Watson Hutton himself did.

CHAPTER XIX

BRIEF EVOLUTION OF ARGENTINE FOOTBALL

The history of football in our country can be summarised in five stages:

First Stage (1867 to 1883): “Football Plants Its Flag”

This period begins with the first recorded instance of football being played in our territory. This was initiated by the Hogg brothers on that holiday Thursday, 20th June 1867, at 12:30 in the afternoon, when football took its first steps on Argentine soil.

The so-called "first match," played with mixed rules of football and rugby, and its subsequent rematch a few days later, has faded into obscurity.

Second Stage (1884 to 1892): “Time for Sowing”

This stage begins on 2nd February 1884 when the Father of Argentine Football, Mr. Alexander Watson Hutton, opens the English High School, envisioning sport, particularly football, as the perfect complement to the education of our children. This period is characterised by teaching, not only intellectually but also physically, using both the mind and the feet.

Football spreads across the Argentine fields, primarily in matches where friends gather to exercise, enjoy the afternoon, and have a cup of tea. The spectators were family and friends of the players, and there was little attention from the general public. Information in the media was scarce, and gradually we prepared to take the big step after the failed attempt of 1891: its organisation.

***Third Stage (1893 to 1899):
“The Definitive Organisation”***

This stage begins on 21st February 1893 with the founding of the mother association of Argentine football, the Argentine Association Football League, which we now know as AFA. It was founded by Alexander W. Hutton.

In just seven years, football has become a serious matter; the technique is refined, allowing for a more harmonious and sophisticated game. The initial roughness and excessive energy begin to fade, although they do not disappear completely. The number of players and clubs grows, and the improvement is evident, as are the spectators, although crowds have not yet formed.

A prosperous stage of our football comes to a close, paving the way for a glorious one.

***Fourth Stage (1900 to 1911):
“The Alumni Era”***

The year 1900 witnesses the birth of a myth. Under the Buenos Aires English High School first and then Alumni, the amateur era of Argentine football reaches its peak. One team would revolutionise everything in its path, not only by dominating the football scene for an entire decade but also by becoming the only local team among the English. The only one to defeat a British national team and the one that contributed the most to our Argentine National Team in its early days.

Alumni inspired and motivated thousands of young people to form their own teams, such as Racing, River, Boca, Independiente, San Lorenzo, or Huracán.

They achieved their goal, though burdened by the exhaustion that comes from years of intense dedication to amateur football—an ever-evolving sport that continuously expanded its boundaries, including long and arduous journeys to Rosario and Montevideo.

The Great Champion chose to step back, playing their final match on 26th November 1911, thus bringing an illustrious era to a close.

***Fifth Stage (1912 to 1931):
“The Academy and the Schism”***

During this period, Argentine football experiences three significant divisions known as “schisms.” Each with its own causes and consequences.

Schism of 1912: The conflict arises from disagreements among clubs regarding the organisation and administration of football. As a result, two parallel entities are formed: the Argentine Football Federation (FAF) and the Argentine Football Association (AAF). This period of division lasts until 1914, when both entities reunite under the Argentine Football Association.

Immediately after Alumni’s decline, Racing Club rose to the forefront of Argentine football. “The Academy” revolutionised the game, making it faster and more visually engaging, capturing the admiration of the public. A team that asserted local dominance over the English, making the sport feel even more our own.

Schism of 1919: Triggered by issues related to amateurism and the nascent professionalisation of some players. Clubs dissatisfied with the management of the Argentine Football Association separate and create the Amateur Football Association (AAF). The rivalry between the two associations persists until 1926, when they finally reconcile and unify once again.

“Local cunning” and the *gambeta* come into play. Gradually, a resource that undeniably enhances the quality of football is embraced. So-called ‘improvisation’ on the pitch manifests in flashes of ingenuity, intelligence, and quick thinking—highlighting several players as true creators of play, brimming with skill, and ultimately becoming a defining feature of the game. The stimulus remains and is continuously renewed, while the drive for improvement is shared by all players and teams.

However, it is important to note that, alongside this technical evolution, another transformation—both moral and material—was taking place. Argentine football began its transition away from amateurism, shifting towards professionalism, despite strong opposition from the press and athletes who remained devoted to the pure love of the game.

Something that was already unsustainable within the “**brown amateurism.**”

William Allerton Jordan, Veronica's grandfather, is primarily responsible for revealing through serious objections that amateur football had ceased to exist by 1930. He presented a project that would lead to the establishment of professionalism in Argentina the following year. He personally signed, as a representative of Alumni, the AFA note dated 11 July 1907. At that time, William Allerton Jordan was the president of the Quilmes club and made it clear that:

“Amateur football, yes, but like in our time, like in the days of Alumni, Quilmes, and Belgrano. Disguised amateur football, NEVER!”

The Schism of 1931: Argentine football found itself at a crossroads, leading to a “football strike” due to the need to be recognised as workers and to receive a salary for their services. This was also a struggle against the “Lockout Law,” which stipulated that no club could sign a player without the consent of the original institution. Additionally, players were required to remain at a club for at least two years before joining another. This was intended to prevent the constant movement of players and, in a way, served as a barrier to professionalism.

Sixth Stage (from 1931 onwards): “Profession: Football Player”

On 18 May 1931, the greatest transformation of Argentine football began. Following a meeting among all the clubs that were part of the Argentine Amateur Football Association, the proposal emerged to establish a professional division that would include the most popular teams from Buenos Aires, its metropolitan area, La Plata, and Rosario as a solution to an existing conflict.

However, this idea was not accepted by all; some believed that the solution should be equitable for all clubs, not just for a select group.

As a result of this division of opinions, eighteen clubs, including the most prominent in terms of attendance, decided to separate from the official Association and founded the Argentine Football League, marking the formal establishment of professionalism in Argentine football. The other entity changed its name to the Argentine Football Association (Amateurs and Professionals) and later, on 3 November 1934, both merged, leading to the creation of the Argentine Football Association.

31 May 1931 marked another milestone, as Boca and Chacarita inaugurated the era of professionalism in Argentina.

This brought about a series of significant transformations. Players finally began to receive a salary for their work on the pitch, allowing them to focus entirely on football.

Competition became more intense, stadiums filled with fans, and young talents flourished. The game became more refined and strategic, consequently elevating our quality on the world stage.

Moreover, Argentine football not only shone at the national level but also excelled in international competitions such as the Copa Libertadores and the former South American Championships, which later became the Copa América, as well as in the World Cups, bringing Argentina's name to the highest echelons of the global stage.

FINAL CONCLUSION

There is an aphorism from the 17th century, still relevant today, that says: **“good things are better when they are brief.”** Alumni was exactly that.

It was the perfect seed that our football needed in its infancy—the spark that ignited passion and devotion in every corner of the pitch. That carefully nurtured planting grew over the years, carving furrows of hope and preparing the ground for a prosperous and glorious harvest, as witnessed most recently in Qatar 2022. There, it faithfully retraced the steps of its creator, first as a student and then as a master.

To speak of Alumni today, after more than a century of wandering through time, is to explore the very depth of its meaning. It is not enough to merely recall its achievements or statistics—figures that still place it among the five most successful teams in Argentine football history.

Alumni was our first golden generation of the sport. Merely naming it evokes the indelible mark it left on every fibre of our football—on every professional or amateur team that steps onto the pitch with the fervour of a timeless tradition, and in the very essence of our National Team, forged with the passion that Alumni infused into the veins of Argentine football history.

In every goal, in every victory, and even in defeat, beats the heart of the Great Master. Its mystique echoes in the heartbeat of the fans, in the sweat of the players, and in the glory of every moment that reminds us that what is truly great — though fleeting — endures in the eternity of its influence.

***Alumni will never die; “only those who are forgotten die.”
And football will never forget it.***



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Unintentionally, I found myself exploring a new, unknown facet: writing a book to leave my small mark in this life that we pass through. For a time, I played at being a writer, but I also became involved in all the necessary stages to ensure that, ultimately, the book could become a tangible reality.

The most rewarding aspect of this experience has undoubtedly been the constant and selfless support from people I did not know, with whom I connected thanks to Alumni. Their help extended beyond sharing valuable information, conversations, queries, and photographs; I also received countless offers of "count on me." Everything was made easier and possible thanks to you.

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I hope I have risen to the challenge and fulfilled the proposed objective.

And to conclude, thank you, Alumni, for allowing me to tell your story, our story, the story of all those who love a football.

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- **Museo Histórico Nacional.** <https://museohistoriconacional.cultura.gob.ar/>
- **Cementerio Británico.** www.cementeriobritanico.org.ar



FOOTBALL HERITAGE: MY UNCLES

Horacio Amable Torres

Professional football player and Head Coach of the Argentine National Team.

He began his career in the youth divisions of Chacarita, making his debut in the Primera División in 1948 and playing there until 1950. He subsequently had stints at Almagro, Sarmiento, Quilmes, and Almirante Brown. During his time at Sarmiento de Junín, he took on a dual role as player-coach. Later, he became the head coach of Chacarita in the Primera División. As a coach, he led teams in the lower divisions, including San Telmo, Deportivo Español, and Nueva Chicago, and in the Primera División, he managed Chacarita, Atlanta, and Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata.

In 1963, he received an unexpected offer to take charge of the Argentine National Football Team. He held this position for the following competitions:

- **Campeonato Sudamericano 1963** (now Copa América).
- **Copa Roca 1963** (held in Brazil).

Among his most notable achievements is having coached two prominent figures in our football: Carlos Salvador Bilardo at Deportivo Español and César Luis Menotti in the national team. His greatest sporting pride, which he would tirelessly repeat every time he saw me kick a ball as a child in his estate in San Miguel, was, **"I beat Pelé's Brazil."** This occurred on 13 April 1963, when Argentina defeated Brazil 3-2 at the Estadio do Morumbi in São Paulo in front of 50,000 spectators, in the first match of the Roca Cup with Pelé on the opposing team.



Los jugadores argentinos en Cochabamba, una de las sedes del Sudamericano, entre otros se ve a César Luis Menotti, el DT Horacio Torres (con bigotito) y los jugadores de Independiente Bernao y Ferreiro.

Francisco "El Tano" De Vita

Midfielder of the great Ferrocarril Oeste, that of Roma and Garabal, his great friends.

He made his debut on 1st July 1955 against Lanús, playing his last match on 21st October 1962 against Argentinos Juniors.



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El plantel argentino parte rumbo a Bolivia, para disputar el Sudamericano de 1963.

AUTHOR

Martín Emanuel De Vita

(CABA, 10 January 1981)

- **Maestro Mayor de Obras**
(Ing. E. Hermitte)
- **Architect UBA**
(Graduated from the Faculty of
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- **Amateur footballer**
(In love with the game, and a collector
of antique football memorabilia).
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- **Last fan of Alumni**



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— Alumni according to Manu —



If you enjoyed it, please share this book that belongs
to everyone. Help me spread its story, our story.
May that light never be extinguished!

Want to drop me a line?

✉ info@alumni.ar



Once upon a time, in a place known as “el potrero del mundo”, a legend was born. The first in the sporting history of a country where football is felt first in the heart, and only then in the feet. It is the story your great-grandparents told your grandparents before bedtime. It is the story of Alumni, the legend.

MARTÍN EMANUEL DE VITA

