

ITALIA OLYMPIA FC

1949 - 1959

1. The Reunion
2. 1949 – 1959
3. Societa Sportiva Italiana 1949 - The Birth of Olympia Football Club
Societa Sportiva Italiana 1951 - Changed to Italian Sporting Club
23rd June 1956 - 1st International Match England vs. South Africa
Maccabi XI vs. Italian Immigrants XI
4. Societa Sportiva Italiana 1949 - The Committee as it stood.
5. Societa Sportiva Italiana 1951 - The new enlarged Committee of Italian Sporting Club
6. New Clubhouse 1954
7. The Italian Club Clubhouse - As it stood, just prior to the renovations that were undertaken in 1992.
8. 1958 – 1968
9. International Soccer tournament of 1958.
10. Italian Team of Seniors & Veterans
11. The program for the day - Note that no rules were advised.
12. Alitalia Advertisement
13. International Soccer Tournament of 1959.
14. The Italian Team managed by P Baretta.

4. *In 1948 the Societa Sportiva Italiana was formed, although it was officially unveiled only the Year after. Although the idea was for sports lovers, preferably of Italian origin to come together, it started with football. It was the brainchild of Dr Ugo Giunchi, himself a great lover of football. Together with 750 friends Dr Giunchi rallied and raised £7 500.00 to purchase the Soccer Fields, now commonly referred to as our "A" field and the Hockey Field, our "B" field. As time progressed so saw the birth of two tennis camps and 8 Bocce camps. The reason behind the purchase was that Sport was not allowed to be played on a Sunday morning at municipal grounds for religious purposes. This did not suit the Italian immigrants that had so enthusiastically accepted Dr Giunchi's idea of starting a football club. Playing football for these young Italians was a means of linking them to their beloved Italy, a country known for their love of football.*

4.1 *Why Olympia Football Club? Let's face it, Olympia is not really an Italian name, but for Dr Giunchi, an idealist and romantic at heart, chose the name Olympia for it's symbolism of sport, pride and sheer determination that strikes where it hurts most - the heart.*

5. *In 1951 the Societa Sportiva Italiana officially changed its name to Italian Sporting Club.*
 - 5.1 *It's the same year that **Gino Ponte** was enticed to join the Club by a friend.*

7. *In 1954 the first Clubhouse was built, and this was followed by the Bowling camps in 1955.*
 - 7.1 *In 1956 **Gino Ponte** retired from playing football. **Olympia** was playing in the Southern Transvaal Football Association Division 2 and had just won the Cup. He had also participated in the curtain raiser game of the first International held between England and South Africa.*
 - 7.2 ***Ario Canova**, the Vice President, saw the potential for a successful Football team, and with the help of **Bruno Riboldi** and **Brollo Africa** proceeded to build the Stadium at the Italian Club. The Stadium that seated 4000 people comfortably was named **Canova Stadium** in appreciation of **Canova's** involvement. After **Ario Canova's** retirement he remained an honorary member of **Olympia Football Club**.*

9. *In 1958 Dr Ugo Giunchi began the very first **International Tournament**. Dr Giunchi's aim was to bring the different communities together through our love of football. With each passing year, the **International Tournament** boosted its own Committee, and grew in numbers.*

13. *In 1959 the Club was promoted to the 1st Division of STFA. During this time Dr Ugo Giunchi remained the backbone of the Club. **Olympia** was playing in the top amateur division, and dreaming of an entry into the pro ranks.*

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1960 - 1969

15. 1960 – 1969
16. International Soccer Tournament 1960
17. Italian Team
18. International Soccer Tournament 1961
19. Slimming Advertisement - No doubt slimming was already on everyone's minds.
20. Italian Team.
21. International Soccer Tournament 1962
22. Italian Team.
23. Alitalia Cup Winners 1962
24. International Soccer Tournament 1963
25. Italian Team
26. Program for the day - Rules appeared for the first team.
27. International Soccer Tournament 1964
28. Italian Team
29. Congratulations to League Winners
30. Olympia FC 1964 NFL Team
31. Powerlines Team 1964
32. International Soccer Tournament 1965
33. Italian Team
34. Program for the day - Rules beginning to play an even more important role
35. International Soccer Tournament 1966
36. Italian Team with photo
37. International Soccer Tournament 1967
38. Italian Team managed by G Niccoli
39. International Soccer Tournament 1968
40. Italian Team
41. International Soccer Tournament 1969
42. Italian Team

30. *Olympia 1964 Picture Football* - *1964 Team that won promotion to the National League.*

- 30.1 *The most successful side **Olympia FC** has ever had is the 1964 Team, under the auspices of Gino Ponte. This team won promotion to the National Football League and even today is a symbol of our very proud history, one we often tend to forget.*
- 30.2 *When **Gino Ponte**, a former player, helped establish the NFL Second Division in 1961, **Olympia** were the first club to come forward and join this exciting venture. The Club performed well in the NFL (North), never finishing lower than sixth position.*
- 30.3 *The NFL was an exciting league in that professional overseas players would often play in our respective leagues as well, due to the South African Football League not running simultaneously with our English counterparts as we do now.*
- 30.4 *One of the most memorable games was playing against Durban City at Canova Stadium and winning 2-1.*
- 30.5 ***Dr Giunchi** although President of **Olympia FC** for many years, always preferred the back seat, forever giving credit to everyone else but himself. He continued to oversee the Teams and the League in a managerial way, but never interfered with the Coaches or team selections. He followed the team in its early stages and rates the 1964 Team the **BEST TEAM EVER** for obvious reasons. Never again has **Olympia FC** enjoyed the successes of the 1964 squad, but its successes live on in our minds and in our hearts.*
- 30.6 *The 1960's **Olympia FC** team under Manager **Gino Ponte** was an exciting team to watch. Their games were right royal family affairs with sons Paolo and Roberto participating and mum **Mrs Ponte** attending to all the catering that took place below the grandstands, selling hotdogs, beers and snacks to the many supporters. In addition to this, the Ponte's with their own lawnmower did the cutting of the grass.*
- 30.7 ***Ario Canova** a self made business man and sports enthusiast pledged his financial support and this support was largely responsible for our success and for the building of our stadium.*
- 30.8 *1964 was our year of Destiny. With the Committee wanting to strengthen the team, an ex-English 1st Division player was thrust at them. However things did not particularly work out, and due to the great expense on this star player, the Committee made it known that it could not support the rest of the players to the same extent. **Olympia**, with their great team spirit after the disappearance of their star player went on to win 12 consecutive games and the league. From here, 5 teams from different parts of the country were involved in a playoff for their right to play in the 1st Division. This took place in Pretoria and after a week of strain tension and human effort emerged undisputed victors and went on to the Premier league.*

- 30.9 *The expectations of all the people involved in promotion differed considerably. **Olympia** employed a Mozambican Coach who travelled to Italy to bring back an entire new team. Upon his return he arrived with a mixture of nationalities and attempted to put them together with the existing players, this created an unsatisfactory situation. At the end of the season, after finishing third from the bottom, the Coach was dismissed.*
35. *In 1966 a new Committee was formed with great ambition. Substantial financial backing was guaranteed and the service of Mario Tuani as Coach was accepted. That year **Olympia** produced the results that the public expected, finishing in 7th position. Mr Tomassini ran the financial part of the club, but pulled out when he realised the Club wasn't financially viable. This added to the decline of **Olympia** and its supporters switched their support to newly promoted Powerlines.*
36. *In 1967 Olympia was relegated.*
36.1 *Olympia was relegated in quick succession and ended up playing in the TFL 3^d Division on Saturday afternoons.*
41. *In 1969 Dr Giunchi recalled Gino Ponte & Phil Snoyman back to the Club to help the Club regain it's popularity.*
- 41.1.1 *Upon their first training session, only 6 players attended.*
- 41.1.2 *The NFL stipulation at the time was for all Clubs to have 2 senior teams, and a Colt team;*
- 41.1.3 *There was no law regarding the amount of foreigners you were allowed to play;*

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1970 - 1979

- 43 1970 – 1979
- 44 International Soccer Tournament 1970
- 45 Italian Team managed by Gino Ponte
- 46 International Soccer Tournament 1971
- 47 SAA Advertisement - The first 747
- 48 Italian Team managed by Gino Ponte and trained by Angelo Susanna
- 49 International Tournament 1972
- 50 The Godfather showing at Cinemas
- 51 Italian Team managed by Gino Ponte
- 52 International Soccer Tournament 1973
- 53 Italian Team managed by Gino Ponte
- 54 1973 NFL Winners
- 55 1973 NFL Winners picture
- 56 1973 NFL Winners group picture
- 57 International Soccer Tournament 1974
- 58 Italian Team managed by Gino Ponte
- 59 Smiley advertisement
- 60 International Soccer Tournament 1975
- 61 Italian Team managed by Gino Ponte
- 62 International Soccer Tournament 1976
- 63 Italian Team
- 64 The History of the Tournament
- 65 International Soccer Tournament 1977
- 66 Italian Team
- 67 International Soccer Tournament 1978
- 68 Italian Team
- 69 History of the Tournament
- 70 1979 – 1989
- 71 Newspaper Article – Olympia's magic sinks Uniao
- 72 Newspaper Article – Albion shock Wits in Semi-final
- 73 Newspaper Article – Magnificent Olympia win another Cup
- 74 Winning picture
- 75 Windhoek Tour
- 76 Windhoek Team

46. *In 1971 Olympia trained by Atkinson - Susanna combination finished 2nd and in 1973 finished 3rd.*
55. *The Olympia team of 1973 was sponsored by Fiat for 3 years, and as a sign of recognition, Olympia was often referred to as Olympia Fiat.*
56. *A group photo of supporters surrounding the successful 1973 winners.*
57. *In 1974 Gino Ponte formed the breakaway League, the Transvaal Central League and as time progressed gained support from other prominent people.*
71. *Articles confirming Olympia's superiority.*
- 73 & 74. *Celebrating Olympia's Cup victory. Olympia FC won the League the week after.*

ITALIA OLYMPIA FC

Ceccato FC History

77.

During the 70's while *Olympia* continued in the now National Football League 2nd Division, smaller Italian Clubs were being formed. Due to the now ever growing Italian Club, these small Italian teams referred to the Italian Sporting Club, and in specific *Canova Stadium* as their home. One such team was *Ceccato FC*. Under the auspices of *Giovanni Tizzone*, *Ceccato FC* who had changed their name from *Lucy's Motors* played in the Commercial Football League on Sunday mornings.

In 1974 *Ceccato FC* gained promotion and moved to Southern Transvaal Football Association Division 1.

In 1978, one of the most memorable games was *Ceccato FC* vs. *Lusitano* in the quarterfinals of the Castle Cup. At halftime *Ceccato FC* was winning 1-0, goal courtesy of *Rocco Ancarola*. *Gigi Congia* was the Manager at the time. Despite *Ceccato FC*'s efforts *Lusitano* won the game 4-1. *Marco di Giovampaolo* was the Goalkeeper for *Lusitano*, whom the year before had been sold by *Ceccato FC*. *Marco di Giovampaolo* later went on to play for the likes of *Jomo Cosmos* and *Orlando Pirates*.

In 1982 *Olympia FC* folded and the remaining players moved to *Ceccato FC*, *Adriatica* and *Azzurri FC*. *Ceccato FC* officially became known as *Ceccato Olympia FC*, as a symbol of affection to the Italian Club, the Italian Community and Dr *Giunchi*. This decision was widely approved by both *Joe Tizzone* & *Gennaro Arena* whom assisted *Joe* wherever and whenever possible. *Maurizio di Giovampaolo* who had been coaching in the *Zambuk League* was called in to assist *Ceccato Olympia* to regain their previous glory. The team was sponsored by *Sabatini Panelbeaters* and was playing in the *NPSL*. It was a hard league especially since *Ceccato Olympia* was running away with the League. The League Hierarchy couldn't believe that *Ceccato Olympia* could've been that good, and ordered them to replay the first part of the season which they did,

however with the same results. *Ceccato Olympia FC* was still playing football in November.

ITALIA OLYMPIA FC

1980 - 1989

78. Joe Tizzone - In Italy 2000
79. Ceccato 1989 - Under Coach Donato Bove & President /
Manager Gennaro Arena.

78. *Joe Tizzone was not only involved in football while living in South Africa but was a Sports Administrator. Although his passion has always been football, this photo was taken during a trip to Italy in 2000 for the wedding of his eldest daughter. While in South Africa, Joe's home was a tribute to Italy and Italian Soccer, now in Italy, at Kyalami Ranch, the Sports facility he now runs, in his Office, he pays tribute to South Africa and to the many happy events and triumphs he celebrated with Olympia FC, and Ceccato FC in particular. His walls are adorned with photographs of people he still fondly talks about. Joe's contribution to football not only at Olympia but to South African football itself bears testament in the four box files he keenly showed, but refused to part with.*

79. *Now officially called Ceccato Olympia FC, the rivalry between the different Italian Clubs was becoming more and more evident. While Ceccato Olympia began on their downward spiral, now playing in the Amateur ranks, with professional football now firmly out of our minds, it became a struggle for survival. On the verge of almost collapsing altogether, and with the insistence of the Main Club, that football was not really needed, and that the soccer fields would make a "wonderful" vegetable patch, this after the Club itself was built on the successes of Olympia Football Club, Gennaro Arena, the then President took drastic measures to save the Club. In 1988 Gennaro Arena officially requested the Southern Transvaal Association to drop Ceccato Olympia FC to the Division 4, in a quest to start from scratch and rebuild the Club he has always believed in. In addition, Gennaro proceeded to become unpopular as in his quest to rebuild Ceccato Olympia FC, he requested the smaller Italian teams such as Azzurri and Adriatica to either join up with Ceccato Olympia FC or clear the fields.*

And so began the long walk forward ...

*+ 1986 International under Joe Tizzone
pics sent.
+ 1986 Coppa Juve
+ Joe's other pics*

ITALIA OLYMPIA FC

1990 - 1999

80. 1990 – 1999
 81. Italian Club 1992
 82. Italian Club entrance as it stands today.
 83. Ceccato 95; Ceccato 97; The birth of Ladies Outdoor
 84. Ceccato FC 1997 - Runners Up Cup Final Rand Stadium
 85. Olympia FC Ladies 1997 - At the ever popular Sagra
 86. Olympia FC Ladies 1998 - The ladies in a match against Edenvale.
 87. Olympia FC Ladies 1999 - Our first season at Indoor under new management
 88. Olympia FC Ladies 1999 - Together with a representative from Minaco
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81. *From 1992 - 1995 with the merging of the two Italian Clubs, namely Italian Sporting Club of Bedfordview and the Italian Bowling Club of Linbro, at the insistence of the Main Club, for the first time in our History, the name Olympia fell away as our Section became known as Italian Club Ceccato.*
 - 81.1 *In 1995 while Italian Club Ceccato was enjoying one of their best seasons, behind the scenes, Dr Ugo Giunchi together with Italian Sporting Club's Shareholders donated the grounds to the Italian Club, effectively becoming a non-profit organisation.*
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84. *1997 Ceccato FC 2nd team played in the Final of the Cup with high expectations. Unfortunately they lost in the final against Corinthians. However a fantastic achievement for a team that is widely regarded as the "second fiddle" to the 1st team.*
 85. *In 1997 saw the birth of ladies outdoor. Under the auspices of Cathy Barecchia, an enthusiastic group of 22 girls began to play football. Cathy's main objective was to bring the girls together, to help them appreciate the game of football and to enable the girls to enjoy themselves. Claudio D'Aguanno & Stefano Battaglia were the Coaches and together enjoyed many hours of laughter, training and playing football.*

86. *The ladies sponsored by Roberto Sardelli of Sparky's Electrical in the changerooms before a game against Edenvale, a game that shocked our then Vice President Stefano Vigoriti who was refereeing the game, angered our Coaches and embarrassed our Manager. The game was called off for abusive language and threats of violence.*

In 1998 with the arrival of Coach Maurizio di Giovampaolo, a man synonymous with our successes of the 60's a decision was made to return to our original name, Olympia Football Club.

In 1998 Dr Giunchi officially retired from Football, bringing to a close 40 glorious years of commitment, love, loyalty and emotion. In recognition of his outstanding commitment and loyalty to Olympia Football Club, through the decades, Dr Giunchi was named Life Member of Olympia Football Club, in addition the Ugo Giunchi Floating Trophy is handed out to the most outstanding team at our Annual Prizegiving that takes place in September of every year.

87. *In 1999 under the Management of Vilma Morano & Samantha Guerandi the ladies ventured into Indoor Soccer. As outdoor football began to fall apart due to running out of teams to play against, and the subsequent resignation of our manager Cathy Barecchia, a decision was made to try Indoor. Adriano de Canio was asked to assist the ladies, and together we performed remarkably well for our first season at Indoor.*

88. *Prizegiving 1999, together with a representative of Minaco, the ladies together with Managers and Coach thanked their sponsor Mr Paolo Belfiore for the sponsorship of the ladies kit.*

ITALIA OLYMPIA FC

2000 - 2004

- 89. 2000 – 2004
- 90. Avion Cup winners; Clubman; Ladies; Snr Tour
- 91. 1st & 2nd Team winners in the Avion Cup.
- 92. Clubman of the Year 2000 - Piero Morano together with the 2000 Soccer Committee
- 93. Olympia FC Ladies 2001 - Raffaella Scalzullo, Samantha Guerandi & Helena Gomes (now Ricchiuti) selected for Eastern Gauteng Ladies Team
- 94. Olympia FC 1st Team 2001 - Durban Tour training on the Beach.
- 95. Olympia FC 1st Team 2001 - Durban Tour
- 96. Under 9's; Ladies; Fundraising; Veterans
- 97. Olympia FC Under 9's 2002 - At Boksburg City Stadium after sharing the Cup with Alberton FC. Coach Rade Dragojevic was also nominated Coach of the Year for Eastern Gauteng. Champions of Social League 2 (winners by 7 points)
- 98. Olympia FC Ladies Indoor 2002 *
- 99. Italia Olympia 2002 Fundraising *
- 100. Italia Olympia 2002 Fundraising *
- 101. Italia Olympia 2002 Fundraising *
- 102. Italia Olympia 2002 Fundraising *
- 103. Italia Olympia FC Ladies 2003 * League Cup 2002, Indoor Cup Champions 2003 & Team of the Year 2003.
- 104. Italia Olympia FC Veterans 2004 * Runners up Cup Final against Bonaero Park

91. *Although the Avion Cup Tournament was played pre-season, it was the tournament that was to set the tone for the year, as the Seniors First Team went on to win the Eastern Gauteng Central Districts League under the exemplary guide of Stefano Vigoriti. Stefano Vigoriti has played a vital role in bringing much needed sponsorships to the Club. With partners like MCT, Perfetti, National Brands and Agip they have all contributed to the teams achieve success.*

92. *2000 prizegiving. Awarded to Piero Morano who has been with the Club since the age of 16. This year is his second year playing the Italia Olympia FC Veterans.*

93. A very proud moment for **Olympia ladies**. Invited to participate in the ladies trials for Eastern Gauteng, **Olympia** was the only Indoor side that participated. Given that outdoor is played with a minimal amount of 15 players, **Olympia** arrived with 8 ladies. Of those 8, three were chosen for the team selected to play against an Invitational Pinetown ladies team.
94. Training on the Umhlanga beach, our very own superstars.
- 94.1 After the first round lying 1st and scaring the notorious big Gauteng amateur football like Benoni Northerns, Bedfordview, Randburg and Robertsham.
- 94.2 **Stefano Vigoriti** decided solely on being President and left the coaching duties to **Roberto Cori**. **Italia Olympia** finished the League in 5th position.
95. Under the presidency of **Stefano Vigoriti**, the First Team embarked on a Durban tour. The team played a friendly against Premier side **Golden Arrows**, losing the game 3-1, after **Marco Faustino** was sent off in the first half. Had he not been sent off, the game could've ended very differently.
96. The 2002 successful Under 9 team. Under the management of **Brian Wright** and Coach **Radé Dragojevic**, the Under 9 team enjoyed a fantastic season. Drew against Alberton in the Cup Final, played at Boksburg City Stadium, which resulted in the teams sharing the trophy. **Radé Dragojevic** was also selected **Coach of the Year for 2002**.
97. **Olympia Ladies** finest moment. Winning Social League 2 by 7 points.
- 99-102 Our ever popular Fashion Shows. The event is our annual fundraiser. The joy and pride of the Fashion Show is that all its participants are either football players or involved in football with **Italia Olympia** in one way or another.
- 103 Another proud moment for **Olympia Ladies**. A photo shoot outlining the ladies successes. League winners in 2002 (one team), Cup winners in 2003 (action team), and nominated **Team of the Year 2003** at the annual prizegiving. 2003 was also a particular year for the ladies in that due to our success, two ladies teams were entered, assisted by **Adriano de Canio**, the Action Coach, and **Piero Morano**, the Social Coach.
104. A smile for our Veterans - 2004 **Italia Olympia Veterans** in the final of the League Cup, played at Bonaero Park, against Bonaero. Unfortunately lost the game 2-0.

*In conclusion it is important to note that the current **Italia Olympia FC** Committee is committed to help develop amateur football in South Africa. We are striving hard to make **Italia Olympia** a Club that allows all walks of life to come together, to make friends and play football. Our Committee comprises:- **Stefano Vigoriti** as President, a successful businessman with a passion for football. Often misunderstood, strives always to do the right thing and always acts in the best interest of football, of **Italia Olympia FC**, which he has almost single-handedly resurrected. **Vilma Morano**, the current Vice President and manager of the Ladies Team as well as the Functions organiser for the Section is the first Italian woman to be nominated onto the Eastern Gauteng Committee, an executive position she has held for the past two years, and is the only woman on the Committee. **Carlo Berti** is the Treasurer and assists in the coaching of both Senior Teams. **Raffaella Scalzullo**, our Secretary, is also involved in Junior football. Currently oversees the management of our entire Junior Section, which comprises 8 teams. Attends to all the liaising with the Junior Gauteng Board and also forms part of the Functions Committee for the Soccer Section. **Franco Masia**, assists Raffaella in the overseeing of the Junior Section and is excellent at keeping parents of our Juniors well informed and happy. **Giovanni di Benedetto and Brian Wright** share the maintenance portfolio of our Section. Possibly the most important portfolio of all, since nothing would be possible without the continuous support of these two gentlemen.*