

1966-1976: Decade Eight

The club entered another team into the 2nd Division for the 66-67 season and **Horst Szukalla** was in charge. For the first time since the 1930s Vic West had two senior teams operating with the aims of bring along some young players and providing games for the keen older ones. All sixteen 1st and 2nd Division teams entered the pre-season McGavin series with both Wests teams winning their first games but loosing second round matches.

In league play, the 1st side again started slowly to finish in a fourth place tie while the 2nd team gathered 27 points from 21 games and finished only a single point behind the winning U.Vic Norsemen.

Jackson Cup play brought out some good competition with the Wests firsts defeating the Kickers and Luckies by 4-1 totals in the semi and final games. **Peter Robarts, Ranjit Dillon** and **Howie Anderson** produced timely goals while two young mid-fielders, **Dave Graas** and **Brian Robinson**, carried a lot of responsibility in their sophomore seasons. **Don Head** in the net, **Bill Munroe, Stu McFarlane, Carl Walker** and **Brian Cornall** were solid at the back.

That team went on to win the local and Island Province Cup playdowns and then got past Vancouver Glenavon 1-0. **Doug Hill** and **Nirmal Dillon** had great games in that televised match at Callister Park when Nirmal scored the only goal late in the game to advance the Wests. The next round, scheduled for Victoria, was forfeited and the Wests went back to Vancouver for the quarter-finals where they faced North Shores PCSL team and lost 5-0.

It had been a good year and **Nelson Crisp's** last season in the 1st Division after over a dozen of gentlemanly effectiveness. He began with Heaneys then played for the Scottish before joining Vic West where he stayed on to help as team manager.

The last of Wilf's renewed Wests, **Brian Cornall** and **Pat Mulcahy** left before the 1967-68 season began. Then, in their first game, Wests went down 5-3 to Gorge in a McGavin Cup game that turned out to be the beginning of a tough season for the Green. **Brian Robinson** had moved up to O'Keefes and **Dave Graas** headed south on a baseball scholarship. Six new players with **Glenn Robinson** replacing his brother, **Bill Duckworth, Jeff Sweet, Roy St. Denis, Peter Lord**, a visiting English school teacher and soldier **Jim Schultz** were signed. Wests finished second in league play, two points behind Scottish and the same two clubs met in the Jackson final with Wests absorbing a 4-3 setback. They gained some revenge in the double-loss knockout series for the Price Cup. There a 3-2 victory over the Scots, a 2-0 win off Kickers and another 2-1 triumph over Scottish put them into the final against Gorge. That match ended in a 1-1 draw but Wests lost 3-2 on penalty shots to finish a frustrating season.

The passing of **Frank Jenkins**, at the age of 88 in September 1968, cast a gloom over the club. "Pop" had been the financial secretary of VWAA back in 1902 and a staunch member and supporter since then. Upon retiring from work, he again took an active interest in the club and held executive positions during the 1940s and 50s.

Stu McFarlane took on the coaching duties that season and had to fill two big gaps when **Anderson** and **Robarts** stepped up to the O'Keefes side. He gained a couple of dandies after the demise of Luckies, when **Tom Collett** and **Barry Cosier** joined the Wests as well as **Ralph Anderson** moving up from the 2nd team. They finished the league in fourth place behind U.Vic, Scottish and Gorge. After reaching the semis in both the McGavin and Jackson Cups, they lost a tough 4-2 overtime battle that had lasted two games against Tally Ho, in the first cup series. Then they went down 2-0 to Gorge in Jackson Cup play.

The 2nd Division team was involved in a tight, eight-team, race and finished tied for third place when only 10 points separated the top to bottom teams.

Back in 1967-68 the club began honouring their most valuable members of each team with the early winners being;

	<u>1st Division</u>	<u>2nd Division</u>
1967-68	Don Head	Ralph Anderson
1968-69	Don Head	Ron Pietrzykowski

The 1969-70 season began well with Vic West winning the McGavin Cup after a tough 2-1 battle with Oak Bay. Bays had scored first but two markers from **Doug Hill** gained the silverware.

The 24-game league schedule stood with Gorge slightly in front at the end of November and the Wests second with 6 wins and 2 draws in their first nine fixtures. Then four December setbacks eliminated them from a possible first place finish and the standings finished with Gorge on top and the Wests, Oak Bay and U.Vic deadlocked in second place.

Vic West had a good run in the later part of that season and make it to the Jackson Cup final. In an evening game at Athletic Park, Wests met the Gorge and were soon down 1-0 and playing with only ten men due to an early ejection. They held in until midway in the second stanza when they dropped behind 2-0. Then a move new to soccer caused some excitement. With 15 minutes to play, and nothing to lose, coach Unwin pulled his goalie in favour of an extra forward and sweeper, **Ranjit Dillon**, donned the goalie colours. **Mike Beulac** made that move payoff when he reduced the lead to 2-1 and a fired up green side came close to tying it several times before the final whistle.

During the Price Cup playoff competition, Gorge defeated Oak Bay and the Wests squeezed by U.Vic on penalty shots after a 2-2 finish. **Ralph Anderson** connecting from the spot and **Don Head** foiling the U.Vic attempts. Wests met Gorge the following day and, determined to revenge their Jackson loss, outplayed them by a 4-1 count. Two juvenile players, **Bob Duncan** and **Danny Lomas**, contributed to that cup victory and helped conclude a good year after the squad had been in contention for all the awards and won two of the four.

The second team, under the command of **Paul Calve**, had also shown well by finishing their tough ten-team league in fourth place. Their line-up included **Tom** and **Vern Black**, **Keith Todd**, **Bob Bowles**, **Mike Jolly**, **Len Hayes**, **Doug Carter**, **Bill Tamburino**, **Daryl McIntyre**, **Don** and **Alex Stewart**.

A tradition of season ending out-of-town Easter weekend exhibition matches on the mainland or in Seattle went overboard this year. After a huge ambitious raffle ticket selling campaign, which produced near \$4000, sixty players, executives, spouses and supporters flew south when Vic West wound up that season with an Easter excursion to San Francisco. The first team tied San Francisco Scots 1-1 and the seconds lost a 4-1 match to the California State Olympics. Those results were insignificant to the friendship, fun and goodwill displayed on that extra long weekend. So much so that they did it again a couple of seasons later.

By the 1970-71 season, the **Sadler's** had moved to Lambrick Park when **Wilf** took a job as Saanich Parks caretaker. The Wests Sunday after-game socials moved from Tyndall Avenue to the unique basement at Lambrick. How Betty, Wilf and their daughters tolerated over ten years of long Sunday evenings, so the boys could finish their pool games, remains a mystery. But their basement rec room had remained the Wests clubhouse, meeting hall and social centre since 1959.

Vic West had developed a policy of signing young players and playing them. This was well known and aided in recruiting some of the best. Although the turnover was sometimes fast due to college, work or often a step up to the Coast League. In 1970, **Robbie Williams**, **Bobby Duncan** and **Ted Clarke**, three great young prospects signed on. Tragically, Ted died in an airplane crash that year. **Don McIntosh** was back in the fold along with veteran **George Paul** and **Jack Metcalfe** took over as team manager.

George and **Henry Paul**, who had come to Victoria from the Glasgow area in 1958, contributed greatly to the game in Victoria. George loved football and if he didn't have a match to play, he and his wife Ora would be spectators at some park. After years in the PCSL, he came to the Wests as a part-time player and coach. Henry began his long association by working with the 2nd Division team but both played major roles in building the Green & Whites for their greatest decade to come.

That season the first side won the Jackson Cup and put the Wests name on it for the tenth time, although reports indicate they had also won it in 1916, 1918, 1938 and in 1947. This year it was 2-0 over U.Vic with **Ranjit Dillon** being selected "Player of the Game." Goal-getters were **Mike Beaulac** and the league's "Rookie of the Year," **Rob Williams**. In league play it was a second place finish and then a 1-0 playoff final loss to Gorge.



VIC WEST DIV.1 1970-71 JACKSON CUP WINNERS

Back Row, L-R: Dave Unwin, Nelson Crisp, Jim Schultz, Ranjit Dillon, Owen Richman, Don Head,
Mike Beaulac, Franz Doesburg, Ralph Anderson, Jack Metcalfe.

Front Row, L-R: Tom Collett, Ted Clarke, Glenn Robinson, Rob Williams, Don McIntosh, George Paul, Bill Duckworth.



VIC WESTS 1970-71 DIV. 2 PLAYOFF CHAMPIONS & SPORTSMANSHIP WINNERS

Back Row, L-R: Alex Lynch, Dave Swanbeck, Bob Bowles, Bill James, Bill Munroe, Vern Black, Daryl McIntyre, Ray Benwell, Doug Hill, Tom Black, Henry Paul, Ernie Rober.
Front Row, L-R: Paul Calve, Don Stewart, Mike McManus, Nirmal Dillon, Gary Carvell, Bill Tamburino, Jim Lynch, Mike Jolly, Jeff Jefferies. Missing: Alex Stewart.

Wests added a third team when **Gordie Duncan's** Division 1 juvenile squad was sponsored by Vic West. They also had a second place league finish that year then they won their division's KO Cup and the Juan De Fuca Invitational Tournament.

All three units had collected silverware during the season for a good showing.

Vic West jumped in with players, funding and executives to help **Frank Grealy** and the United organization in 1971-72 when the PCSL expanded to include the Gorge FC. The Wests-United partnership lasted two seasons and during that time it had a distinctive Vic West flavour with grads like **Brian Robinson, Howie Anderson, Pete Robarts, Grealy, Ranjit Dillon, Ralph Anderson** and **Stu Taylor** in their line-up. They won the Coast League and playoff titles but crowds at Athletic dwindled. Both awards carried sizable purses so the players were treated to blazers for their efforts.

Wests revamped 1st and 2nd Division teams both finished their leagues in fourth spot and had near misses in the cup ties. The seconds had a great Jackson Cup run by advancing to the semis before losing to the Div. 1 Cosmo Royals. Then they dropped a 2-1 decision to league-leading U.Vic Norsemen in the 2nd Division Dodd's Cup playoff final.

Firsts lost **Rob Williams**, with a broken leg, and the Jackson final 1-0 to those same Royals

West's bingo partnership with the Retarded Childrens' Association began to pay off. That year, the club directors and players put in a tremendous effort in raising club funds and helping the disabled kids to the extend of \$5000. Many thanks to the work of **Hank Graas, Nelson Crisp, Dave Swanbeck, George Brown, Doug Clarke, Vic Hemming, Art Cannon, Paul Calve** and **Wilf**.

In 1972-73, **Ranjit Dillon** and **Ralph Anderson** returned but Vic West lost their courageous keeper **Don Head**. The fearless, solid team member's job took him out of town after he had been diving at attacking players' boots and blocking shots for eight seasons. **Dave Unwin** became the club president, **George Paul** took over as player-coach and led the club to a 2nd place league finish and a 2-0 Jackson Cup victory over Duncan Village Green. At the season's end, **Dave Graas** became the first West to received the league's Dr. Hunter MVP award.

The second side was successful in winning their league with a gang of new youngsters like; **"Butch" Foster, Bill Crawford, Mike McManus, Ian Hood, Steve Webb, Chris Finestone** and **Chris Foster**.

Wests entered the new Vancouver Island Soccer League in 1973 and George added “**Butch**” **Foster, Hood, and McManus** from the second side. He also signed goalie **Jim De Goede, Stu Taylor** and **Greg Mellish**. They led the league early but eventually lost out to London Boxing Club. Then came back to win the playoff title and the Jackson Cup. **Jim De Goede** was picked as “Top Man” in the 2-1 overtime final against U.Vic and George’s emphasis on disciplined team-work was rewarded with the presentation of the Referees Sportsmanship award to climax a fine season.



VIC WEST 1973-74 JACKSON CUP WINNERS & DIV. 1 PLAYOFF CHAMPIONS

Back Row, L-R: Wilf Sadler, Harold Holroyd, George Paul, Butch Foster, Ralph Anderson, Dave Graas, Jim DeGoode, Greg Mellish, Bob Lewis, Ian Hood, Tony Grover, Brian Williams, Charlie Sadler.

Front Row, L-R: Henry Paul, Alex Stewart, Stu Taylor, Mike McManus, Glenn Robinson, Rob Williams, Barry Robbins, Ranjit Dillon, Dave Unwin.

The 2nd Division Wests became a mostly old-timer’s unit of players such as; **Barry Robbins, Nirmal Shahi, Tom Black, Doug Hill, Russ Holmes** and **Don McIntosh** coached by **Bill Abbott**.

Through this time Vic West gained the services of some good, hardworking executive members in **Brian Williams, Ed Dewhurst, Henry Paul, Alex Stewart** and **Paul Calve**.

By 1974-75, George had rebuilt the first team with talented young players like **Mike Hardy, Greg Booth, John McGuire, Gary McLaren, Waining Lee, Steve Forslund** and **Steve Moss**.

Both teams had some success when the firsts opened the season with a McGavin Cup final victory over U.Vic, finished the league in fourth place and lost the Jackson Cup final to LBC. However, two individual awards went to club members when **Mike Hardy** was named Rookie of the season and **Rob Williams** topped the goal scorers. The 2nd Division “Old-timers” including **Tom Collett, Nirmal Dillon, Bob Bowles** and **Barry Cosier** won that league’s cup for the second time in four years.

The only long time 1st team members remaining were **Williams** and **Ralph Anderson** when **Ranjit Dillon** hung up his boots after 12 solid seasons and **Tom Collett** replaced **Dave Unwin**, who had signed on in 1961 and held every position from player to president. He left, after 14 years service, to join the growing VISL’s executive.

The final season of this eighth decade became the Vic West Associations greatest in 80 years of Island soccer. Signing **Mark Bolli** and **Darryl Hooker**, George had the team one point out of top spot when a club policy, or lack of one, caused a rift that resulted in his resignation. **Doug Hill** took over and the side remained a point off the pace at the schedule’s

end. They came on to win the Jackson Cup by beating Oak Bay 2-0 in the final of that 32 teams competition. **Greg Booth** and **Gary McLaren** had scored while **John McGuire** collected the games MVP award.

Mark Bolli became the seventh West to collect “Best Rookie” honours. Through the decade the club’s Most Valuable 1st Team Award had gone to; **Bill Duckworth, Ranjit Dillon, George Paul, Don McIntosh, Carl Walker, Glenn Robinson, John McGuire, Darryl Hooker** and **Mike Hardy**.

In the provincial competition, Wests squeezed by Oak Bay in a penalty shoot-out, Whiterock in overtime and Italia Canadians 1-0 in the BC final. Victoria West had a Province Cup title for the first time since 1911 and they celebrated with an Easter trip to Reno where they swamped Sacramento 8-1 and Reno 10-0.

At the summers end, they faced Regina Concordia in Athletic Park. At stake was the Canada West title and a trip to the Canadian Championships. Vic West had an outstanding performance on that sunny Sunday when **Gary McLaren** counted twice and **Rob Williams** once in the 3-2 win that sent them to Winnipeg.

Their Dominion Cup semi-final, against St. Johns, finished 1-1 thanks to a late tying goal from **McGuire**. West’s five penalty shooters were perfect while St. Johns missed once and the Green-shirts were in the Canadian finals against Fort Rouge of Winnipeg. That match-up had Vic West down 2-1 until striker **McLaren** counted at 58 minutes and netted the winner with seven minutes remaining to play. A Canadian Challenge Cup Championship! What a fitting finish to cap-off Victoria West’s 80th anniversary!