

Bright future for soccer

SOCCER is an international sport. It has world-wide, mass appeal which disregards all barriers. The game was played in Roman and Norman Britain and was mentioned by Chaucer, Shakespeare and Sir Walter Scott.

In Britain the development of soccer became closely interwoven with education with public schools and universities exerting influence on the growth of the game.

Colonel Jock Thompson recorded that the first soccer match in this country took place in 1890. Although the game was imported from Europe it soon flourished in the black and coloured schools of this country.

Soccer at Milton really started in 1966 when the sport became multiracial but in 1967 multiracial sport became difficult again and that, combined with the deplorable state of the soccer pitch, led to a rapid decline in participation. However, by 1970 conditions had improved again and Milton became the top soccer school in Group A Bulawayo.

The following year a visit from a British soccer coach boosted interest and Milton played its first match against Prince Edward. With the re-introduction of multiracial sport soccer bloomed and Milton now fields A and B sides in all the age groups.

In the 1977 schools tournament in the then Salisbury, Milton came fourth out of 10 teams. In 1983 the first XI qualified for the quarter-finals of the provincial Dunlop Cup and in 1984 we reached the final which we lost after extra time.

Milton is a force to reckon with in soccer and her great achievements in the past four years have endeared her to many people. The future is promising and this is shown by the present, unbeaten Under-16 group.