

Kwenderana

Maureen Potter

Despite the lack of meetings locally, the Kwenderana Partnership Group continue to help their counterparts in Ekwendeni in many different ways. Over the Easter holidays, the children not only in Ekwendeni but in the outlying villages who tend to be much poorer than the children in Ekwendeni received their daily porridge funded by us. School sponsorship and hardship fees have continued to be paid too but there is now a sense of frustration amongst the group that we have been stuck in a rut for too long. As we hadn't had a meeting since 21st November, we called a meeting for 15th May and were very pleased to welcome Carol Finlay from World Mission to the meeting. During the meeting, we decided to honour our founder, Shena Dougall, by making her Kwenderana Honorary Patron. We are having a social event on Sunday 17th June in Morag Steven's home in Shena's honour. We have also decided to have a Strawberry Afternoon Tea in Williamwood Church on 4th August. Watch out for further information. Carol is going to draw up a list of dates for a major review meeting when she and Rev. John Chalmers will lead us through the review system! It is hoped to have a full attendance of all Kwenderana members including clergy for this important meeting.

I am very grateful to the people within our own congregation who have contributed very generously to help Mercy Chabinga whose plight I highlighted in the last Focus. As a result of this generosity, I have been able to pay Mercy's teacher training fees and her daughter Glory's secondary school fees and open a bank account for them which will go a long way to paying towards future fees. Mercy has expressed her gratitude to all who have helped her in her hour of need. She prays for God to bless all her benefactors.

I recently received an email from Rev. Isaac Malongo, minister at Ekwendeni in which he said:-

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for your support provided to Mrs Mercy Chabinga. She came to see me soon after she got the assistance. She is really appreciating for it. May God bless you Maureen for making it possible. We are also praying for everyone who has taken part. Thanks again, Isaac."

The rain has been sporadic in Malawi generally this year so there is concern about the harvest. However the bees project which we funded a year or two ago seems to be bearing much honey which the Kwenderana group in Ekwendeni are hoping to sell for a profit and use the funds to help their community. This is very encouraging.

The Raven Trust has now been replaced by the Banana Box Trust and they are hoping to send out containers to Ekwendeni at regular intervals. The cost is £10 per banana box so we are being very choosy regarding items as it may be more cost effective in some ways to send money to buy items made locally. That way it is a win, win scenario for the local people providing them with employment and money to buy essential items.

During the winter months, I spent some time sorting out paperwork pertaining to Kwenderana and came across the documentation setting up the twinning with Williamwood High School and Ekwendeni Girls' Secondary School in 2006 during my time as Chairperson. Although we hear very little about the school activities, it appears to have gone from strength to strength which is very positive.

Please pray for:-

- Mercy Chabinga and her family as they come to terms with their loss and move on in their lives.
- The continued success of the Bees Project.
- The success of the forthcoming Williamwood High School Visit to Ekwendeni.
- The Kwenderana Partnership Group here and in Ekwendeni that we can continue to share friendships over many years ahead.





The Choir

Angela Marshall



After the solemnity and intensity of the Easter observance in the Church the Choir settled down to prepare for the Summer Serenade, their biennial production which alternates with the Supper and Song organised by the Drama Group. On the whole we were in better voice than at Christmas, so that we had a better turnout!

We were delighted to have as our guests Katie (Rosanne's pupil), see cover picture, and Anne (cellist) who added variety to the programme. As always, the summer concert was in the Church Hall, and followed by refreshments. The Choir members always enjoy these concerts, and this year was no exception. We hope all who attended did likewise. We thank everyone for their support.

Of course, in parallel we still had our weekly contributions to regular Sunday Worship to work for,

guided by our tireless organist Allan, and our very patient Rosanne! Where would we be without them? Thanks to them for their support.

During the summer recess the choir members will again supply a variety of interlude music for the 'anthem slot'. Anyone else will be welcome to do a piece if they wish. Please see Allan or Rosanne.



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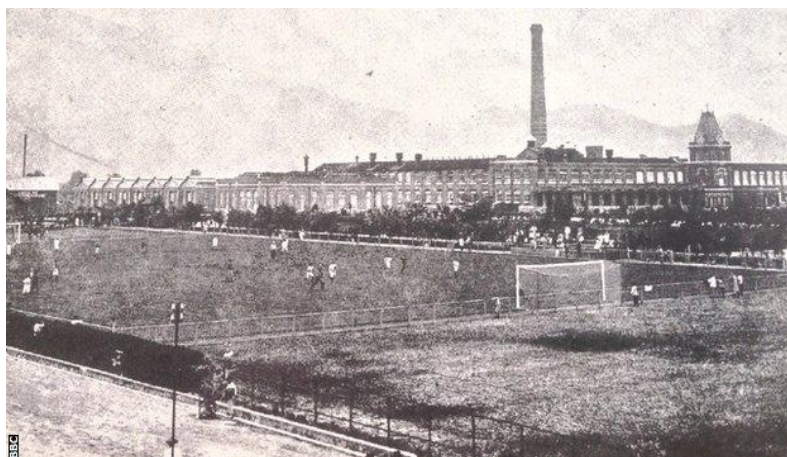
Birth of the Beautiful Game in Brazil

with thanks to BBC Sport

With the World Cup in Russia almost upon us, and Brazil among the favourites as always, it is worth remembering that one of the two men credited with introducing football to Brazil hailed from our village.

Thomas Donohoe was born in Busby. That same year, the world's first Football Association was founded in London. Aged 10, Donohoe followed his father into the print works, working as a dyer. And about the same time as he joined the company, he set up its first football team. Few records of his sporting feats survive though, with the exception of a match report from 1887 praising his performance for Busby in an otherwise humiliating 5-2 defeat by Cartvale.

Marriage, and children, followed. Struggling with a growing family and a meagre income, Donohoe sought opportunities outside Scotland. With British technical skills in demand as Latin America attempted to industrialise, he found a job as a master dyer at a new textile factory in Brazil.

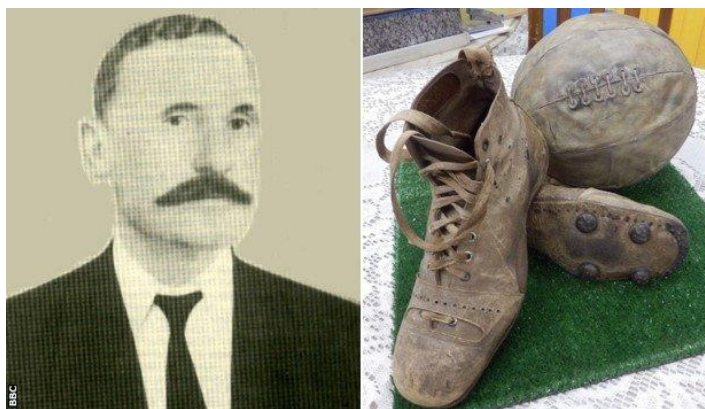


Bangu in 1906 - Football was played beside the textile factory in Bangu thanks to Donohoe

In May 1894, he set sail from Southampton to Rio, leaving behind his wife and two young sons. Little documentary evidence has been produced to flesh out the details of Donohoe's life in Latin America, particularly relating to his first football games. But Carlos Molinari, the official historian of Bangu Atletico Clube, is trying to put that right.

Bangu consisted of little more than a single street and the textile factory when Donohoe arrived. According to Molinari, the Scot soon settled among the small British expat community in the village. Though happy with his job, and his new friends, he pined for his old hobby, finding Bangu's Sunday pastimes of cycling or music no match for football. He was horrified to discover there were no teams in the neighbourhood, no equipment to be bought in the shops, and no knowledge of the game whatsoever among the locals.

So Donohoe wrote to his wife, Elizabeth, asking her to join him, and to bring a football, as well as their children. And shortly after her arrival, in September 1894, the first football match in Brazil took place in the field beside the textile factory. According to Molinari, it was a six-a-side match between British workers.



Donohoe in 1903 (left) and a replica of his boots and a football (right)

But some Banguenses, while still asserting Donohoe's contribution has been overlooked, acknowledge a degree of local pride colours their reasoning.

Benevenuto Rovere, 67, is one of the founders of the Gremio Literario Jose Mauro de Vasconcelos, Bangu's local museum. Inside the cavernous room are replicas of Donohoe's football and boots. On its walls are hundreds of black and white photos chronicling the town's history, including an image of Bangu Atletico Clube's line-up from 1905, which features Francisco Carregal, the first black man to play for a Brazilian football club.

Molinari argues the town would have boasted the first football club in the country had it not been for the intervention of one of the managers of the textile factory, who believed all games, including football, would lead to degeneracy among his workers. By the time the factory owners relented, in 1904, the Sao Paulo league was already in its third season.

