

**WALLSEND
TOUCH
ASSOC INC**

INSIDE THE DEN

Volume 1 Issue 1

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Harold "PUDDY" Miller

1982-1989 Founding President

Puddy has been kind enough to share some of his memories with us, how the club began, who was involved and some achievements that were gained along the way. This will allow the history of our club and our founder to be shared for many more generations to come.

Words by Mr Harold "PUDDY" Miller

Harold Miller, affectionately known by all as
Puddy : 16th June 1938

A little bit of back story before we start.

Wallsend touch started out as Newcastle touch Association, this is the name they came under when becoming affiliated with NSW Touch Association

The now Newcastle touch Association (used to be known as Newcastle Touch Football Club) wanted to become affiliated with NSW Touch... both clubs had the same name so this couldn't happen. There was a meeting between country touch officials, and the two associations. Long story short they agreed upon the names, Newcastle / Wallsend Touch Association for Wallsend and Newcastle Touch football association for Newcastle.

1973 - Puddy first played touch in the Newcastle competition run by Sports and Recreation at the International Sports Centre.

1974 - Puddy joined the committee at Sports and Recreation to help out as it was becoming quite a big competition and help was needed.

1974 -1978 This then became Newcastle Touch Football. Puddy, Gerry Edser, Peter Rymer, Lee Maughan formed Newcastle Touch Football committee.

In this time Puddy played and refereed touch football for Sports and Recreation.

Around 1980 Puddy coached ladies touch football and would referee most games at Wallsend Crystal Palace Soccer Club.

Sydney Touch Association sent representatives to ask Newcastle touch Association (Newcastle) to become affiliated with NSW Touch Association. Puddy did not want his players to have to pay insurance to play sport, he was very much against this. Newcastle would not affiliate with NSW touch.



1982 During this time Puddy would be training ladies team at Wallsend soccer fields, he had a thought that he could run a touch football competition there. So off Puddy goes and organises a meeting with the Directors of Wallsend Soccer Club to ask for permission to run a comp there. After several months of meetings with directors they agreed.

November 1982 Newcastle Touch Association (Wallsend) became affiliated with NSW Touch Football Association.

Early in November before the new competition started Puddy made his way down to the old stomping ground of The International Sports Ground. Puddy walked around to all the team managers and handed out pieces of paper that had wrote on them "why train, play another game of touch at Wallsend Soccer club". 25 teams put in their application to play that season at Newcastle Touch Association.

A committee was formed for Newcastle Touch Association (now Wallsend):

Founding President -	Harold miller
Vice President -	Neil McClure
Secretary -	Dawn Redman
Treasurer -	Wendy Sheedy
Committee -	Michael Mooney, Leanne Mooney and Len Roberts

That season games were played on Monday, Wednesday, Friday nights and Sunday mornings. The Sunday mornings were for the shift workers that worked afternoon shift.

1983 The clubs first game of State Cup representative touch football was played in Wagga Wagga

A recap of the weekend by Puddy

A men's and ladies representative team attended the state cup tournament in Wagga Wagga . We hired a 23 seater bus, left Friday night, arrived 6am Saturday morning and played all our games. We did not win a game the whole weekend. We did learn though not to put our numbers on the front of our uniform. The club colours worn were cinnamon and green, these are the Newcastle Regional colours. NSW touch had booked us into a motel at Gundagai ... this was 50 miles (80 km) away from the fields. We went to the RSL for dinner and refreshments but there was no entertainment as the entertainment only happened once a fortnight. We arrived back at Wallsend Sunday night, all of us had a great time.



Puddy attended NSW Touch first Level 1 touch coach certificates with Wendy Sheedy. They were amount the first 52 people to receive our Level 1 touch coaching certificate.

1984 A meeting was had with Country Touch officials and Newcastle re club name change.

1984 - A touch squad went to Port Vila, (capital of Vanuatu) to teach locals to play touch football.

Puddy used to go every Friday and collect the drinks for the fridge and all the lollies, (that Kellie and Tony enjoyed) and chips etc on his own and to check with Dawn if she has more information about when he organised their trip to Vanuatu (Port Vila.) He also ran a raffle to off set costs of this trip



1985 - Wallsend was able to attend all representative tournaments including State Cup, our club was becoming very strong with great players coming through.

Wallsend Soccer Club was sold so the competition was moved to Dangar Park Mayfield.

The summer competition was played at Dangar Park Mayfield. The winter competition was played at Mayfield Soccer Club. This year the first junior competition was started.

1987 - The council gave approval for the club to run their competition from Lewis St Oval Wallsend.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday night and Sunday mornings. This is around when the players started to ask for sweets, cordial and beer to be sold at the ground.

1989 - This was the last year Puddy was Wallsend's club president. He went on to obtain his level 4 referee badge, this was a first for the Wallsend club.

1989 - was also the year Puddy became Wallsend Touch Football Associations first life member. Puddy and his wife Barbara have attended every Country and NSW Touch championship since it all started. Puddy's family members have followed in his footsteps, son Tony Miller has played park, representative and coached junior teams from Wallsend. His son-in-law, daughter-in-law and grand babies have/are all played and coached at Wallsend.

His daughter Kellie has represented at Australian level, Kel is passionate playing park touch, coaches our junior players and is still a major component of this club today. Kellie runs our administration, almost everything behind the scenes, making sure everything is done correctly and we as a club are able to attend every tournament and play on the fields at Lewis St Wallsend, where her dad started this awesome club many moons ago.



- Monday – Mens / Mixed
- Wednesday – Ladies/Mens/ Family Mixed
- Full 12 week competition plus finals
- Fees include Sportscover Insurance, Affiliation with Touch Football Australia, Official Referees on every game, and all games. No additional hidden costs!
- Players from 12 years to 100! No age limit!
- \$100 per player
- \$70 per player in our family mixed

Hotel Elmore

Hotel Elmore have been a Major Sponsor of Wallsend Touch since 2018, providing our senior competition grand final prizes, and sponsoring our club referees. Wallsend Touch is proud to be associated with the Hotel Elmore, and thanks them for their continued support.

Wallsend Touch Association is so extremely privileged to have a new sponsor join the wolfpack! We would like to introduce Matthew Skehan and his wonderful business Elevate Finance.

Matt has provided the sponsorship that allowed us to purchase a brand spanking new, fully enclosed trailer that will allow us to easily transport our club marquees and equipment to representative tournaments.

We want to send a big THANK YOU from all of us at Wallsend Touch Association for your generosity and really appreciate your valued support!

If you, your family, or friends are in need of any financial guidance in:

- Financial and Investment Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Superannuation & SMSF solutions
- Personal Protection Planning
- Business Protection Services
- Estate Planning

and much more.... don't hesitate to contact Matt! www.elevatefinance.com.au



WALLSEND JUNIORS. (The Cubs)

The Wolves will now launch a big assault over the next month, with the Peter Wilson Memorial Championships (under-12 to under-18) taking place at Nelson Bay on 6 and 7 February, as well as the NSW Touch Junior State Cup at Port Macquarie from 19 to 21 February. We currently have 11 junior rep teams – boys 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18; and girls 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18. “We’re also encouraging the progression of the younger players, with development squads for both the boys’ and girls’ 10 years age group. “We’re also encouraging the progression of the younger players, with development squads for both the boys’ and girls’ 10 years age group. These sides were selected from our Tuesday night competition, which ran from October to December. We hosted more than 100 teams – and encouraged everyone to trial for rep honours.

We have a wonderful committee and junior president – Rochelle Stevens, group of volunteers, coaching staff and team management who support the reps.

“Luckily, our representative players pay very minimal fees (at Wallsend) as we have a few sponsors, **Montgomery Homes**, **McDonald’s**, **Wilkins Prestige Painting** and **Elevate Finance**, who provide fabulous support.



Montgomery Homes

Is proud to be associated with Montgomery Homes, and thanks them for their continued support. Montgomery Homes have been a valued Major Sponsor of Wallsend Touch for 10+ years, supporting our junior park competition, and providing our clubhouse roof signage. In 2019, Montgomery Homes became the Major Sponsor of the club’s junior representative program, further enhancing the great relationship between Wallsend Touch and Montgomery Homes. Wallsend Touch.

AJ Edden

Wallsend Touch would like to thank AJ Edden for their continued support of the Club.



