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Queen's Park Football Club

BY

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SIXPENCE.



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The Queen's Park Football Club

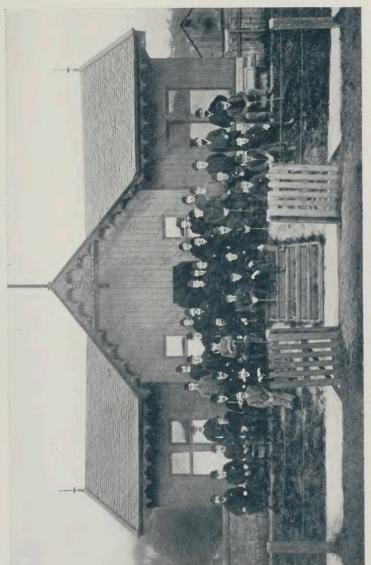
ONE is always strongly tempted in an article of this kind to search the classics for the origin of football. But that sort of thing is better left to those who have the good fortune to be endowed with Classical Scholarship. Not so long ago we were deluged with disquisitions on the antiquity of Rugby football which celebrated its Centenary at Rugby School with a great display of interesting ceremonial. It had been discovered that Rugby had its origin in what might be called a physiological eccentricity and the inference one naturally draws from this is, that Association football has even a greater antiquity than the sister code. That in passing, however. This story has to be devoted solely to the history of that great Amateur organisation the Queen's Park Football Club which was narrowly

saved from devoting its virgin energies to Rugby when it challenged some fifty-four years ago the Glasgow Academical Rugby Club to play a match, when no other opponents were available, to test the powers of the then "premier" Club of Scotland. The Academicals refused, and fortunately for posterity, the Club was left to pursue the Association Code. Historical accuracy is the outcome of laborious research, and the merit of this

article—perhaps the only one—is that it will furnish a condensed record of the rise and progress of the Queen's Park Football Club, than which no club perhaps had a

more modest beginning. It was the originator of the dribbling code in Scotland, it stood alone as the only exponent of the game, it made rules—revised from the "London" code—and insisted on these rules being used by other clubs as they gradually came into existence. in order that the game might be played under recognised regulations, it joined the Football Association and took part in the first competition for the English Cup, it furnished the whole eleven for the first International match with England, it established a Scottish Association and helped to provide a cup for competition, it took a leading part in founding other minor associations in Scotland, it gave strong support to athletics generally, and the only body it had no part in, for a considerable period, was the Scottish League whose principles were the antithesis of that amateurism, for the propagation of which the Club solely existed.

It must be said that the Queen's Park Football Club was in all respects the originator of the game of football under Association rules in Scotland. It was the first club to band itself into a concrete whole, it was the only club in Scotland after its formation on 9th July, 1867. and there were no opponents in an organised condition in the northern Kingdom which could give the New Club a game. The story of the formation of the Club is possibly that of the majority of clubs all over the Kingdom, with very little difference. In the first place when a number of youths-of Highland origin-who had migrated to Glasgow, found that the athletic proclivities which they had inherited from their forefathers. had little scope for development in a big commercial city like Glasgow, they determined to amuse themselves in the manner they were accustomed to in the Highlands. Consequently they fixed on a piece of ground on the South side of Glasgow in Pollokshields, where they practiced hammer throwing, weight putting, pole vaulting, and the other muscular exercises prevalent in the Northern districts of Scotland. Football was not then in their purview. It was only when the ground in Pollokshields was required for building purposes that



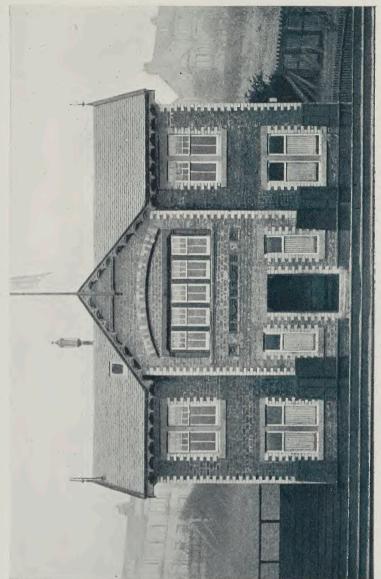
First Hampden Park Pavilion.

they removed to a portion of the Recreation Ground or Public Park at Queen's Park. There they became aware of the possibilities of football. A few Y.M.C.A.



lads kicked a ball about the Park and frequently it was driven where the Highlandmen were indulging in their more strenuous exercises, and they had a stray kick at the ball, in returning it to its owners. They played one mixed game with the Y.M.C.A. youths, and one only. So much were the future Queen's Park members impressed with the possibilities of football, that they there and then decided to form a Club on similar lines

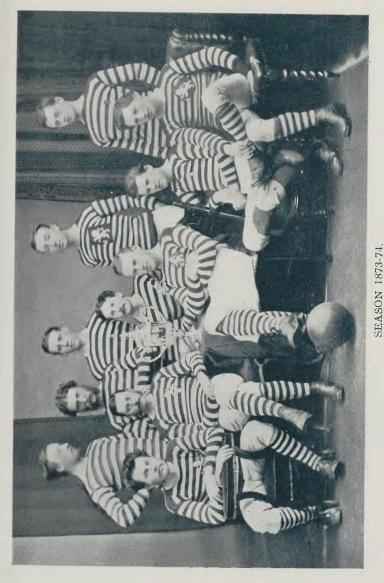
to the Rugby and Cricket Clubs around them. Naturally some of the members at the first meeting to institute the Club were anxious to give it a name smacking of the North, such as Morayshire, the Celts, or the Northern, but ultimately "Queen's Park" was decided upon -after the Park on which they were playing "but only by a majority of one, after a number of divisions." It may be said here that the Minute Books of the Club from this first meeting of the Club on the 9th July, 1867 to the present day are available for reference. Not so. with such important bodies as the Football Association of England and the Scottish Football Association, neither of which is in possession of their initial minutes. The former body was founded in 1863 and the latter in 1873. Now the "Queen's Park Foot Ball Club," as it is styled in the minutes, proceeded to develop the game by matches of sides, drawn from the members, each opposing side wearing cowls, of different colours, then considered quite the thing, armlets, and ultimately a uniform with a blue jersey in which by the way the first International with England at Partick was played, Scotland being then represented by the whole Queen's Park team. It was not until the 26th September, 1873, that the famous black and white inch stripe jersey was adopted, and it was first worn when their New Hampden Park was opened with a Scottish Cup-tie against Dumbreck on 25th October,



Second Hampden Park Pavilion.

1873. It will thus be seen that the new Club played on the Recreation Ground for the first six years of its existence. These six years were well spent. At a meeting held on 9th August, the Club having procured from Mr. Lillywhite, of London the rules of the game, proceeded to make certain vital amendments in these rules. A Committee was appointed to revise the rules. which were those of the "London Football Association," by which title the F.A. appears then to have been known. They introduced a "touch down" as a scoring point in the game, and this was the law in Scotland until 1872. They tampered with the "offside" rule and inserted "at least two of his opponents between him and their own goal line, who must not be more than fifteen yards from the goal line." It was in 1866 that the Football Association first introduced "three players" into the "offside" rule. According to the Queen's Park," offside" did not come into force until the player was fifteen yards from his opponents goal line. Now the legislators of all the British Nations are considering a 40 yards limit. It is necessary to give these details as the Queen's Park's interpretation of the "offside" rule subsequently caused almost a rupture between England and Scotland, and created much friction between English and Scottish clubs. The formation of goal keeper, two backs, two half-backs, and six forwards was introduced by the Queen's Park, and subsequently adopted generally all over the United Kingdom until the three half-backs system became the fashion in 1884. Blackburn Rovers played three half-backs at the Oval. on 4th April, 1885, against Queen's Park in the English Cup final. In that year, at home, Queen's Park followed the fashion.

Having new rules, and formation, and a thorough understanding as to the best method of playing the new game, the question arose where they were to find opponents. There were no similar clubs in Scotland, though football of a kind was played in the Public Parks and open spaces of the city and district. It was not until 29th July, 1868 that the Secretary reported he had



Standing—Angus M'Kinnon, J. Dickson, Thomas Lawrie, Charles Campbell, R. W. Neill. Sitting—R. Leckie, Jos. Taylor, H. M'Neil, J. J. Thomson, J. B. Weir, Wm. M'Kinnon.

received two challenges, one from the Ayr Football Club and the other from the Thistle F.C. As the Club had no funds to go to Ayr, the Thistle got the preference and were played on the Recreation Ground and beaten by two goals to none "within an hour." That was the only match played that season, and the first ever played in Scotland under the new code. In 1869-70 two games were played, in 1870-71 five and in 1871-72 three.

When the Queen's Park first took up the game, the members considered it a summer pastime and the few matches played were contested between the months of March and October. This went on until 1870, when it was decided to join the only association then in existence, namely the Football Association, by which date the game had not advanced much in popularity at home and the Club had still difficulty in finding opponents. The Queen's Park joined the F.A. on 9th November, 1870, and then formally decided to discard its own code and adopt the Association rules "in toto." The winning of a game by a "touch down" did not pass out of existence, however in Scotland until 1872, when the last relic of the Rugby Code in the Association game in Scotland disappeared.

The Queen's Park were fortunate in becoming a member of the Football Association just before the first

competition took place for the English Cup in season 1871-72, as in that season the Cup was inaugurated, and from its limited resources the Club contributed one guinea to the cost of that trophy. Exemption was granted from the preliminary rounds in order to curtail expense of long journeys. At the end of the preceding season the Club had a credit balance of £3 11s. 4d. out of a total income of

£11 9s. 0d. In the semi-final for the Cup, the Club was drawn against the Wanderers, a London combination famous in those days, and the question of ways and means became a very serious consideration. Assistance



Top Row—Thomas Lawrie, Andrew Watson Charles Campbell, Dr. John Smith, J. J. Gow, J. T. Richmond. Middle Row—Harry M'Neil, John L. Kay, David Davidson, Wm. Anderson. Bottom Row—Archibald Rowan, Andrew H. Holm, M. J. Eadie Fraser, George Ker.

came from the supporters, and the members were so full of the project that 16 was voted out of the limited funds of the Club. The Wanderers had then been fifteen years in existence and the Queen's Park five, so that the Englishmen, who were a picked lot, in a busy football centre, had far greater experience and knowledge of the game than the Scots, whose total membership at the time was only sixty-one. The late Mr. C. W. Alcock was Secretary of the Wanderers and also of the Football Association. The match was played at Kennington Oval on Monday, 4th March, 1872, and resulted in a draw-no goals. The chronicler states, "much to the astonishment of the Londoners who expected to carry it without much effort." This was a great achievement -an utterly unknown Scottish Club holding a great English combination. As the Oueen's Park were utterly without funds they were compelled to scratch to Wanderers as they could not afford a second journey to London. It may be here stated that this game gave such an impetus to football in both countries that Association football in Scotland has never since looked back. Quite a number of Clubs date their birth from this and the following year. A new force had been discovered in football which could hold its own against the best in England, as the Wanderers had won the Cup that season and also in 1873, 1876, 1877 and 1878 when the trophy became their own property. They however, returned the Cup to the Association to be competed for as a perpetual trophy. It was stolen subsequently from a shop window in Birmingham in 1895. Naturally the Oueen's Park team were anxious to have another match with the Wanderers and they met again in a friendly game at Hampden Park, on 9th October, 1875, when the Oueen's Park team had a substantial victory by five goals to none. Up to this date the Scots had never been defeated, nor had they lost a goal or touch down. From the Wanderers, in the return game in London came the greatest disaster in its history, namely its first defeat, which was sustained at the Oval, on 5th February, 1876. It is described as a fast and fine game, and one gallantly contested. J. B. Weir the greatest dribbler of his day

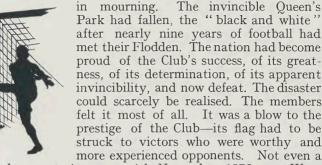


SEASON 1889-90.

Back, Row—Walter Arnott, Robert Smellie, Jas. M'Tavish, George Gillespie, Allen Stewart, Jas. M'Ara. Wm. Gulliland, David Allan.

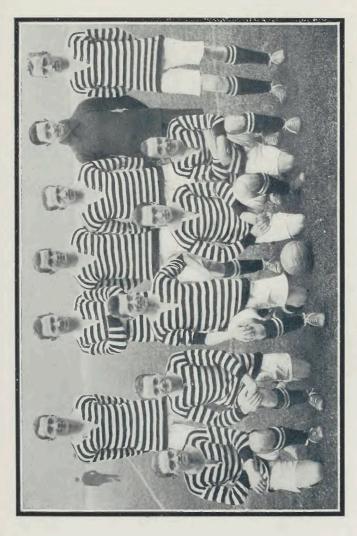
Front Row—W. H. Berry, William Sellar, D. C. Brown, Tom Roberson, James Hamilton.

and generation was disabled and of little use, so the Queen's Park lost by two goals to none. It was more than a defeat. It was a national disaster. Scotland was



subsequent victory, on 4th November, 1876, over Wanderers in London by six goals to none could wipe out this stain. Still defeat was only to be expected as a number of clubs had sprung up at home, which had run Queen's Park to a draw with no goals, and the inevitable was sure to happen at any time. The Wanderers did the trick.

Another important stage in the history of the Queen's Park was reached when the Club undertook on its own initiative to pit its eleven players against the whole strength of England in an International match, which was played at Partick, on 2nd December, 1872. The only intercourse the Club had had with English football was the Cup-tie played with the Wanderers at the Oval. Mr. C. W. Alcock in his anxiety to bring about Association International matches between the two countries—the first Rugby International between the Nations had only just been established in 1871—instituted what he called an "International" between an English team and a team of London Scots, called "Scotland," and four of these games were played, one in 1870, two in 1871, and a fourth in February, 1872. It may be interesting to state that both the late Lord Kinnaird and Mr. W. H. Gladstone, M.P., now Lord Gladstone, played for Scotland in the first of these games, that of 1870. He then issued a challenge in a Glasgow newspaper to play



OUEEN'S PARK, F.C., 1923-24

Bulletin Pholo.
Top row, left to right—J. B. McAlpine, W. Wiseman, R. Gillespie, T. D. Sneddon, W. Blair, W. S. King. Front Row, left to right—H. Dickson, J. Crawford, W. Chalmers, R. Moreland, E. R. Scott.

eleven Scots. Scotland ne described as the land of football. His real object was the extension of the game. To this challenge the Oueen's Park replied that it was the case of a single Club against a Nation. Queen's Park with that high spirit, which has attended all its efforts to popularise the game. not only undertook to defend the honour of Scotland. but accepted responsibility for all the arrangements. The financial outlook did not frighten the members. The business aptitude of the young men who led the Club is apparent in all its history. The game itself created quite a sensation, not only in Glasgow, but also all over the Kingdom. It was the first real match of the kind that had ever been played under the Association Code. No organised body existed at the time in Scotland to control such a game. The Queen's Park stood alone —a contemptible little army against the English hosts. It was a tussle worthy of the occasion, and remained at its finish with honours even, no goals. It was witnessed by a crowd, the largest till then ever seen at a football match in Scotland. It is easy to understand now that the effect of the match on the popularity of the game was enormous. It may be said that the Cup-tie with the Wanderers and this International stand out as two prominent land marks in the realm of the new pastime, and that the Oueen's Park did more than any other Club to make Association football the great force it is to-day, as the game of the people. The Q.P. was an unknown Club in the South and the wholly unsuspected strength and ability it had shown in these two matches, brought the Club with a bound to the pinnacle of the fame which it afterwards long enjoyed, as the foremost Club in the Kingdom, one that it was the ambition of every Club to meet on the arena. It developed and maintained a standard of football which has left its impression on the game.

Before leaving the question of the early connection of Queen's Park with the Football Association, it might be as well to mention here what it has achieved in the Councils of that body. When it joined that Association in 1870, it did not do so in any perfunctory spirit. It intended



Mr. A. GRAHAM PRIMROSE, President.

Mr. A. F. MURRAY, [R. McFarlane. Ex-President.

to be a real live force in its legislative proposals. Having members of the Club living in London, these men were nominated to attend the Annual General Meetings of the Association. After considering carefully the agendas of the meetings, the delegates were furnished with instructions. and amendments were suggested where thought necessary. Thus we find that at the A.G.M. held in London, on 24th February, 1875, three important amendments by the Queen's Park were first introduced into the "Laws of the Game," namely the use of the crossbar instead of a tape, a fixed half-time when ends were to be changed—ends were changed prior to this after every goal—and a new rule regarding the taking of "free kicks." It also watched very closely the variations of the "throw in" rule, both in the Councils of the Scottish Football Association and in those of the F.A. That was one great characteristic of the Queen's Park, both at home and abroad, it took a great and leading interest in all legislative matters. The crossbar was in use under the "Sheffield Association Rules" as far back as 1867, but had not hitherto been in those of the Football Association. Though the Oueen's Park continued in membership with the English governing body until May, 1887, when the Scottish Association passed a rule that its Clubs must not be members of any

other National Association, it took no further part, after the Wanderers Cup-tie in 1872, in the English competition, until season 1883-84, when the Club decided to go whole-heartedly into the fray with the object of annexing the English Cup. How it failed in the finals of 1883-84 and 1884-85 to beat Blackburn Rovers, then a power in the land, who won both matches by two goals to one and two goals to none respectively, is now a matter of history. Both games were played at the

Oval and caused great public interest at the time. Queen's Park scratched in the second round in 1885-86, and fell in the first round to Preston North End in 1886-87. Then the Scottish Association stepped in, as the English



Mr. HUGH LOGAN. (Joint Hon. Treasurers).

competition was becoming popular with the Scottish Clubs, seven of which, in the last-mentioned season, had entered for the English Cup, and some of the ties were played on Scottish grounds within the jurisdiction of the S.F.A., Glasgow Rangers going to the Semi-final in that year, only to be defeated by Aston Villa at Crewe

on 5th March, 1887, by three goals to one.

The crisis in the history of the Queen's Park arrived when professionalism became a subject of discussion in football circles, and more so when the professional player came into his own. Amateurism was a Cult with its members, and nothing could induce it, even under the most adverse circumstances, to depart from the principles on which it was founded, namely, "its object shall be the recreation and amusement of its members.' who in the first year of its existence paid "an entrance fee of one shilling and an annual subscription of sixpence payable in June." Scotland fought long and bravely against the introduction of the paid player. the early days of "Veiled professionalism" certain English Clubs realised that there was much to be learned from the Scottish style of play, and accordingly introduced players from Scotland into their teams in order to obtain, by practical illustration, the methods which had made the game as played in the North so immeasurably superior to the style which obtained in the South. Scotland was being gradually drained of its best players, and England fertilised. Scots were to be found in every football team in Lancashire. The S.F.A. became alarmed and sternly forbade its Clubs and players to play against professionals. Both Associations joined forces to stamp out the evil, but the difficulty of proof was insuperable. Finally the Football Association in July, 1885, recognised the professional. The Scottish body still held out, and Queen's Park took a leading part, both in London and Glasgow, in the crusade against the paid player. Several Scottish Clubs were suspected and their books called in and one club was expelled from the Association, while another was suspended. All the legislative turmoil which followed was of absorbing interest to Oueen's Park, which never ceased



Mr. HECTOR McKENZIE, [Annan & Sons Secretary.

its struggle to maintain Scotland as a strictly amateur nation. The Scottish Association had finally to succumb, prolonging the fight however, until May, 1892, when at



the instance of Celtic F.C. the case for the paid player was won. Professionalism had come to stay, and under proper control has on the whole been a success, judging by the enormous crowds which now attend football matches in both countries. Still the Queen's Park holds to its amateur flag. Many overtures have been made to it to abandon its attitude. It has been pointed out to the Club that it would be in its own interests to do so, but no. It began its career as an Amateur Club, and it

will die with its escutcheon untarnished. Season after season it loses most capable players, the money lure of professionalism being more than can be resisted. The worst of it is that the Club gains not a cent by the transfer of a player. When the Scottish League was formed in 1890, Queen's Park refused to join and for ten years it held aloof. Then owing to some difference among the League Clubs, and at the earnest desire of its own players, it became a member of the League, and has so remained until the present day. limited The League however, success. some little protection by passing an enactment that a player once signed, cannot leave the Club without its consent during the playing season. It seems unfair that the Club being an amateur body receives no pecuniary recompense for the loss of a player. It is only just that the professional Club securing a Queen's Park player should pay the whole transfer fee to the Club which could devote the sum to a Charitable object. That the player should receive the whole transfer fee as a bribe to leave his Club, seems an anomaly. The Queen's Park has lost in this way as many as six of its team at the end of a season, and every season one, at least, which is a very severe handicap when opposed to the best professional Clubs, and this accounts for its comparatively



COMMITTEE—SEASON, 1922-23.

Back Row—T. Robertson, T. Robertson, J. Lawrence, D. B. Low, D. J. Dunbar, R. Gillespie, F. J. M'Conachy, R. M. Young, T. Liddell, T. E. Forsyth, Hector McKenzie (Secretary.) Front Row—R. Smellie, P. White, A.Hamilton, H. Logan, A. F. Murray, A. Graham Primrose, J. M. Fullarton, W. Steele, M. Wilson.

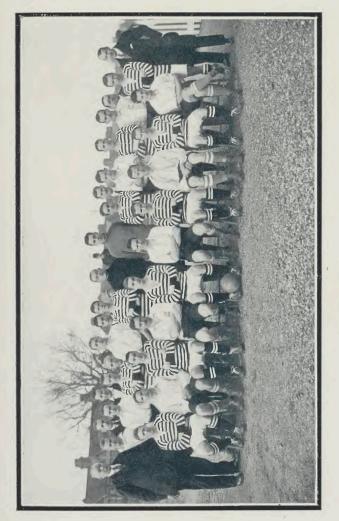
humble position in the League list. Were it possible to retain its team as a whole, it would give a better account of itself and possibly reach a place nearer the top. Last season it had to submit to the indignity of relegation to the Second Division of the League, yet played itself back into the First Division, where it is to-day.

One of the bright spots in its history is the part it took in the development of the game. Some account has already been given of its legislative activities. When it formed its modified code of rules in 1867, based on those of the English Association, it had these rules printed and circulated wherever football was practised, in order that football might be played under established rules. It is recorded that Queen's Park refused to play Airdrie because that Club objected to "hands" being disallowed. In order to foster the game, it took teams of its members to other districts, including Edinburgh, then as now a stronghold of the Rugby Code, in order to give an exhibition of the new pastime, and in consequence individual Clubs, and an Edinburgh Association were established there in 1874. It also went a missionary excursion to Belfast on errand, and the visit was immediately by the institution of the Irish Association. achievement however, crowning was Scottish the now powerful Association in March 1873. Its attention was called to the fact that the only controlling body of the sport had its existence in London. It was the International at Partick in 1872 that forced on the minds of the Oueen's Park members the necessity of having a controlling body of the pastime at home, which could supervise a game of such importance. It was hardly the place of a private club to arrogate to itself such a position. Consequently Mr. Archibald Rae, honorary Secretary of the Queen's Park F.C., was instructed to call a meeting of Scottish Clubs. Only eight Clubs attended, and it was agreed



JOHN NUTT (right) Trainer. [R. McFarlane F. WILSON (left) Asst. Trainer.

there and then, to form the Scottish Association, and naturally Mr. Rae was appointed its first Secretary. A Cup was immediately secured to which the Club contributed \$5. Only sixteen clubs took part in the competition of that year, which did not include Glasgow Rangers F.C., now one of the most powerful Clubs in the country. Naturally the Cup fell to Oueen's Park in the first three seasons and again three times in 1880-81 and '82. It possessed the trophy only on ten occasions its last victory being in 1893. Then came professionalism and the O.P. went down in the earlier rounds. O.P. officials took a leading part in the foundation of the Glasgow Football Association which was established on 6th March, 1883 for the purpose of freeing the Scottish Association, now the National body, from controlling Inter-City matches such as -Glasgow v. Edinburgh and Glasgow v. Sheffield, which latter game was first played in 1874 and still continues. Mr. Thomas Laurie (Queen's Park), was President of the new Association in its first five years. Then a Queen's Park member Mr. John K. McDowall was the means of founding the Scottish 2nd XI. Association. He afterwards became Secretary of the Scottish Football Association in 1882, and still occupies that responsible position. Indeed he acts as Secretary for all three Associations just mentioned. It will thus be understood what the Oueen's Park has done for Scottish football. The game North of the Tweed in the first place would never have developed so quickly but for its fostering care and in the second place Scotland could not have taken such a conspicuous position as the home and centre of the Association Code. Many minor Associations found the Oueen's Park among their first adherents, including the Glasgow (Inter-City) League, the Glasgow Reserve League and the Scottish Combination and the several Amateur combinations from which the Queen's Park is now largely recruited, namely, the Scottish Amateur F.A., for which the Club provided a Cup, the Secondary Schools' Association, the Glasgow and West of Scotland Secondary Schools'League



[Sport & General. Combined group of Corinthians and Queen's Park.

Former Pupils League, and Scottish Amateur League, all of which had a Queen's Park origin. It had considerable intercourse with English Clubs prior to the formation of the English League in 1888, and the only match now remaining is the Annual New-year game and return, with the Corinthians, a match which was first inaugurated in 1886.

Lastly a word must be said of Hampden Park, or Parks—there have been three—as the name and the ground have become famous all over the world, the third being perhaps the most perfectly equipped football ground in the Kingdom. The possibility of owning an enclosure of its own, first occurred to the members through the pecuniary success of the first International at Partick in 1872, which yielded £102, and after all expenses had been paid £33 remained to the good which was set aside as a fund for International matches. This sum came in useful for the 1873 International in London. which was also controlled by the Queen's Park and financed by it. To the Queen's Park this seemed untold Its own revenue that season was £23 of which only f3 12s. 11d. remained as a surplus. A ground was the thing. No more putting hands in pockets for match expenses. The Corporation of Glasgow gave the Club a corner of ground acquired by the City in 1857, and which could not be used in connection with the adjacent Public Park and on 25th October, 1873, the Club was in possession of a playing field of its very own, after six years occupancy of the Recreation Park. Improvements. were effected, and stand and pavilion built in the course of time, until 1884 when the Club had to remove to an adjacent field through the building of the Cathcart Railway. Then came greatest Hampden in 1903 the last word in football grounds. Mr. Alexander Blair, a member of the Club, fixed on the site—a natural Amphitheatre—at Mount Florida, further south than Old Hampden. Mr. Blair drew the plans, cast the estimates, supervised the work, and generally laid the

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foundations of one of the finest and most complete enclosures of the kind in the Kingdom. The scheme cost in all £28,645, including the handsome pavilion. Nor is the Club yet satisfied, as plans have already been prepared and passed for further extension of the ground, its terracing, stands, and pavilion, with provision for other games, and two extra fields for its Junior elevens. The present Hampden has accommodated 127,307 spectators in 1912 when England played Scotland there. This constitutes a record. Four years before, 121,452 persons were within the enclosure on a similar occasion.

The Queen's Park members having first come together as a purely athletic aggregation of Highlanders, all through the years, gave every possible encouragement to Amateur Athletics. The first open sports meeting of the Club was held in 1876, and each year thereafter, with a short break, until after the war when the sports meetings were resumed. It was one of the first members of the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association and has furnished several Presidents to that body.

Such in brief is the history of this great Club, a history which no other Club can even approach. It is not too much to say that the Queen's Park F.C. has by its own energy and enthusiasm, made the game what it is to-day in Scotland, and has contributed largely to the popularity of football as played in England.



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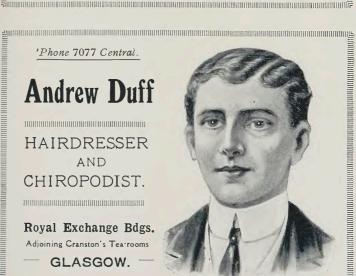
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