



History of
Third Lanark Athletic Club

GLORIOUS DEEDS
OF
OUR PLAYERS



A BRIGHT FUTURE

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THIRD LANARK! What romance surrounds the name! What glorious deeds the men who have worn the honoured colours have achieved. The glamour which surrounds this beloved old Club of ours has grown as the years have passed, while that of others may have diminished.

From a humble beginning the Third Lanark Club carefully watched over by men of wisdom and who have been indefatigable in their labours—a labour of love, let me add—has grown to be one of the most respected and powerful in Britain. Proud traditions do we have, tradition, let me say, which will be worthily upheld in the days which face us.

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THE BEGINNING.

As the name implies, Third Lanark Football Club sprang from the well-known Volunteer Regiment whose name it bears. It was while witnessing the first International match, Scotland *v.* England at Hamilton Crescent, Partick, in 1872, that the idea of forming a battalion team first occurred to the promoters.

The Scottish team that day included several members of the Third Lanark Regiment—Big Dickson, Billy McKinnon and Joe Taylor—and their inclusion aroused considerable enthusiasm among their fellow “sodgers,” many of whom marched to Partick to see the game, which resulted in a draw.

The kindled enthusiasm for football became a blaze! After the match, a meeting of those interested was called for the purpose of organising a football club in connection with the Regiment.

GLOWING TRIBUTES.

This meeting according to the minute book was held in the Regimental Orderly Room, then situated in Howard Street, Glasgow, on December 12th, 1872. Captain Inglis was elected President and a committee duly appointed.

In the work of organisation, much credit is due John Wallace and John B. Wilson, later the Colonel, who were active participants in all the doings of the club; in fact, Wallace was the first goalkeeper and Wilson, playing at centre, scored the first goal for the Third. What an epoch making goal that was!

At the first committee meeting, it was decided that the annual subscription be 2s. 6d., payable in advance. It was also resolved to apply for admission to the Football Association, the Scottish Football Association not yet being in existence.

WORE A COWL!

The uniform of the club was also discussed, and it was agreed that it should consist of the following:—

1. A cowl, one end Blue, the other Yellow.
2. A Scarlet guernsey.
3. Blue trousers or Blue knickerbockers with Blue stockings.

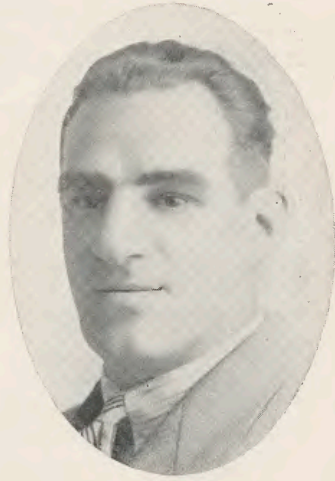
A most colourful scheme. At a subsequent meeting it was decided that the figure 3 should appear on the guernsey.



JAMES. M. MILNE,
Chairman.



FRED. SHOESMITH,
Vice-Chairman.



TOM JENNINGS,
Secy. and Manager.

There are many references to Queen's Park in the early minutes, and at the first Annual General Meeting held on March, 1873, a motion was carried that the members of the Queen's were eligible as office-bearers of the club. The first playing field was on the old drill ground at Victoria Road, just south of the present Regimental Headquarters of the old Third Lanark Rifle Volunteers now the 7th Battalion, the Cameronians (The Scottish Rifles).

In 1873 the Scottish Cup was instituted. The club took part in it. The first reference in the minute book calls it the "Scotland Cup." This season found the Redcoats battling in the semifinal. The gallant display we saw from them enhanced the reputation of the club to such an extent that the following year their famous back, John Hunter, was chosen to represent his country against England, an honour which was also bestowed on him in 1875 and 1876. He also played as a forward against Wales in 1877.

OUR FAME GROWS.

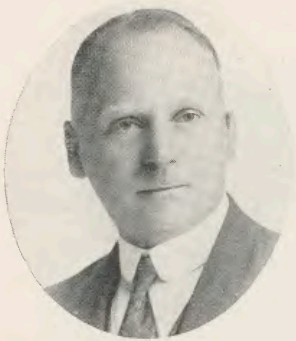
So rapidly did the fame of the club grow, that many of its players were induced to settle down in pastures new. Queen's were fortunate in enticing Harry McNeil, John L. Kaye, D. Davidson and others to Hampden.

In the year 1875, the Volunteers realised that the field at Victoria Road was poorly adapted for football. Indeed, so rough was the playing surface that the committee considered it unfair to bring other clubs to play matches there, and the executive "thinking that there was justification for believing they were one of the best clubs in Scotland," decided to move to new headquarters.

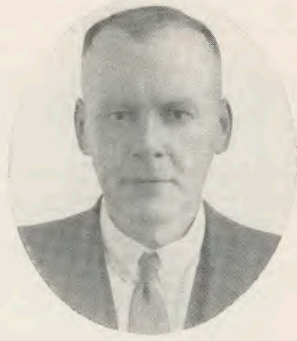
The new ground was what we now call Old Cathkin Park, in Govanhill, the scene of many happy memories to the older members of the club. According to a minute, April, 1875, the secretary was instructed to call on Dixon's people and ask if the club were at liberty to fill up the furrows on the ground. It was also decided to fix up goalposts with crossbars.

Removing to the new ground aroused more enthusiasm than ever and the membership was largely increased. That same year, 1875, there was a motion to alter the name of the club to "Glasgow Wanderers"—needless to say, it was defeated.

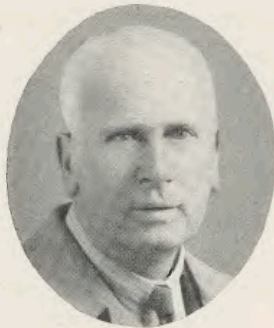
This was a momentous season in our history. The team reached the final of the Scottish Cup in which we clashed with our great rivals Queen's Park.



GEORGE JAMIESON,
Director.



T. P. S. SLOAN,
Director.



JAMES JARDINE,
Director.



J. C. LAWRENCE,
Director



Dr. A. STRANG,
Director.

PLUCKY DRAW.

The Third fought a most creditable draw against their more powerful opponents, but in the replay the older club won 2—0. Third were now among the "money." In that tourney, a match with Clydesdale at Cathkin drew £10 6s. 6d. and in a replay at Titwood, the gate amounted to £9 1s. What a contrast to the golden gates of present-day soccer!

At the end of this season, the old Eastern went to the wall and the 3rd L.R.V. were in luck's way when they got the best of the defunct club's players.

Amongst these "stars" were W. S. Somers who latterly joined Queen's Park, and Sandy Kennedy. Both afterwards figured against England as did Peter Andrews and J. J. Lang (Reddy). This latter pair claimed to be first Scots to cross the border to play football for an English Club. They wore the colours of Sheffield

Having reached the final in '75-'76 without the aid of such talent, it was confidently expected that the 3rd L.R.V. would go one better and win the Cup the following year. In the third round, however, they were drawn against the redoubtable Vale of Leven, who were then at the peak and the Cathkin lads were conquered by a goal to nil. This match was played on Hampden No. 1.

It is noteworthy that the Third were twice in the final in the first five seasons of the competition.

To another noble warrior in the person of Colonel Merry, the Charity Cup owes its inception. This worthy gentleman, in 1877, was one of the chief founders and Chairman of the Charity Committee for many years.

GRIPPING STRUGGLES.

From its inception, the Third have figured in the struggle for the handsome trophy, thus materially aiding the financing of the city's institutions which benefit yearly from the proceeds of this most worthy of competitions.

It was not until 1884 that we reached the final of the Charity Cup.

In 1878 the first Grand Stand was erected at Cathkin Park at a cost of £155, the contractor taking the half of the drawings till his account was squared.



Top Row : J. Wright, A. Hart, J. Craig, J. Mason, M. Morrison, J. McInnes, J. Harvey, W. Hutchison (Groundsman)
 R. Archibald (Asst. Trainer). Middle Row : J. Black, H. Sharpe, J. Hall, R. Hamilton, R. Muir, J. Blair, A. Kinnaird,
 G. Hay, S. Brown (Asst. Trainer). Bottom Row : J. Nelson (Trainer) R. Howe, P. Gallacher, J. Carabine, J. Denmark,
 A. Rhodie, R. Kennedy, A. Milne, D. Smith (Asst. Trainer).

In 1884 the International against England was contested at Cathkin. The upshot of this was that the Association erected a temporary stand on the opposite side of the field from the Grand Stand. They were used for all the Charity Cup matches that season.

For a period of four years up till 1888, Third were not much in the limelight. But a good team had been gradually built up, and at the beginning of season 1888-1889 we were recognised by all as a team of great potentialities, and so it proved. As a matter of fact, throughout the history of the club, this season must be chronicled as one of the most outstanding. In the National Cup competition, there were neither Qualifying Cup, nor exemptions, so the winner was compelled to cut right through the ties to win the cup. This the Third accomplished. The Volunteers played no fewer than thirteen games in eight rounds. Did ever a team undergo such a severe test for the attainment of the honour!

Of all the gripping struggles engaged in, surely the most conspicuous was against Celtic in what is now known as the "Great Snow Final." When the teams turned out at Hampden Park before one of the largest attendances ever seen up to that time, the snow on the ground was ankle deep, and although it was the consensus of opinion that ground was unplayable, the referee proceeded with the game.

A FAST GAME.

In a gruelling, and in the circumstances, fast game, Third registered a glorious triumph by 3—0.

Naturally, a match played under such conditions brought a protest. A special S.F.A. meeting was called and the evidence of the referee and umpires—Messrs. Charles Campbell, R. F. Harrison and F. R. Park respectively—was taken.

All three were of the opinion that it was not a suitable day for such an important match, and the protest was upheld. A replay was ordered for on the following Saturday. It merely enabled us to emphasise our superiority, for we were again victorious, this time by 2—1.

And so the name 3rd L.R.V. was engraved on the Scottish Cup for the first time. It is confidently asserted by many of the older members and followers of the club that the 1888 team was the best ever in the history of the Third.

The team was—Downie, Thompson and Rae, Lochhead, Auld and McFarlane, Marshall, John Oswald, James Oswald, Johnston and Hannah.

Unfortunately from the Cathkin point of view, many of the players were coaxed away to other clubs, leaving the Hi Hi Hi so weakened that they were unable in 1889-1890 to repeat the previous season's triumphs. Some solatium was gained, however, by the winning of the Charity Cup with the following line-up:—

Downie, A. Thompson and Rae, McFarlane, Love and Lochhead, Marshall, W. Thompson, Lapsley, Johnston and Burke.

It is interesting to note that the Scottish League was formed at this period, 1890, and, of course, Third Lanark joined. The first representative was Mr. John Thompson, the Hon. Secretary of the Club.

RED AND WHITE.

From 1890 onward, Third now playing in Red and White vertical striped shirts and black pants, accomplished many striking performances. They introduced many fine players who are still remembered far beyond the precincts of Govanhill. To mention a few at random—Ross, Milne, Gardner, Bowman, Garside, Peddie, Beveridge, McQue, Gillespie, Gibbons, McFarlane (Rab), Simpson, Barbour and Blair.

The '90's saw the old club undergo a lean financial period. A levy of £1 per head was put on the members and it is satisfactory to record that the sum collected was practically a hundred per cent. of the possible.

Season 1897-1898 saw the Charity Cup again find a resting place at the beloved Cathkin.

With the dawn of the present century, a second classical period began for Third Lanark, who now reverted to the original colours—Scarlet jerseys and White pants, but dispensed with the "cowl." It was agreed to give a committee of three powers to engage players. The "big three" were Mr. J. Mearchant, President; Mr. W. A. Abel, Secretary; and Mr. Matt Rodger.

Despite being much maligned, they fixed up a promising lot of youngsters. But during the team building process, it was evident a real personality was required on the field to lead this young and inexperienced bunch of recruits. In an

inspired moment, Bill Abel thought of Hugh Wilson, a former Third star who went to Sunderland and figured most prominently in the "Team of all the Talents."

A VALUED SERVANT.

Hugh, now supposed to be past his best, was footing it in Bristol. A transfer fee of £50 was paid and a new era began at Cathkin. In his first match against Hibs, a win for either club meant the Inter-City league championship. Third won. The Charity Cup was also annexed in the Glasgow Exhibition Stadium, Celtic being trounced 3—0 after a goalless draw. The team in the second game was :—

Raeside, Barr and Thompson (R), Cross (J.), McQue and Smith, Johnston, Robertson, Cross (W.), Wilson and Lynn.

In the first encounter, Sloan partnered Johnston, but in the second, through injury, was substituted by Robertson. The levy on members was now repaid.

Other players acquired later were, McIntosh, Maxwell (Stoke), Neilson, Bob Graham, T. McKenzie, John Campbell (Celtic), Wardrope, Prior, Comrie and Munro, and for several years Third were right among the silver.

MILESTONES IN OUR HISTORY WERE :—

1902-3—The Glasgow Cup reposed at Cathkin for the first time.

1903-4—The Scottish League was topped and the Glasgow Cup retained for another year. Winning the league was a remarkable feat considering all the "home" matches had to be played at Hampden or elsewhere as the club were shifting headquarters and the new ground was not ready. At this time the club was floated as a Limited Liability Company.

TEAM OF STARS.

During this period, the star team was :—

Raeside, Barr and McIntosh, Cross, Sloan and Neilson, Johnston, Graham, McKenzie, Wilson and Wardrope.

1904-5—The Scottish Cup was brought home for the second time, also the Scottish 2nd XI. Cup and the Glasgow League Championship. The cup-winning team read :—

Raeside, Barr and McIntosh, Comrie, Sloan and Neilson, Johnston, Kidd, McKenzie, Wilson and Munro.

Happy Days !

1905-6—Although not just so triumphant, the team won the Glasgow League again, and appeared in the final of the Scottish and Glasgow Cups, going under on each occasion.

Some of our players were now past their best and with others leaving the fold, the club did not seem to adequately fill their places. Then there arrived one whose name and prowess will ever be remembered by football followers, James Brownlie, a player who gave signal service to his club and country.

1908-9—Who can forget the pulsating games against Partick, Clyde and Celtic in this season, the last time the Glasgow Cup came to Cathkin.

IMAGINE IT !

Three games with Partick Thistle, four with Clyde and three with Celtic in the final. Ten matches in three rounds. Surely a record. The victorious team was :—

Brownlie, Sloan and Hill, Fairfoul, Ferguson and McIntosh, Johnston, Hosie, Richardson, McFie and Cross.

Team-building carried on assiduously until we felt in 1913-14 that a right good side had been found. We reached the final of the Glasgow and the semi-final of the Scottish. The company were now in funds, a dividend was paid and the next season looked most promising when the Great War intervened and most of our players, as befitted true Volunteers, answered the call to arms.

MUCH TRAVELLED.

Duty took them to Belgium, France, Mesopotamia, Gallipoli, Africa and India. Some made the Great Sacrifice, and others, after the Armistice, could not take part in the game again. Our Roll of Honour denoted that Third Lanark players "played the game."

While the club carried on during hostilities the signing of peace was a signal for a general return to all outdoor games.

1919-20—Football boomed. Under the leadership of Colonel Wilson, Chairman, the old Third revived, and quite a good team was put on the field, the nucleus being returned soldiers—Brownlie, McCormack, Orr, Lennon, to mention a few, and the hopes of the faithful followers ran high. No silver plate was collected, but the team, generally speaking, could hold their own.

Seasons 1921-22, 1922-23, and 1923-24, if not outstanding in the trophy-winning sense will at least be remembered as years when the proud colours of our team were honoured by a fine set of players.

1922—The Jubilee of Third Lanark was celebrated.

1924-25—This season gave promise of even better results. A splendid combination placed the name of the club fourth in the league at Christmas, 1924, but to the horror of Cathkin people and to the amazement of football followers everywhere, the end of that season found the old Third out of the first League. It would be invidious to mention names, but it can be stated in the passing that the regular team of that period had quite a number of men who were generally considered potential internationals.

FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL.

Three weary seasons passed with many changes upstairs and in the dressing rooms, before the Warriors battled their way to the First League.

1928-29—This gave us original status for one short season, then back to the wilderness for two seasons, the one bright spot being the winning of the Second League Championship in 1930-31.

For the next three seasons the complexion of affairs at Cathkin Park was cheerier, but, alas, in 1934-35 the struggle was renewed in the lower division. Happily, one season was sufficient to replace the Volunteers in their proper sphere with another set of numerals to add to the existing League Banner.

1931-36—A fixed policy for the club was proclaimed. Under the Chairmanship of Mr. James M. Milne and with the full approval of the Board of Directors, it was determined that in the building up of a team worthy of the traditions of the club there must be no transfers. This policy was held to during the season despite the wiles, and tempting offers of other organisa-

tions. The Manager, Mr. Tom Jennings, was to be encouraged in every way to acquire a successful team. The enthusiasm of the manager and the confidence in him and his harmonious team is reflected in the position of the club at the end of this, the most successful season for many seasons.

INTO THE FINAL.

A safe position in the League was maintained, a creditable show in the Glasgow Cup was given, and the final of the Scottish Cup was reached. Further, the financial position is not embarrassing.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

An article or talk on Third Lanark affairs would not be complete without some reference to "Original Members."

To the uninitiated, it should be explained that the term is applied to those gentlemen who were clear members of the club when it was formed into a Limited Liability Company in 1904.

While the number cannot be expected to be so great as it was then, it is pleasing to know that there are many still to the fore. As to who is really the oldest member now, it would be difficult to say, but we raise our hats to William K. Smellie, Joe Henderson, John Beattie, James McLintock and W. Foulds Martin. The last-named was gaily footing it in the Oxford in 1878 before joining the Third. (Walter Arnott's memoirs). Long live our Original Members!

OLD PLAYERS.

With the passing of the years, Nature takes toll of her sons. Former comrades who have passed on we still respect and fondly remember. Of those who are with us, the question often arises—Where are they? While we do not profess to know the whereabouts of all former players, particulars not being available in every case, there are many with whom we are still in touch and have pleasure in seeing or conversing with at Cathkin on most match days.

The following are fairly regular attenders:—Billy Johnston, Johnny Marshall, Sandy Lochhead, John and James Oswald, Bob Woodburn, George Bowman, Billie Garside, Sandy Dickson, Will Bryce, James Johnson, John Cross, Bob Graham.

Jas. Richardson, John Rankin, Tom McKenzie, John Neilson, John McFie and many of the more recent or post-war men.

Hugh Wilson, still cheery, works away in Newmilns.

James Simpson is located in Partick, fresh as ever.

W. Blair is a successful merchant in Greenock and Gourock.

Bob Barbour is in the West-End of Glasgow.

Billy Love prospers in U.S.A. and comes home regularly.

HALE AND HEARTY.

Punt McFarlane, hale and hearty, is the head of a drysalter's business in U.S.A. Neil McInnes and J. McPherson hold forth in Thornliebank, and Bob Scott is in Manchester. Should you be in Middleton, near Bury, Jimmy Raeside will cheer you up at the Hotel, while W. McIntosh holds a Government appointment in Edmonton, Canada.

W. Cross is to be found in Motherwell. Bob Orr keeps an open door for all travellers in Duntocher, and Willie Armstrong will welcome you at the Hotel Lochgoilhead. Charlie McCormack will attend to your wants at Peacock Cross, Hamilton; Rab. McFarlane can be seen any match day at Greenock, Flyer Smith is still round about Kilmarnock; Lawrie Bell is in Dumfries, as is Frank Walker, and brother Jim Walker follows his profession as head of Kilbarchan School.

Tom Fairfoul runs taxis in Liverpool, Bob Ferguson is settled in Seranton, Philadelphia; James Brownlie, as everybody knows, is in Dundee. Tom Kelson is in Dumbarton, and Colin Mainds in Paisley.

The writer will be glad to hear from any others who care to write to Cathkin Park, Glasgow or Thornliebank, Glasgow.

HONOURS AND RECORDS.

Amidst the many happy recollections of the old club, it is pleasing to recount that the Third have a very creditable place on the Honours List—Legislative, International Representation, Cup and League victories. At one time or another, the S.F.A. President, League Chairman, Glasgow F.A. President and Chairman, Charity Committee, has been a member of our club.

Thirty-one of our players have gained International honours. Our team have figured eight times in the Cup Final, winning twice in 1888-89 and 1904-05.

First League Champions, 1903-1904.
Second League Champions, 1930-1931.
Second League Champions, 1934-1935.
Inter-City League Champions, 1900-1901.
Glasgow League Champions, 1904-1905.
Glasgow League Champions, 1905-1906.

Glasgow Cup—

Finalists—eight times.
Winners 1902-1903.
Winners, 1903-1904.
Winners 1908-1909.

Glasgow Charity Cup—

Finalists—eight times.
Winners 1889-1890.
Winners 1897-1898.
Winners 1900-1901.

From the foregoing, it will be observed that the club has gained every honour possible for a Glasgow Club.
We are still fighting.

THE NEW SEASON.

1936-37.—We enter with quiet confidence. With the cream of last season's talent engaged and several juniors fixed up, Manager Tom Jennings has ideas of greater things, and with the full support and encouragement of the Board, the respect and wholeheartedness of the players, he believes that the traditions of the old club can be maintained and enhanced. With these ends in view we thank our faithful followers for past patronage and cordially invite them and all new friends to Cathkin Park to assist in our endeavours.

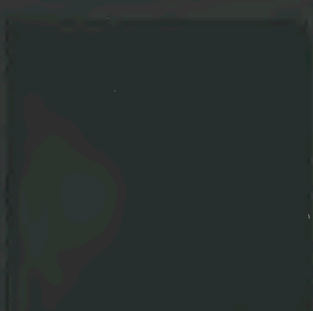
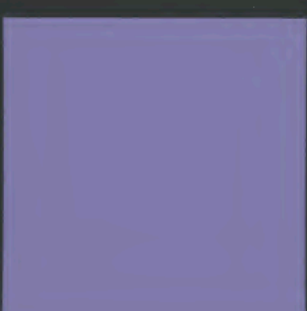
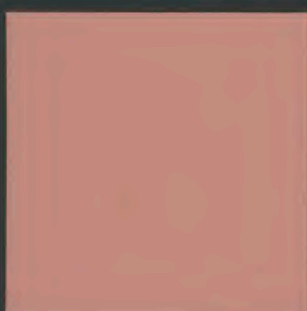
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