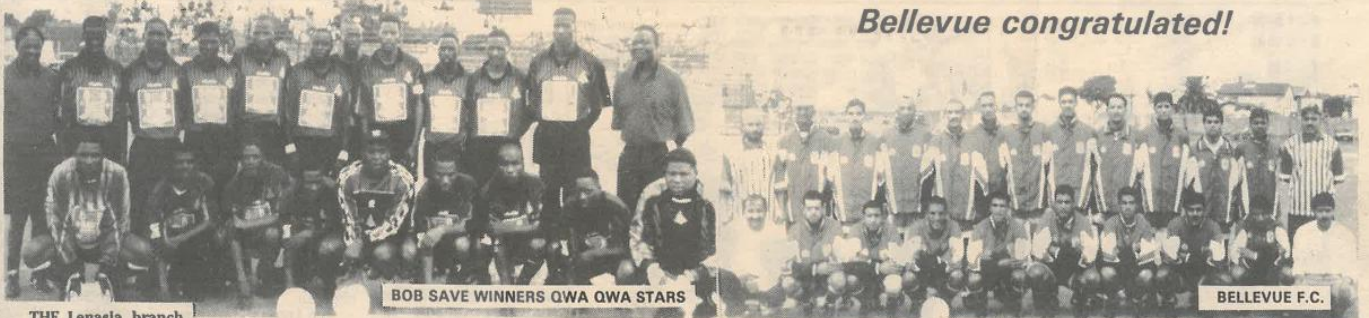


**Bellevue congratulated!**



**BOB SAVE WINNERS QWA QWA STARS**

**BELLEVUE F.C.**

THE Lenasia branch of the African National Congress congratulated the Lenasia-based amateur soccer outfit, Bellevue Football Club, for progressing far in the country's premier knockout competition. "You have indeed done our community

proud in attaining recognition for your talents and ability in a game that is so challenging," the ANC's Mickey Padiachee said in a letter to Bellevue on the eve of their crucial game against Premier League giants, Qwa Qwa Stars at the Lenasia

Stadium. "It is indeed been a long time since Lenasia witnessed a game of this standard and we hope that this will not be the last." Padiachee said members of the branch would be present to cheer the

local lads. However, their cheers, vocal and moral support did not help the Lenasia team to victory but the amateur team made the more fancied Stars sweat for the 3-0 victory in the BobSave Superbowl competition

on March 15. The game started at a fast pace with Bellevue on the attack but the more experienced Stars, led by their captain, Moeti Khasu, prevented the youngsters from opening their score sheet.

It was only late in the second that Stars took control of the game, after their defender Doctor Mkonza scored in the 30th minutes. Bune Ngaduane scored the second nine minutes later and the Meshack Tsotetsi sealed the

match for the visitors in the 75th minutes. Despite being defeated, Bellevue were not disgraced and certainly not outplayed. They showed they will be able to match the top teams with adequate coaching and more experience.

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**BELLEVUE** are the South Western Districts Football Association's (SWDFA) champs... twice.

The Lenasia-based side, pace-setters for most of the season, deservedly won the inaugural SWDFA Premier League title by three points from fierce rivals Atletico, also from Lenasia. The third and fourth places remain undecided. Aces United (Eldorado Park) and Ennerdale's Crimson Lads play each other to settle the issue.

In the KO competition, a solitary Ebrahim 'Shakey' Ashraff strike settled the matters against a game Aces United, completing a well-merited Bellevue 'double'. The left-sided midfielder had strayed to the right and neatly slotted home the winner 10 minutes from the end.

Bellevue will receive R4 000 for their league success and about R1 000 (unofficial) for winning the KO.

Said Bellevue director and manager Aboo Mia (Mehmood): "It was hard work, and I am proud of the boys.

"Competition in the Premier League was stiff, and much of the success of this, the inaugural, year of the SWDFA is due to the efficient organisation of the executive committee. Manager Rajan Pillay and Harry Sookha, among others, did a remarkable job, considering the initial hiccups experienced before the season kicked-off."

Of the immediate future, Mia is looking forward to participate in the Smirnoff League (now the Third Division) as promised.

During the season, Bellevue suffered two reversals only, going down 2-3 to AC Milan of Eldorado Park, and losing by the same margin against Crimson Lads.

**Bellevue do the 'double**

AFTER six rounds of fixtures in the SA Football Association - Southern Transvaal regional play-offs, Lenasia-based Bellevue are on track for a top-four position, qualifying them to participate in the National Soccer League's new Promotion League next season.

The top four finishers on the four twelve-team groups, together with the two relegated teams from the NSL Second Division (formerly Third Div), will comprise the new league.

A walkover in their opening fixture against Rockville Hungry Lions, 3-0, 6-0 and 2-0 victories over Risoma (Lenasia Stadium), Meadowlands Forbes (also at

## BELLEVUE ON TRACK

Lenasia) and Ajax Mates (Alexandra) respectively, an away defeat, 2-4, to Protea Utd (Orlando) and a 2-all home draw against Blue Spurs leave the local outfit in third place.

With five matches to play (two at home), Bellevue should clinch a spot for promotion.

What may be of concern to the management/coaches, however, is the inability of their strike force to score. An analysis of the matches played to date reveals the very high percentage of goals scored by defenders

and midfielders. In their last three games, defender-turned Abdul Hamid Rocker has netted four times, twice against Meadowlands Forbes. Central defender Mohammed Bhayat has struck thrice, left-back Abdus Salaam Bagus, and midfielders Ebrahim Farista and Mohamed Mangera have netted two apiece.

Ebrahim Shaik Ashraf, also a midfielder, has succeeded once. Abdul Hamid Alberts is the only striker to have found the net, once.

Why worry, as long as the goals come?



### SUPER LEAGUE SIDE

STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SALEEM CHOONARA, MAHAMMED MANGERA, ASHRAF ROCKER, KHALEK MANGERA, HAROON MANGERA, MOHAMMED BHAYAT, ABDUS SALAAM, FAIZEL BEG, FIRAAZ RAFI, MOHAMMED MANGERA, FISHER GANI.  
SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ABOO MAHMOOD, GRANT DICKSON, EBRAHIM ASHRAF, IMTIAZ PARBHOO, MOHAMMED MATHER, ZAID HAFEEJEE, ABDUL BHAYAT, SHABIER AHMED.

# SAFRICAN/BELLEVUE S.A.F.A. 2ND DIVISION



Standing: (L-R) Abu Mahmood (Manager), Haroon Bera, Mohamed Mangera, Ashraf Rocker, Hamid Alberts, Julian Mairs, Mohamed Bayat, Abdus Valley, Mohamed Mathir, Mohamed Khan, Zayn Mia, Imtiaz Parbhoo, Akthar Hussein Gani (Coach).  
 Sitting: (L-R) Goolam Abdullah, Abdul hamid Bayat, Zaid Haffejee, Denan Naidoo, Ebrahim Ashraf, Faizel Begg, Farhaad Patel, Khalek Mangera, Ebrahim Farista, Ebrahim Abdullah (President).



## SUPPORTERS CLUB

Standing: (L-R) Brian Pillay (Coach), Sundeeep Narsai, Aashif Rahim, Zahoor Vallee, Nicolas Singh, Nabeel Valiy, Luqman Mohamed (Manager). Sitting: (L-R) Aslam Vallee, Mohammed Pooman, Saqian Mohamed, Wasel Bagus, Sudeep Narsai.



## UNDER 9 A

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**SCENES, reminiscent of the glorious days of Federation football, returned to the Lenasia Soccer Stadium earlier this month when local side Bellevue hosted the National Soccer League's Qwa-Qwa Stars in a BobSave knockout fixture.**

The larger than usual crowd witnessed Bellevue put up a brave performance in going down 0-3 but, in the end, lack of experience at this level of the game denied Aboo (Mia) Mehmood's boys further glory in the competition.

For their fine effort to reach the last 32 stage of the competition, Bellevue received R25 000, while their opponents advance to the next

round of this lucrative event. The eventual winners will take home R750 000 and a trophy, and the runners-up R350 000 (and a trophy).

Tactical blunders by the home team allowed the Free State outfit to go ahead through Meshack Tsotetsi early in the game. Following consistent pressure on their goalmouth, Bellevue went further behind when Bunene Ngaduane netted just before the break.

Keeper Mohammed Methar pulled off some breathtaking saves to limit the Premier Leaguers to just two goals, before Tsotetsi scored again midway through the second session.

The 3-0 score-line is, however, flattering. Stars were streets ahead in all aspects of the game -

## Bellevue loses... and wins



technique, tactics, skill - yet Bellevue's never-say-die attitude is commendable.

That there is no substitute for experience was obvious. The occasional

Bellevue forays into the visitors' territory were clinically snuffed out by disciplined defence. Lessons learnt from this defeat can only help the local amateurs in their quest for attaining loftier

status. Much work remains to be done before these ideals are achieved. That Bellevue were overawed by the occasion was blatantly obvious. Seemingly simple passes

never reached their targets, and hesitancy in choosing viable options further eroded any hopes they had cherished of causing another upset in the competition.

On the plus side, how-

ever, was the encouraging presence of long-lost soccer support, a type of support Dynamos enjoyed (maybe in much greater numbers) when they played their NSL fixtures in Lenasia.

Meanwhile, Bellevue continue performing well in the SAFA Southern Transvaal Promotion League (Third Division). With matches in hand over current log-leaders Alexandra-based Blue Spurs, they lie handily near the top.

A fortnight before their BobSave clash against the Stars, Bellevue inflicted a 2-0 defeat on Spurs.

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