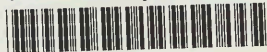


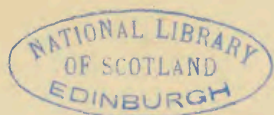


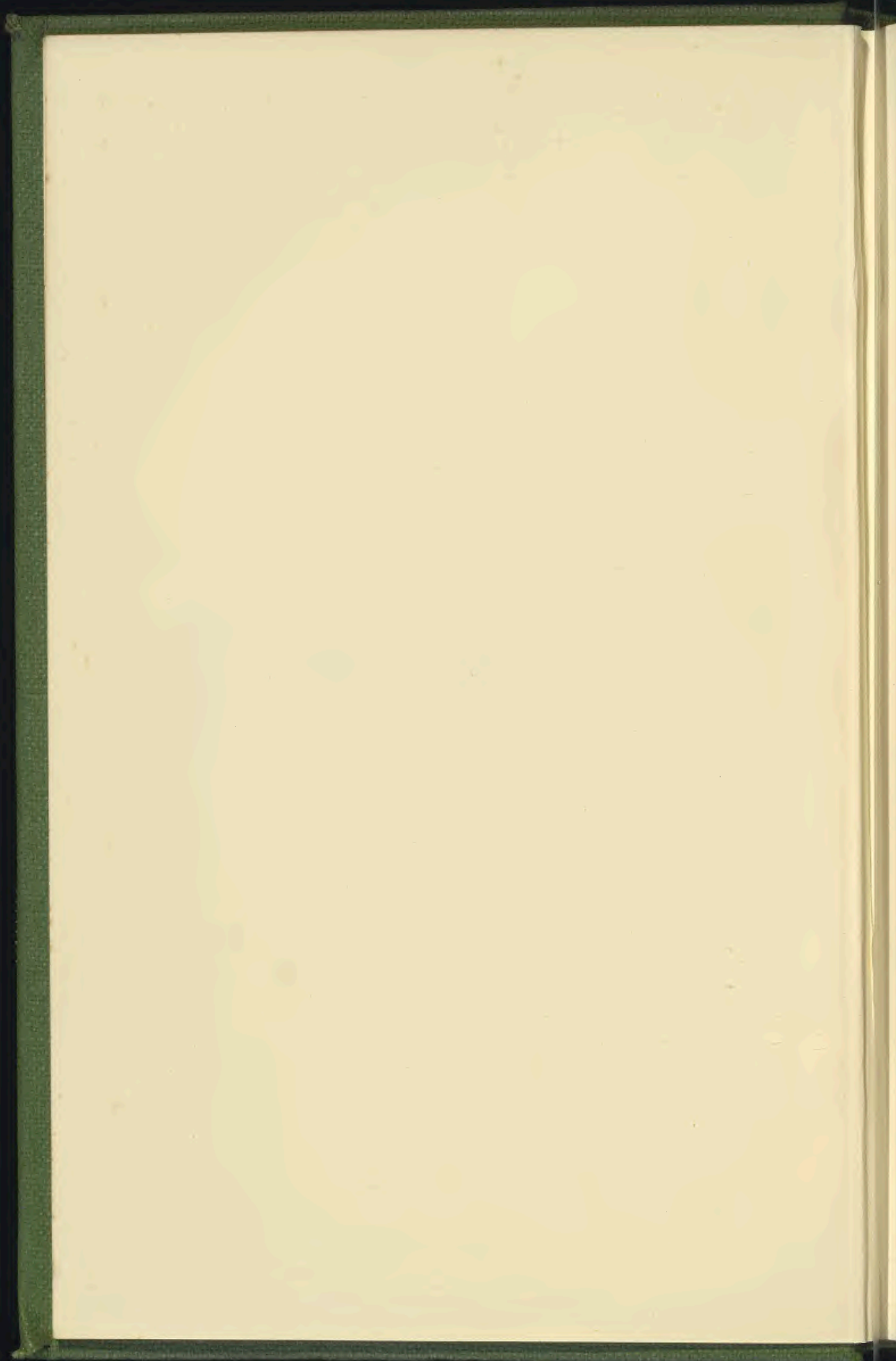
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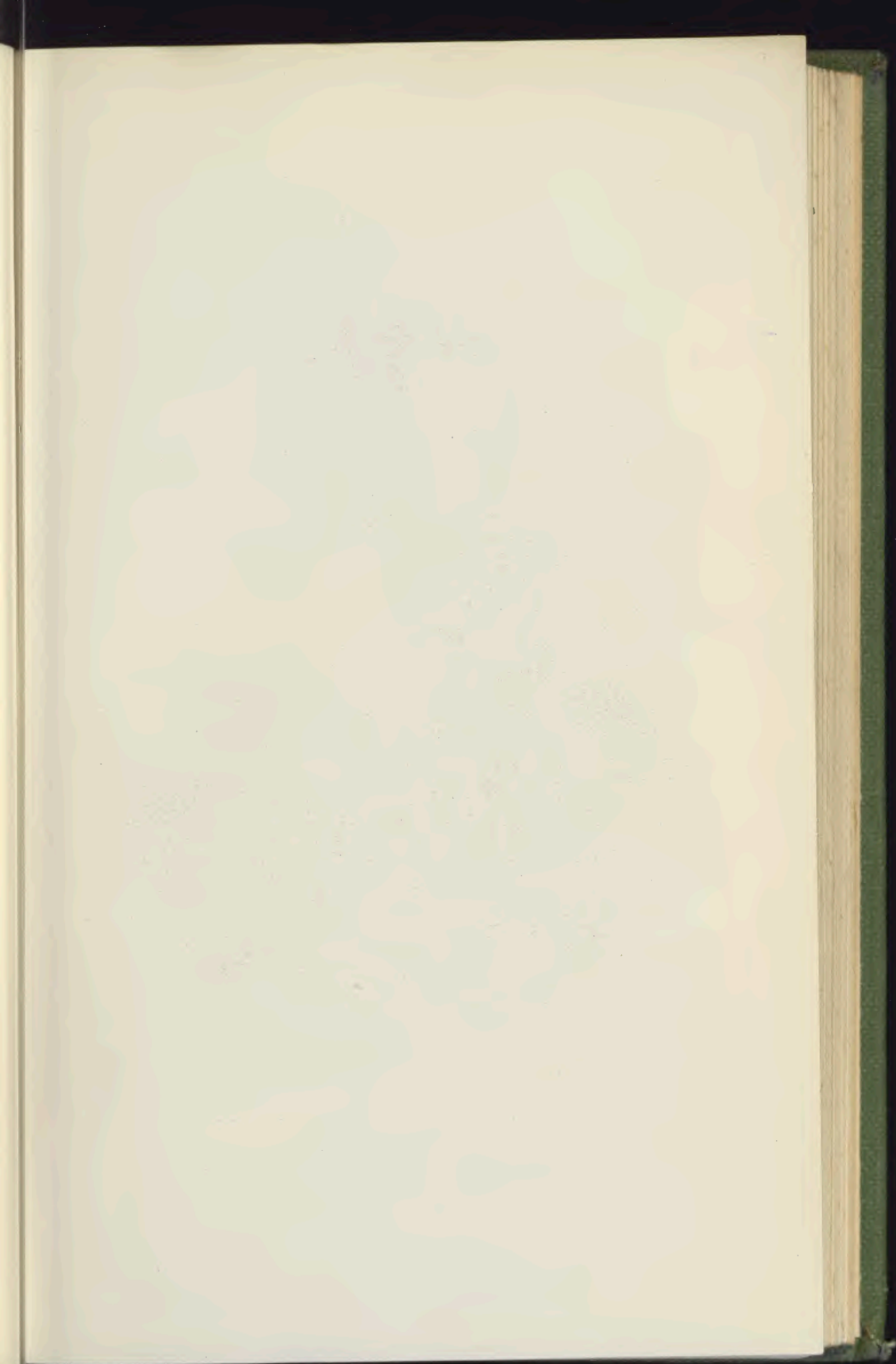
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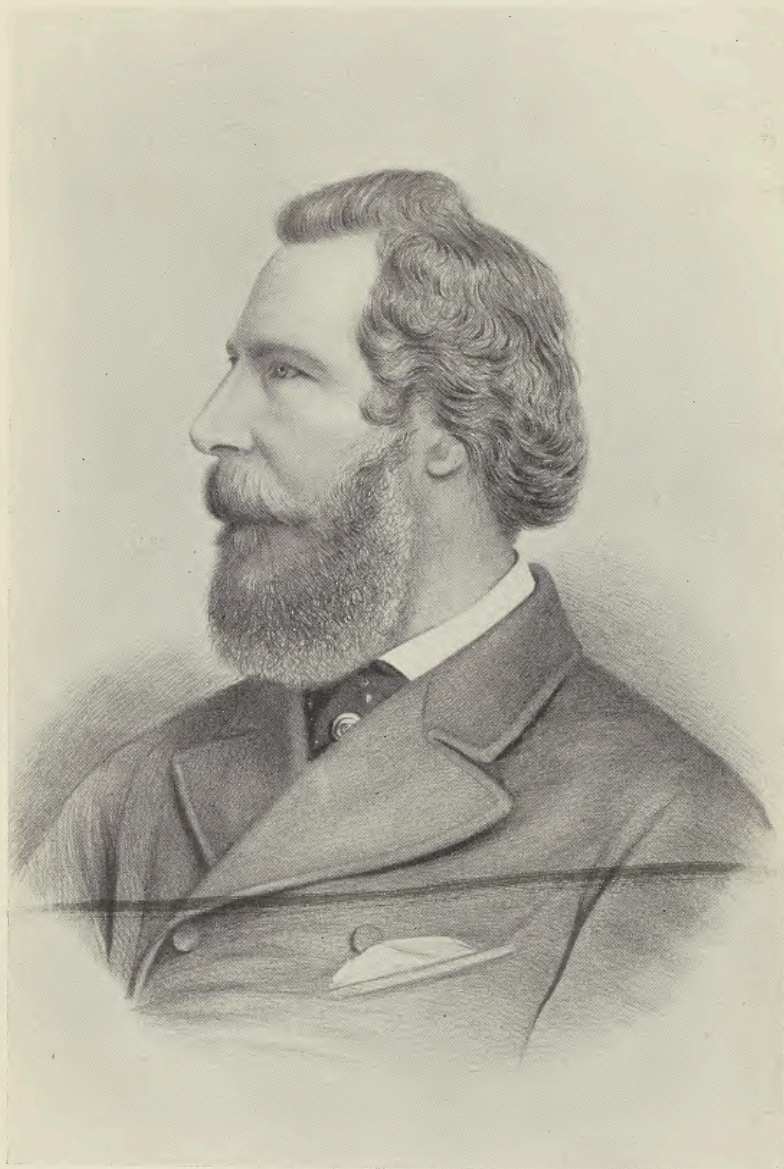




ANNALS OF
BRECHIN CRICKET

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THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SOUTHESK, K.T., LL.D.,
9th Earl 1827—1905.
Pioneer of Brechin and Forfarshire Cricket.

ANNALS
OF
BRECHIN CRICKET
1849-1927

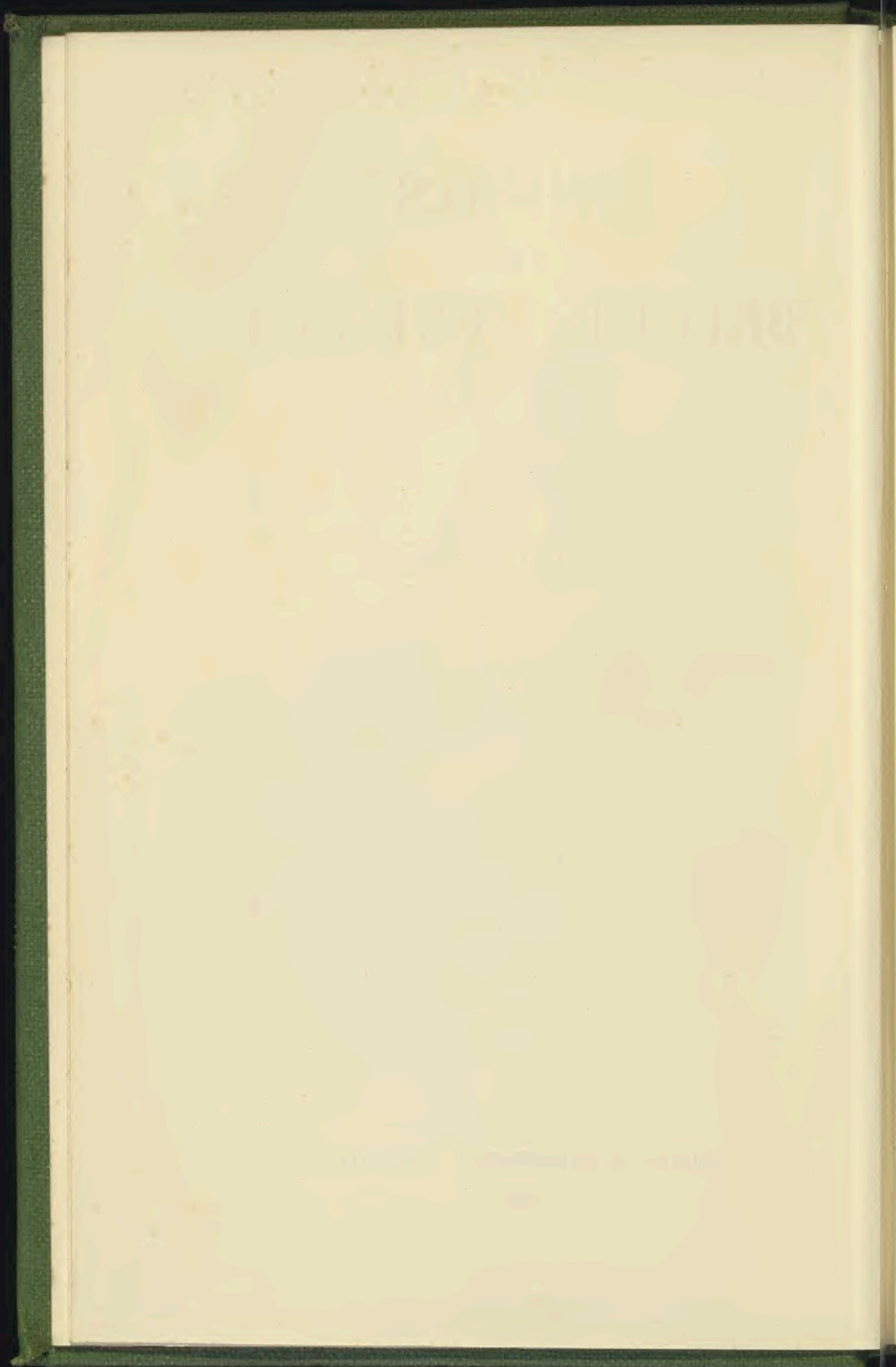
BY
ALFRED O'NEIL

FOREWORD BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF
STRATHMORE AND KINGHORNE, G.C.V.O.,
Lord Lieutenant of Forfarshire.

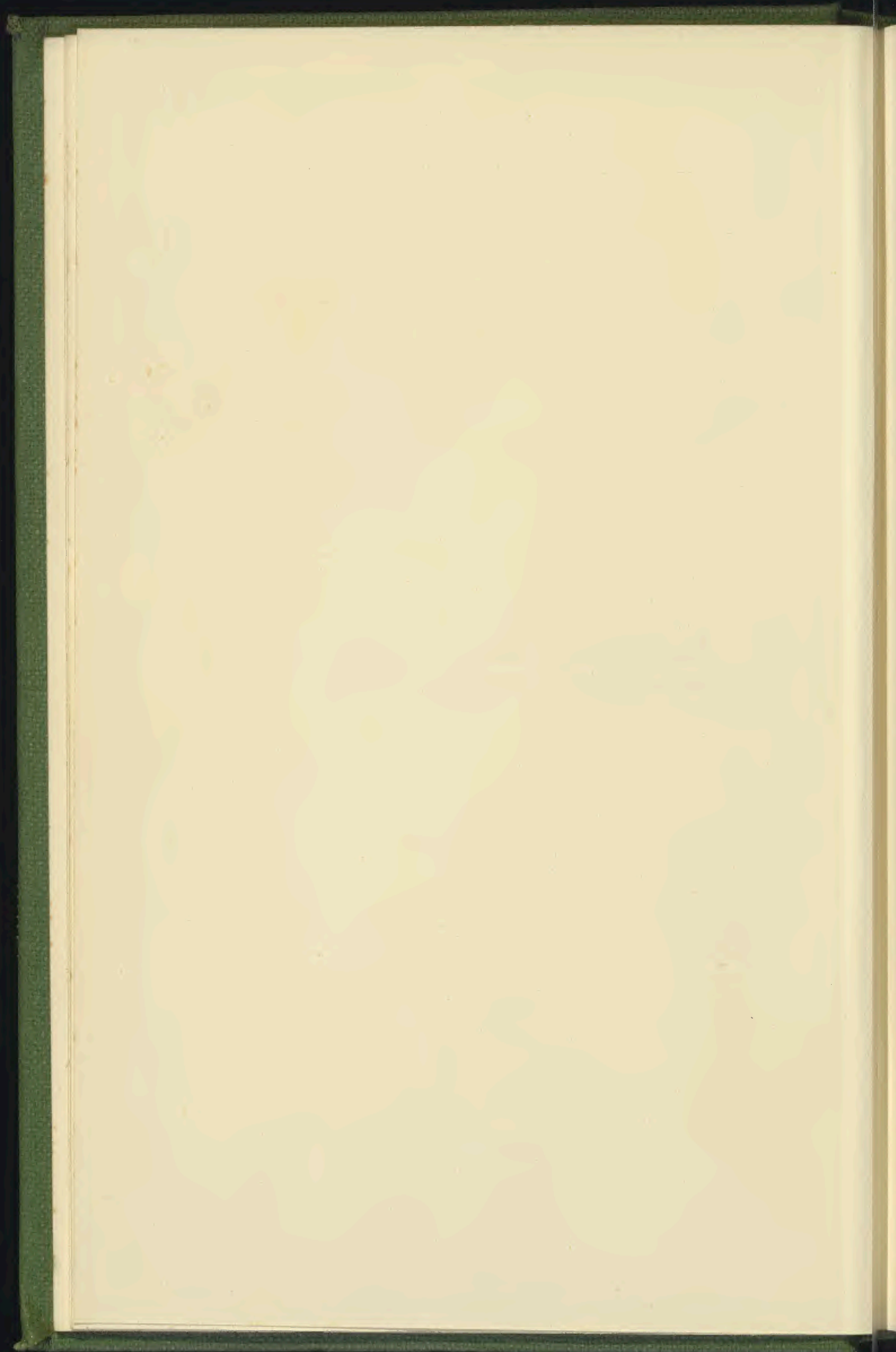
With Illustrations



BLACK & JOHNSTON, BRECHIN
1927



TO
THE PIONEERS OF BRECHIN CRICKET :
"Famous men and the fathers who begat us."



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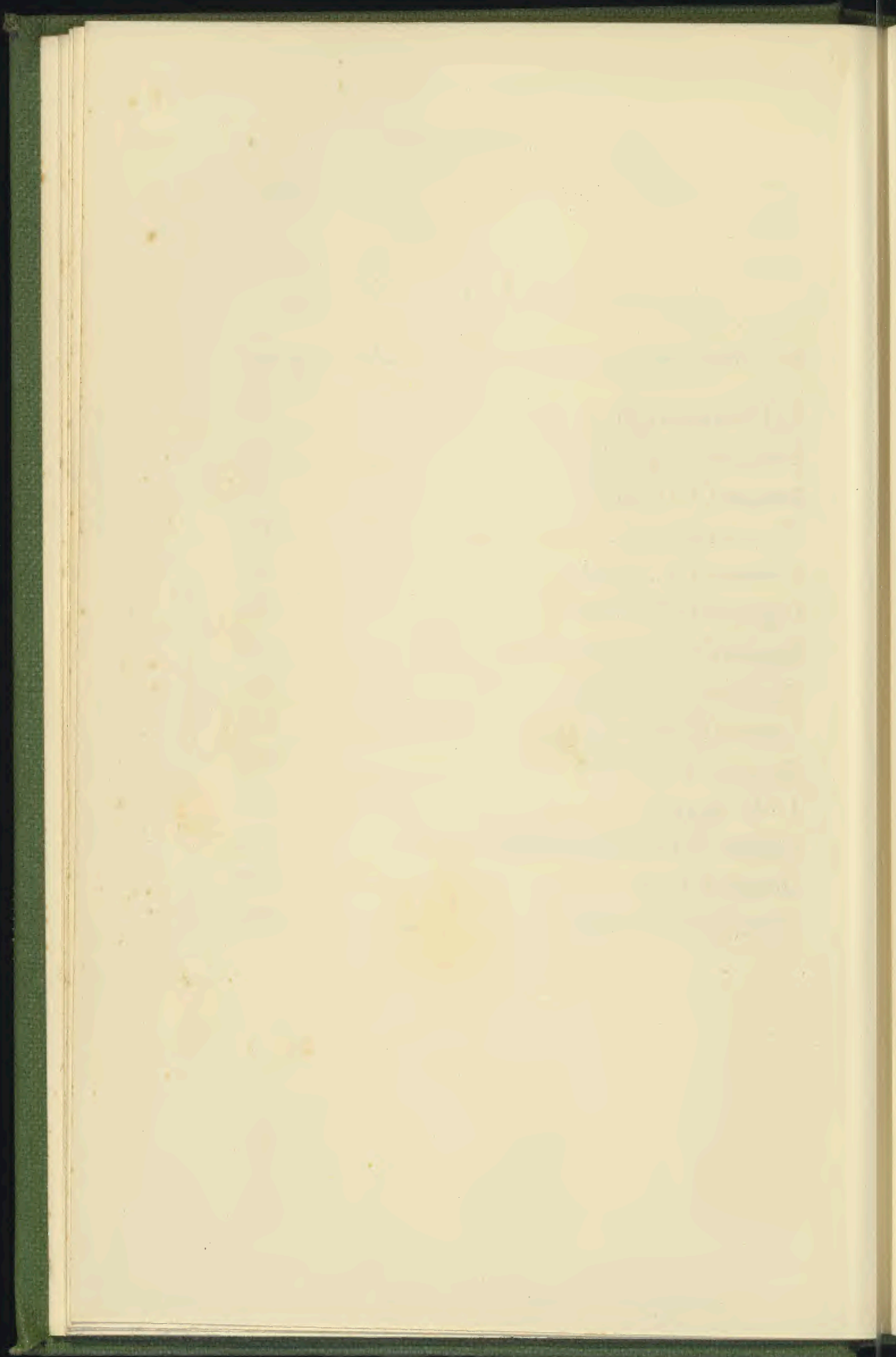
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FOREWORD

It is with considerable pleasure that I undertake the duty of contributing a foreword to Mr Alfred O'Neil's admirable and interesting book (*Annals of Brechin Cricket*).

I can write with first-hand knowledge and personal recollection, as I had the pleasure of taking part in a number of the exciting matches described by Mr O'Neil. In one way this makes my task more easy, but in another more difficult, as space forbids the mention of the names of a good many fine Brechin Cricketers against whom I have played.

I was able for some years to place a few well-known Cricketers in the field against the Brechin C.C., amongst others W. H. Hadow, who once held the record at Lords for Gentlemen *v.* Players by scoring 238 runs in one innings; George Kemp, the Cambridge University and Lancashire Cricketer, now Lord Rochdale; Gorell Barnes, the Oxford University left-hand bowler, now Lord Gorell owing to the death of his brother in the War; and almost always the well-known L. M. Balfour-Melville and his brother.

It is a tribute to the Brechin C.C. that these cricketers, as well as the other members of the Glamis XI., looked forward to the Brechin matches with perhaps greater zest than any others, as the games were often close, and we always found the Brechin players not only keen but generous opponents, playing Cricket indeed both in the literal and wider sense.

I cannot forebear alluding to the writer of these *Annals*, who for some years captained the Brechin C.C. with success. I remember him as a good

Captain, a pleasant opponent, and a good steady bowler.

I can hardly omit mention of one outstanding figure who played for the Club for so many years, viz., C. Ferrier, who I think was, at his best, perhaps one of the finest forcing batsmen in Scotland. I regret that space forbids reference to others whom I should like to mention.

Much credit is due to the lovers of Cricket who have worked for the revival of the great Summer Game in Brechin, and a tribute must be paid to the goodwill shown by the Provost and Town Council in connection with the new Cricket Ground, and to the generous help accorded by Major Maule Guthrie.

It only remains for me to say that these Annals will be published at an opportune moment, when, after the lean years of the War, there is to be a resurrection, we confidently hope, of the former glories of the Brechin C.C.

S. W. Thomson

PREFACE

Though critics visit with disdain
This book, and canvass it in vain
For stirring deeds and striking thoughts,
Amid a tale of ones and noughts ;

What matter? for the faithful few,
Who turn these pages in review—
For them this homely record lies
Instinct with happy memories.

Books, brochures, pamphlets and annuals on English cricket pour from the press in a steady stream, but cricket in Scotland has, unfortunately, inspired few books of note. Mr D. D. Bone, a well-known Glasgow journalist, father of a famous family in Art and Literature, made a gallant attempt in 1898 to give a more than local atmosphere to his "Fifty Years' Reminiscences of Scottish Cricket," but the north and north-east were almost ignored. The Cricket Clubs of Greenock, Perth, and Hawick, and the Grange of Edinburgh have had their historians, but apart from these and a few sporadic annuals, lovers of the game have very little knowledge of cricketers in Scotland, who are only in a minor degree less worthy than their best known English contemporaries, and many of whom are of first-class English standard. The lack of data until the later days of last century no doubt accounts for this. I have been fairly fortunate in this respect in Brechin, as when old scoring books were amissing I have been able to fill the gaps from the columns of the *Brechin Advertiser*, *Montrose Standard* and *Arbroath Guide*. To the editors of those news-

papers I am under obligation for placing interesting material at my disposal.

The Committee of the Brechin Cricket Club has given their countenance to the publication of this book, simultaneously with the Bazaar to be held on behalf of the lay-out and equipment of Guthrie Park, and I desire to express my appreciation of their courtesy and help, and for giving me access to the records of the Club, which are remarkably complete.

I have also to thank The Right Hon. The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne for so readily and generously contributing the Foreword.

To the subscribers, especially those who have taken a substantial number of copies and enabled the publication to proceed, I record my deepest indebtedness.

The preparation of this work, of which the main part appeared in the *Brechin Advertiser*, has afforded me extreme pleasure, and I trust the endeavour to give permanent form to the history, ideals and sentiment of Brechin Cricket will be of value.

I can only hope that these "Annals," which bring their readers into contact with the doings of the Brechin Club during the past seventy-eight years, and also with practically every Scottish club and cricketer of note in the last forty years, will appear worthy of their title, and uphold the names of the many great players and fine sportsmen with whom it has been my inestimable privilege to be associated.

ALFRED O'NEIL.

CHAPTER I

ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE CLUB

Hail Cricket! glorious, manly, British Game!
First of all Sports! Be first alike in Fame!
—JAMES LOVE, 1744.

It has been humorously said that cricket began when first a man-monkey, instead of catching a cocoa-nut thrown him playfully by a fellow-anthropoid, hit it away from him with a stick which he chanced to be holding in his hand. But the date of this occurrence is not easy to ascertain, and therefore it is impossible to fix the date of the invention of cricket. The classic chronicles of old John Nyren; the massive figures of Ashley Cooper; the attractive experiences of W. G. Grace, P. F. Warner, C. B. Fry, or Lord Hawke; the encyclopaedic volumes of Wisden, and the brilliant articles in prose and verse by many distinguished writers can be referred to for never-ending delight by those who enjoy "cricket on the hearth" when the days are short and the evenings long, and who wish to know all about the history of the game.

There was little cricket played in Scotland 100 years ago, though it was well known in England, where it became ultimately the "National Game." What cricket there was north of the Tweed was generally associated with military centres where Englishmen were stationed, and it is probable that many of the early Scottish clubs were started by Englishmen.

That cricket was played in the Ancient City of Brechin, as in other parts of Scotland, prior to 1849 goes without saying, but it was in that year that the

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game took firm root in the city. The charm and fascination of the game, with its elements of all that is best in British sport and sportsmanship, have since then held the interest of all classes of the inhabitants. That of course has only been possible through the excellence of the exhibitions of the many brilliant players and elevens that have from time to time arisen in the city, and placed the Brechin Club amongst the best in Scotland. Only once or twice during those seventy-eight years has the game languished or play been suspended. The stern necessities of war caused the Club's activities to cease more or less during the last decade, but the spirit which overcame temporary viscissitudes in the past is again manifest.

Brechin can undoubtedly claim to possess one of the oldest clubs in Scotland with a continuous existence. Perthshire is probably the oldest club in Scotland, having been formed in 1826. The Grange (Edinburgh), known as Scotland's premier club, began its career in 1832, and the Clydesdale (Glasgow) in 1848. The Arbroath Club was formed at an earlier date than that of Brechin, but while Montrose also preceded Brechin with a club, it has lacked continuity. Aberdeenshire was formed in 1857. Dundee, strange to say, never had a long-lived club, and the Forfarshire club was only established in 1880. I know of no other small provincial Scottish town where cricket has so long enjoyed so popular a place in its life as in Brechin; where the game has been maintained at so high a standard, where its traditions have been so honoured and upheld, its philosophy cherished, and its fellowship enjoyed to such an extent. It is during those years also that cricket has flung a girdle round the earth, from the Andes to Ashanti, from Melbourne to Madras, from Brechin to Barbados, uniting in goodwill men of all classes, creeds and race.

The immediate cause of the formation of the Brechin Club would appear to be a match played at Montrose on 23rd July, 1849, between the Aberdeen and Arbroath clubs. This match had evidently been long talked of and anticipated, and the managers of the Aberdeen Railway ran special trains to Montrose for the occasion. That had been quite an event in those quiet days, as the following extract from the *Montrose Standard* shows.

“At an early hour the streets were thronged with strangers, and towards 11 o'clock many were seen moving in the direction of the Race Ground, where two tents were erected, flags flying, and, in the middle of a crowd, men dressed in white and blue, anxiously engaged in making preparations for the game. The Blues, or Arbroath Club, in the phraseology of the game, had the first innings—that is to say, they had the bats and stood at the wickets, while the Aberdonians had the throwing and catching of the ball. The number of players on each side was eleven, and both parties took the field confident of victory. As one blue jacket after another was bowled out, Dr Binnie of Arbroath became an object of special attention to the multitude, as it seemed impossible to knock down his wickets. He played some beautiful strokes, often making three runs and sometimes four; but unfortunately for the sport a heavy rain began to fall about 12 o'clock, which completely cleared the ground of spectators and drenched many a coat and shawl before the owners could reach a *bieid*. The cricketers and a few others took refuge in the tents until the first heavy shower was over, and then resumed the game, the invincible Doctor again appearing at the wickets. But the ground was now in a bad state and rain was falling in the face of the players; and the Doctor and three others were bowled out, one after another with a single throw of the ball; and the rain became so heavy that the players had again

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to go to the tents, where they remained until convinced that the sport would have to be abandoned for the day." Arbroath scored 93 for 8 wickets, of which Dr Binnie had 52.

It is recorded in the following week's papers that "not to be behind the neighbouring townsmen, a number of the gentlemen in the Bechin district, including some of the resident gentry, are associating themselves into a society for the practice of this invigorating game." Dr Binnie of Arbroath was engaged to instruct the young Brechin aspirants, and practice commenced at Trinity Muir. Events moved swiftly, and the Brechin Cricket Club was established at a public meeting held on 7th August, 1849, which was presided over by Mr David Black of Barrelwell. The office-bearers appointed were: Captain, James Adamson, Middle Drums; "Lieutenant," Charles R. Kinnear, Surgeon, R.N.; Secretary, Charles Anderson, Writer; Treasurer, James L. Gordon, Writer. Those gentlemen were all prominent citizens in their time, and the names of the other members of the Club who were enrolled at its formation are worthy of mention, recalling as they will other well-known and highly esteemed citizens. The complete list is as follows:—

James Adamson, Middle Drums.
David H. Adamson, Stannochy.
Alexander Anderson, Stationmaster.
John G. Anderson, Railway Clerk.
George Anderson, Merchant.
Charles Anderson, Writer.
John Arkly, Powmill.
Alexander Barclay, North Water Bridge.
Alexander Baxter, Brewer.
David Black, Barrelwell.
David D. Black, Town Clerk.
William Blackhall, Druggist.
James Cay, Clerk.

John Coupar, jun., Blackiemill.
William H. Crabb, Draper.
William Cloake, Excise Officer.
David Carnegie, Balrownie.
John Davidson, Saddler.
William Fullerton, Ardovie Mains.
James L. Gordon, Writer.
James Guthrie, North Port Distillery.
James Hall, Draper.
John Harris, Excise Officer.
Captain Hawkins, Cairnbank.
Charles R. Kinnear, Surgeon, R.N.
Robert Lamb, The Latch.
Charles Lyall, Kincaig.
John Mackie, Surgeon.
Alex. Mustard, Leuchland.
Robert Mathers, Writer.
Patrick C. Ogilvy, High Street.
Walter Ogilvy, Broomfield.
Charles Oswald, jun., Tobacconist.
John Oswald, Tobacconist.
William Smith, jun., West Drums.
James Speid of Ardovie.
David Stevenson, Arratsmill.
Alexander Strachan, Writer.
Alexander M. Thomson, Distiller.
John Valentine, Draper.
James G. Walker, Vintner.

Complete records exist of the thorough way in which the Committee set about its business. Messrs A. M. Thomson, William Smith, and Patrick Ogilvy were appointed to act along with the office-bearers in drawing up rules and regulations, and within a month these were submitted to the second meeting of the Club. Practice at Trinity Muir was also in full swing. The Rules throw interesting light upon the habits of the young men of the time. They show that the pastime was no child's play, but a

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strenuous exercise for the object as defined in Rule 1, "the healthful amusement of the members by the practice of the game of cricket."

In uncompromising language Rule 8 enacts that "From the middle of April to the middle of September there shall be play two mornings a week, viz. :—Wednesday and Friday—the game to commence at half-past 6 o'clock; and members absent after the time specified shall be liable in the following rate of fines, viz. :—If absent from the ground in the morning at half-past six, 2d; if after seven, 4d. Parties absent on account of illness or absence from home shall alone be exempted from fines. In either case intimation must be made to the Treasurer directly, or by any of the members previous to the roll being called, or early in the day. All disputes regarding fines shall be finally decided by the Committee."

Seeing that the practice ground was a good mile out of the city, and several miles distant from the homes of many of the members, and practice began at 6.30 a.m., it may be understood that the fines were not altogether unnecessary to ensure a due respect for early rising on the part of the members. One hopes they enjoyed their game on a nice east-windy morning in the month of April. Many of the members probably rode on horseback to this early morning "meet," and Trinity Muir had presented an animated scene as they congregated and greeted each other with joke and laughter.

In the forties and fifties duties were not regulated by Factory Acts and Trade Boards, and no morning bell sent its summons to begin labour at 6 o'clock. Sport still held a very subordinate place in the lives of the people in comparison with their daily tasks. History repeated itself in the nineties so far as early morning practice was concerned, as it was quite common for some of us, young enthusiasts, to turn out at Cookston and Nursery

Park, and stimulate a healthy appetite for breakfast.

Another rule insisted upon each member furnishing himself with the uniform of the club which had to be worn during matches. I don't know if this included the silk hat which we see on old prints, but I understand the uniform consisted of bright scarlet jackets or blazers and white trousers. Then, as now, rivalry between clubs was keen, and was expressed officially in no uncertain manner. The rules do not speak of "arranging matches," but of "giving and accepting challenges." These challenges were at times conceived in the "Bob Acre" style, as may be gathered from the following extract from one sent by the Secretary of the Perth Club to the Grange Club of Edinburgh to play at Perth in 1834. "Having beaten all our opponents as yet, we are hopeful of success with you, and from the high standing of your club you will admit that we would then have pretty good reason for considering ourselves the champion club. But if the fate of war should be against us, we would console ourselves by thinking how strong your club is, even although beaten by the Brunswick, whom we had no difficulty in conquering."

Present-day secretarial correspondence is less ingenuous, more formal, and of the type of the first invitation received by the Brechin Club the following year. This was a courteous letter from Sir James Carnegie (subsequently Earl of Southesk, father of the present Earl) inviting the Club to play a match at Kinnaird with his eleven. Cricket was played more or less at the seats of our neighbouring noblemen and gentry prior to its introduction to Brechin. The Kinnaird Club proper had been formed about the same time as Brechin, also owing to the infection engendered by the Aberdeen and Arbroath match, for we find it stated that the game had "found favour not only among the young

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gents of the Ancient City, but by no less a person than the worthy Baronet of Southesk, who has started it in right earnest amongst his servants and domestics, providing them with suitable dresses." Sir James Carnegie's invitation was cordially accepted, and the first appearance of the Brechin Club in match play took place on 8th June, 1850, at Kinnaird. The particulars have been preserved, and are as follows:—

KINNAIRD CASTLE.

1st Innings		2nd Innings	
Sir J. Carnegie, c and b Harris	...	3—b Cloake	... 8
Thom, stpd. Adamson, b Cloake	...	6—b Harris	... 11
Williamson, lbw, b Harris	...	1—b do.	... 7
H. Alexander, c Smart, b do.	...	11—b do.	... 2
Roy, b Cloake	...	1—b do.	... 8
Hooker, b do.	...	5—b Cloake	... 1
Scott, b do.	...	1—not out	... 5
Jardine, b Harris	...	4—b Cloake	... 1
Crawford, b Cloake	...	1—b do.	... 2
Hovel, not out	...	0—b do.	... 0
Mattin, b Cloake	...	0—b do.	... 0
Extras	...	5—	... 2
Total		38	Total ... 47

BRECHIN.

1st Innings		2nd Innings	
J. Fairweather, stpd Hooker	...	0—b Sir J. Carnegie	3
Stephen, run out	...	2—c Alexander,	
		b Hooker—0	
Smart, b Sir J. Carnegie	...	0—b Sir J. Carnegie	0
J. Harris, c and b Hooker	...	3—b do.	... 4
W. Cloake, lbw, b do.	...	0—c Sir J. Carnegie	
		b Hooker	1
J. Adamson, b Sir J. Carnegie	...	0—b Sir J. Carnegie	0
J. Hall, b Hooker	...	0—c Sir J. Carnegie	
		b Hooker	2
A. M. Thomson, b do.	...	0—b do.	... 4
Knight, c Scott, b do.	...	0—b Sir J. Carnegie	0
A. Guthrie, not out	...	8—lbw, b Hooker	1
A. Baxter, c Thom, b Sir J. Carnegie	0	—not out	... 5
Total		13	Total ... 20

The game of cricket and the happy mingling of the classes on the field of play were both novel and suggestive in those days. Part of a lengthy article on this match in the *Montrose Standard* is as follows:—

“We are glad that we can award a meed of praise to both Clubs on this occasion. Of the Kinnaird Club we need say little: Sir James is a host in himself and his enthusiasm and proficiency seem to have infected his little band—every one of the eleven being apparently as anxious and eager for the contest as if the whole depended upon their single arm. Indeed it was most gratifying to observe the keen spirit of rivalry which animated in common both the baronet and his dependants. At the game all were equal, the only distinction being as to who would score highest or field best. The fielding of the Kinnaird Club was very perfect and the bowling of Sir James and Hooker, though very different in their kind, were both remarkably correct and fatal. In opposing the Kinnaird eleven we think the Brechin Club had a hard task, which they performed well, particularly when it is considered they are comparatively in infancy, and have not possessed great opportunities for practice. Their chief deficiency seemed to be their batting. In fielding they were active and well trained; and Messrs Cloake and Harris bowled far better than might have been expected. The uniforms of the two clubs—white and red—contrasted very strikingly, and both, we should say, combined very tastefully, the elegant with the useful. The unfavourable state of the weather prevented such a large attendance as might have been anticipated, but nevertheless there was a goodly number, and amongst the rest a galaxy of beauty from the Ancient City lent an additional charm to the scene. Lady Catherine was kind enough, too, to favour the company with a short visit, and she and Sir

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James were loudly cheered by the assembled multitude. Sir James, with his wonted liberality, had several tents erected for the accommodation of his visitors, wherein he entertained the whole with a profuse hospitality, worthy of the 'olden times' and of the ancient character of Southesk.

"With sheep and shaggy goats, the porkers bled,
And the proud steer was on the marble spread;
With fire prepared, they dealt the morsels round—
Wine, rosy bright, and brimming goblets crown'd."

"To the spectators the 'scene' was perhaps even more interesting than the game. The wickets were pitched in a sheltered nook of the Deer Park, where a thick carpet of delicious greensward had been rolled, smooth as a bowling-green for the occasion. The spot was about a mile from the Castle, which looked beautiful in the distance, surmounting majestically the magnificent trees which surround it, as if it were, indeed, a solemn guardian of the forest. On looking round, the clumps of trees scattered in groups through the park, presented in the view rich grassy glades and sweeping vistas, wherein the timid deer startled by the unwonted noise might be seen bounding away to a deeper solitude.

"Where the blythe fawn trips by its timid mother,
Where the broad oak with intercepting boughs,
Chequers the sunbeam in the greensward alley."

"In admiring the richness of the scene and the beauty of the locality, we could not help admitting that Kinnaird Castle was in reality a fitting residence for an ancient family; and while our mind imperceptibly wandered to days gone by, when the Castle was the camp of war, and the retainer a mail-clad soldier, we could not help drawing a comparison—we trust it will be considered a favourable one—between the ancient Baron leading his ser-

vants to the foray and the modern knight leading his to a game of cricket. The comparison exhibits the improvement and tendency of the age—from the stern and rugged to the soft and gentle—from war to amusement—from the battle and the sword, to friendly competition and the exciting game. Such a comparison is perhaps apt enough, particularly in reference to the family of Kinnaird, which is more ancient than is generally known, and whose example and conduct is therefore of so much the more consequence.”

A return match was also played at Kinnaird the same year. A combined team from Rossie and Dun estates was played at Trinity Muir, and on that incomparable setting, overlooked by the Grampians, Arbroath and Montrose were also met. Brechin managed to beat Rossie and Dun, but succumbed to the others. Scoring in the victory game was wonderfully good—Brechin 79 and 104; opponents 76 and 82. As will be noticed two innings were played by each side, a custom which prevailed for many years after this. In general in the early days the ball was master of the bat, owing no doubt to the uneven nature of the wickets.

All the players engaged then have joined the great majority, and completed their earthly innings. It is noteworthy that amongst them, as in later years, there appear names of young men who rose to distinction in various spheres. One of them, James Fairweather, was alive in 1909, the Diamond Jubilee year of the Club, and he attained the highest rank of his profession in the Army, viz., Surgeon-General. We see the well-known families of Guthrie and Smart represented. The Southesk family has always shown a lively interest in cricket, and the Brechin Club, and each generation has produced players of no mean ability. The late Earl of Southesk, as we see, was the first to stretch out the hand of friendship to the young Club, and for

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many years kept a fine wicket in good order in his beautiful policies, and arranged matches with the best clubs of the day.

Kinnaird was often the Mecca of all Brechiners who liked to see the game played under its happiest auspices. Hon. Chas. Carnegie, brother of the Earl, became the recognised leader of cricket in the county, and was instrumental during the next 20 years in gathering and captaining teams representing the best players of Arbroath, Brechin, Forfar, Kinnaird, Montrose and Rossie—genuine Forfarshire elevens—to play Fifeshire, Kincardineshire, Perthshire, and Dundee and District. He was an outstanding, all-round player, and a “household word” in cricketing circles in the county then.

Montrose at this time, owing to its convenient situation, and the fine stretch of natural turf on the Links, was the neutral ground for several important matches like that between Aberdeen and Arbroath referred to, which set the cricket ball a-rolling in Brechin and district. Aberdeen and Dundee met there also in 1849. In the same year Arbroath compiled what was a large score in those days, 126. Dr Binnie was again the prominent batsman with 54. Montrose was beaten by an innings, as their combined totals for two innings were 49 and 57 the latter being “the highest score Montrose had ever succeeded in running up against Arbroath.” Those two clubs continued to be the chief exponents of the game in Forfarshire for several years, but much good cricket was played by the Kinnaird and Rossie Clubs, which often combined their teams to play Montrose and Arbroath. Sir James Carnegie and Hon. Charles Carnegie, Lord Lurgan, Sir J. G. Baird and Mr Macdonald of Rossie were in evidence with both bat and ball. Later on, under Mr Crombie of Thornton Castle, the St Laurence Club of Laurencekirk became one of the leading clubs, and with the assistance of

Colonel H. W. Renny Tailyour, Kincardineshire could defeat all comers.

Some of those matches were lavishly reported in the *Standard*, and the writer showed not only a good knowledge of the game, but a gift of hyperbolic expression, which, to readers of modern matter-of-fact reports, is rather amusing. Here are a few quotations from the account of the match between Montrose and Rossie and Dun in October, 1849:—

“Lee had a peremptory notice to quit from Mill, a request which was immediately acceded to.”

“Mr Macdonald after blocking one or two had his bails grassed by Rodgers.”

“Martin joined Sir James, but had no sooner taken his stand, than he agreed to retire, at the urgent request of Rodgers, who shattered his nerves with a bailer.”

“Lord Lurgan filled up the vacancy and cut in with a two and then a single, but a peculiar from Rodgers destroyed the equilibrium of his timber.”

“Christie now filled up the gap, and after playing a solo Mill joined in with a discordant note, which competely destroyed the harmony, and he retired to make room for Alexander, who stuck in for some time with great pertinacity, but being over-anxious to stop a ball pitched short of a length, he left his ground, a circumstance of which Winter kindly took advantage and gave him leave of absence after he had scored a single and a three. Anderson next handled the tool and took a one; but Rodgers, getting annoyed at Sir James Baird’s proceedings, sent in an astonisher which shivered his timbers after he had booked seven brace and a half.”

“But as the best of friends must part, Lord Lurgan thought it advisable to settle Rodger’s hash with a tearer, after he had scored a dozen.”

“Murray after batting for a few minutes, ‘with all the feeling and quaintness of past ages,’

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heard an ominous crash in the rear, and on turning round had his feelings so much shocked by the appearance of his stumps that he retired horrified for a one."

"A crasher from his Lordship played Harry with his wood."

"Winter carrying out his bat after having played ten solos, seven duets, and two trios."

"Lee was sent back to the tent by a pretty ball from Rodgers, which kissed his off bail."

"Lord Lurgan now took the bat, and after notching one, gave a catch to Lyall at point, which with his usual readiness to receive such favours he accepted with thanks."

"Sir James Baird in attempting a severe hit off a full-pitched ball from Rodgers, struck it with the edge of his bat, which sent it into a purer atmosphere, a chance of which Smeaton availed himself, and immediately sent it back with great cordiality."

A correspondent to the *Brechin Advertiser* in 1887 gives a racy account of the dawn of the game in the City, which shows that it took a firm hold on the sporting instincts and ingenuity of the less favoured young men in the City who could not afford the necessary outfits. There are still a few old folks alive who can confirm the description of those early scenes, and no doubt add other examples of the repartee and flow of wit which accompanied them, and of which we have a few examples in the letter. It runs:—

"I think the first time that I saw a cricket bat, ball or stumps would be about 1848-49. I had been away at the North Water Bridge with the late Mr James Bruce ('Peem'), Flesher, and was returning in his dogcart. Just as we were passing the Trinity Muir gate we met Mr James Stewart (now Mayor of Melbourne) then a clerk with Mr Shiress, Alic. Gordon, painter (of comic singing fame) and some other young fellows carrying bats and

stumps; and Mr Bruce in his jocular way called out, 'Losh man, Jem, what's that you've got the day?', and I will never forget Ack's funny answer, 'Weel, Jeems, this is a new patent for catching moles. It's an invention of Willie Sherris's, the writer. He's sent me and Jem Stewart oot to try it, and it's mair than likely to mak' his fortune, they say. Will ye no bring the beast inside the gate till ye see the fun? We're gain to commence operations in the Taranty.' 'Na, na, sir,' says Jeems, 'I havena time i' the noo, I'll see it some ither time, but maybe the laddie will.' So I think that was the first party I saw play cricket. It is a well-known fact that the Earl of Southesk, then Sir James Carnegie, and his brother, the Hon. Charles, were the first to introduce cricket into this district. I believe there were three clubs started about the same time, the Brechin Cricket Club, the Lower Tenements C.C., the principal members of which were James and Willie Fitchett, Willie Forbes, Alic. Burns, and James Gordon. Then there was the East Mill C.C., the principal performers in which were Blues and Back, both fair cricketers, who had more than likely learned their cricket in some other town, for at that time there were some forty hand hecklers at the East Mill. I will deal with the Tenement Club first, which had George Thom, a forester on the Kinnaird Estate, who had learned his cricket at Rossie Priory in Perthshire, for their first professional or tutor. Their first cricket park was a field at the back side of the Hill Wood belonging to East Drums, where Thom inoculated them into the science of blocking and hitting, and from where poor Bill Munro brought away many a black, blue, and red weal on both hands and legs, for there were no gloves or leg pads in those days. After some time they sent in a largely-signed petition to Lord Panmure, who granted them a piece of whin muir at the top of the Reisk Wood, known as the 'Little Woodie' cricket

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ground, and I have no doubt many of the present generation of cricketers would have been surprised if they had witnessed the scenes that occurred during the clearing and levelling of that cricket pitch. For weeks, go up to the 'Little Woodie' when you pleased by day or by night, you would find weavers, shoemakers, joiners, and blacksmiths, armed with every conceivable weapon, from a tramp pick to an old knife, working away as for dear life, and all a labour of love.

"Now as to bats, balls, and wickets, they were all home made in those days. Jamie Fitchett was bat, ball, and stump maker to the Club. Two or three members of the Club would go over to the 'Ailla,' spy out a good limb of a willow or poplar tree, mark him, and down he came next morning, and the result was half-a-dozen new bats. The ball was made of a compound of hard twine and shoemakers' rosin, then knitted all over with the same material, like a girl's lozenge or worsted ball, and woe unto the poor wight who got a knock with this half or three-quarter lb. weight. The stumps were patent ones, they were thin pieces of wood, in all eight inches broad, the regulation height, but with two cross bars at top and bottom. In the bottom cross bar was a single spike which went into the ground, so that when the ball hit the gate or wicket it turned round.

"After the 'Little Woodie' ground had been got into proper order, it was opened by a match between the great rivals—East Mill C.C. v. Brig End C.C.—and great was the excitement engendered thereby. For weeks and weeks before the event came off, betting in the shape of mutchkins of John Barleycorn and sma' barrels of ale, was all the go among the partisans of the clubs. At length the eventful day arrived. The East Mill contingent marched up the Hill first, headed by the 'Blues and Back,' with at least a quarter hundredweight

of tow apiece padded about their legs to defend themselves from the enemy's round shot. Then after them came the 'Brig End Clan,' headed by Fitchett and Willie Forbes, with Bill Munro doing walking Drum-Major. I cannot tell you how many runs were made, but the East Mill Club was defeated. Now during the match there were two partisans of the different clubs there—John Pennycook for the Brig End, and Skye Campbell for the hecklers—and every now and then when the Brig End was batting, Skye would shout out, 'Doon we's fish hake, Blusey'; 'Whirl aboot the gate Backie'; and when the East Mill was in John would call out, 'Gee'm a Dagety Wid sneezer, Jamie'; 'Ca the pins fa'em, Willie'; 'Ye'll hae to drink a lot o' Tollies sma' ale afore you're up to the Brig End Standart,' etc., etc., and so ended the 'Little Woodie' match."

CHAPTER II

CHAMPIONS OF THE COUNTY.

THE records in the middle of last century are somewhat fragmentary. In 1853 evidently matters had not been going smoothly, for we find that a member, taking advantage of that never-failing safety valve to bottled-up feelings, a "letter to the editor" writes to the *Brechin Advertiser* in June that year, unburdening his soul of various complaints, principal among them being the query, "Why has the Club not been called out for practice this year?" What answer was given is not known, but doubtless the want of a suitable ground nearer the City was one detrimental influence. Probably also some of the brighter young spirits had sought the scope of the wider world for their energies. In 1857 the Club was dormant. But a renaissance was soon to dawn.

During 1858 and 1859 devotees of cricket in the Ancient City were well provided for. There were two senior clubs fairly well matched—the "Trades Union," composed principally of artisans and East Mill workers, and the "Albion," whose members were employed chiefly in the offices "up the town." The Kinnaird Castle Eleven, led by Hon. Charles Carnegie, was in its glory, so that it may be said there were three good clubs in Brechin. Healthy rivalry existed, but good relationship also prevailed, and the two local clubs combined on occasion to play neighbouring teams, while the more prominent local players often assisted the Kinnaird Club in its important engagements.

The leading spirit in the "Trades Union" was

David M'Hardy, a tower of all-round strength, and the pride of the Meikle Mill among the boys of the time, to whom he was a subject of hero worship for many feats at the wicket, and a happy, good-natured disposition. Jack Davidson was the stonewaller of the team. Both those players lived to a green old age, and never lost interest in the game. The brothers Hampton, Robert and Jack, were also good players, often in request by the Kinnaird Club. T. Gellatly and W. Wilkie were prominent in many games, and all those players distinguished themselves for many years.

The Albion's Captain was the late Ex-Provost George A. Scott, who for several years was the heart and soul of the game and worked strenuously to strengthen the position of the Club. Under his fostering care, after a few years, he had the satisfaction of uniting all the forces into a powerful combination of clever and active players, just as his son, G. Monro Scott, did in a later generation, when the Club reached its zenith. Associated with Ex-Provost Scott were the brothers D. and C. Sharpe, Martin M. Prain, A. Jack, a renowned batsman, whose son is one of the leading business men to-day in Edzell; J. Willocks, another good player, whose younger brother and sisters are esteemed residents in the city; D. Don. G. Soutar, a splendid bowler; and David Black, one of the best loved ministers in the Free Church in the Lothians in later years.

Complete records of the matches at that time are scarce, but we have the details of one played at Kinnaird at midsummer 1859, which are interesting. The play lasted from noon till 8.30 p.m! Kinnaird batted first and scored 126, of which Hon. C. Carnegie's share was 72. The Albion was not far behind at the close of their first knock, as they reached 114, of which A. Jack made 64 and R. Welsh 23. Kinnaird's second innings amounted

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to 90. Hon. C. Carnegie was again chief scorer with 47. Albion lost 3 wickets for 33 when the game ended in the evening as a draw, but A. Jack, with 13 not out, again showed excellent form. Brechin's bowlers were G. Soutar, who had eleven wickets; G. A. Scott, six wickets; and D. Sharpe, two wickets.

What was described as the "championship of the city" was played in September. This was won, after what must have been an exciting match, by the Trades Union, by 28 runs. The Trades Union scored 48 in their first innings, of which M'Hardy had 17. The Albion replied with 66. Trades Union did a little better by scoring 64 at their second attempt, M'Hardy again top scorer with 20. The Albion collapsed at the end against the bowling of M'Hardy and Sinclair, and were all out for 18, of which Jack scored 14.

This match seems to have been the last of both those clubs. In 1860-1 the Volunteer movement superseded all other attractions, and cricket fell into abeyance, bat and ball being deserted in favour of the rifle and sword. Wellington's dictum about the "playing fields" was forgotten amid the excitement of the Indian Wars! A faithful remnant had however hankered after the game, which according to the victor of Waterloo, creates the spirit that wins battles, and we read in the *Brechin Advertiser* of 30th July, 1861:—

"CRICKET.—This most exciting and interesting game has been in abeyance during the last two seasons. The excitement and time required by the Volunteers may to a great extent account for this. There is one Club, however, which sprung up about two months ago, and has been in regular practice in the Trinity Muir since that time. They sent a challenge to the "Laurencekirk Thistle" Club, which was accepted, and the match came off on Saturday last. The "Brechin Thistle," as it is

called, left this about eight o'clock on Saturday morning with a 'bus which was covered with thistles on every part, and arrived in Laurencekirk about ten o'clock. The wickets were pitched at eleven, and the "Brechin Thistle" went first to bat, and scored 35; the "Laurencekirk Thistle" then went in and scored 23. In the second innings the Brechin Club scored 57, while the Laurencekirk Club only scored 28, thus leaving the former victors by 41 runs."

Under the name of "The Thistle" the Brechin Club kept the flag flying for a few years, and it was able to hold its own with the Arbroath, Montrose, and St Laurence Clubs. By 1864 it could even boast of a 2nd XI.

When the war spirit had evaporated the people's taste for simpler amusements asserted itself once more. Recognising the disadvantages of divided forces and their inability to represent Brechin's real strength against the leading clubs in the district, renewed efforts were made to bring about amalgamation. Ex-Provost Scott was the driving force in those efforts and they were crowned with success in 1865. A park was secured for practice at Bearehill, and the nearer facility attracted larger numbers of young men. Proficiency in the game improved rapidly, so much so that, with the exception of Laurencekirk, the strongest club in Angus and Mearns, all opponents were beaten. Arbroath, Montrose, and Forfar had to succumb. It is interesting to note that Fettercairn, Friockheim, Edzell, and Auchinblae could all boast of good clubs at this period, no doubt due to the fostering influence of the county families, and their school and college boys who learned the game in England, and to whom the counter attractions of football, golf and tennis were then unknown. Cricket reigned supreme.

The first record of round arm bowling to

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be seen at Trinity was in 1859 in a match with Aberdeen Bankers. This style was not adopted by the Brechin players until some years after, as we find it again mentioned in 1863 with reference to a match at Trinity Muir against St Thomas, Arbroath, that all the Arbroath bowlers were round arm and all the Brechin ones underhand. In 1865 it had still been unusual, as it is stated that Mr Crombie of Thornton Castle, playing for Fettercairn, bowled at great speed round arm. Mr Crombie was widely known in his day as a great and enthusiastic cricketer. Several members of the Trefusis family were also capable players. Notwithstanding the difficulties and peculiarities of the revolutionary type of bowling by Mr Crombie in that match, Brechin stood up to it so well that they won the game.

The old underhand bowling was not at all to be despised, especially on the rough wickets, and the still moderate totals tell their own tale. M'Hardy told me much of it was very fast, with spin and break from both sides, and I have seen him myself bowl finely pitched off-breaks in his old age. I have also seen Dundas, to whom later reference will be made, bowling lobbs which would upset many players on the perfect pitches of to-day.

The combination of the cream of the City's cricketers rapidly made its mark in the contests with neighbouring clubs. The records for several succeeding years at this point are an almost unbroken series of successes. Laurencekirk and Arbroath occasionally stemmed the tide of progress, but those reverses were amply atoned for in the subsequent meetings. The scoring became better, and the variety of bowling—the old under-arm kind, round-arm, first cultivated by Alec (Darkie) Davidson, and ultimately the modern over-arm style—added to the attraction and skill of the play.

In 1866 Mr Scott handed over the reins of government to Walter Brodie, and from that date the official minutes of Brechin Club have been preserved complete, while the record of matches played has very few omissions. The outstanding players in addition to those already mentioned were Jack Thomson (brother of Mr C. Thomson, Eastbank); Robert Black (father of Mr Wm. Black of Balfour); Jack Anderson and W. Bruce (students at Aberdeen University), the former so long an esteemed member of the medical profession in the city; G. S. Mitchell, D. Baxter, W. Wilkie (who lost his life in the Ibrox disaster some years ago); John M. Scott, Tom Kerr, Jas. Ireland, C. Ireland, John Smart, and D. Dundas.

The highest score in this period was made against their chief rivals, St Lawrence, Laurencekirk, at Laurencekirk in 1866, when Brechin won by 187 to 40. Jack Thomson made 64 and J. Anderson 40.

The Public Park was opened by Lord Dalhousie in October 1867, and thereafter, until the Club secured a private ground, that popular and excellent place of recreation became the headquarters of cricket in the city. The fame of the Club through its doughty deeds on the field, continued to increase until in 1870 it was acclaimed to be the Champion of the County.

As in later years the matches with Arbroath created intense interest, the rivalry being always very keen. Arbroath was recognised before Brechin as one of the few strong clubs in the north, perhaps the strongest, and Brechin's development accentuated the interest when it became a serious challenger of the supremacy of the followers of St Thomas. Play usually occupied a whole day, beginning at 11 a.m., and proceeding until 8 p.m. At Arbroath especially, at least 1000 spectators would watch the progress of the matches between the clubs. These were played on "The Common,"

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which, of course, was open to the public. Cricket was then the only recreation which attracted the crowd. There were no special sports columns in the daily newspapers, or periodicals entirely devoted to sport, and even those cricket matches, popular as they evidently were, received little more than casual notice in the "Local News." Here are the scores of one of those fine matches, that which was played at Trinity Muir on 29th June, 1867:—

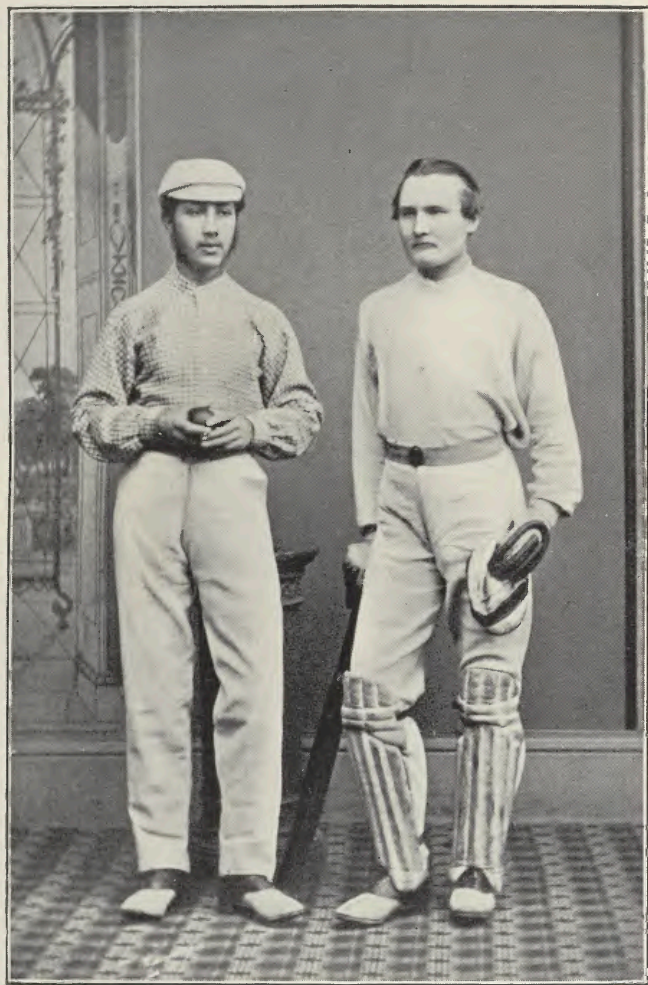
BRECHIN

J. Thomson, b Garden...	...	...	...	0
J. Anderson, b Bagshaw	...	...	...	25
D. Baxter, run out	...	...	...	1
A. Davidson, c Ross b Garden	...	...	...	0
A. Brew, c Smith b do.	..	...	...	4
G. S. Mitchell, b Bagshaw	...	...	...	27
J. Buchan, b Garden	...	...	...	8
J. Scott, c Scott b do.	...	...	...	1
G. Soutar, b do.	...	...	...	14
J. Robertson, lbw b Scott	...	...	...	6
J. Davidson, not out	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	20
Total				106

ARBROATH UNITED

R. Greig, c T. Davidson b A. Davidson	...	...	...	11
J. Dakers, b Soutar	...	...	...	14
A. S. Ross, c Thomson b A. Davidson	...	...	...	1
A. Garden, c Mitchell b Anderson	...	...	...	29
D. Crockett, b A. Davidson	...	...	...	9
J. Scott, b Soutar	...	...	...	3
C. Smith, b Anderson	...	...	...	4
J. Peters, c Mitchell b Soutar	...	...	...	1
J. Barry, c T. Davidson b do.	...	...	...	2
R. Bagshaw, b do.	...	...	...	5
W. Ormond, not out	...	...	...	7
Extras	...	...	...	12
Total				98

Fifty years ago, "there were giants in those days," as before and since. After the union of



ALEX. DAVIDSON AND WALTER BRODIE, 1865.

forces in the 'sixties the Club forged ahead, and was able to face the most formidable opposition of the time with the utmost confidence. A period of decline was succeeded by a spell of ascendancy, until in 1870 Brechin's only rival in the county was Dundee Tay Club. Arbroath's halcyon days had yet to come, and the Forfarshire Club was not formed until 1880. The Brechin and Dundee Clubs were both undefeated, and a match was arranged between them, to take place on 30th July at the Baxter Park. It was generally recognised that this game would determine the Championship of the County.

At the last moment several of Brechin's best players were unable to go, notably Walter Brodie, and one substitute, a soldier friend of Dundas's, had to be hurriedly procured from Perth on the morning of the match. A large number of supporters accompanied the Brechin players. The names of this historic eleven are:—Alec Davidson (Captain), J. Anderson, R. Black, W. Dakers, Alex. Fraser, Charles Ireland, James Ireland, Allan Kerr, Tom Kerr, D. Dundas, and W. Nicklin (substitute).

The following report of the match appeared in the *Dundee Advertiser*:—

“On Saturday a match was played in the Baxter Park between these Clubs (Brechin and Dundee Tay) resulting in an easy victory for the Brechin by an innings and two runs. Play began shortly after eleven—Petrie and Clark batting for the Tay against the bowling of Davidson and Dundas. With the third ball of his first over, and before a run had been made, Davidson bowled Petrie; and Francis who succeeded him, succumbed to the first ball he got. This disheartening commencement seemed to exercise a prejudicial effect on all the Tay players that followed, for, with the exception of Crystal, none of them made any stand; and the innings came to a speedy termination for the poor

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score of 26, of which Crystal, who played carefully and well, contributed 11, made up entirely of singles.

"Davidson and Dundas commenced the play for Brechin—Petrie and Crystal bowling. The first-named batsman was run out before he got a ball, his successor (Anderson) was well bowled by Crystal without scoring, and the next man in was also bowled by Crystal when he had scored 5—three wickets falling for 11 runs. A determined stand was then made by Fraser and Dundas, the former as usual making a determined defence, and the latter also as usual hitting with great vigour and brilliancy; and before they were separated by Fraser being sharply run out, they had raised the score to 39. Dundas was soon after smartly caught at cover-point by Dixon, retiring with a score of 23, which was made up of two fine hits for 5, two 3's, and a 2, and singles. The only other player who reached a double figure was Dakers, who carried out his bat for a well played innings of 15; the total score for Brechin being 74.

"The Tay thus began the second innings with heavy odds against them, and as the first three wickets fell for 6, it was soon seen they had very little chance of making up their leeway. Petrie having been joined by Strachan, some life was put into the game, the latter especially playing well, and exhibiting some of the best cricket of the day. Petrie, however, was run out in trying to obtain four for a fine leg hit by Strachan, and after running up a score of 20 Strachan slipped an easy ball from Davidson into his wicket. These two batsmen disposed of, the match was practically at an end, and the last wicket fell for a total of 46. The easy victory thus obtained by Brechin was undoubtedly in a great measure due to their superior bowling, for better round-hand bowling than that of Davidson has not been seen in the Baxter Park,

while Dundas's underhand slows, being finely pitched, were most difficult to play. The hard ground seemed to suit Davidson's low delivery, while it acted most adversely to the Tay round-hand bowlers, who have a high delivery. The fielding on both sides was good; but as must be the case till a piece of the Park is turfed, the ground was very hard and lumpy."

The bowling figures were not particularly recorded in those days, and it is not until ten years later we find the analyses given, along with the other details. The chief factor in this match was, as the *Dundee Advertiser* points out, the Brechin bowling, which must have been of rare excellence to evoke the complimentary remarks.

The strength of the Club that year was further exemplified in the annual match with Kinnaird, where Brechin scored 126, and dismissed the Castle XI twice for 36 and 25. Dundas took 14 wickets in the match. Brechin's total was made up as follows:—

BRECHIN V. KINNAIRD CASTLE C.C.

D. Dundas, stpd Lord Carnegie, b Hon. C. Carnegie	...	...	...	58
A. Davidson, b Lord Carnegie	...	...	...	20
W. Cargill, lbw b Woods	...	...	...	4
J. Anderson, b C. C. Carnegie	...	...	...	5
J. Herald, stpd Lord Carnegie, b Hon. C. Carnegie	...	...	...	11
J. Baxter, c Cruden b do.	...	...	...	1
G. Nicol, stpd. Lord Carnegie b Woods	...	...	...	2
A. Forbes, c Cruden b Hon. C. Carnegie...	...	...	...	5
R. Adamson, c Cruden b Neil...	...	...	...	6
T. Richardson, run out	...	...	...	2
J. Forbes, not out	...	...	...	4
Extras	...	...	...	8
Total	...	...	...	126

For Kinnaird, Lord Carnegie was top scorer in the first innings with 10, and in the second

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innings the highest effort was 9, by the Earl of Southesk.

Alex. Davidson was accountant in the Royal Bank; one of quite a number of first-class cricketers, and several captains, who occupied a similar position. He excelled as a bowler and is often referred to by the older generation as an outstanding player. He went abroad shortly after this season. His name appears again in a match against Arbroath in 1878 (probably when home on holiday), and the only remark in the newspaper report, apart from the scores, is that "the bowling of Davidson was much admired."

Dundas was acknowledged to be the greatest player in the County in the 'seventies. He spent several years in the army, where his aptitude for cricket found scope for development, and he became one of the best players in his regiment. On his return home he strengthened the ranks of Brechin, and by his prowess played a large part in their victories. Some of his performances were phenomenal. In 1871, playing against Montrose at Montrose he did the "hat trick," and when batting drove four successive balls for six runs each. Every run had then to be run out. In the return game at Brechin that same year he had 58 not out to his credit, while in the first innings of Montrose he again did the "hat trick," and in the second "went two better" by dismissing five of their players with successive balls. Against Kirriemuir the same season he took four wickets with successive balls. When he left for Kirriemuir he raised the standard of the club there, and made many large scores. Later, he was a prominent member of the Strathmore (Forfar) Club, and in the reviews of Scottish cricket in Percival King's "Annual," there appear records of his great batting and bowling.

At least one of this eleven is alive, though there

may be more unknown to the writer. William Dakers retired from work in Denburn Factory a few years ago, and now resides with a daughter in Forfar. He was a good batsman with several valuable scores to his credit. Robert Black, previously referred to, was Captain of the Club in 1871 and 1872, and continued to take a deep and practical interest in its affairs all his life. He was the wicket-keeper. The brothers Ireland and Kerr were notable "sports" of the period, active in all games, and ready to take their share of the work as well as the play. Tom Kerr was "Lieutenant," as the Vice-Captain was designated, to Robert Black, and also acted for three years as Secretary and Treasurer. James Ireland acted as Secretary and Treasurer also, and succeeded Mr Black as Commander-in-Chief. Jack Anderson, after graduating at Aberdeen University in 1872, and spending a short time in England, began a long and successful medical practice in the city. His connection with the Club was, like Mr Black's, lifelong and enthusiastic. With the break of a year the doctor played in the 1st XI of the Club for 23 years; in four of these he was Captain, and his interest in its fortunes was undiminished to the last. He seldom missed a match at Nursery Park, and contrived to see many of the other great encounters of the Club up to the outbreak of the War. Each recurring Forfarshire and Perthshire match, and visit of the Australians, found him amongst the keenest spectators.

Dr Anderson had all the qualities of a good cricketer, and the gifts and temperament which inspired, encouraged, and cheered his comrades on the field. In all departments of the game smartness and neatness characterised his play, and from all accounts there is little doubt that if he had enjoyed more opportunities for cricket he would have made a national reputation. He was a fre-

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quent "top scorer," and in his prime could always account for the lion's share of the wickets. One of the many performances he proudly recalled was 9 wickets against Strathmore (Forfar) in 1877. The doctor will be long remembered for his proficiency at many hobbies — music, photography, horticulture, phonetics, fretwork, etc., but from first to last "Willow the King" claimed his love and allegiance beyond them all.

Walter Brodie and A. Davidson ("Darkie") were a pair of deadly bowlers. The former must have had many splendid analyses, but unfortunately no details of the bowler's feats were kept in those days. Against Montrose on the Links in 1865 Brodie clean bowled nine of the Montrose players, and as the runs from the bat only amounted to 30, that performance must rank as one of the best in the Club's annals. Six, seven, and eight wickets to his credit in an innings were frequent occurrences. Along with G. A. Scott, D. M'Hardy, and D. Dundas, Brodie appeared on many occasions in the County Eleven, and also assisted the Kin-cardineshire clubs.

The greatest cricketer in Angus and Mearns in the 'seventies and 'eighties was Colonel H. W. Renny Tailyour of Newmanswalls, Montrose. He often appeared in first-class cricket in England, and "Wisden" states "he was not seen in great matches as frequently as his skill entitled him." He played in 19 matches for Kent between 1873 and 1883, averaging 24, with 124 v. Lancashire at Maidstone in 1874 as his highest score. In 1873 and two following years he assisted Gentlemen against the Players. For Royal Engineers and Civil Service at Chatham in 1880 he scored 331 not out (out of 498 made whilst in) hitting an 8, a 7, two 6's, four 5's, and twenty-one 4's. In 1875 against the Royal Artillery he made 285 not out, and in 1882 at Thornton Castle 240 for Strathmore

(Forfar) v. St Laurence, adding 370 for the second wicket with J. M. Ramsay (142), a record, I believe, in Scottish cricket. It was he, amongst other reliable authorities, who placed Dundas of Brechin as the best all-round player of his time in the north of Scotland.

CHAPTER III

MIXED PASTURES.

VIEWBANK—PUBLIC PARK—COOKSTON

AFTER the supreme effort against "Dundee Tay," the fortunes of the Club took a backward turn so far as the results of matches were concerned. Many noteworthy games were played, and many interesting players and personalities participated in the fun and pleasure, but for some years in the 'seventies they were out of the County Championship picture. Arbroath, Forfar, and Montrose were all much stronger. Some famous players, however, made their appearance on the scene, and by another decade fortune's wheel took a happier turn.

Several young men worthy of mention, in addition to those referred to previously, played for the Club in the 'seventies. There were the brothers Tom and Walter Richardson, two of the best batsmen. Large individual scores were at that time few and far between. The only half-century recorded in this decade was W. Richardson's against Edzell in 1874. H. P. Gordon just missed the honour against St Lawrence at Laurencekirk in 1876, when he carried his bat with 49 not out. The brothers Gordon, William, and H. P., were enthusiastic and loyal members, who never lost interest in the Club and the game, whether at home or abroad. They were sons of the first Treasurer of the Club, the late J. L. Gordon, Town Clerk. H. P. Gordon, after spending some years in South Africa, returned home and resumed a place in the 1st XI in the 'nineties, when his

stubborn defence often assisted in fruitful partnerships. Most of William's career has been spent in Government service abroad, and he is now retired from active life, but is as interested as the youngest member in the activities of the Club to-day. H. P. Gordon was the secretary and treasurer of the Club exactly 50 years ago, and he, like his brother, is generally to be seen watching with interest the principal matches of the present time.

John M. Scott, brother of Ex-Provost Scott, was Captain in seasons 1875, 1878, 1879; J. G. Durie in 1876-7. John Smart was secretary and treasurer in 1873-4. Those young men were all capable cricketers in their day. It will be noticed that sons of the Captains of our leading local industries took a prominent part in the activities of the Club from one generation to another, and it is hoped this fine succession and tradition which has been productive of so much advantage to the Club will continue to be maintained. Messrs John and David Duke were associated with the Club also in the 'seventies, and occasionally took part in matches. In subsequent parts of the annals this relation will become even more defined.

In 1871 we meet the names of James Baxter, Charles Lowe, and Jack Forbes. Baxter was a fast bowler who was a bit of a terror on the wickets in the Public Park. He latterly devoted himself to the extension of the great building firm established by his father, which was responsible for the erection of a considerable portion of the houses in the city, and employed a very large number of men. Charles Lowe entered the profession of journalism and literature, and for a time held the responsible position of Berlin correspondent to the "Times." He still continues to write important articles in the leading journals; a recent one appeared in "The Nineteenth Century" on "Forfarshire as a Royal County," inspired by the fact that three of its

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historic mansions—Glamis, Brechin, and Kinnaird Castles—contributed separate members to the circle of the Royal family within the last few years. Jack Forbes, like Charles Lowe, was not only a good cricketer, but no mean athlete. Forbes emigrated to New York, where he kept up the game, and took a leading part in arranging matches with several of the Australian elevens which returned home from our shores via the States.

Brechin was invited by Strathmore (Forfar) to open their new ground in 1873, but gave a most ignominious display, being all dismissed for 6 runs, after Forfar scored 143. This is the lowest score ever made by the Club, but not the lowest in Scottish cricket, as on one occasion Arbroath only managed to record 2 runs in an innings against Aberdeenshire. The Strathmore Club was very strong for some years at this period, with the brothers W. F. and John F. Craik, T. G. Chase and, later, Dan M'Laren. D. Dundas was then a member of their eleven. John F. Craik was a famous underhand bowler, well known for his prowess in many a big match.

Montrose was also a strong combination. Their most prominent player was J. D. Wood; the first one to score a century against Brechin. This happened on Montrose Links on 5th January 1875, when Wood made 109. The total was 272, a figure which has only once been passed by a side opposing Brechin, viz., by Glamis Castle XI. at Glamis in 1908 when 275 was hit up. The Montrose "leather hunt" was a greater ordeal, however, as every hit was run out; there were no boundaries marked to save running until many years later. J. D. Wood made the highest score for Montrose in other matches against Brechin, amongst them, in 1879, one of 58 not out.

Lord Dalhousie planted a memorial tree in the centre of the Public Park at its opening. It was,

naturally, an inconvenient additional "fielder" to friend and foe during a match, and we find in 1875 the Brechin Club suggesting to the Curators the desirability of its removal. The request was acceded to, and the tree, a beech, removed to the point where the entrance avenue branches off in two directions.

Towards the close of the 'seventies improvement is manifest amongst the players, as a large number of victories are recorded. Dr Anderson and Gregor Cumming were the chief bowlers, assisted by W. Gordon, and their excellence had the effect of reducing the rival scores. Fielding was all right (this is a department of the game in which Brechin has invariably been above the average) but the batting continued to be weak. New names appear, chief among them W. Balnaves, R. S. Cargill, D. Riach, J. Macartney, A. Gilbert, J. Morrison, and T. Gardiner.

Mr Balnaves was for five years secretary, 1878-82. He graduated from the ranks of the 2nd XI., which was then in being, to the 1st XI. in 1884, and promoted to be Captain in 1886 and 1887. He was an ideal Captain, a gentleman-sportsman in every sense of the word, cultured, courteous, and with all the attributes which promote a feeling of goodwill and *esprit de corps* in a society of men. His love of cricket was intense, and he gave an undoubted impetus to the game in the city. It was due greatly to his driving force that the use of the field at Viewbank was secured in 1880. The continual hankering after a private ground recurred at intervals in the Club's history, and three happy seasons were spent at Viewbank. Mr Balnaves went to San Francisco in 1887 where he found among other satisfactions that he could indulge in his favourite recreation. He always kept splendidly fit, and enjoyed an occasional game till well past middle life. He is now back amongst us, living at Balquhaldie, when he is not touring the globe, and no one is more

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interested or helpful in every project of the Club to-day.

D. Riach was long associated with the Club as player, office-bearer, and umpire. For a few years in the 'eighties he was perhaps the best all-round player in the eleven, and when his batting and bowling powers failed his fielding alone justified his inclusion. He headed the batting averages of the Club in 1887. Playing for a season or two in U.S.A., his underhand lobbs proved very successful, and amongst many notable performances he on one occasion, while playing for Lawrence, Mass., dismissed the whole of the opposing side. His intimate knowledge of the game fitted him admirably for the umpire's coat in later days, and his candid and unbiassed judgments led to his selection as umpire in many important county and other matches where neutral men were desired.

For more than a dozen years R. S. Cargill of Springfield was actively associated with the Club on the field and in the council chambers, and he takes rank amongst the very best of its players. He had the advantage of early tuition in the game in England, and when he appeared on the scene in Brechin as a young man in 1880, he bore the stamp of quality, style, and effectiveness. As a batsman he was polished and correct, with a fine command of strokes, and was always a delight to watch. He excelled in rising to the occasion during a collapse; the stronger the opposing bowlers the more apparent were his reserve resources. I shall have occasion to mention some of his performances, specially, both with bat and ball; as from 1880 the bowling analyses are available.

For four years the financial business of the Club was in R. S. Cargill's expert charge, and after the departure of W. Balnaves, his colleague both in cricket and business, he succeeded to the Captaincy, where for three years at Cookston, and in the first

year at Nursery Park, he continued the high standard of leadership and honourable sportsmanship which had so long been an established feature. But I am anticipating some events, and must return to the days at Viewbank.

Cricket in the 'eighties opened auspiciously at Viewbank Park, which the Brechin Club occupied for three summers, 1880-1882. The Kinnaird XI. was resuscitated at this time. The wicket at the beautiful policies was again put in order, and during the autumn season, Smith, the Grange professional, was engaged to coach and assist. Several of Brechin's most important fixtures were played at Kinnaird, and the team was strengthened by the inclusion of Lord Carnegie (the present Earl of Southesk) and his brother, Sir Launcelot Carnegie, now British Ambassador at Lisbon, both of whom were first-class players; Walter Bruce, a good fast bowler, graduated from the Alma C.C., a junior combination which for a few seasons played creditable cricket; and J. A. Gardner, son of Rev. Alex. Gardner of the Cathedral, one of the most prominent Edinburgh Academical and Grange players, who assisted the Club frequently, and scored well. The all-round standard of play showed a marked improvement. The opening match at Viewbank was well won against Strathmore (Forfar). The scores were :—

BRECHIN.

D. Riach, b Maclaren ...	...	...	...	7
W. Low, b Blair ...	...	...	...	0
G. Cumming, c Maclaren, b do. ...	...	...	...	9
A. Gilbert, run out ...	...	...	...	13
J. A. Gardner, b Maclaren ...	...	...	...	17
Dr Anderson, b do.	0
J. Macartney, b J. F. Craik	8
T. J. Tait, b Maclaren	0
T. Gardiner, c Craik, b do.	2

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BRECHIN—*Continued.*

J. Morrison, not out	5
D. Anderson, run out	0
Extras	5
Total ...				66

FORFAR.

J. Duthie, c Morrison, b Cumming ...	...	...	...	9
C. Blair, c Gardner, b do. ...	...	...	...	12
W. Rae, c Morrison, b do. ...	...	...	...	0
J. Wadin, c Gardiner, b do. ...	...	...	...	0
A. Robertson, c and b do. ...	...	...	...	1
J. F. Craik, b Dr Anderson ...	...	...	...	0
D. Maclaren, b Cumming ...	...	...	...	2
C. Evans, b Dr Anderson ...	...	...	...	6
J. Adamson, c Anderson, b Cumming ...	...	...	...	1
J. Marshall, not out ...	...	...	...	0
W. Key, c Gardiner, b Dr Anderson ...	...	...	...	0
Extras ...	...	...	...	5
Total ...				36

G. Cumming had the splendid analysis of seven wickets for 11 runs; Dr Anderson's three cost 20. The Strathmore Club was also defeated in the return match. St. Laurence (Laurencekirk) was still a power to be reckoned with, and Brechin did well to win at Laurencekirk, though they lost the return game played at Kinnaird.

Arbroath United had always been a hard nut to crack, and in the 'eighties they possessed a team which is considered to be the strongest they have put in the field during their long history, and which was able to hold its own against any other Scottish Club. A few still living in the Ancient City as well as in the "Round O" speak of the glories of Ara Ross, Morgan Chase, the brothers Schollay, Alec Lowson, and A. Reid. Many a huge score did the "Red Lichties" make against their opponents in those days, though it would appear that the players

were often more eager to increase their averages than win matches.

Before the application of the closure rule to one-day matches the only way a strong opening batting side could win a match was by sacrificing a number of its wickets; and human nature, being what it is, was rather averse to this spartan method of play, while no doubt the cricket education of spectators had not reached the stage to appreciate it. There are many examples of one side at this time occupying the wickets for most of the afternoon, and the opponents having less than an hour to bat. It was therefore a distinct advantage to Saturday afternoon play when the closure rule came into force, as scope was given for a more satisfactory test of the ability of the respective sides, and a conclusive result.

At Arbroath in 1880 the United scored 237 against Brechin, of which A. Reid had 103. The return match at Viewbank created great interest, and Lord Southesk, with a large party from Kinnaird, witnessed it. Some fine cricket was seen. Brechin was dismissed for 38 in the first innings, while Arbroath reached 66. G. Cumming took seven wickets for 29 runs, including the "hat trick." Batting a second time Brechin did better with a total of 82, of which A. Gilbert had 16, J. A. Gardner 14, and Hon. L. Carnegie 11. When closing time arrived Arbroath had scored 20 for 3 wickets. A strong Kinnaird XI. was defeated by 79 to 61. Lord Carnegie carried his bat with 37 of his side's 61.

Arbroath's strength was again in evidence in 1881 and 1882. In the latter year at Arbroath they scored 241, and only fifteen minutes were left for Brechin's innings! Two very fine pieces of bowling by R. S. Cargill in 1881 are worth recalling, viz.—five wickets for 7 runs at Forfar, and seven wickets for 6 runs at Sunnyside Asylum, which

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could then place a first-class eleven on the field, including Jack Anderson, so long associated with Montrose, and one of the most brilliant point fielders in the county.

The last match to be played at Viewbank was against a strong eleven led by Lord Carnegie, which consisted of several skilled Army players, Dan Maclaren, Forfarshire's fast bowler, and Captain H. Renny Tailyour, who played frequently and successfully for Kent County. The scores are interesting :—

BRECHIN.

1st Innings.			2nd Innings.		
R. S. Cargill, b Tailyour	...	...	25—c Lord Carnegie, b Maclaren	14	
R. Thomson, c & b Lord Carnegie	6—b Capel	...	7		
J. Lowson, b do.	...	...	0—c Tailyour, b Maclaren	4	
G. Cumming, b Maclaren	...	...	11—c Lord Carnegie, b Capel	1	
H. G. F. Taylor, c Capel, b Lord Carnegie	...	...	10—b do.	...	1
Dr Anderson, c Innes, b Maclaren	0—c Tailyour, b Maclaren	14			
F. Thomson, b do.	...	...	4—b do.	...	1
W. Balneaves, b Lord Carnegie	...	...	0—b Lord Carnegie	2	
J. M. Scott, b Maclaren	...	...	1—not out	...	3
T. Gardiner, not out	...	...	1—b Lord Carnegie	0	
D. N. Scott, b Lord Carnegie	...	...	2—c. Hon. L. Carnegie, b do.	0	
Extras	...	...	5—	Extras	2
Total	...	...	65	Total	49

LORD CARNEGIE'S XI.

1st Innings.			2nd Innings.		
Capt. H. Renny Tailyour, c J. Scott, b Anderson	...	...	30—b Cumming	...	0
Capt. Innes, b Cumming	...	...	16—b do.	...	2
Hon. L. D. Carnegie, c J. Scott, b Thomson	23—c Cargill, b do.	5	
D. Maclaren, lbw, b do.	1—to bat		

MIXED PASTURES

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LORD CARNEGIE'S XI.—*Continued.*

Lord Carnegie, b do.	3—not out	...	3
Hon. C. Trefusis, b Anderson	12—c Cargill,		
			b Cumming	0	
A. Capel, b do.	...	...	0—b do.	...	2
F. Renny Tailyour, c Cumming,					
b do.	...	...	0—to bat		
Lieut. Alexander, c do., b do.	...	...	2—not out	...	0
Capt. Lindsay, not out	...	...	0—b Lowson	...	11
A. G. Wood, b R. Thomson	...	...	1—to bat		
Extras	...	...	5—		
<hr/>					
Total	...	...	93—T'l for 6 wkts.		23

In the first innings of Lord Carnegie's XI. Dr Anderson took five wickets for 25 runs, and in the second G. Cumming was in one of his devastating moods with 5 for 7. A. Capel, who took three wickets in Brechin's second innings, was the late A. Capel Carnegie of Balnamoon.

During the Brechin Club's tenure of Viewbank Park another Club was formed called "Brechin United." Their players developed exceptional aptitude for the game, and became so proficient that they were able to engage many of the senior clubs in the district on practically equal terms. They played a very attractive game, being specially strong in bowling and fielding, and by assiduous practice and enthusiasm reached a stage where they were often more successful than the Brechin Club. This had the effect of stimulating general interest in the City, and a spirit of healthy rivalry and emulation which proved to be beneficial for the game. Dundas was back in the City, and his coaching and experience were of value to the United, as he inculcated correct methods. The zest of youth and readiness to follow the best models of the age had their reward.

It was evident at the close of the 1882 season that a reinforcement of fresh active life was necessary to give the old Club renewed impetus. With this object the United joined forces with the B.C.C.

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in 1883, and the standard of play gradually rose once more to a higher plane. Some of the older players who had manfully upheld the traditions of the Club for many years retired and made way for the younger generation. The new blend of youth and experience proved in every way satisfactory, and victories became the rule rather than the exception. Several of the players from the United were destined to cover themselves with glory during the following decade. Chief amongst them were James Adam, Jack Gordon, J. F. Easson, David Laing, Peter Watson, G. Hutton, and Archie Scott.

Viewbank Park was vacated at the end of season 1882, and the Club had again recourse to the Public Park, where for the following five years the matches were played. The bowling was now of considerable strength, though confined to the fast medium variety. Messrs J. Adam, J. Gordon, W. Bruce, R. S. Cargill, and D. Laing formed a formidable quintette, while James Lowson (one of the High School teachers—a delightful personality) and D. Riach could still ring the changes with success when required. With the exception of Arbroath United, then in its zenith, no club could master their attack, and even Arbroath was sometimes held in check.

My memory reaches back to this time. Little did I imagine, as I watched them with the eager eyes and hero worship of young boyhood, I would one day play alongside most of them for the Brechin Club. The outstanding player was James Adam. He was undoubtedly one of the greatest cricketers Brechin has produced. Nothing came amiss to him; in batting, bowling, and fielding he was *facile princeps*. In the majority of matches he was top scorer, while his deadly yorkers proved the undoing of the doughtiest opponents. He had a peculiar delivery, in which a very flexible wrist played a greater part than arm and body swing, and his length was admirable. Sharp as a needle

in the field, ever with a jaunty step and smiling face he was verily the sunshine of cricket. Never spoiled by success he was the beau ideal of the youngsters, and to his example, coaching, and encouragement they gladly paid tribute.

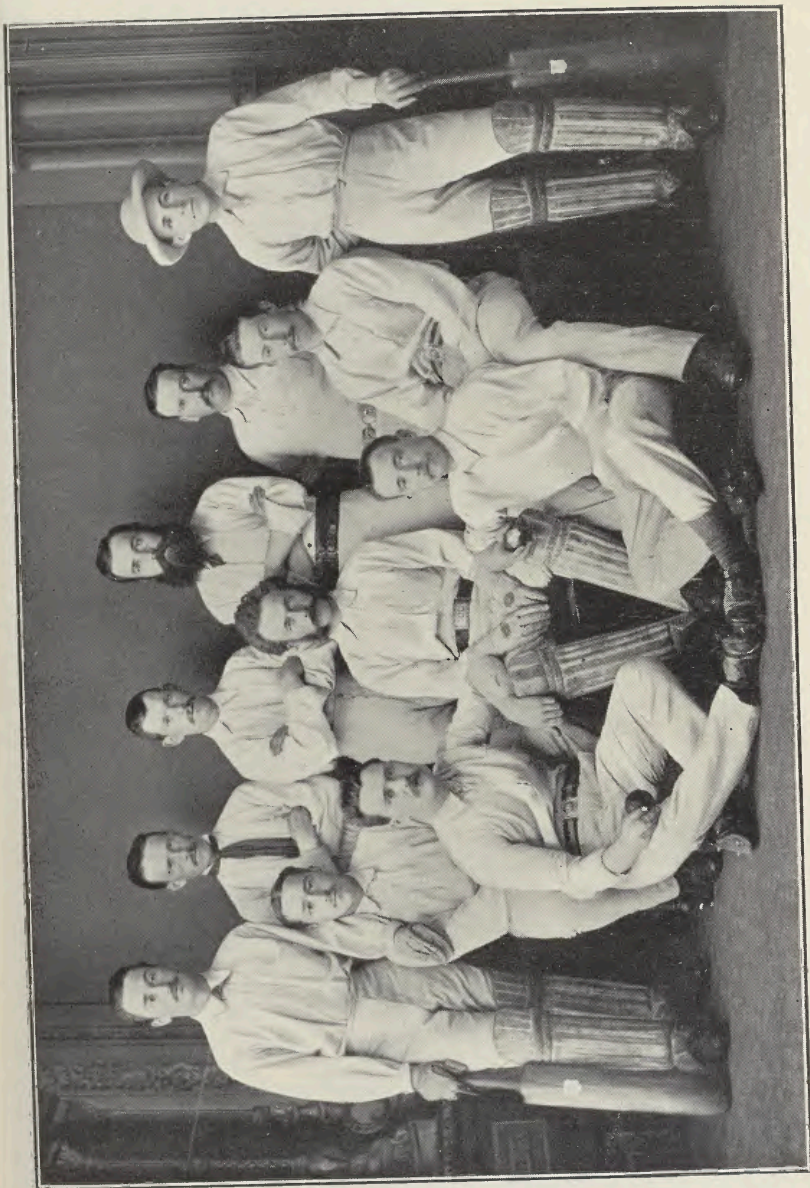
There was no Inter-County Tournament then, but Adam played sometimes for Forfarshire in special matches, and showed that "hat-tricks" were as easy for him at Forthill as at Brechin or Forfar. Playing for Forfarshire against the Grange at Forthill in 1891, when Grange was almost equal to English County standard, Adam dismissed E. S. Balfour Melville, A. R. Don Wauchope, and Bayley (prof.), with successive balls. L. M. Balfour Melville just missed the century in that match by one run. And hereby hangs a tale! A large number of Brechiners travelled to Forthill to witness the match, amongst them Dr Anderson, and the Doctor was asked to be one of the umpires. The first ball of the match from Higgins hit "L. M." on the legs, and there came an appeal, "How's that?" "Not out," promptly came from the Doctor. The famous player then went on to make 99 out of the Grange total of 132. Speaking confidentially to his friends after the match the Doctor said no batsman was ever more certainly out than Balfour Melville that day, but as he had never seen the great Grange batsman, and had gone specially to see him, he gave him "not out" and did not regret it, as not only his own wishes had been gratified but the spectators had been treated to what was always welcome, a glorious exhibition of hitting. Victory or defeat is not always the most important object of a game, and sometimes, as in this instance, it is advisable to follow Nelson's historic action by turning a blind eye on the scene.

The Forfar Club, Strathmore, had every reason to dread and admire Adam, as he seldom failed while playing against them either to score a 50 or

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take seven or eight wickets, including the "hat-trick." I well remember what was, I feel sure, his proudest feat when at Cookston in 1891 he took all the ten Stonehaven wickets for 18 runs, and Stonehaven was a power to be reckoned with in those days, when A. L. Wood led their Club. Jack Gordon and Walter Bruce were the fast bowlers, and I shall refer to some of their outstanding efforts also as the narrative proceeds. An important factor in the success which attended the Club at that time, when there were few of the modern facilities of a first-class club,—groundsmen, professionals, marled pitches, lawn mowers, heavy rollers, and modern bats with humped backs, etc.—was the whole-hearted way the players shared the work of preparing wickets.

The Club was also exceedingly fortunate in their choice of Secretary, the late J. C. Inverarity, who for eleven years, 1882 to 1893, carried on the onerous duties pertaining to the office. He threw tremendous energy and enthusiasm into the cause of Brechin Cricket, and lent a helping hand to every athletic organisation. He was a great believer in the value of practice matches. In addition to the regular list of fixtures he was an adept at arranging minor and scratch matches. Popularly known as "J. C. I.," the old files of the *Brechin Advertiser* are full of reports of games between "J. C. Inverarity's XI." and other Clubs. These matches, while stimulating interest and conferring pleasure amongst hundreds, developed latent talent, revealed potential ability, and encouraged many young and moderate players. "J. C. I." dearly loved the game, and though he never reached the high level of some of his contemporaries he often did good service on the field. A more genial and unassuming cricketer never "donned the flannels," as one of his fellow players used to say. At the time of his too early death his character was summed up by



BRECHIN C.C. 1884.
Back row—R. S. Cargill, D. Riach, D. Laing, J. Macartney, T. Gardiner, J. Adam.
Middle row—J. F. Easson, G. Vallentine (Captain), P. Watson.
In front—W. Bruce and J. Gordon.



another in the remark, "if there ever lived a Christian 'J. C. I.' was one."

The reconstituted eleven signalised their first appearance in 1883 by a victory over Sunnyside, 71 to 32. The Hillside team contained then, in addition to the doctors and staff, the pick of the Montrose cricketers, and they could give a good account of themselves against all the leading Clubs in the County. J. Gordon took six wickets for 7 runs, while Adam and Easson scored 23 and 14 respectively. The following week Strathmore (Forfar) was played at Kinnaird. The match resulted in a tie, 50 each. Cargill had 3 wickets for 6 runs. Adam was again top scorer with 20 not out. This is the first tie recorded in the Club's records. The next occasion of a similar result was the concluding match at Cookston in 1891, also against Strathmore, when the scores were 58 each. Four other matches have ended in this manner, viz. : — Montrose at Nursery Park, 1893—44 each; Edinburgh-Forfarshire, at Nursery Park, 1912—76 each; Aberdeen University at King's College, 1914—58 each; and Arbroath United at Arbroath, 1914—43 each.

Adam was unplayable in the return match with Strathmore at Forfar in 1883. The home club was dismissed for 13 runs. Adam bowled 9 overs, of which seven were maidens, and took 7 wickets for 2 runs, including the "hat trick." Brechin's score was 42, and again Adam carried off the honours with 20 not out.

Arbroath was still too strong for Brechin. Tom Scott was coming to the front as a prolific scorer, and Brechin got a taste of his crisp hitting in both matches. St. Laurence was defeated in the Public Park, but was victorious on its own heath at Thornton Castle. J. Gordon's analyses in those two matches were 8 for 20 and 6 for 36.

In 1884 Dr Anderson retired, and George Vallen-

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tine, brother of Ex-Provost Vallentine, succeeded to the Captaincy. The opening match at Sunnyside was again won in fine style, 89-55. D. Riach had the chief share in this victory, as after taking four wickets for nine runs he was top scorer with 38. Strathmore had the satisfaction of defeating Brechin at the Public Park, thanks possibly to the only failure of Adam in those encounters, the exception which sometimes proves the rule. We must in faithfulness record that Adam neither scored a run nor took a wicket that afternoon. At Forfar amends were made, victory won and Adam took 7 wickets for 12 runs, including another "hat trick." Strathmore appeared a second time at the Public Park this season and Brechin won the rubber—Strathmore 76, Brechin 93 for 7 wickets, of which Adam's share was 48.

Kirriemuir could boast of quite a good Club in the 'seventies and 'eighties. Their best all-round player, Peter Lindsay, was well known for frequent brilliant feats. Not so many years ago, in his veteran stage, he gave a remarkable exhibition of his bowling skill on the "Hill," when in a match with a Dundee Club he took 6 wickets with successive balls. "Peter" was long an honoured and respected cricketer throughout Forfarshire.

Brechin's visit to "Thrums" in 1884 produced one of W. Bruce's good pieces of bowling, 6 wickets for 5 runs. "Wattie" was a fast round arm bowler, and when on the mark his deliveries took some stopping. Kirriemuir scored 80, and Brechin lost 7 wickets for 57, R. S. Cargill 22 not out. The return match with Kirriemuir took place at Trinity Muir. This is the last time Brechin Club played on the famous "Taranty." Brechin won 87 to 64, and Cargill (25) again carried his bat. Cargill was the most consistent batsman of the season; his highest score was 30 *v.* St. Laurence.

Other clubs were of course met, but a detailed

record of every match cannot find a place in these "Annals." I must so far as is possible confine the record to essentials, and the more notable events.

Each season now shows an extended list of fixtures, and in 1884 we find Aberdeenshire on the programme for the first time. A whole day match was played at the Public Park, precursor of many interesting matches between the Clubs. The Northern Club had known that Brechin could play a good game, and they sent their regular eleven. Such players as P. J. Lumsden, G. S. Gauld, W. H. Baird, Dr J. H. Anderson, G. C. Milligan, and Higgins (prof.) were well known. Our local eleven, though beaten, was by no means disgraced. Aberdeen scored 48 in their first innings. Gordon took four wickets for 21, Bruce three for 25, and Cargill with four balls disposed of their last three batsmen for no runs. This score was not alarming, but Brechin could not withstand the fierce onslaught of Gauld and Baird (who had respectively 5 for 7 and 4 for 1), and only gathered 26 runs. Aberdeenshire scored 76 in its second innings. Cargill again bowled well, taking 6 wickets. Brechin also improved at their second knock, and reached 74, of which Bruce had 26 and Cargill 12.

Arbroath now began to find Brechin a stiffer proposition. They only won by 75 to 60 at the Public Park in 1884, and each succeeding match for several years was played with extreme intensity before large crowds and often amid great excitement as the scales of fortune turned in favour of the one side or the other. Arbroath still held the upper hand, however, and though often hard pressed was only defeated once during a long series of years. A new generation had to arise before the position of superiority was reversed.

Seasons 1885 and 1886 were most successful, 17 matches being won, 7 lost, and 3 drawn. Arbroath United and Strathmore won one each season.

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Kirriemuir had a very meritorious victory in 1885, and Sunnyside in 1886, when the latter was led by Dr Dodds, a great batsman; but as an offset Arbroath was defeated in 1885 and Aberdeenshire in 1886 at Aberdeen, while Stonehaven in the first meeting of the clubs was also defeated in 1886. Glamis Castle XI. was played for the first time in 1885. In 1886 the bowling was stronger than ever with the addition of W. W. Ayre, an Australian, who spent the summer in the city. Adam was again in splendid form, opening with a 50 at Kirriemuir in 1885. The following match was a memorable one against Arbroath United in the Public Park, giving a crumb of comfort to the Club. The particulars were:—

ARBROATH.

J. Smith, c A. Scott, b Bruce ...	...	...	5
D. Bruce, b do. ...	...	...	2
W. Hadden, c Adam, b Gordon ...	...	...	1
T. Scott, b do. ...	...	...	0
A. D. Lowson, b do. ...	...	...	5
E. Smith, b Adam ...	...	...	8
J. Napier, c Bruce, b Gordon ...	...	...	12
A. Barrow, c Adam, b Bruce ...	...	...	4
P. Keith, b do. ...	...	...	11
P. R. K. Leslie, c Inverarity, b Gordon ...	...	...	4
T. R. Wallace, not out ...	...	...	0
Extras ...	...	...	6
Total ...	...	...	58

BRECHIN.

J. Adam, run out ...	...	...	1
A. Scott, c Napier, b Wallace ...	...	...	8
J. Macartney, c E. Smith, b J. Smith ...	...	...	3
H. P. Gordon, b do. ...	...	...	10
J. F. Easson, b do. ...	...	...	6
J. Lowson, c Lowson, b do. ...	...	...	7
W. Bruce, b do. ...	...	...	0
J. Gordon, c Scott, b Lowson ...	...	...	5
J. C. Inverarity, c Napier, b J. Smith ...	...	...	15

BRECHIN—*Continued.*

W. Balnaves, run out ...	...	...	...	5
D. Scott, not out ...	...	...	...	3
Extras ...	...	...	...	6
Total ...	...	...	...	69

Gordon took 5 wickets for 17, Bruce 4 for 23, and Adam 1 for 8. Eight runs were required to win at the fall of the eighth wicket, but Inverarity rose to the occasion and victory was accomplished. Adam was again in evidence against Strathmore (Forfar) this year with 4 wickets for 7 runs and 36 off his bat.

Interesting games were played with Edzell Visitors for several years, quite a number of the visitors in those days combining cricket with their golf. W. Balnaves played several good innings, the highest being 34 v. Sunnyside, and 30 v St Laurence. W. Bruce developed into an attractive all-round player, bearing the brunt of the bowling along with J. Gordon, and in 1886, heading the batting averages; his best score was 43 v. St Laurence. J. Gordon took 40 wickets in 1886 for 6 runs each. A low scoring match with Aberdeenshire was won by 5 runs—37 to 32. Ayre took 5 wickets for 13 runs, and Bruce 4 for 10. A few big hits by Gordon, and steady batting by Adam and Inverarity pulled the team round a tight corner and added to the laurels of the Club.

Arbroath though carrying everything before them in other matches had to strain every nerve to keep their record intact when meeting Brechin. The 1886 match at the Public Park was going strongly in Brechin's favour when stumps were drawn. The first of many matches with Stonehaven, in which sparkling batting was invariably to be seen, was won handsomely at the Public Park. Scores of over 100 were the exception at this period, and a total of 150 in that game gave every-

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one something to talk about. Adam hit up 52, Easson 28, and Cargill 27.

The prestige of the Club and the support of the public again justified the leasing of private ground, where a turfed wicket could be laid and better facilities provided than were possible in the Public Park. An energetic Committee, with W. Balnaves as captain, J. C. Inverarity, secretary, and R. S. Cargill treasurer, secured an admirable piece of ground on the farm of Cookston, known as the "Old Sandhole." This was leased in 1886 for six years. It lay a little to the north of the present Forfar and Brechin Railway, in the fork formed by the junction of that line with the Edzell and Brechin one. It made an ideal ground, though on the small side, and rather far from the City to ensure large "gates." In appearance it resembled a huge saucer. The sand had evidently extended over a considerable distance, but gone to no great depth, and the sloping banks which rose up all round made it a miniature amphitheatre. A large square of splendid turf was laid and the ground fenced. It was not, however, in condition to play matches upon until 1888.

CHAPTER IV

EARLY PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS.

I MAY be allowed to digress a little at this point and refer to the efforts of the juveniles and juniors, typical no doubt of others at any given period of cricket activity, but with considerable bearing on the future of the game in the city. The Dalgetty Wood, the "Muddie," even the "Tollie Wood" were favourite rendezvous for young players, but in neither of those places was it possible to play serious cricket. Such as it was, however, it gave infinite pleasure, excitement, and invigoration to each one. Trinity Muir was the ideal place, but only the most eager and enthusiastic were prepared to shank backwards and forwards so far for the purpose. The Public Park became the usual happy hunting ground for the regular "Clubies."

My first juvenile efforts were confined chiefly to S. Ninian's Square, at that time a bare open space bounded on the north by the Corporation's stone-breaking yard, where the Public Library now stands. An open-sparred, tarred fence separated the Square from the yard, and by the application of chalk or whitening to three adjacent spars an admirable set of wickets was always available. A large stone or a jacket served well enough at the bowling end. Many were the glorious games we played there, and many a joyous "sixer" was run when the ball was driven down to "Peter Philip's Weigh-House," as we called the steelyard, sometimes even down past the Star Hotel. The Memorial Fountain to Lady Christian Maule now stands on the site of the steelyard.

Later came the Public Park, when we began to

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appreciate a grass pitch in preference to mother earth, however firm, and a schoolboy club with the high sounding name of "Resolution." This club was formed in Mr W. M. Ferrier's garden, then in Clerk Street. A number of High School boys, not yet in their teens, were accustomed to play cricket there, so much so that it became impossible for the good folks to get much use of it for its natural purposes. As the adjoining garden contained a plentiful supply of apple trees and gooseberry bushes, and the penalty for driving the ball over the wall into it was a "sixer and out," the ball to be recovered by the striker, we all became adepts at driving in that direction, even at the risk of capture and punishment by the landlord.

When at length our numbers increased so much that the position came to be too hot, both for the boys and Mrs Ferrier, it was resolved to form a Club. "What shall we call it?" was asked. Quickly came the reply from Tom Gray. "Call it the Resolution!" and "Resolution" it remained for, I think, five years, until most of us found our way into the Brechin Club's 3rd XI.

We were the most juvenile of the Clubs in the Public Park, and we were very proud when we attained the dignity of Club colours—caps and belts. There were at least three other prominent Clubs in the park; the "Victoria," in which were several good players. John Gillam, Arthur Ford, Richard Bruce, Bob Milne and the brothers Bisset, who all kept up the game and played for the Brechin Club; the "Albert," of which Alec Potter and Eck Lyon were leaders; and the "Boys' Brigade," which also contained a few clever cricketers, Fred Morgan, Lancelot Bruce and James Gillam, the latter a very fast bowler who took an inordinate race and cracked his heels together before delivering the ball.

Our great ambition was to beat the "Boys

EARLY PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS 53

Brigade," the members of which were all older and bigger High School boys, and on a memorable evening in 1889 we achieved our object. After the "Resolution" scored a meagre 26, W. M. Ferrier, jun., and I scuttled them out for 12 runs. With great jubilation we decided to "paper the match," and a deputation was forthwith appointed to march up to Liddle's Close and ask Mr Edwards to insert the scores in the *Brechin Advertiser* of the following day. Mr Edwards with a kindly smile at the young boys agreed to gratify our wishes and duly "put us in print." An old member of the Boys' Brigade said the other day, "I can never forget that famous match; the result staggered me, but the Resolution had some fine cricketers in its Club, and I can say now they thoroughly deserved to win."

The "Resolution" contained within its ranks from first to last ten boys who were destined to play in the 1st XI. of the Brechin Club in what may be fittingly termed its golden age; several played for the County, and one for Scotland. Those ten, with one of the others, would have made a great game of it against any other eleven in the years of their maturity, and it is a pity the idea of arranging such a match, sometimes mentioned, was never carried out. Such a development must be unique in the annals of any Cricket Club. The ten were—the brothers Ferrier (Walter, Charles, Jack, Willie, and Douglas) Charles and James Lammond, George Douglas, George Shand, and myself. We thought nothing of marching down to Kinnaird to play the boys there, and when our Saturday pennies mounted up we got the length of Montrose and Arbroath by train—great events in the golden days of youth, which can never be forgotten. G. D. Martineau, the well known cricket poet, gets the spirit of those days in the verses :—

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They had no grandstand or marquee,
Bunting, or pots of palm :
There was a wealth of leafy tree
Behind the bowler's arm.

There were no score cards to be had,
Numbers on boards to scan ;
Only we saw the butcher's lad
Bowl out the Squire's son.

Lord's and the Oval truly mean
Zenith of hard-bought fame,
But it was just a village green
Mothered and made the game.

CHAPTER V

COOKSTON MEMORIES.

It was only possible to engage in practice at Cookston until 1888, and another season's play took place at the Public Park. Only moderate success attended the games then, and for the first two seasons at Cookston nothing specially outstanding took place, unless in bowling, which continued to be of a high class. Adam was better than ever with the ball, and J. Gordon and D. Laing almost equally good. Amid quite a number of young players coming forward only one, L. G. Pattullo, established a reputation. To get runs reliance had still to be placed on the Captain, R. S. Cargill, J. F. Easson, and J. Adam; although in 1887 D. Riach, one of the oldest players, had a very good season with the bat. The Arbroath matches were as usual the most important, and it was only their exceptional batting strength, and the great advantages of professional coaching on good wickets which kept them supreme. A regrettable incident took place on the day of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Celebrations, when the chief attraction in the afternoon was the visit of Arbroath United. The public, led by the Brass Band, turned out in large numbers to the Public Park. Their pleasure was unexpectedly cut short. Here is the *Brechin Advertiser* account of what took place:—

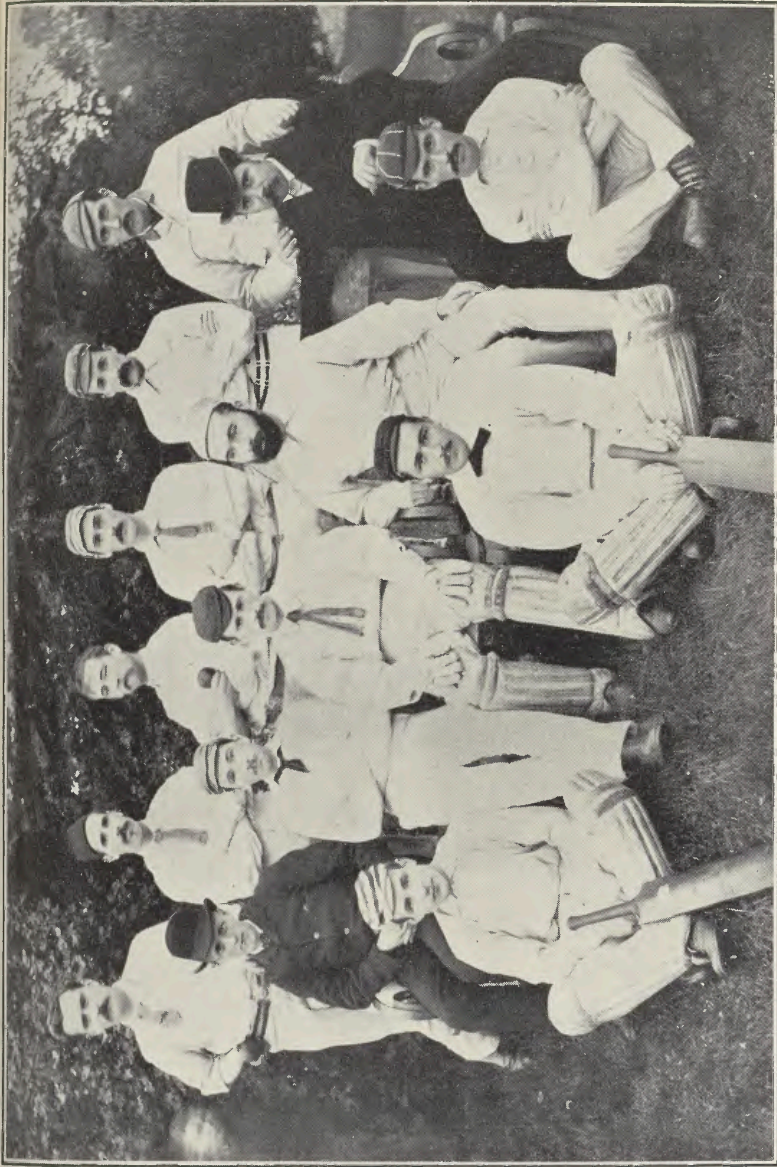
“A match was commenced between teams representing Arbroath United and Brechin Clubs. The Brechin Captain won the toss and sent Arbroath to bat. When Arbroath had got the poor total of 21 for five wickets an unfortunate dispute arose. Lazenby, the Arbroath professional, was given out

lbw before he had scored. After leaving the wicket he pitched his bat up in the air, and at once the umpire's decision was challenged by the Arbroath men. After a short altercation the Brechin Club, with the view of getting the match played out, offered to allow Lazenby to resume his bat, but the Arbroath Captain declined, and his team left the field, greatly to the disappointment of the crowd of spectators."

Fortunately such incidents are rare on the cricket field, but this left an unfavourable impression in many minds which was difficult to eradicate. It is gratifying to note, however, that the officials of the two Clubs continued to be on the most friendly footing, and whatever influences caused the *contretemps* were overcome. In the following year three matches were arranged between the Clubs, and Mr Gleig, their secretary and manager, readily offered to sing in Brechin at a concert on behalf of the Club.

The rivalry between the Arbroath United and Brechin Clubs continued to be of the keenest possible, and while there were many great tussles between them the utmost friendliness was maintained among the players. The visits to Lochlands have always been anticipated with delight. The ground is one of the very best in the country, and the Club has always taken a pride in keeping it in beautiful order. It was well served for many years by the late Robert Gleig as Secretary, who lived almost solely for the success of the Club, and he was followed for a long period by Richard David, who was equally zealous in the same cause. It is interesting to note that the present Secretary of the Club is a son of Mr Gleig.

In a match with the officers of the 5th Brigade Scottish Division R.A., then stationed at Montrose, a leg hit by Adam realised seven all run. The ball landed well down the main path and was only over-



BRECHIN C.C. 1887.

Standing—W. Bruce, P. Kynoch, J. Gordon, A. Stewart, J. C. Inverarity, J. Dakers
(Umpire).

Sitting—W. Jarvis (Scorer), F. Bruce, D. Riach, W. Balhaves (Captain), Dr. Anderson
(President).

In front—J. Adam, J. F. Easson, D. Laing.



taken near the Lodge at the Park Gate. In this match Easson scored 43.

The Blairgowrie Club was played for the first time in 1887, and the match (at Blairgowrie) was memorable for D. Laing's great performance of 5 wickets for 7 runs, four of them with successive balls, a feat only equalled once since then, when in 1925 at Guthrie Park W. Eddie had a similar performance against Montrose Y.M.C.A. Laing's performance was more noteworthy, however, as Blairgowrie was a first-class side, containing several of Perthshire's regular players.

The days of underhand bowling were not yet over. We find in a match at the end of the season XVIII Veterans beating Brechin by 54 to 40 largely through the bowling of Dundas, who had 8 wickets for 16 runs. In the following year at Forfar Brechin was dismissed for 35 runs, seven wickets falling (all clean bowled) to J. F. Craik, another of the old "lobsters."

From 1888 to 1891 Cookston was the scene of Brechin's home matches. The first was played with Balunie, and resulted in an easy win. Easson scored 20, D. Laing 19, and Inverarity 13. Easson followed with 46 at Sunnyside, where we find R. Adamson Scott's name for the first time. The late headmaster of Andover School played for some time for the Club, and took considerable interest in its progress, but only gave occasional glimpses of the form he showed at Aberdeen University.

The second match at Cookston, against St Thomas, Arbroath, was very one-sided in Brechin's favour. Brechin's total was 151, of which L. G. Pattullo scored 62, and Easson 41. On the previous Saturday, a close game took place at Lochlands against Arbroath United, which only won by seven runs—84 to 77. J. Adam scored 27, L. G. Pattullo 26, and Donald M'Kenzie 10. The latter is now the

Agent of the Bank of Scotland, and one of the most respected citizens, in Perth.

Cricket revived once more in Montrose. A very successful Bazaar was held, a private ground and professional secured, and for several years from 1888 a strong eleven represented it. Brechin was superior at Montrose. Cargill played a fine innings of 29 not out; but at Cookston the batting of Dr Dodds, J. Anderson, and A. Lyall of Gardyne was instrumental in turning the tables. Sunnyside was dismissed for 6 runs by Gordon and Adam, the former taking 6 wickets for one run.

On a second visit to Lochlands in 1888 Brechin again did very well, scoring 79 to Arbroath's 110. L. G. Pattullo showed his partiality for Arbroath's bowling by another fine innings of 31. W. Bruce scored 28. D. L. Ferrier, Arbroath's outstanding batsman at this period, scored 59. Easson headed the batting averages in 1888. Adam and Gordon took 41 wickets each for little more than 6 runs apiece.

The domination of A. L. Wood in the Stonehaven matches becomes marked. This great Scottish player, before returning to his native town, spent his student and apprentice years in Edinburgh, where he was recognised as one of the best players. He was a member of the Royal High School F.P.'s, and was chosen in 1880 and 1882 to represent the Gentlemen of Scotland against the Australians, whose great players then—Murdoch, Bonnor, Spofforth, Boyle, Palmer, Macdonnell, Bannerman, Horan, Garret, Giffen, and Jarvis—distinguished themselves by defeating the pick of England for the first time, and taking home with them the famous "Ashes," which have provided the *motif* for all the succeeding contests. A. G. Steel, a great Cambridge and England player, and A. L. Wood scored 95 of Scotland's 130 in their second innings at Edinburgh in 1880, Steel 60 and

Wood 35. In 1882 Wood also scored well against the famous Australians. He gave a great impetus to cricket in the north, and placed Stonehaven high amongst the Clubs.

Brechin played Stonehaven regularly from 1886 to 1896, the record reading—8 won 9 lost, and 1 drawn. A. L. Wood scored nearly 500 runs in those games, with an average of over 40, besides taking many wickets. He never failed to score and only on three occasions did not reach double figures. No player ever approached such a record against Brechin except W. R. Sharp, of Forfarshire, and M. R. Dickson of Arbroath United. In 1889 and 1890 W. K. Guthrie, cousin of ex-Provost Guthrie, a stylish batsman, was an acquisition to the strength, and John Lamb, when home from school, showed potential ability. The Captain, R. S. Cargill, along with Easson and R. A. Scott, batted consistently in 1889. In the last two years at Cookston, 1890-1891, the Club regained its power once more, and won the majority of its matches. J. Riach, a younger brother of D. Riach, recruited from the 2nd XI. rapidly made his place secure. W. Pattullo, another junior, gave promise, and H. M. Rodgers played several useful innings. G. M. Scott, fresh from Glenalmond, made an auspicious start with 18 not out against Strathmore (Forfar) in the first match he played. Two other young players, R. Bruce and Fred Milne, were getting ready for senior cricket, while H. P. Gordon on his return to the city gave welcome assistance. Towards the end of the season of 1890, D. Hill, a sound batsman, who had played for many years with Strathmore (Forfar), found employment in the city and joined the Club. Hill as batsman and wicket-keeper, was a valuable member of the Club for the next eleven seasons.

In those two years 25 matches were played, 13 being won, 8 lost, 3 drawn, and the final one tied.

The opening match with Montrose, which was won, brought credit to two of the younger players. J. Lamb took 5 wickets, and W. K. Guthrie scored 21. The match with Stonehaven is often recalled by those who witnessed it for a display of batting by A. L. Wood, the like of which was seldom seen in those days. It was a whole day mid-week match. Brechin scored 67 and 47. Stonehaven had to get 61 to win. Only twenty minutes' play was possible before the visitors left to catch their train, and the previous trend of play didn't warrant any sensational development, but magnificent hitting by A. L. Wood won the game. It was a case of the glorious uncertainty! The bowling of Adam and Bateson (Montrose's prof.) which had been so effective in the first innings was quite innocuous. Wood took it by the scruff of the neck as it were, and hit it all over the field. Several times he drove the ball out of bounds into the adjacent grain. No time was lost searching for the ball; out came a fresh one from the Stonehaven tent on each occasion, and the game went merrily on, amid cheers for the brilliant play. The runs were got for the loss of two wickets, Wood's share being 43 not out. A. L. Wood referred with relish to this performance on the last occasion I met him, shortly before his death in 1922.

Other two very interesting whole-day matches were played in 1890 in addition to the one with Stonehaven. A smart team of militia officers, captained by Lord Carnegie, was defeated at Cookston, W. K. Guthrie (23), L. G. Pattullo (22), and D. Hill (21) batted well, and J. Lamb and J. Gordon bowled with great success. Major Crombie's house party, containing several first-class cricketers, revived old times at Thornton Castle in August, and Brechin supplied the opposition one day. The game provided some good cricket, and Brechin dismissed the Thornton Castle XI. for 36

in its first innings, thanks to Adam and J. Lamb, who had 4 wickets for 9 and 6 for 13 runs respectively. Our men surpassed that score, and Thornton Castle XI. played out time, reaching 108 for 8 wickets. Adam again bowled finely, finishing with 10 wickets in the match for 33 runs. In an exciting match at Kirriemuir, which was only won by 2 runs, Cargill came to the rescue with 5 wickets for 10 runs.

In 1891, the last year at Cookston, new friendships were made, and several well-known players made their first acquaintance with Brechin cricket. Advantage was taken of the coincidence of Aberdeen and Brechin Spring Holiday (which superseded the old "Fast Day") having been fixed for the same day, by the arrangement of a match with St Ronald, Aberdeen, at Cookston. This became an annual fixture for many years and always provided attractive play. St Ronald, apart from the County XI., was the best Club in Aberdeen for many a day, and was the source of supply from time to time of the backbone of the County Club.

Home-and-home matches were arranged with Forthill XI., for which Higgins, the well-known county professional, played on both occasions. This brought the ability of Brechin players to the notice of sound judges, and led in due course to the County Club taking over the fixture. With the exception of Arbroath United, every *bona-fide* Club was defeated. Strathmore (Forfar) was dismissed for 14 runs at Forfar by Adam (6 for 5) and Gordon (4 for 5).

The Hon. C. M. Ramsay took a deep interest in the Club, and allowed the professional (Russell) who was engaged at Brechin Castle during the Easter and Autumn recesses to assist it. Russell was an attractive, all-round player, and proved of great value in the matches he played. L. G. Pattullo

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captained the Club with conspicuous ability, and made the most of the talent at his disposal. The batting was steady, and the runs evenly distributed among the players. Few tall scores were made in those days of rough outfield and thick grass; boundaries were scarce, and a score of 30 was often equivalent to a half-century under ideal ground conditions. It must be kept in mind that individual efforts in all ages of cricket vary in value to the side, a plethora of runs can lose a match, and a comparatively small score at a critical stage is worth many times its numerical value. So with bowling, the strength of the opposition, or the state of the game determines the value a bowler puts on his achievements when he looks back upon them in their proper perspective.

The bowling in 1891 was exceptionally brilliant. Adam and Gordon seldom required a change; when relief was necessary, Pattullo was found equal to the demand. James Adam concluded two seasons with a record which has never been equalled, viz. :—

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av. runs per wkt.
1890	137	54	188	50	3.76
1891	173	57	222	50	4.44
Totals	310	111	410	100	4.10

The match with Stonehaven at Cookston on 25th July 1891, in which he took all 10 wickets for 13 runs, is worth detailing :—

STONEHAVEN.

A. L. Wood, c and b Adam ...	...	...	27
A. Ramsay, b do. ...	...	...	0
T. Mitchell, b do. ...	...	...	3
J. T. Jack, b do. ...	...	...	0
A. Wood, jun., lbw, b do. ...	...	...	6
J. R. Brooke, b do. ...	...	...	0

STONEHAVEN—*Continued.*

W. Walker, b do.	...	...	...	...	6
A. T. Wood, b do.	...	...	...	...	0
A. Main, b do. ...	...	...	...	...	0
J. Ellis, b do. ...	...	...	...	...	0
J. West, not out	...	...	...	...	1
Extras	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	46

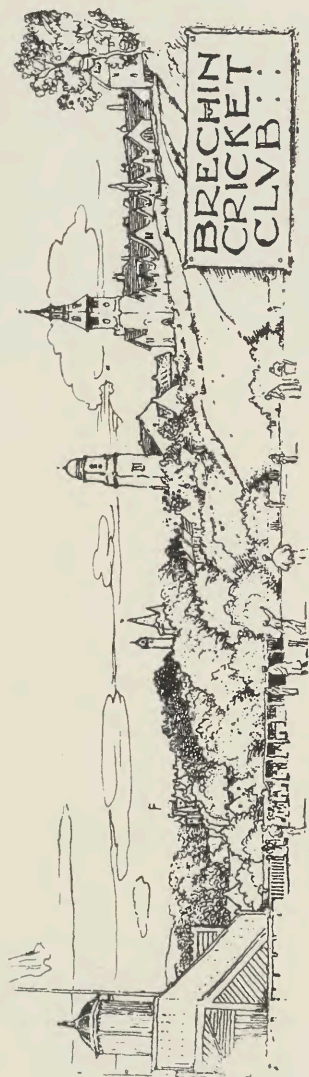
BRECHIN.

J. Adam, c Mitchell, b A. L. Wood	...	...	...	...	8
L. G. Pattullo, c A. L. Wood, b Walker	...	...	...	...	1
D. Hill, c Walker, b A. L. Wood	...	...	...	...	7
J. Lamb, b Mitchell	...	...	...	...	8
J. F. Easson, lbw, b do.	...	...	...	...	18
G. A. Archibald, c Brooke, b do.	...	...	...	...	4
R. S. Cargill, b do.	...	...	...	...	2
J. Gordon, c Ellis, b Walker	...	...	...	...	2
J. Riach, b do. ...	...	...	...	...	1
J. C. Inverarity, b Mitchell	...	...	...	...	1
D. Riach, not out	...	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	55

It was a severe blow to the Club when business took Adam away to Stonehaven at the close of this season. He stepped off the Brechin field with the greatest all-round record of his generation, and at the height of his powers. He continued to play occasionally at Stonehaven and Edinburgh, but inconvenience, and lack of the incentive to maintain the honour and glory of the old City and Club, which were ever present at home, led him to retire a few years later. The lease of Cookston expired in 1891, and as the ground was required for the Brechin and Edzell Railway a new abode had to be found. Cookston, though inconvenient of access, had been admirable in many ways for cricket, the players had been a very happy family, and a con-

stant supply of young members came in. Cricket was the only summer game played or catered for in the city. Cycling was popular, but golf, lawn tennis, and bowling were unavailable for the multitude. This, no doubt, along with the long reputation of Brechin Club, led to greater attention and concentration on the established pastime. The interest continued to increase, and the Club wisely decided to secure a ground nearer the city.

The old Nursery between the Upper and Nether Tenements, which as grassland had been occupied for many years by the Inch Bleaching Co., was available, and negotiations for its acquisition on lease were duly completed. A busy winter lay ahead. A Bazaar was promoted along with the Tennis and Skating Clubs, which with other efforts provided a sum that enabled the Club to fence the ground, lay match and practice wickets, and build a neat pavilion. The ground extended to four and a half acres, and, as funds permitted, improvements were carried out in various directions; the wicket received special attention, and there were few better to be seen anywhere. It was at once named Nursery Park. Few grounds had a more picturesque setting. From the sheltering terrace on the North the eye saw at a glance Burghill with its wooded slopes encircling the landscape on the South: Westward the gentle valley of the South Esk, Valley Works in the foreground, and a glimpse of the battlemented towers of Brechin Castle, the grey spires of the Cathedral, and the adjoining famous Round Tower among the trees. Turning the head towards the left the old Brig o' Brechin charmed the artistic eye and the sound of the water falling over the dam dyke was heard. Situated farther east, the East Mills completed a bird's-eye view of scenes representing all that has made our city famous in the far feudal and ecclesiastical past, as well as in modern industrial life.



NURSERY PARK 1892—1914



Those thoughts may have entered few minds on a bright June afternoon or a mellow Autumn day when Arbroath or Forfarshire or the Earl of Strathmore's men were battling to avoid defeat from Brechin (or vice versa). The contest was then the all absorbing scene, the green acres round the popping crease, the white figures flitting to and fro, the battle between bat and ball, the stolen run, the clever cut, the pull for four, the glorious drive, the deceptive swerve, the spinning twister, the hard stop, the quick return, the marvellous catch, the lightning stump, the captain's craft, the bowler's trap, the exciting skier, even the bungled "sitter," all making for summer beauty in the mind, healthy reminiscences, laughter, and high content.

CHAPTER VI

OPENING OF NURSERY PARK

WITH the new headquarters at Nursery Park a new era in Brechin cricket began. Not only was there a large influx of fresh members but more junior clubs were formed, and by-and-by a local Cricket League, which greatly increased the interest, attracted a new generation of players and friends, and created a nursery for unearthing talent. The Brechin Club took its share in fostering and encouraging these efforts, and benefit accrued to all concerned. As we shall find, all previous attainments were gradually to be surpassed, and the records of the Club became the pride of the general public, who showed their appreciation by lining the enclosure in great numbers on match days and rallying to its support whenever required.

Although a strong eleven made an auspicious beginning at Nursery Park, the Club was unable to place so good a team continuously on the field throughout the first season. The loss of the Captain, L. G. Pattullo, who had gone abroad, and J. Adam could not readily be replaced. R. S. Cargill took over the duties of Captain again. D. Hill came into the eleven, and his consistent scoring was a feature of the matches for many years. An enthusiastic new-comer was James Hollingworth, who had just come to the city from the county of the broad acres, the greatest cricketing shire in the country. It was evident that he would become a first-class player, whose skill was only equalled by his keenness, but during this season he little more than found his bearings amid new conditions. The

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result of the official opening match on Monday, 2nd May, 1892, was as follows:—

ST. RONALD, ABERDEEN.

1st Innings.			2nd Innings.		
W. Reid, b Russell ... ..	...	...	0—c and b Russell	0	
J. S. Meston, c Easson, b do.	...	...	3—c Hollingworth,		
			b Lamb	11	
F. Baxter, run out ... ..	...	...	8—b do.	...	9
J. Cowie, b Gordon ... ..	...	...	1—c Ferrier, b do.	0	
O. Watt, b do. ... ..	...	...	1—b Russell	...	10
J. S. Wishart, c Milne, b Russell	...	...	2—lbw, b Lamb	...	2
G. Hardie, b Gordon ... ..	...	...	1—b do.	...	0
F. D. Bremner, b do. ... ..	...	...	0—not out	...	0
A. Bremner, b Russell ... ..	...	...	1—b Lamb	...	0
J. Burnett, b do. ... ..	...	...	1—b Milne	...	0
J. A. M'Gregor, not out ... ..	...	...	0—b Lamb	...	4
Extras ... ..	...	...	0—Extras	...	4
Total			Total		
18—			40		

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

1st Innings.					
		O.	M.	R.	Wkts.
Russell (prof.) ... ..	...	10	6	8	5
J. Gordon	10	2	10	4
2nd Innings.					
		O.	M.	R.	Wkts.
Russell	11	4	16	2
J. Lamb	13	5	18	7
F. Milne	2	1	2	1

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F. Milne, b Watt	12
J. Hollingworth, c Meston, b A. Bremner	2
J. F. Easson, lbw, b Watt	0
Russell (prof.), c Watt, b Cowie	36
J. Lamb, c Baxter, b do. ... ..	...	...	24
J. Gordon, stp Meston, b A. Bremner	...	...	19
R. A. Scott, b Cowie ... ..	...	...	1
T. Ivison, c Cowie, b Wishart	...	...	0
Jas. Ferrier, c and b do. ... ..	...	...	0
G. M. Scott, b do. ... ..	...	...	6
D. Riach, not out ... ..	...	...	12
Extras ... ..	...	...	10
Total			122

Two of that number have since passed away—Jack Gordon and R. A. Scott. Messrs Easson, Riach and Gordon had passed their heyday, though Easson continued to gather runs for two seasons, and finished in 1893 with the best batting average. Gordon was still able to take a share of the wickets. Those players had much to look back upon with pride in their respective departments.

John Lamb, who was always a welcome personality in the eleven, has attained the highest possible Scottish official position in the employment of the State (Permanent Under-Secretary), and recently the Club had the pleasure and satisfaction of congratulating him upon receiving the honour of Knighthood. Sir John, in returning thanks, expressed his particular gratification with the remembrances and good wishes of the Club. Sir John was a first-class cricketer, most of whose appearances were made for the Grange C.C., Edinburgh. For a period of twenty years, however, he continued to help Brechin in many matches, and frequently travelled from Edinburgh to assist in important fixtures such as those with Forfarshire and Arbroath, in addition to others during vacations. He has been continuously a whole-hearted member of the Brechin Cricket Club since Cookston days, and in many ways apart from the playing field has helped the Club. He raised many fine elevens of Edinburgh and Forfarshire players in the 'nineties to play at Nursery Park in matches which introduced to us some of the best players of the day, and had their influence in improving play and raising the status and aspirations of the Club. He showed fine judgment and temperament; knew every move of the game; spoke the timely encouraging word, and had the tactful touch in greater degree than most. He may never have known it but several pretty raw youths have acknowledged that their later development of service to the Club

was due in no small measure to the suggestive advice which came from his understanding mind. He practised what he preached to good purpose on many occasions, participated in many classic contests, and enjoyed more than one crowded hour of glorious life upon the cricket stage.

G. Monro Scott was destined to be the well known, highly respected, faithful, and most popular Captain of the Club from 1894 to 1905. He always set an example of unselfishness, placing the game first and other considerations in a secondary place. Never had a Captain a more loyal eleven behind him, nor an eleven a more loyal leader. We were like a "Band of Brothers." His position behind the wickets for several years was of great advantage for the tactics and generalship necessary to his responsibilities. The signal success which attended the efforts of the Club in those years is ample evidence of the effectiveness of his leadership. He rightly laid great stress upon good fielding, and set the example himself. He was a splendid free-hitting batsman but sometimes, owing to nervousness, failed to produce the form in matches which he always exhibited at the nets. He however generally kept his best till it was most required, when the odds were adverse, when the bowling was of the super excellent, deadly variety, and many a match did he then help to save, or turn threatening defeat into final victory.

J. Hollingworth, as indicated earlier, is well known also for the enthusiasm with which he assisted and followed the fortunes of the Cricket Club of his adopted city; for his value as an all-round player and hero of a hundred fights. During the first half-dozen years at Nursery Park, Hollingworth was undoubtedly the best all-round player in the Club. Four years in succession he was runner-up for the Batting Cup; three years in succession he was top of the bowling analyses.

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He ultimately won the Batting Cup in 1903, after his effective bowling days were past.

Fred Milne was Batting Cup winner in 1904, the thirteenth season at Nursery Park. A very keen cricketer, he bore the brunt of the bowling until he left for South Africa after the 1896 season. In South Africa his batting improved very much, and on his return in 1901, and for several years thereafter, he played many good innings, getting plenty of runs by finely timed wrist strokes.

James Ferrier is now Curator of our beautiful Public Park, and will always be remembered as one of the best fielders the Club produced. He could also bowl a good ball, and was a useful member of the elevens for some years until he left to be groundsman and coach to Linlithgow County C.C., whence he returned to succeed his father as curator of the Public Park.

Of the players who had made their mark before, or who were to be seen to advantage in the future, who played in the 1st XI. during the opening year at Nursery Park were H. P. Gordon, J. C. Inverarity, F. Morgan, R. Bruce, D. Laing, and myself.

When the Club was strengthened again at the end of the season by the inclusion of J. Lamb and Russell (prof.), success came, but otherwise it was a poor year from the playing point of view. Against Kirriemuir, Russell scored 54 and took 6 wickets for 8 runs. A fine win was effected against Victoria, the leading Dundee Club, owing again chiefly to the ability of Russell, who scored 27 and took 7 wickets for 11 runs. G. Sword, a smart Dundee cricketer, who played for many years—always an honourable opponent—performed the “hat-trick” in this match. Sword had also the satisfaction of scoring 112 not out against Brechin in 1899. This individual performance—a century and a hat-trick—against Brechin is unique in these annals.

CHAPTER VII

COMING OF THE PROFESSIONAL

Most of the clubs of any standing in Scotland were now engaging professional assistance, with good results in the better training of young players, and improved wickets. The question of Brechin Club securing the services of a professional had been under consideration since the taking of Nursery Park, but the large outlays required for the initial season delayed a definite step. At the end of that season, however, the matter was taken up in earnest by the Committee. The Hon. C. M. Ramsay gave generous moral and financial stimulus to the project, which was also heartily supported by the public, and next year, 1893, "Tommy" Hirst, of Meltham, Yorkshire, was engaged as professional. The Club continued to have a professional until 1913, twenty-one seasons in all, and was always particularly fortunate with its selection. The relations between the professionals and the members were always of the happiest description, and they loyally gave of their best. Hirst was two years with the Club, and was then engaged by Uddingston, perhaps year in and year out the best club in the West of Scotland. He was a brilliant fast-medium bowler, and a good batsman.

His successor, R. O. Davies, of Shropshire, was pre-eminently a batsman, unequalled amongst professionals in Scotland, a model groundsman and wicket-keeper, and a fair slow bowler. He was no ordinary cricketer, and no ordinary man, quite different in education and bearing from the average cricket professional. He really laid the foundation of the great years which followed, by the perfec-

tion of the wickets he prepared both for practice and matches, and by his example as a master batsman. Davies was at Nursery Park for two seasons also. Then Charles Pepper, a young Nottingham player of exceptional all-round ability, remained for four years, until his county gave him a place on their staff, and for which he subsequently played.

Sam Parkes, another Notts cricketer, who had given excellent service to Carlton, Edinburgh, succeeded Pepper. He was also a reliable all-round player, and, like his immediate predecessors, had no mean share in maintaining the supremacy which the Club had by that time attained in Scottish cricket. Parkes was five seasons with the Club, and left to become coach to the University students, and caretaker of Carnegie Park, St. Andrews, where he still is. Another Yorkshireman, E. Fisher, took his place in 1906-7, and, though not so successful all round, his fast bowling was often most effective.

G. R. Smith, another Tyke, was the last; a little tryer all the time, a clever left-hand slow bowler, and a most capable and successful coach. His re-engagement five times after his first season proved how satisfactory a servant he was.

With the appointment of G. Monro Scott as Captain in 1893, the engagement of Hirst, and the gradual inclusion of younger players from the 2nd XI., steady progress was manifest. The turf received more attention, and the wickets prepared gave a better chance to players developing their batting, so much so that during the next four years there were more individual scores of 30 or over recorded than during the previous forty-four years' history of the Club. Thus the spectacular side of the game became more and more attractive.

The chief matches in the first few years were with Arbroath, Forfar, Montrose, Stonehaven, Blairgowrie, Kirriemuir, and the best of the Dundee and

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Aberdeen clubs. Hirst proved his worth in the first match of season 1893, against Caledonian (Aberdeen), by capturing 6 wickets for 18 runs, and making top score, 20. The following match, at home against Montrose, was one of the most exciting seen on the Park. Our seaside neighbours scored 44. F. Milne, who did well as a change bowler in a few matches the previous year, sprang into the front rank by a great performance—5 wickets for 2 runs in 6 overs. Brechin then lost 9 wickets for 27 runs, when the last man, D. Riach, joined J. Gordon. To quote the *Brechin Advertiser*, "A most exciting tussle then began. Riach opened with a boundary hit for 4. Gordon added a single and then followed up with three boundary hits in succession, the last tying with Montrose's score. There was loud cheering from the spectators at the plucky play of Gordon, and when scores had been equalised the crowd stood up and watched with breathless interest the next ball which Fyffe sent up to Gordon, who hit in grand style to long on, the crowd cheering all the while. Steele, the Forfar prof., occupied the long-on field, and although he had to run a considerable distance he brought off a magnificent catch and the match ended in a dead tie."

There were two splendid victories over Stonehaven. At Brechin they were dismissed for 38 runs, J. Gordon taking 6 wickets for 16, including the "hat-trick." In reply Brechin scored 135, of which Hirst had 45. D. Pattullo opened the innings with Hill and gave a stylish display. Patullo, a member of the Clydesdale C.C., was one of the best batsmen in the West of Scotland and compiled many large scores. During holidays he played once or twice for Brechin, where he had a family connection. At Stonehaven it was a much closer game. Stonehaven scored 82, and Brechin 110. Easson carried his bat through the innings for 48.

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The best achievement was a victory over J. Lamb's XI, which included the famous W. R. Sharp, captain of Forfarshire, and several other Forfarshire, Grange, and Merchiston players, a game which brought to light the sterling batting qualities of one of the 2nd XI players, D. M. Lindsay, and led to the beginning of matches the following year with Forfarshire. The details of this game are :—

BRECHIN.

Hirst (prof.), c Grant, b Lamb	...	...	40
H. P. Gordon, b Webber	...	...	9
J. Hollingworth, c West, b do.	...	...	0
D. M. Lindsay, b Sharp	...	...	26
R. S. Cargill, b Lamb	...	...	3
G. M. Scott, stp West, b Webber	...	...	6
D. Riach, b Lamb	...	...	1
J. Ferrier, c West, b do.	...	...	1
J. Gordon, b do.	...	...	7
F. Milne, not out	...	...	18
W. Dear, b Sharp	...	...	8
Extras	...	...	6
Total	...	...	125

MR J. LAMB'S XI.

W. R. Sharp, c Milne, b Hirst	...	...	36
P. M. Shepherd, c Lindsay, b do.	...	...	7
A. W. J. Livingstone, b do.	...	...	0
R. B. Webber, c Hollingworth, b Gordon	...	...	7
H. B. Gilroy, b Hirst	...	...	2
R. W. West, run out	...	...	6
D. L. Grant, c Hirst, b Gordon	...	...	2
C. E. Edwards, b do.	...	...	8
J. Lamb, c and b Hirst	...	...	5
S. C. Thomson, c Hollingworth, b do.	...	...	0
J. P. Wilson, not out	...	...	3
Extras	...	...	14
Total	...	...	90

Hollingworth made his first fifty against Kirriemuir. Hirst finished the season with a batting

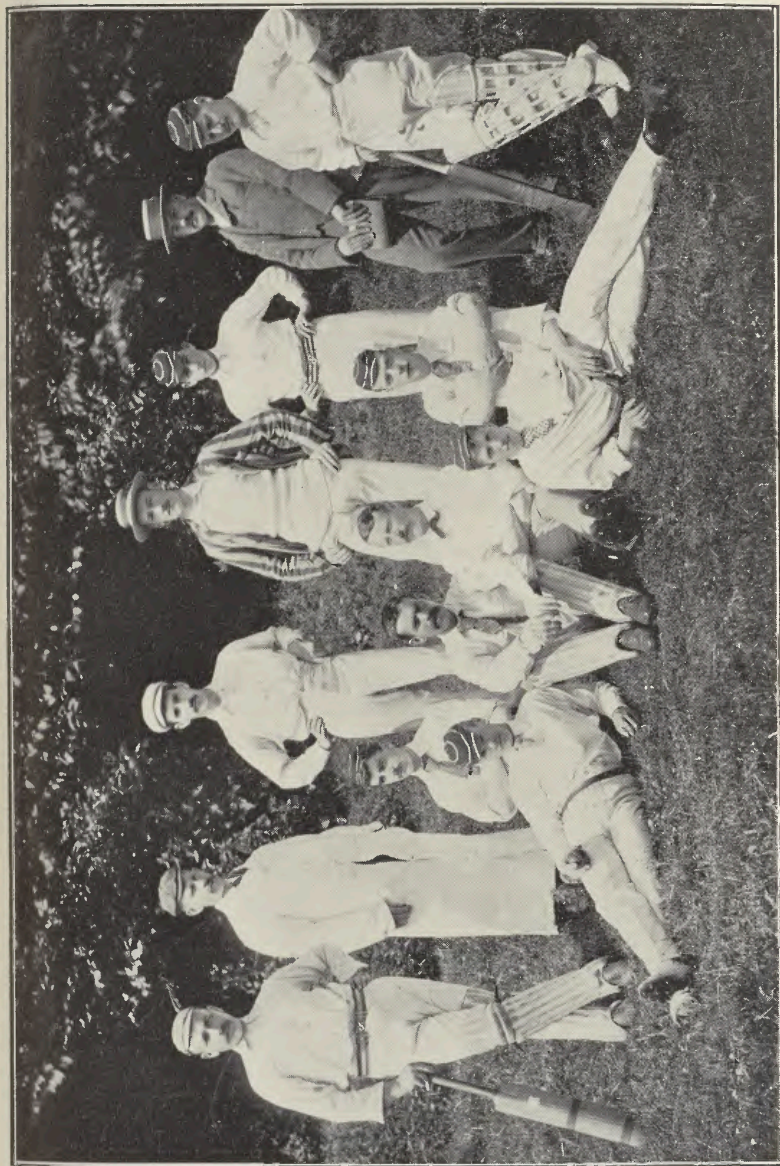


Photo by A. C. Milne, Brechin.]

BRECHIN C.C. 1894.

Back row—J. F. Easson, D. Kiach (Umpire), G. Cumming, John Lamb, W. M. Ferrier,
D. A. Ferrier (Scorer), J. Hollingworth.

In front—F. Morgan, Hirst (prof.), D. Hill, G. M. Scott (Captain), F. Milne, D. M. Lindsay.



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average of 18, and 84 wickets for 5.42 runs each. J. Lamb took 25 wickets for 4 runs each, and Gordon 37 for 7 each. Ten matches were won, five lost, three drawn and one tied.

The record in 1894 was relatively better. Much stronger opposition was met, including Forfarshire, Aberdeenshire, Glamis Castle XI. and the Australasians. Hirst was only second to Higgins in the county as a bowler, and, had the batting shown more improvement, several defeats might probably have been victories. As it was Brechin was now fit to face its betters with good hope. Hirst again showed splendid form from the beginning, with 39 and 49 in the first two matches, and 13 wickets for 56 runs. St. Ronald won the spring holiday fixture by the odd run, thanks to "Mr Extras," who was top-scorer. Great bowling by Hirst and Gordon, and a memorable 26 not out from the Captain, were instrumental in gaining the day at Blairgowrie, when its bowlers, Tasker and Forbes, were a power in Perthshire. Arbroath was the only rival to gain supremacy, and then only after grim struggles. In the Forfarshire match played at Forthill, Brechin gave a creditable exhibition. They only scored 49, but dismissed four of the County cracks for 13 runs, when a misunderstanding between two fielders let off Higgins, who, along with J. N. Kyd, made the bulk of the 79 scored. Hirst's bowling was much admired; he captured 8 wickets for 36 runs. In the return match at Brechin, Hirst improved on those figures on a bowler's wicket by taking 6 for 14, but it was unavailing for victory, as Higgins and J. A. Kyd bowled equally well.

Brechin was considered worthy of providing the match for the Aberdeenshire professional's benefit in 1894, and a very creditable draw was effected. In this match Fred Morgan, who showed consistent form throughout the season, made 24 not out. He was an active member of the Club and held the

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office of treasurer for five years. It may be mentioned that D. A. Ferrier, another member who took a live interest in the Club's affairs, had succeeded J. C. Inverarity as secretary this year.

The match with Edinburgh Australasians was particularly interesting. This club was composed of students at Edinburgh University from the antipodes, and figured prominently in Scottish cricket at that time. One of them in particular, A. A. Palmer, was recognised as the best bowler in Scotland, and their batsmen were all of high class. C. W. Reid was great in every sense; six feet eight inches high, the tallest cricketer in the world. They usually toured the northern counties in July, and Brechin was fortunate, thanks mainly to Dr Parkinson, now Sir Thomas W. Parkinson, a brother Australasian, in securing the visit.

A well-contested match took place, and the local Club was the only one which lowered their colours. After great excitement, some devastating bowling by J. Lamb, who took four wickets for eight runs at the crucial moment, brought victory by three runs. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

D. Hill, c Aarons, b Bennett ...	...	...	0
F. Morgan, b do. ...	...	...	4
J. Hollingworth, b Bunday ...	...	...	26
Hirst (prof.), c Reid, b Bennett ...	...	...	0
D. M. Lindsay, lbw, b do. ...	...	...	9
J. Lamb, b Bunday ...	...	...	17
W. M. Ferrier, c Levey, b Bennett ...	...	...	4
F. Milne, b Bunday	0
G. M. Scott, b Keith	12
J. Smart, b M'Kinnon	7
C. Ferrier, not out	0
Extras	3
Total	82

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AUSTRALASIANS.

C. W. Reid, b Milne	6
A. M. Bunday, b Hirst	30
W. G. N. Keith, b do.	10
Dr Bennett, b do.	0
S. P. Hyam, b Milne	...	...	...	12
M. N. M'Kinnon, c Milne, b Hirst	...	...	...	4
A. A. Palmer, lbw, b Lamb	...	...	...	7
A. B. Timms, b do.	...	...	...	3
S. J. Aarons, not out	...	...	...	0
Dr Thompson, b Lamb	...	...	...	2
A. L. Levey, b do.	...	...	...	3
Extras	...	...	...	2
Total				79

Brechin batted again and scored 85 for 8 wickets, of which Hollingworth had 30 and Hill 17 not out. Palmer failed to get a wicket in the first innings, but by beautiful break-backs took 6 for 31 in the second.

CHAPTER VIII

GLAMIS CASTLE ELEVENS

THE Glamis Castle XI made their first acquaintance with Nursery Park in 1894 and established themselves at once as the most gentlemanly and sporting side which ever stepped upon the ground. They set an example of style, a standard of skill, and an ideal of sportsmanship which was always appreciated. Their subsequent visits were always looked forward to as the "match of the season" from the purely cricket point of view. Other matches, like those with Arbroath United, attracted equal interest owing to the keen rivalry which existed, but in the Glamis games the players were free from any suggestion of anxiety or strain, with the result that much of the finest of each season's cricket was seen. Each player gave of his best, and the stronger the eleven gathered by Lord Glamis the better became the cricket on both sides.

For a quarter of a century, until War intervened, the Glamis family through their cricket weeks did much to popularise the game throughout the county, and it is hoped that there will be a revival ere long of those happy times. Great names in the cricket world appeared in his Lordship's elevens. The Earl of Strathmore in his prime was no mean slow leg-break bowler and a batsman most difficult to dislodge. His brothers and sons were all capital exponents of the game, particularly his sons, Lord Glamis and Hon. J. B. Lyon, and his brother, the Hon. Patrick. Lord Blackburn, his brother-in-law, was also a good batsman. Many 'varsity blues and English County players assisted from time to time, and F. E. Lacey, who retired last year from

the Secretaryship of the M.C.C., the highest official position in cricket, was amongst them. The M.C.C. is of course the mother and trustee of cricket the wide world over. Lacey was a great Hampshire cricketer, and his work for the M.C.C. has stamped him as the greatest administrator in the history of the game. On his retiral he received the honour of Knighthood. The doyen of Scottish cricketers, L. M. Balfour-Melville, the "W.G." of Scotland, as he has been described, was invariably one of the Earl's party. There has never been his equal in Scotland as a cricketer, and he also excelled in every sport, being an international golf, tennis, and rugby player, and amateur golf champion. What a wonderful batsman he was, and how well he kept up his form during at least three generations of players! Who that witnessed it will ever forget his first innings at Nursery Park, when one of his hits, a tremendous straight drive off Hirst, landed in the garden within a few yards of Southesk Terrace? For forty years he was among the best batsmen in Scotland, and for at least thirty the best. He played regularly until he was sixty years of age, scoring consistently.

Playing for Glamis against Arbroath United in 1908, in his fifty-fourth summer, he carried his bat with 200 not out, and two days later scored 117 against Strathmore, Forfar. Five years afterwards, in June 1913, playing against Peebles County, he scored 145. In this match W. Eddie, the well-known Brechin and Forfarshire player, also topped the century. "L. M." turned out when 70 years old at the celebration of the Centenary of Edinburgh Academy, captaining the "Old Boys" against the School, and scored a double figure. Well did he deserve the title of "The W. G. Grace of Scotland."

Apropos of this, I have a unique item in my Scrap Book, consisting of the sports page of *The Scots*

Pictorial for 29th July, 1908, which brings the name of L. M. Balfour-Melville and my own into juxtaposition. At a cursory glance, taking the letterpress out of its context, it would appear as if I were the "W. G. Grace of Scotland." It comes about in this way—reference is being made to "L. M." in the column where my portrait as Captain of the Brechin Club appears, and the sentence which continues the article immediately after my name and designation beneath the portrait is—"He is the W. G. Grace of Scotland." It is rather an anticlimax, but a treasure amongst my collection of Cricketiana.

Incidentally I also recall to mind the fact that Hon. P. B. Lyon, brother of Lord Strathmore, in two successive years won the Scottish Lawn Tennis Singles Championship. He followed that by gaining the doubles championship at Wimbledon in 1887 with H. W. Wilberforce as partner.

The most enjoyable outings of the B.C.C., and of every club favoured with a share in the Glamis Cricket Festival, were the annual visits to the beautiful policies of Glamis. The cricket ground was an ideal spot, embowered with leafy trees through which you could catch a glimpse of the stately old Castle. In late years the wicket was a joy to play upon, fast and true, and high scoring became the rule. L. M. Balfour-Melville's remarkable score of 200 not out, just referred to, was equalled by C. Ferrier for Brechin in 1913, on the last occasion of the Festival. The record partnership for the first wicket in the history of the Brechin C.C.—viz., 217—was made at Glamis in 1911 by C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing. Ferrier got 126, and when the closure was applied Laing was 112 not out. Subsequent chapters will show that some of the most sporting and exciting matches ever played at Brechin were with the Glamis XI.

All cricketers felt absolutely at home at Glamis;

there was no dividing line, no barrier of rank or position. As the word "cricket" is synonymous with all that is best in all sport, so the Glamis matches were typical of all that is most gentlemanly and sportsmanlike, just as the teams his Lordship gathered together typified all that is best in "the grand old name of gentleman."

On one occasion it happened to be wet and no play was possible. As we sat in the pavilion smoking and talking, waiting for the clouds to roll away, Lord Strathmore suggested that we might like to see over the Castle. To be conducted over the famous and beautiful Castle by the Earl himself was an honour and privilege which was greatly appreciated, and more than compensated for the loss of a game. Although we did not see the mysterious secret chamber, all the glories and romance of old Glamis were unfolded and revealed to us. Though "nature's loveliest looks" were lost to us that day, "art's noblest relics, history's rich bequests" were ours for the nonce.

In the first match with Glamis Castle XI. in Brechin, our batting was feeble in the extreme until Fred Milne joined J. Lamb at the fall of the eighth wicket. The Earl of Strathmore (then Lord Glamis), with slow leg breaks, and E. S. Balfour-Melville, in contrast fast, found easy victims, but the innings was then redeemed by Milne, who hit freely, and the score was doubled. L. M. Balfour-Melville won the match for the visitors, though it was no easy task against Hirst, who bowled 19 overs, 11 of which were maidens, and took 5 wickets for 40. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

Dr Bennett, stp L. M. B.-Melville, b Lord Glamis	3
Hirst (prof.), b E. S. Balfour-Melville	... 0
D. Lindsay, b do.	... ... 1
J. Hollingworth, c Hartley, sen., b Lord Glamis	1
F. Morgan, b E. S. Balfour-Melville	... 4

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BRECHIN—*Continued.*

W. M. Ferrier, c Wauchope, b do.	7
J. F. Easson, stp L. M. B.-Melville, b Lord Glamis	5	
G. M. Scott, c and b Hartley, jun. ...	...	1
J. Lamb, b Lord Glamis ...	...	15
F. Milne, b Hartley, jun. ...	...	31
J. Smart, not out ...	...	0
Extras ...	...	8
Total ...		76

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

L. M. Balfour-Melville, b Hirst ...	...	57
Lord Glamis, b do. ...	...	1
Hartley, sen. (prof.), b do. ...	...	4
E. S. Balfour-Melville, b do. ...	...	2
A. R. Don Wauchope, c Lindsay, b Lamb ...	...	2
Hon. P. B. Lyon, c and b do. ...	...	14
J. Milne, c Lindsay, b Hirst ...	...	7
J. Craik, b Lamb ...	...	2
Hartley, jun. (prof.), not out ...	...	6
Lowings, not out ...	...	0
R. L. Blackburn, to bat		
Extras ...	...	13
Total for 8 wickets ...		108

CHAPTER IX

DAWN OF THE GOLDEN DAYS.

THE Brechin Club has long enjoyed the practical support and encouragement of many generous gentlemen in the city and district during its history. In the important realm of finance, which is a constant concern, the Club has commended itself to influential gentlemen who have readily given assistance on special occasions, believing not only that cricket in itself is worthy of their patronage but that the way in which the Club has been conducted, the manner in which it has acquitted itself, and the prestige it has gained have been deserving of their help.

One refrains from mentioning names, as the spirit which has prompted special benefactions has always been that of "let not thy right hand know what thy left doeth." Two, however, I will mention. In 1894 the late Mr Christopher Wood of St. Anns, who always evinced a keen interest in the Club, presented a handsome Silver Cup to be held by the best average batsman of each year. Five years later he gave a similar trophy for the best bowler. In order to encourage the efforts of the 2nd XI, the late Mr Hume of Barrelwell followed Mr Wood's example and presented the Club with another beautiful Silver Cup, and other generous donors have presented from time to time prize bats, medals, etc., as prizes. The token trophies, of course are still to the fore, and the roll of honour on the respective Cups is most interesting reading, an epitome of outstanding players. The first name to be inscribed upon the Batting Cup was that of

David Hill, who had an average of 13 in 1894. Hill retained the cup the following year with the improved average of 20.

In season 1894, three players appeared upon the scene who rendered distinguished service to the Club—James Smart, Walter M. Ferrier, jun., and Charles Ferrier. Mr Smart was a careful batsman with good scoring strokes, and held for a few years the record individual score for the Club. He retired before his powers in any way abated, and was much missed. An excellent fieldsman, he was one of two players who never missed a catch they could touch during the time I was associated with them on the field—the other was Rev. R. J. Bain. What confidence and comfort such fielders gave to a bowler!

There have been several famous cricketing families in England, *e.g.*, the Graces of Gloucestershire, the Lyttletons, Walkers and Studds of Middlesex, the Fosters of Worcestershire, the Ashtons of Cambridge, etc. Scotland also has produced many fine cricketing families, but none among them has equalled the record of the five brothers Ferrier of Brechin—Walter, Charles, Jack, Douglas, and William. Their fame will not readily be forgotten. All of them won a permanent place in the 1st XI in their teens, Walter first of all in 1894. (The eldest brother, James, played for the 2nd XI, and had he been able to continue the game after school days he would no doubt have added a sixth to this notable band.) Each of the brothers played for a few seasons before leaving the city; they continued to play the game in their respective localities with striking success, and when business brought them back they resumed their old place and played with ever-increasing brilliancy. As the history of the Club proceeds, it will be seen that they occupy a very conspicuous place in it.

Hirst finished season 1894 with the splendid

bowling analyses of 103 wickets for 4.56 runs each; figures which no professional in Scotland has approached since. Mr Hollingworth was appointed Vice-Captain in 1894 and held office for five years. The following year F. Morgan took over the Secretarial duties, but he left for a situation in London before the end of the season, and was succeeded by Charles Lammond. R. O. Davies of Shropshire was engaged as professional, and his example and coaching had the effect of inspiring more confident batting. Never had such beautiful and consistent batsmanship been seen in Brechin as that of Davies. In 14 innings, twice not out, he scored 400 runs, including 72 at Arbroath, 66 *v.* Aberdeenshire, and 54 not out *v.* Forfarshire.

Hopes were high that after many years Arbroath's supremacy would be reduced, but they were doomed to disappointment. Two heavy defeats were suffered at their hands, both rather sensational. At Arbroath Davies and Hill carried the score from 7 at the fall of the first wicket to 135, but the rest of the team collapsed, and the total only reached 144, a task which the "Red Lichties" made light of and passed for the loss of one wicket. Probably Davies' display of late cutting at Lochlands in this match has never been surpassed. There were great expectations when the clubs met in Brechin. The local eleven, including W. W. Lancaster, of Yorkshire County XI, a cousin of Hollingworth's, was considered very strong, but after Arbroath had scored 152, Tom Wallace and Boyes (prof.) dismissed Brechin for 25! Wallace was the best fast bowler of his generation in the County, and on that afternoon was irresistible.

But did not the same pair, playing for XVI of Arbroath and District against Louis Hall's English XI at Lochlands in 1891, dismiss that whole XI for 35 runs in the last innings of the match and win the game by 9 runs! Hall's XI contained many

famous players in addition to himself—viz., Storer of Derbyshire, a magician behind the stumps; Peel, Brown, Tunnicliffe and Wainwright of Yorkshire; Briggs and Watson, Lancashire; Flowers, Notts; and Pougher, Leicestershire.

Stonehaven won the match at Cowie, and Glamis Castle XI were too strong for Brechin, but otherwise the season was signally successful. Hill and Hollingworth had several substantial scores. Hill's best were 53 at Arbroath, 52 *v.* H. P. Gordon's XI, and 51 not out *v.* Kirriemuir. Hollingworth in successive matches scored 42 (St. Ronald), 53 (Montrose), and 62 out of 92 against Stonehaven.

Aberdeenshire completely collapsed at Nursery Park, only scoring 14 runs. The prime cause was the bowling of D. L. A. Smith of the Grange, slow-medium left hand, who took 8 of their wickets for 6 runs. Brechin had previously scored 155 on the same wicket, but Smith was in extraordinary form, and at this time was the best all-round player in Scotland. A week's cricket was arranged for the holiday week, but rain caused the two best fixtures, those with Australasians and Forfarshire, to be abandoned when at an interesting stage. F. Milne bowled well during the season, taking 41 wickets for $7\frac{1}{2}$ runs each. Geo. Douglas, then in his teens, made his initial appearance in the eleven this summer. Quick and sure in the field and a watchful batsman, he gave promise of fast developing ability, and by another season established himself among the leading players in the Club.

A marked all-round advance in the quality of Brechin cricket was shown during the following season, 1896. Hollingworth, Milne, and Davies all bowled better, while the tail was less noticeable than of yore, and totals of over 100 became the rule. Davies' batting average was 44. A record score of 268 was compiled at Glenalmond, of which J. Smart had 95, Hollingworth 80, and Lindsay 36.

The fielding of the team also played its part in the improved results. With the Captain, G. M. Scott, at the wickets, T. M. Guthrie at point, J. Smart cover point, J. Ferrier and D. W. Galloway at mid-off or extra cover, Hollingworth mid-on, Douglas in the long field, Lindsay in the slips, and C. Ferrier third man, the out work was a model of accuracy and smartness, and attracted general praise. As a fielding team this one was hard to beat. Arbroath were still "cocks of the North," but Forfarshire had come rapidly to the fore, and was about to have a long innings as perhaps the strongest Club, not only in the North but in Scotland. After a long overshadowing by Arbroath the dawn was breaking, and by another year Brechin became not only masters of that situation but also serious rivals to the supremacy of the County Club itself.

D. Hill did not play during this and the following season, and George Cumming, who had developed a strong defensive game in the 2nd XI, was brought into the 1st XI. That versatile sportsman, T. M. Guthrie, resumed cricket on his return to the city, and, along with D. W. Galloway, who came in towards the end of the season, strengthened the fielding.

I had the honour of being appointed Secretary of the Club early in 1896, succeeding my old friend Charlie Lammond, who only held office a few months before his departure to London, where he has risen to a position of great responsibility in the Standard Bank of South Africa.

Seasons 1895 and 1896 may rightly be termed the dawn of the golden days of Brechin cricket. The opening match of 1896 was at home against Arbroath United, and matters went well, though showers interfered and prevented a decision. Arbroath was dismissed for 113, of which Jim Milne had 51, and Brechin reached 91 for 6 wickets. Davies again gave Arbroath a taste of his superb

batting, scoring 49, and Hollingworth ably supported with 29. The team was quickly into good batting form. James Smart and J. Hollingworth gave a sparkling exhibition of fast scoring on Spring holiday against St. Ronald, the former reaching 50, while the latter also bowled well. G. Douglas got his first half-century in the following match against XVI of the Arbroath and District Association by careful and correct methods. Then came the visit to Glenalmond, when the record score already referred to was compiled. Davies, the professional, was not utilised in the match. Glenalmond scored 87. Hollingworth took 6 wickets for 15 runs. Brechin then hit up 268, of which J. Smart had 95, J. Hollingworth 80, and D. M. Lindsay 36.

The batting continued to be consistent until Strathmore (Forfar) was met on 20th June, when Davies was the only one able to cope with W. G. Laird, and the first defeat was suffered. The return match with Arbroath at Lochlands was splendidly contested—Brechin 103; Arbroath 116. Davies was again in his element and scored 53. J. Lamb 22, and G. Douglas 15 also batted well. Davies bowled steadily, taking 5 wickets for 37, and J. Lamb had 3 for 21.

Stonehaven and Aberdeenshire were played on their respective grounds on successive days in holiday week, and some exceptionally brilliant batting resulted. C. E. Dunlop, of the Grange C.C., and subsequently of Somerset County (along with S. M. J. Woods, H. T. Hewett and the Palairrets), assisted Brechin in both matches, and was an admirable partner to Davies. Brechin scored 150 at Stonehaven—Davies 51 not out, and Dunlop 35—but good as that total appeared it was far from sufficient, for Stonehaven amassed 213 for 6 wickets. A. L. Wood played one of his greatest innings; he collared the bowling as has never been

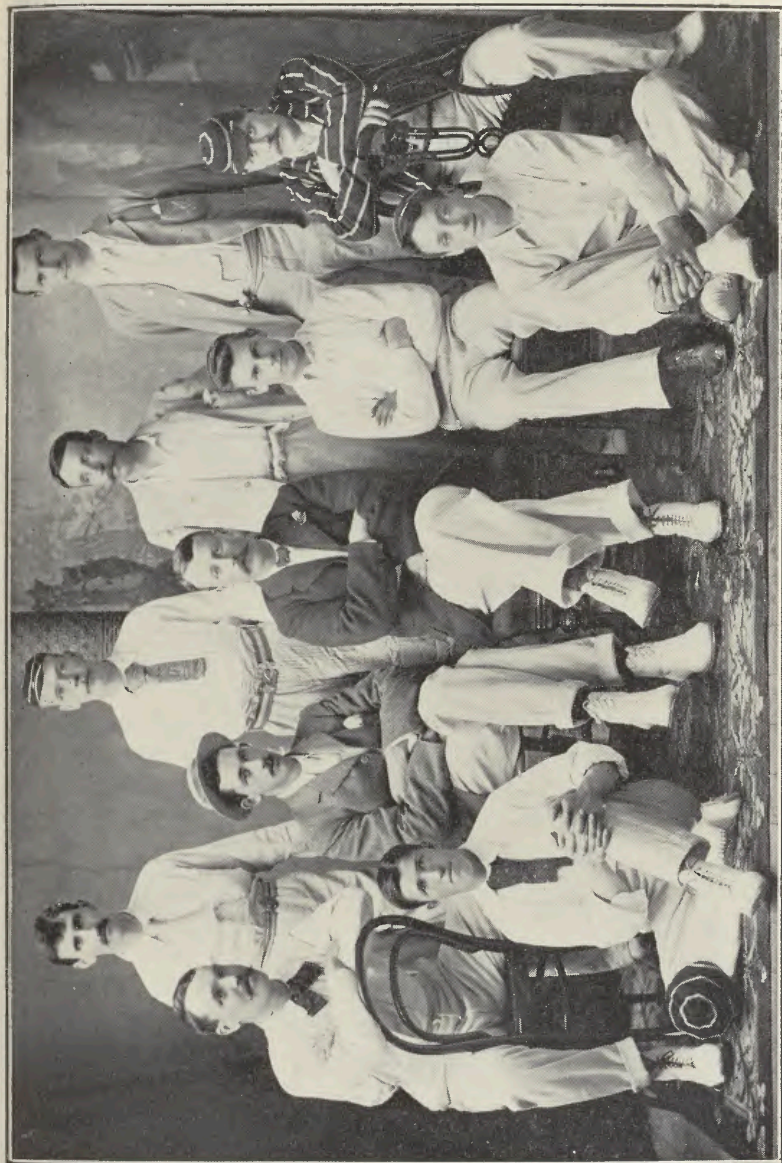


Photo by A. C. Milne, Brechin.]

BRECHIN C.C. 1896.

Standing—G. Cumming, D. M. Lindsay, Davies (prof.), T. Maule Guthrie.
Sitting—Jas. Ferrier, Jas. Smart, G. M. Scott (Captain), C. Ferrier, J. Hollingworth.
In front—F. Milne, G. Douglas.



done since, scored 115 not out, and sent the ball 24 times to the boundary.

Atonement for this severe drubbing was not long delayed. The wicket at Mannofield the following morning suited Davies to a nicety, and Aberdeenshire was dismissed for 89. After the fall of two wickets for 22, Dunlop and Davies got together and took the score to 132, of which Dunlop had 73. Davies carried on to 80 not out, and at the close of play the score was 212 for 6 wickets. I had the pleasure of scoring my first "Double" and carrying my bat in this game. Stonehaven was defeated at Nursery Park, 79 to 59. Fred Milne was the chief instrument in this success with top score, 27, and 5 wickets for 16 runs. This was the last meeting between the clubs. After the retiral of the Woods, the Ritchies, and the Bairds, the younger generation was unable to maintain the high level of excellence which the Stonehaven Thistle Club had reached, and its unfortunate decline became rapid.

The meeting with Forfarshire at Forthill on a good wicket found Brechin under form. They could only muster 51. Cumming and Lindsay defied the bowling for an hour, but could not get the ball away. Higgins bowled 18 deadly overs with the wind behind him, and 14 of them were maidens. W. R. Sharp and Higgins had one of their great partnerships; they carried the score from 36 for 1 to 178 for 2. The second century was passed for 3 wickets, Sharp 88 and the professional 73.

The closing match of 1896, against Glamis Castle "XI" (12 a side) was of special interest, inasmuch as the Hon. Patrick William Maule Ramsay and Hon. Alexander Robert Maule Ramsay, now Captain Ramsay, R.N., D.S.O., who in 1919 married H.R.H. Princess Patricia of Connaught, played in the Brechin "XI." It was a bowler's wicket throughout. Henson, the Grange prof. (left hand), made all the Brechin players except F.

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Milne look very foolish as he caused the ball to whip past their defence at all angles. Milne took risks and got 24 out of 49. The Glamis XI was even less successful against Davies and could only muster 35. Brechin got a second innings, and throughout the game the brothers Ramsay displayed a knowledge and keenness, and, under adverse batting conditions, an ability which stamped them as real cricketers.

All the Earls of Dalhousie have been patrons of the Brechin Cricket Club since its formation in 1849. None of them so far as known have actually played for the Club, but they have always evinced a deep interest in its doings, and, as we see here, at least two scions of the noble house have taken part in a match. It is of interest to record also that the Hon. Fox Maule, prior to his succession to the Earldom of Dalhousie, when M.P. for the City of Perth, was Captain of the Perthshire Club in 1843 and 1844.

The 1896 record reads:—

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
17	10	4	3

Omitting Davies, James Smart was head of the batting averages, and J. Hollingworth runner-up. Douglas, Milne, and Lindsay also batted well. Hollingworth, Davies and Milne, with 42, 49, and 34 respectively, shared most of the wickets at a moderate cost.

The following year, 1897, brought unexpected changes. Davies, who had been re-engaged, met with an accident in the spring, and was released from his engagement. Only a month remained before the new season began, and the Committee naturally did not view the position very hopefully in respect of securing a first-class professional so near the playing season. Ultimately Charles Pepper, a young Notts player, was engaged, and,

although only moderately successful as a batsman that year, fulfilled the reputation with which he came as a bowler. Fred Milne had left for South Africa during the winter, and consequently the bowling was expected to be weaker. Those fears were quickly dispelled. Hollingworth bowled better than ever, and gave such splendid support to Pepper that I, coming into the 1st XI as a regular player, did almost all that was necessary as a change bowler. The team combined so well that few changes were required in its personnel, and the results surpassed the good record of the previous year. Scoring generally was not so high, but the average level was much improved, and a "tail" less noticeable. C. Ferrier, who had done practically nothing in 1896, blossomed out into an exceptionally fine free scoring batsman all round the wicket, and continued to improve until his name was known all over the country as one of Scotland's best.

The first match was again with Arbroath, and unfortunately the strongest representation was unable to travel. Arbroath scored 113, Pepper taking 6 wickets for 49. Captain Scott (23) and J. Hollingworth (29) made a brave batting effort, but the old pair, wily Boyes (prof.) and Tom Wallace were too good for the others, and the last wicket fell for 72. A successful run followed, only broken by Strathmore (Forfar), which was a capital side at this period and was generally able to put up a strong fight.

St. Ronald, Kirriemuir, Montrose, and Aberdeenshire were easily defeated. C. Ferrier (59) and G. Douglas (21) put on 70 for the first wicket against St. Ronald, and Pepper again took 6 wickets. In the Kirriemuir match at home, T. M. Guthrie was highest of five double figure scorers, 24 not out, when the closure was applied for the loss of five wickets, and during the season made other useful

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contributions with the bat. Montrose in their two matches could only muster 37 runs. Pepper and Hollingworth dismissed them at Brechin for 12 runs.

At Montrose, C. Ferrier (51) and G. Douglas (34) again had a fruitful opening partnership of 89. Ferrier in the return gave a great display of hitting in his 62. He had also 25 in eight strokes against Aberdeenshire, and 22 with seven hits against Cupar. Aberdeenshire, after a lapse of thirteen years, got the upper hand at Mannofield and were greatly elated. In the circumstances it must have been one of the outstanding matches in their annals. They gathered together their most powerful eleven, and magnificent off play by Mackinnon won the day just on time. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

G. Douglas, b Martineau	...	...	20
G. M. Scott, c Wildman, b Gray	...	...	1
Pepper (prof.), stp Burnett, b Brown	...	...	32
C. Ferrier, c Mackinnon, b Gauld	...	...	45
J. Lamb, b Brown	...	...	7
D. M. Lindsay, b do.	...	...	2
A. O'Neil, b do.	...	...	17
D. Ferrier, b Webster	...	...	0
J. Smart, b do.	...	...	8
G. Cumming, c Lumsden, b do.	...	...	0
T. M. Guthrie, not out	...	...	2
Total	...	...	134

ABERDEENSHIRE.

J. Williams, b O'Neil	...	...	1
A. F. Lumsden, c Douglas, b Pepper	...	...	9
Wildman (prof.), c Lamb, b do.	...	...	33
W. Mackinnon, not out	...	...	68
G. O. Gauld, c Scott, b Lamb	...	...	13
Dr H. M. Gray, not out	...	...	11
W. S. Brown, D. Gordon, W. K. Burnett, W. Webster and A. Martineau to bat.	...	...
Extra	...	...	1
Total for 4 wks.	...	...	136

That Brechin was now fairly established among the leading Scottish clubs, was recognised when J. Hollingworth, C. Ferrier, and G. Douglas were chosen to play for Forfarshire against Perthshire in the greatest Scottish match of the year. The Brechin Club never failed to be represented in that game afterwards, and in the Inter-County games after the championship was established, for the very good reason that they were never found wanting in the hour of trial. The Forfarshire Club found no club so loyal to its call as Brechin.

The crowning achievement of this year was the long-looked-for victory over Arbroath United; the first since 1885. It was most unexpected when it did take place; one of those glorious uncertainties of the game. Brechin won the toss, and on quite a good wicket made only 61. Wallace of Arbroath was still at the top of his form, and took 7 wickets for 27. When Hollingworth yorked Boyes, the Arbroath professional, with his first ball the thrills began. Hollingworth continued in deadly fashion; every chance was taken, and wicket after wicket fell, amidst tremendous cheering. Eight wickets were down for 36, and at 48 Hollingworth scattered the last man's wickets.

Hats and sticks were flung in the air, cheers of the large crowd were again and again renewed, and Hollingworth was hoisted shoulder high by the spectators and carried to the pavilion. It was a glorious victory! "Jimmy's" analysis was 8 for 20. Douglas by two lovely catches in the long field secured the remaining two wickets off Pepper's bowling. A. D. Ferguson, who strove hard to overcome the irresistible force of Brechin's bowling and fielding, was a beautiful batsman, probably the best among two generations of great players who sported the Arbroath colours; he was well nigh perfect in defence and master of every stroke. His appearance in the team was short-lived, as, in the

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case of so many young gifted Scottish provincial players, business called him abroad. The details of the match were :—

BRECHIN.

G. M. Scott, b Boyes ...	...	...	...	9
Pepper (prof.), c Scott, b do. ...	...	...	...	2
G. Douglas, b Wallace ...	...	...	...	16
J. Hollingworth, b do. ...	...	...	...	3
D. M. Lindsay, c and b do. ...	...	...	...	11
C. Ferrier, b do. ...	...	...	...	3
A. O'Neil, b do. ...	...	...	...	2
J. Smart, b Boyes ...	...	...	...	7
G. Cumming, b Wallace ...	...	...	...	2
D. W. Galloway, not out ...	...	...	...	4
T. M. Guthrie, b Wallace ...	...	...	...	0
Extras ...	...	...	...	2
Total ...				61

ARBROATH UNITED.

Boyes (prof.), b Hollingworth ...	...	...	...	0
A. D. Ferguson, c Smart, b do. ...	...	...	...	12
D. Storrer, c Douglas, b Pepper ...	...	...	...	9
T. Scott, b Hollingworth ...	...	...	...	1
W. Maxwell, b do. ...	...	...	...	2
W. Chapel, c Guthrie, b do. ...	...	...	...	3
G. Napier, lbw, b do. ...	...	...	...	6
C. S. Salmond, c Douglas, b Pepper ...	...	...	...	1
T. R. Wallace, not out ...	...	...	...	4
A. Johnstone, c Guthrie, b Hollingworth ...	...	...	...	3
A. Menmuir, b do. ...	...	...	...	0
Extras ...	...	...	...	7
Total ...				48

Cupar, the best Fifeshire Club of the year, was defeated at Bonvil Park in the first of many interesting annual matches. A very creditable draw was effected with Forfarshire, chiefly through the efforts of Hollingworth and myself. Douglas Ferrier, still at school, made his first appearance in the 1st XI this summer against Glenalmond,

which was played at Nursery Park, and he signalled it by scoring 58 not out, being the forerunner of so many incomparable batting displays. The general opinion is that Douglas Ferrier was the finest Brechin cricketer of the last thirty years. He was certainly recognised as the most attractive left-hand batsman of his time in Scotland. Watchful in his methods, graceful in the sweep of his arms, perfect in his timing, and wrist and footwork, what a treat it was to see him send the ball with scarcely any effort, low and fast, to all parts of the field. No bowling came amiss to him, no wicket was too difficult, and the greater the occasion, the greater invariably was his display. He ranks with the few, the Trumplers, Wooleys, and Ranjis, whose every movement at the wicket symbolised the champagne and poetry of cricket. No wonder he became the idol of the Forfarshire crowd at Forthill, where many of his dazzling innings were played. Wherever he was situated for study or profession, there was keen competition for his services, so that he played for such clubs as Uddingston, West of Scotland, and Sheffield United during his career, as well as Brechin and Forfarshire.

Charles Ferrier was the batsman of the year, with 378 runs, averaging 25. Hollingworth headed the bowling with 57 wickets for 6.25 runs each. Pepper took 81 for 6.50 runs each, while I had 20 for 10 runs each.

Several of the players responded to calls for help from other clubs in mid-week matches, and I mention one of interest in which Captain Scott and I assisted Montrose against Arbroath United. Rev. W. J. F. Robberds, now Bishop of Brechin and Primus of Scotland, was then incumbent of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arbroath. Powerfully built, he was a splendid batsman, and assisted Arbroath with conspicuous success in their mid-week games. Playing in this match his share was

28 of Arbroath's total 127. I took 5 wickets for 28 runs in the match, and am only sorry now there was not included amongst them the Bishop's "Pulpit," as the famous Yorkshire humorist, Tom Emmett, called the wickets, with sundry other adjectives, on an occasion well known to those versed in cricket lore.

At the end of the season Frank Sugg brought an eleven of English County professionals to Scotland, where they played several matches against odds, amongst them XVI of Arbroath and District at Arbroath. J. Hollingworth, C. Ferrier, and Pepper were in the XVI, and between them scored more than a third of the runs. Pepper played a splendid defensive innings of 45 not out against Mold, Briggs, Pougher, Watson, Flowers, and other famous bowlers, and had also the best bowling analysis in the first innings. This exhibition determined the Committee's decision to re-engage Pepper, an action which was well repaid during the next three years.

The following year, 1898, continued the successes of the past. The full strength of the Club could not be got together until the middle of the season, but when it was ultimately available the Club was well nigh invincible. Again there were serious losses. C. Ferrier, the premier batsman of the year before, had gone to Edinburgh, and J. Hollingworth could not turn out until August. D. Hill, however, made a welcome re-appearance, and Jack Ferrier, fourth of the famous brotherhood, an addition to the bowling strength; the latter becoming a regular member of the eleven. The benefits of the local League became apparent, and two of their number, W. Campbell (Caldhame) and G. Shand (Denburn), after a trial in the 2nd XI, soon showed the all-round ability which justified their advancement to the 1st XI.

There was a large choice of players, a condition which continued to prevail for many years.

Twenty-three individuals played for the 1st XI and twenty-seven for the 2nd XI, and quite a variety of bowling got its chance in both elevens. The turf was in splendid order, true and fast, and the envy of all visitors.

Green and gold colours were adopted by the Club—dark green blazers and caps with orange facings and monogram—and, to complete matters, Dr Anderson presented the Club with flagstaff and flag to match.

The chorus—



Then hurrah for the Green and Gold!
Hurrah for the Green and Gold!
We're champions of the day;
Long may each member play
'Neath the colours of the Green and Gold!

became well known, as it was sung lustily on many home-comings thereafter. A subsequent verse suggested by Mr Hollingworth in our veteran days is as follows:—

Hurrah for the Green and Gold!
Hurrah for the Green and Gold!
We shall uphold its name
And live and "play the game"
Till we that are left grow old.

A happy social spirit always prevailed in the Club. The team invariably travelled, wherever possible in those days, by coach to the venue of the out-matches, and as there was considerable vocal talent the countryside resounded to the strains of many popular songs, old and new, rich and various. The exuberance of the return journeys in the cool

of the evening must sometimes recur to those who were privileged to live in those days of more leisurely locomotion, and perhaps more particularly the halts by the wayside at "ye olde inn," like "Punch Bowl" and Finavon, where man and beast were refreshed. Manson's best horses were at our disposal, for did not G. M. Scott like to handle the ribbons equally with the bat, and, like a good Captain, with care and skill ensure our safety and comfort on the last lap home?

Each year the list of fixtures was extended, so much so that many were fulfilled on week days, and the boundary was lined all round by hundreds of keen and intelligent followers of cricket, who showed impartial appreciation of every fine point in the contests, whether from the home or visiting players. They were an example in this respect to some of our neighbours, and they were not slow in giving audible and forcible expression to their criticism of friend or foe when he failed to satisfy their standard of ability, especially in the field. This was all to the good.

As has been stated, the Club did not get into its stride for a few weeks in 1898, but when it did it was well nigh invincible. Bowbridge, the first Dundee Club to secure private ground, was met at Dundee in the opening match with a weak eleven, which was defeated 86-77. Pepper displayed excellent form and had 45 of the runs. He showed a marked advance in batting throughout the season. The Captain, G. M. Scott, also batted excellently. An innings against Montrose in the early part of the season was typical of his style; he scored 34 in nine hits—2, 6, 4, 6, 2, 4, 2, 4, 4. James Smart played a capital innings of 33 in this match also.

Forfarshire's stars, with the exception of Higgins, did not shine so brightly as usual, but G. K. Chalmers and the professional surprised us by putting on 49 for the last wicket and taking the

score to 143. Too little time was then left to get Brechin out, and, though two wickets fell for 38, G. Douglas stayed their attack successfully. Another draw took place the following week against Aberdeenshire; G. Douglas played another beautiful innings for 48, and the Captain had 26 not out.

An extraordinary match was played at Kirriemuir, the scores only amounting to 35 and 34 each, of which Brechin got the odd one. The ball had the upper hand throughout, and J. P. Milne of the Thrums eleven deserved special credit for skilful bowling and a fine analysis, 7 wickets for 14 runs. George Shand made his debut against Orion, Aberdeen, and, in a game where five batsmen made 17 or more, was top scorer with 22.

Each year brought fresh features, and events which are landmarks in the Club's history. This year it was the victory over Arbroath United at Arbroath, in the only meeting of the Clubs, the Brechin fixture having been cancelled on account of rain. This match was the most exciting in the whole series. Brechin won the toss, and had 130 on the board for 6 wickets. Pepper and D. Ferrier gave a perfect display of batting, followed by some capital hitting from Lindsay and J. Ferrier. The last four men, however, failed to augment the score, which reached 131.

Then the tug-of-war began. Arbroath's batting was stern and more consistent, seven of their players reaching double figures. The bowling, however, of Pepper and J. Lamb could never be trifled with, and the fielding was magnificent. A catch of Shand's on the boundary, off one of those tremendous hits which seem ever to be soaring skywards, will never be forgotten. The Captain at long-off took another, a hard low skimming shot near the ground, after running in a dozen yards, while D. Ferrier's wicket-keeping kept the Arbroath men crease-fast at Pepper's occasional tempting

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slow leg-breaks. The telegraph board showed 119 when the last man emerged from the pavilion. Slowly the score crept up, until the board swung round, registering 130—one to tie, and two to win! It was any side's match! Wallace let fly recklessly at the next ball from Lamb, but to his chagrin failed to time it and the wickets were spread-eagled. The Brechin contingent of spectators, not a few, jubilantly made the welkin ring amid the silence and gloom of the local "fans." It was an ideal match, conducted in the best sporting spirit, and the defeat was accepted in good part by our rivals. The scores were :—

BRECHIN.

Pepper (prof.), c Milne, b Johnstone	...	...	52
D. Hill, c and b Wallace	...	...	6
D. Ferrier, run out	...	...	27
A. O'Neil, c D. Chapel, b Johnstone	...	...	0
D. M. Lindsay, c D. Chapel, b W. Chapel	...	...	23
G. M. Scott, c Salmond, b do.	...	...	1
J. Ferrier, c Rae, b Wallace	...	...	16
J. Lamb, c Napier, b do.	...	...	0
G. Shand, c Rae, b Johnstone	...	...	0
D. W. Galloway, b Wallace	...	...	0
J. Smart, not out	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	6
Total	...	...	131

ARBROATH UNITED.

W. Chapel, b Pepper	...	...	14
Boyes (prof.), c and b do.	...	...	15
J. Milne, c D. Ferrier, b Lamb	...	...	6
G. Napier, c Shand, b Pepper	...	...	13
W. Maxwell, c Scott, b do.	...	...	22
W. Rae, c O'Neil, b Lamb	...	...	3
C. S. Salmond, lbw, b Pepper	...	...	11
D. Chapel, b do.	...	...	2
J. C. Soutar, c O'Neil, b Lamb	...	...	15
T. R. Wallace, b do.	...	...	15
A. Johnstone, not out	...	...	5
Extras	...	...	9
Total	...	...	130

DAWN OF THE GOLDEN DAYS 101

Pepper's six wickets cost 74, and J. Lamb's four 31; but their value is not sufficiently apparent in the bald figures.

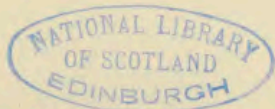
The return match with Forfarshire at Forthill was a very sporting one, in which the losers were by no means dishonoured. Brechin closed at 133 for 7. J. Ferrier was highest with 35 not out, including seven boundaries; and Hill (28), Scott (23), Lamb (15 not out), D. Ferrier (13) also gave a good account of themselves. Forfarshire was allowed plenty of time to get the runs, and by forcing play, and a let-off to Kyd, who got 56, they just managed to win for the loss of six wickets.

Aberdeenshire gave us a trouncing at Aberdeen, and Strathmore beat a weakened team at Forfar, but in all the other games Brechin held the master position. It is noteworthy that at Nursery Park not a match was lost, and the Club was never dismissed for less than 100.

The Club played XVI of the City League, who acquitted themselves well. Particulars of this, the first of several such matches during the continuance of the League, will no doubt be of interest:—

BRECHIN.

D. Hill, c Easson, b J. Bowman	...	...	42
Pepper (prof.), b Scott	...	...	2
D. Ferrier, b do.	...	...	2
G. M. Scott, b Croall	...	...	55
D. M. Lindsay, b Scott	...	...	3
A. O'Neil, c M'Intosh, b W. Bowman	...	...	21
J. Smart, not out	...	...	6
J. Ferrier, c Kirkland, b W. Bowman	...	...	2
J. F. Lammond, run out	...	...	14
G. Shand and W. Campbell did not bat.			
Extras	12
Total—Closure	159
(8 wickets down)			



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LEAGUE XVI.

D. Stewart, c and b Pepper	1
E. Croall, b do.	7
J. Hunter, b do.	0
W. M'Intosh, b Lammond	29
D. Scott, c Hill, b O'Neil ...	...	...	24
H. Ross, not out ...	...	...	17
A. Dakers, b O'Neil ...	...	...	4
A. Whitelaw, b Pepper ...	...	...	12
W. Bowman, J. Bowman, T. Pender, W. Kirkland, J. F. Easson, J. Anderson, D. Chapman, J. Shand to bat.			
Extras ...	...	...	17
Total for 7 wkts. ...	...	...	111

Pepper headed the batting averages with 24; Messrs G. M. Scott, G. Douglas and D. Hill all averaged 14, and only the fraction gave the Captain the honour of gaining Mr Christopher Wood's Batting Cup. At the end of the season C. Ferrier scored 50 not out *v.* Bowbridge, and J. Hollingworth 40 *v.* Glamis Castle XI. Pepper captured 84 wickets for 7.75 runs each, and I was best among the amateurs.

CHAPTER X

THE JUBILEE OF THE CLUB

THE jubilee of the Club was celebrated in 1899, and a most attractive fixture list was arranged in honour of the event. The special feature was a match with the premier Scottish Club, Grange C.C. of Edinburgh, which readily agreed to visit the city. All former seasons were eclipsed by a team of younger players, who were yet to do greater things in following years. The record read:—

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
19	11	3	5

G. Douglas and J. Ferrier had left the city, and the promise shown by G. Shand, W. Campbell, and J. F. Lammond led some of the older players, though still active and in regular practice, to withdraw to the reserve list. A distinct acquisition to the eleven was J. P. Gibb, a well-known Montrose player, who desired to get more and better cricket than was available in Montrose. His hopes were abundantly fulfilled; he found the cricket to his liking, and sprang into prominence.

He was a dashing batsman, and a magnificent fielder, a most formidable man at cover-point, with a remarkably strong forearm which enabled him to throw in the ball with little apparent movement of the arm, and so quickly that many an opponent who thought there was ample time found himself run out before he had got two-thirds of the way down the pitch. He was in splendid form, and as a result of his play earned a place in the County "Derby"—Forfarshire *v.* Perthshire—scoring in the Fort-hill match 112. He also scored a century for

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Brechin against his old club, and played a striking part in the Grange match, of which more anon.

The first two matches of the season were at home against Arbroath and Forfarshire, and both were lost by narrow margins. The scores in the Arbroath game were 84-79. Pepper, who was to be more formidable than ever, scored 36 and took 5 wickets for 18 runs. An unfortunate over (five balls then) of full tosses to leg by one of the young Brechin bowlers, from which Boyes scored 17, no doubt sealed Brechin's fate—but such accidents are all in the game. Brechin's total in this match, 79, was the lowest for the season, and curiously their highest was against the same club, Arbroath United, in the return game, viz., 233 for 7 wickets.

A peculiar incident occurred in the Forfarshire match. Owing to injury received during the game, I was allowed a runner during my innings. As I was about to go on as change bowler when Forfarshire was batting, J. A. Kyd, who captained the County eleven, objected and would not allow me to bowl. A statement of this incident was sent to the M.C.C., and a ruling asked, and Mr Lacey (now Sir F. E. Lacey), the Secretary, replied that there was no rule or justification for Kyd's action. When the M.C.C. subsequently met a long-felt want by publishing a booklet with instructions to umpires, decisions and interpretations of disputed points, this matter was referred to.

An aggregate of 2557 runs for 153 wickets was made during the summer, giving an average of 16.71 per wicket, the best of any club in the N.E. of Scotland with the exception of Forfarshire. The runs were also made in exhilarating fashion, and in contrast to opponents. For example, Montrose made 41 in 40 overs, and Brechin replied with 108 in 37 overs.

The only blemish in the series of matches was a deplorable exhibition of fielding against Dundee

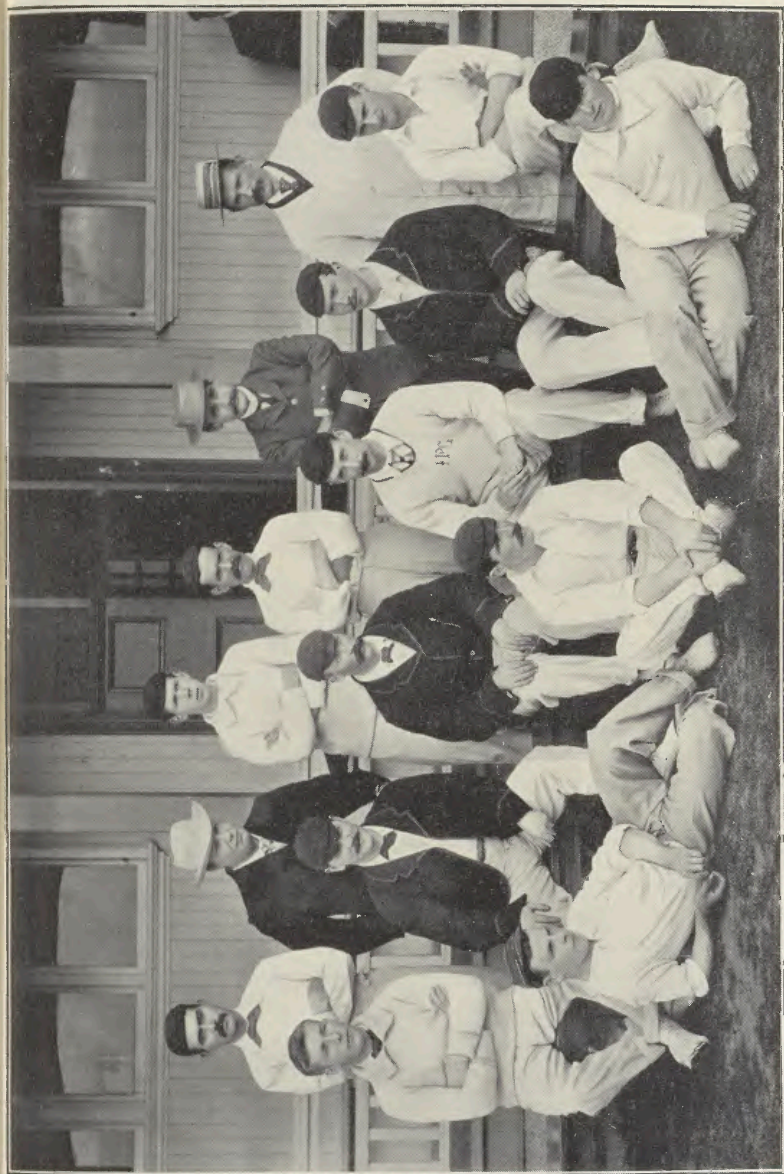


Photo by D. & W. Prophet, Dundee.]

BRECHIN C.C. JUBILEE SEASON, 1899.

Back row—A. Morrison, Dr. Anderson, G. Shand, D. Hill, Jas. Ferrier, D. Riach.
Middle row—W. Campbell, J. Hollingworth, G. M. Scott (Captain), J. P. Gibb, A. O'Neil
 and D. Ferrier.

In front—C. Ferrier, Pepper (prof.), J. Lammond.



Victoria at Nursery Park, when catching attained quite a climax of incompetence. This was the game in which George Sword scored 112 not out. He bore a charmed life, and was missed at least six times. The Victoria closed with 208 for 5 wickets. Thanks to Pepper, a draw was effected. The lesson of the fielding debacle was not lost, and a stranger would not have recognised the team to be the same on the following Saturday at Forfar, where everything "came off."

Fortunately fielding lapses were few and far between. Taking the seasons all over it has been said that Brechin, during most of its history, was the smartest and surest fielding side in the north-east of Scotland. In this match at Forfar, D. Hill made the highest score of his career, 72 not out; and Campbell took 4 wickets for 6 runs. Brechin closed with 174 for 7 wickets, followed consecutively by 176 *v.* Bowbridge at Dundee, where G. Shand and Alex. Morrison put on 63 for the last wicket (Shand 52 and Morrison 39 not out); 177 for 7 *v.* Montrose—Gibb 100, Scott 38, and Campbell 6 wickets for 10 runs, including the hat-trick; and 187 for 4 *v.* XVI of the City League—D. Ferrier 65, and Pepper 61 not out.

After a splendid victory at Dundee over Victoria, in which the Brechiners showed how they really could field, the historic match took place with the Grange. This game, which was won by Brechin, created quite a sensation, and brought our prowess more than ever to the notice of the cricketing world. It was a match full of exciting incident from beginning to end. The Grange sent their best possible eleven; it included three of their greatest players, R. H. Johnston, Tom Johnston, and D. L. A. Smith, their three professionals, and five others of repute, including our friend J. Lamb. Brechin lost 7 wickets for 47, but Shand and A. Morrison stopped the rot and carried the total to 77. Shand, who

took courage in both hands, risking a good deal, had 41 of the number, while Morrison played a sound defensive game. Seven runs later the ninth wicket fell. Brechin had only batted an hour and a quarter, and lunch was not timed for another half-hour. J. P. Gibb, who should have gone in second wicket down, had not arrived. What was to be done? He might appear at any moment, but according to the strict letter of the law Brechin's innings would have to be closed or a substitute sent to bat.

The Grange, like true sportsmen, agreed to adjourn at once for lunch. This made all the difference in the end. Just as the teams proceeded to the lunch tent a telegram from Gibb intimated that he had been carried past Bridge of Dun in the train, but would soon arrive at Nursery Park. He had boarded the express at Dubton by mistake, thinking it stopped at Bridge of Dun, but to his dismay it sped past and made its first stop at Forfar. Mr Gibb found there would be no train for Brechin for some time, so he hired a conveyance, and at break-neck speed drove to the Ancient City. There was some consternation in the streets when, on the trap reaching Brechin, it dashed along Church Street, down the High Street, and Bridge Street, along River Street and up to Nursery Park gate.

He was just in time to get a little lunch, and accompanied Campbell to the wickets to conclude Brechin's innings. His annoying and exciting experience in no way affected his batting powers, for he scored 29 not out, Campbell and he making the best stand of the innings, which realised 121. The chief Grange bowler was left-handed, and Gibb, who was coached at Rugby by Tom Emmett, the famous Yorkshire left-hand bowler, was in his element with the particular brand of ball sent up by that fraternity.

The first Grange wicket fell at 46, the fifth at 98.

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Five wickets to fall, and only two dozen runs to get to win, it seemed a sure thing for the Grange. Tom Johnston had defied the attack for two hours, but Douglas Ferrier at last beat him, and Pepper and Hollingworth, backed by the best of fielding, had the rest out very quickly. Their score was 112, nine less than Brechin's. The large crowd was delighted and frequently applauded the fielding, which had much to do with the grand victory. The bowling was also first-class, and never really mastered. Hollingworth had chief honours—5 wickets for 30 runs. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

D. Ferrier, c Smith, b Light	...	...	7
D. Hill, c Boyd, b Godfrey	...	...	9
Pepper (prof.), b do.	...	...	7
C. Ferrier, c Bunday, b Light	...	...	6
G. Shand, c Ansell, b Smith	...	...	41
G. M. Scott, b Godfrey	...	...	0
J. Hollingworth, c Lamb, b Light	...	...	0
A. O'Neil, b do.	...	...	0
A. Morrison, b Smith	...	...	8
W. Campbell, lbw, b Ansell	...	...	12
J. P. Gibb, not out	...	...	29
Extras	...	...	2
Total	...	...	121

GRANGE.

T. Johnstone, b D. Ferrier	...	...	33
C. J. L. Boyd, c Campbell, b Hollingworth	...	...	27
H. M. Bunday, c C. Ferrier, b do.	...	...	0
R. H. Johnston, lbw, b Pepper	...	...	3
D. L. A. Smith, b Hollingworth	...	...	3
G. B. Green, c Campbell, b do.	...	...	21
Godfrey (prof.), c Pepper, b do.	...	...	2
J. Lamb, b Pepper	...	...	0
A. G. P. Pullan, run out	...	...	1
Ansell (prof.), b Pepper	...	...	0
Light (prof.), not out	...	...	7
Extras	...	...	15
Total	...	...	112

During the luncheon interval at the jubilee match with the Grange, the usual courtesies incidental to the occasion were observed. Provost Scott, then chief magistrate, and a former Captain of the Club, presided, and proposed the health of the Grange players. Mr R. H. Johnston replied, and conveyed the congratulations of the premier Scottish Club to the Brechin Club on the attainment of its Jubilee. Mr Scott, the Captain, Mr Gibb, and I proceeded to England after the match to spend the next ten days watching the Australian team which was then across, and it was naturally a jolly party of cricketers who cheered us off at the railway station. The Grange match became an annual event at alternate grounds for a few years, and the Clubs cried quits at the end of the series, a win each, and two equal draws.

Half of the Jubilee season had still to go. A holiday fixture with Cupar at Bonvil, during the week after the historic victory over the Grange, was lost, but subsequently there was no holding of the growing powers of Brechin.

Strathmore was again overwhelmed. Brechin closed when 172 for 5 wickets, of which Hollingworth scored a flawless 83. Five days later, against a strong eleven captained by R. C. H. Millar of Rossie Castle, the closure was again enforced, 231 for 4 wickets. Hollingworth and Pepper collared the bowling at the start and scored 99 before their separation—Pepper, 42; Hollingworth's contribution was ultimately 94, and Gibb got 50 not out. The Rossie Castle XI scored 101, giving the large total of 332 runs for 14 wickets in an afternoon match. James Adam of Cookston fame played for the old Club in this game, and by taking 2 wickets for 5 runs proved that his arm had not lost its cunning.

The return at Arbroath was next played, and the finest batting exhibition of the season was given.

By-gone humiliations were in some measure atoned for, and it was a great satisfaction that Brechin's best batting of a great season was on view then. The closure was once more applied as the score reached 233 for 7 wickets. C. Ferrier never played a more perfect innings. He joined Gibb when the score was 52 for 4, and they took the total to 122 before they were separated. Ferrier's late cutting and low off-driving were magnificent. He scored 62, in which were eleven boundaries. Then his brother Douglas, and G. Shand did as they pleased with the bowling. Shand carried his bat for 40, which included eight boundaries. (For the 2nd XI that season he had previously scored 77 on the same ground.) Gibb made 43, D. Ferrier 32, and Hollingworth 28. It was changed times to see Wallace punished to the tune of 69—the cost of 2 wickets. Arbroath with two hours to bat took no risks; playing a painfully slow game they reached 88 for 4 wickets.

It may appear an exaggeration to say that several hundreds of the spectators at this match were Brechiners, but it is true. Brechin cricket in those days was followed by a strong coterie of supporters, and even many employed in Dundee and district would travel to the matches in Arbroath, Perth, and Broughty Ferry to see the cricketers who were bringing so much credit to their native city. The term "fan" had not then become a sobriquet for obsessed followers of a game, but there were cricket fans in abundance at this period and for several years to come.

That great Scottish cricketer, M. R. Dickson, then at an English Public School, brought a team of very capable young players like himself, representing several of the famous English Schools, to play the clubs in Forfarshire; and they provided the following game. They gave a good exhibition of batting, and scored 125, seven of their number

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reaching double figures. Brechin, however, easily surpassed their total, making 187 for 8 wickets. Several of the players who were "to bat" in the previous games showed that they also could wield the willow to good purpose, to wit, J. Lammond (48 not out), O'Neil (30), and Galloway (27). Pepper's quota was 35, and C. Ferrier's 31.

Glamis Castle XI, which had, as professional, Hainsworth of the Edinburgh Royal High School Club F.P.'s, then the fastest bowler in Scotland, were defeated at Glamis. Pepper and C. Ferrier on a difficult wicket played fine innings, and J. Lamb took 5 wickets for 20. In the match with Glamis at Brechin a stern battle was waged. Glamis scored 108, half of which was made by the brothers Balfour-Melville. Pepper took 7 wickets for 29. The combination of Hainsworth, fast, and Lord Glamis, slow, was nearly successful in Brechin's undoing, but Captain Scott played a grand defensive game and saved the match.

The visit to Forfarshire ended the Jubilee season, and W. R. Sharp treated the onlookers to one of his finest innings, scoring 85. This match was another test of Brechin's defensive powers, and it resulted in a draw.

With the exception of Campbell, who won the Bowling Cup, every member of the team finished with a double figure batting average. Campbell improved so quickly as a batsman that two years afterwards he was second in the averages with 22, and the year following, 1902, he was first with an average of 28. Pepper headed both batting and bowling lists; batting average 32, and 72 wickets for 7 runs each. J. P. Gibb won the Batting Cup with an average of 26.

The Jubilee year was fittingly terminated when a large gathering of the patrons and members of the Club sat down to supper in the Crown Hotel in October. Provost Scott, President of the Club, was

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in the chair; and in addition to the office-bearers and playing members of the Club there were present:—Councillors T. M. Guthrie and James Smart, Dr Anderson, Dr Parkinson, Messrs David Hume of Barrelwell, Alex. Philip, D. G. Shiell, M. B. Lamb, John Lamb, David Lamb, Robert Allan, Charles Mitchell, Sam Edwards, F. A. Ferguson, R. S. Milne (Captain of the 2nd XI), etc. Provost Scott, who could trace the ups and downs of the Club from its inception fifty years before, made a most interesting speech, and Dr Anderson gave racy reminiscences of his long connection with the Club. The usual trophies were presented, and several of the gentlemen present, in order to mark the occasion, intimated that they would provide improved pavilion accommodation before the next season. This was carried out by the erection of a small grand stand and scorers' tower of an artistic design.

One may well pause at this point, where the Club has reached its half-century and is well set for the century. The old cricketers who had laid the foundations in 1849 were nearly all "out," had run their last run, bowled their last ball, and accepted their last catch. So far as known only five remained, viz., Charles Anderson, solicitor, the first Secretary; John Coupar, Eastbank; Robert Lamb, Broughty Ferry; Robert Mathers; and A. M. Thomson, writer, Arbroath. To most of the present generation these are only names, but in their time they were ruddy with the glow and impetuosity of youth, eager for the fray. Later players who have crossed the scene, and were in their time the pride of the Club and the admired of hundreds, are still to the fore, hale and hearty, in busy thoroughfares of large towns, and in out of the way corners of the globe, many of them, it is to be hoped, casting their memories back at times to the "good old days," and their share in some of the contests which have

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been chronicled in these annals. It is good for the players of to-day that the players of yesterday should be had in remembrance. But for all the hero worship which it breeds, it is the game and not the individual, the play and not the victory, that counts. Each season is but a passing incident in the long and memorable history of the Club. They are all part of the great whole, and never, however distinguished and successful, the whole itself.

The Club now carries on its innings to the century, grand with the weight of experience, mature, and proudly confident in its skill.

CHAPTER XI

“COCKS OF THE NORTH”

THE enthusiasm and inspiration of the Jubilee year led the Club to still greater heights in the following season, the closing year of the nineteenth century. It was a wet summer, and consequently the wickets were more difficult for batsmen. When the wickets got a chance to dry and roll out, however, some large totals were compiled, one being the record in the history of the Club. The fixture list was better than ever, and included a series of three matches in Edinburgh against the strongest trio of Clubs there—Grange, Carlton, and Leith Caledonian. In all 23 matches were played, with the following splendid result:—

Won.	Drawn.	Abandoned.	Lost
13	7	2	1

This was a record unequalled by any Scottish Club, and established the B.C.C. as “Cocks of the North,” the aim outlined by one of the speakers at the Jubilee supper. Appended is a table proving this claim. The table shows the results of matches played amongst the eight leading clubs in the north-east, and the reckoning is after the English County system then prevailing, in which one point was counted for each win, one deducted for each loss, unfinished games ignored, and the proportional number of points obtained for finished matches decided the order:—

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	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.	Per cent.
Brechin	10	6	0	4	6	100.00
Perthshire	8	4	1	3	3	60.00
Aberdeenshire	3	2	1	0	1	33.33
Arbroath U.	13	4	3	6	1	14.28
Forfarshire	11	2	2	7	0	00.00
Strathmore	9	2	5	2	—3	—42.85
Victoria	6	1	5	0	—4	—66.66
Cupar	6	0	4	2	—4	—100.00

All the players of 1899 were at call except C. Ferrier, while G. Douglas made a welcome re-appearance after a season at Aberdeen in the ranks of St. Ronald. It was Pepper's last season, and he was better than ever; so good that Notts County was watching his work. They gave him a few trials in their 2nd XI during the summer, and eventually engaged him for their staff.

The opening match was perhaps the one which gave most satisfaction. Matches had been arranged for some years with Perthshire, but on every date rain prevented the bowling of a single ball. The same misfortune more or less continued to dog the fixtures of the Clubs, but this year the game, which took place on the historic North Inch, was played to a glorious finish. Brechin appeared to great advantage in every department of the game. The fielding was a model of perfection, and on every subsequent visit the players maintained their reputation in this very important part of the game. Pepper and Hollingworth bowled unchanged, and disposed of a team, which, though not at full strength, was considered strong enough to open the season with a victory, for 43 runs. Pepper's 6 wickets cost only 27, and Hollingworth's 3 were secured for 15 runs. All were clean bowled. Joe Anderson, their renowned batsman for so many years, was a victim to one of J. P. Gibb's magnificent throws from far out. The scores were:—

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PERTHSHIRE.

J. Anderson, run out	11
T. Bonar, b Hollingworth	4
D. Black, b do.	1
H. J. Bell, b Pepper	0
A. Lamb, b do. ...	...	...	...	0
A. K. Bell, b do. ...	...	...	...	9
R. Halley, b do. ...	...	...	...	5
C. R. Smith, b Hollingworth ...	...	...	...	4
C. Brand, b Pepper ...	...	...	...	2
R. M'Gregor Mitchell, b do. ...	...	...	...	2
F. Thomson, not out ...	...	...	...	4
Extra ...	...	...	...	1
Total ...				43

BRECHIN.

D. Hill, lbw, b Mitchell ...	...	...	...	1
W. Campbell, b do. ...	...	...	...	1
J. Hollingworth, run out ...	...	...	...	6
Pepper (prof.), c Brand, b Thomson ...	...	...	...	15
J. P. Gibb, b Mitchell ...	...	...	...	1
G. M. Scott, c Anderson, b Lamb ...	...	...	...	0
D. Ferrier, b Thomson ...	...	...	...	20
G. Shand, b Lamb ...	...	...	...	11
A. O'Neil, not out ...	...	...	...	19
D. W. Galloway, b Thomson ...	...	...	...	3
H. Robertson, not out ...	...	...	...	8
Extras ...	...	...	...	9
Total for 9 wkts. ...				94

St. Ronald was dismissed for 41 on a wicket which suited D. Ferrier to a nicety; he had 6 for 10. The game at home with Forfarshire was drawn. Going in against 120, Brechin had to play a defensive game against their crack bowlers, Higgins and Whitehead, and D. Ferrier played an hour for 13 not out, making so great an impression that his first County cap against Perthshire was virtually gained that afternoon.

Another happy day's batting took place at Arbroath, where Brechin scored 201—Shand 50, Pepper 35, Hill 31, Scott 28, and Hollingworth 24. Arbroath played out time, getting 86 for 5.

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On the day of the Mafeking rejoicings Cathcart was defeated, Shand being again top-scorer with 45. Dundee Victoria, which was to be chief rival to Brechin in the county for several years, again succumbed at Dundee. Pepper's variety and judgment in bowling were a study, and his analysis was 7 for 23. With Hill at his best behind the wickets, Pepper gave some very clever exhibitions during the season. Gibb was in his best form in this match, and scored 35.

The visit to Forthill found one of the finest batting wickets imaginable waiting us, and the county men were fortunate to get first knock. Brechin was inflicted with the biggest leather hunt in its experience, but through it all the standard of bowling and fielding by no means deteriorated. It was simply a batsman's paradise. W. R. Sharp and J. A. Kyd put up 125 for the first wicket, and then Kyd and Stewart went on to 270, when the closure was applied. Kyd got 125 not out, Stewart 70 not out, and Sharp 62. Nothing daunted, Brechin made an honourable draw. Gibb (42) and Douglas (40) made 70 for the first wicket, and subsequent steady play took the score to 158 for 6 wickets, Hollingworth having 24 not out.

Another dazzling bowling performance from Pepper, 8 for 12, was the cause of Cupar's poor score of 32. Brechin replied with 88 for 6, of which J. A. M'Donald, a tremendous hitter from the 2nd XI, had 27 not out, Douglas 27, and D. Ferrier 24. The scoring proceeded merrily. In the two Montrose games which Brechin had not time to win, Pepper scored 41 and Douglas 33 not out.

The record score for the Club was made against Balruddery on 7th July, 1900, as follows:—

Pepper (prof.), lbw, b T. S. Smith	76
D. Hill, c T. S. Smith, b Peebles	14
D. W. Galloway, b H. Smith	11
J. A. M'Donald, run out	56

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G. Shand, c and b Riley (prof.)	119
J. Hollingworth, c Paterson, b Peebles	7
G. M. Scott, c Riley, b Anderson	1
W. Campbell, c Smith, b Peebles	...	...	0
D. M. Lindsay, c Ritchie, b Paterson	...	...	6
J. D. M'Petrie, b Riley	...	...	14
A. Morrison, not out	...	...	1
Extras	...	...	5
Total	...	...	310

G. Shand had the distinction of scoring the first individual century for the Club in this game. D. Ferrier played one of his fine innings, 54 not out, against XVI of the City League, in which was the pick of the 2nd XI, which was now affiliated to this League.

Neither of the games in the Edinburgh tour of 1900 was completed, but the Brechin Club emerged from them with enhanced credit. After the long journey, Grange was engaged at Raeburn Place. Pepper was the hero of the match, carrying his bat through Brechin's innings for 105. His innings, though somewhat slow, owing to the excellence of the bowling, was a model of correct batting, without the semblance of a mistake. He received most support from Hollingworth (21) and D. Ferrier (19). The closure was applied at 184 for 9 wickets. The Grange batted out time and reached 60 for one wicket.

Leith Caledonian was met on the following day. Charles and Jack Ferrier played for that Club, but its leading players were A. S. Cairns and W. Y. Woodburn; the former long prominent in Edinburgh cricket, and the latter still going strong for Berkshire. Splendid bowling by Pepper had eight of their men out for 48, but their professional, Sellars, proved a tough proposition, and the total reached 106. Pepper took eight wickets for 41 runs. Rain fell heavily after the Leith innings,

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and at the abandonment of play Brechin had lost 4 wickets for 34.

The powerful Carlton Club, champions of the Eastern Union, was next played at Holyrood. Carlton has always contained in its ranks several players of outstanding ability during the last thirty years, and has provided Scotland with some of its best men for international matches, amongst them our own product, J. W. Sorrie. At this time their captain, G. W. Jupp, was easily the best all-round player in the country, while Dr N. L. Stevenson was a great fast bowler, who played havoc amongst the wickets that season to the number of 150 at 7 runs apiece. It was unbeaten throughout the summer, and easily the strongest club in Edinburgh. Jupp scored 1500 runs in all matches, with an average of 60. Their professional was Sam Parkes, whom we studied that afternoon with a view to offering him the same position in our Club, as Pepper had been booked by Notts County for the following year. It was ultimately arranged, through public subscription, at no cost to the Club, to bring Parkes to Brechin on trial for the last five matches of the season. He showed such admirable all-round ability then that the Committee engaged him to succeed Pepper.

Carlton did not play its usual eleven against Brechin, but included A. S. Cairns of Leith Caledonian, Dr A. J. Macgregor of Dunfermline, and D. J. B. Kirke of Burntisland, three players of the first order. Winning the toss they gave a grand exhibition of batting, closing at 160 for 5 wickets. J. F. Lammond secured Cairns and Jupp for 27 runs, the latter caught by Captain Scott more than 100 yards from the batting crease off a tremendous drive. Brechin lost 5 wickets for 52—Pepper 18, and Hollingworth, who had 11 not out the previous day, 14.

Dundee Victoria were easily beaten at Nursery

Park, Pepper and Campbell dismissing them for 23—the prof., 6 wickets for 7 runs, and Campbell 4 for 11. Hollingworth and Pepper were again top scorers, and when rain stopped play in the next match, *v.* Strathmore, the same pair was once more to the fore. In the following matches Parkes appeared.

Arbroath United was soundly thrashed. Pepper and Parkes bowled unchanged, each taking 5 wickets for 30, and dismissed them for 63. Brechin scored 145 for six wickets, Pepper 41 not out, Gibb 28, Parkes and Shand 21 each.

On a bowlers' wicket Rossie Castle XI had no chance against the professionals, and only collected 24—Pepper 6 for 9, and Parkes 4 for 11. Brechin's score was 73—Pepper 30 and Scott 20. The two succeeding matches took place under adverse batting conditions. The first brought about the solitary defeat for the season, but in the return match at Glamis four days later, when, strangely, the identical elevens met, the result was reversed. As in the previous year, the contrasting bowling combination of Lord Glamis and Hainsworth taxed the defence of the Brechin players. The details of those games are interesting

At Nursery Park:—

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

L. M. Balfour-Melville, c Lindsay, b Parkes	7
J. I. Balfour-Melville, c Gibb, b Pepper ...	4
M. F. Blake, b do.	0
E. S. Balfour-Melville, b do.	0
A. T. B. Dunn, b do.	3
Hon. P. B. Lyon, stp Hill, b do.	3
J. E. Balfour-Melville, b Parkes	1
Hainsworth (prof.), c Lammond, b Pepper	22
Lord Glamis, stp Hill, b do.	7
R. L. Blackburn, b do.	5
Master of Glamis, not out	4
Extras	9
Total	65

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BRECHIN.

J. Hollingworth, lbw, b Hainsworth	4
G. M. Scott, lbw, b Lord Glamis	5
D. M. Lindsay, b Hainsworth	3
G. Shand, c J. E. B.-Melville, b Lord Glamis	...	...	...	7
Pepper (prof.), b Hainsworth	...	...	...	3
J. P. Gibb, c E. S. B.-Melville, b Lord Glamis	...	...	...	2
Parkes (prof.), run out	...	...	...	2
D. Hill, not out	...	...	...	13
G. Douglas, b Hainsworth	...	...	...	0
J. F. Lammond, c E.S. B.-Melville, b L'd Glamis	...	...	...	1
W. Campbell, b do.	...	...	...	2
Extras	...	...	...	11
Total	...	...	...	53

BOWLING ANALYSES.

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

	O.	M.	R.	Wkts.
Pepper	20	7	25	8
Parkes	20	6	31	2

BRECHIN.

Hainsworth	...	17	5	25	4
Lord Glamis	...	17	6	17	5

At Glamis :—

BRECHIN.

J. Hollingworth, c J. E. B.-Melville, b L'd Glamis	...	...	...	16
G. Douglas, b Hainsworth	...	...	...	0
Parkes (prof.), b do.	...	...	...	2
D. Hill, c Dunn, b Lord Glamis	...	...	...	0
Pepper (prof.), c J. I. B.-Melville, b J. E. Balfour-Melville	...	...	...	22
G. M. Scott, c Blake, b Lord Glamis	...	...	...	0
G. Shand, b Hainsworth	...	...	...	0
J. P. Gibb, b do.	...	...	...	11
D. M. Lindsay, b J. E. Balfour-Melville	1
W. Campbell, not out	5
J. F. Lammond, c and b Lord Glamis	5
Extras	3
Total	65

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GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

Lord Glamis, c and b Pepper	8
L. M. Balfour-Melville, c Campbell, b do.	4
Hon. P. B. Lyon, b do.	...	...	0
E. S. Balfour-Melville, b do.	...	...	2
M. F. Blake, run out	...	...	4
A. T. B. Dunn, b Pepper	...	...	2
J. I. Balfour-Melville, c Hill, b Parkes	...	...	1
Hainsworth (prof.), c Campbell, b do.	...	...	0
J. E. Balfour-Melville, b Pepper	...	...	0
R. L. Blackburn, b Parkes	...	...	6
Master of Glamis, not out	...	...	1
Extras	...	...	4
Total	...	...	32

BOWLING ANALYSES.

BRECHIN.

	O.	M.	R.	Wkts.
Hainsworth	18	6	19	4
Lord Glamis	13	1	33	4
J. E. B.-Melville	4	0	10	2

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

Pepper	15	5	22	6
Parkes	14	9	6	3

The closing match was easily won against Strathmore, 122-71. Parkes scored 46. Bowling for Strathmore, John A. Grant had all the wickets—8 for 45, the other two men being run out. Grant was a very clever slow leg-break bowler, who mixed those deliveries with faster balls and the one which goes straight through. He had a few triumphs against Brechin in his career, and had he played in a better fielding team his record would have been far higher. Altogether he was one of several redoubtable opponents in the ranks of the Forfar Club, which produced some very fine cricketers from time to time—*e.g.*, in addition to Grant, W. G. Laird, R. Morrison, J. B. Craik, and R. H. Anderson.

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The large number of twenty-eight individuals played in the twenty-three matches in 1900; J. Hollingworth missed only one. Pepper headed the averages—31 per innings with the bat, and 85 wickets for 5.65 runs each. Douglas Ferrier won both Batting and Bowling Cups—batting average 24.44, and 23 wickets for 9 runs each. Six other regular players had double figure averages. Hollingworth and Campbell took 27 wickets each, and Lammond 13.

CHAPTER XII

A REVIEW OF THE JUNIORS— 1879 TO 1900

IN a review of Brechin Cricket, some account must be given of the minor cricket played by members of the Club in the subsidiary teams, which have been part and parcel of the whole, and of the leading players who brought distinction both to themselves and the Club upon the field in a less prominent degree, many of them good cricketers, worthy of higher honour, often on the fringe of the 1st XI, sometimes appearing in the higher circles, and only prevented by circumstances from finding a regular place in them.

For over forty years the Club has been able to play a series of 2nd XI matches. Sometimes the number and enthusiasm of the playing members have demanded matches for a 3rd XI. At various times the members whose half-holiday was on Wednesday were numerous and strong enough to run a regular eleven, and many capable players emerged from it.

The difference in this class of cricket compared with the senior is often one more of circumstance than merit. There are, however, a few observable distinctions. The fierce light, in the guise of large crowds of partisan and critical spectators, and a wider press, which beats upon the players in the 1st XI demands a higher standard of efficiency, and a cool head. There are distinct differences in the detail of the senior game—*e.g.*, in the more precise setting of the field, running between the wickets, picking up and returning the ball—while bowling is a matter of greater study and subtlety in the

higher ranks, demanding more watchfulness on the part of the batsman. But one who has won his spurs in minor cricket very quickly adjusts himself to the new conditions, especially when the seniors exercise a patient, discriminating, and encouraging spirit, and do not expect an old head on young shoulders all at once. Perhaps on the whole the minor matches, with their less exacting standard, are the more pleasant, and in any case all the essentials of the game are enjoyed to the full.

The first record I find of the 2nd XI is in 1879, when Thomas Gardner was appointed Captain, but there is no evidence extant of the matches played. In the 'Eighties there was an active Wednesday section, the chief players being G. Neilson, D. Watson, J. Young, and A. Gibson. In 1887 the Club presented a bat to the best average scorer in the 2nd XI; possibly that had been won by Donald Mackenzie, who was Captain. I remember they possessed three excellent bowlers—D. Innes, A. Thomson, and J. G. Stewart—while as all-rounder, L. G. Pattullo was early promoted to the 1st XI. In 1888 we find the names of J. L. Bisset, G. Bisset, Dick Bruce, Arthur Ford, W. Black and Bob Milne. The following year H. M. Rodger was Captain, and he had a crew which pulled off many victories; among it J. Buchanan, J. G. Maclean, and W. B. King—like himself, all budding dominies.

In 1890, J. L. Bisset was Captain; and F. Milne, J. Smart, and F. Morgan added strength to the ranks. 1891 finds a large influx of young players, and a 3rd XI took the field in a few matches. F. Milne was Captain of a splendid 2nd XI, including D. M. Lindsay, A. Taylor, G. P. S. Burnett, J. S. Burnett, and C. Pattullo, while A. O'Neil, C. Lammond, J. M. Nicoll, J. Y. Straiton, W. J. P. Anderson, W. M. Ferrier, and Tom Rose were ready to fill any vacancies. The opposition was provided by the 2nd XI's of Arbroath, Strathmore,

Montrose, and Kirriemuir clubs, Carnoustie and several good Arbroath junior clubs which are now all gone except Arbroath 2nd XI. J. C. Inverarity and D. Laing assisted the juniors at times with their experience.

From Nursery Park days, beginning in 1892, the officials of the Club took greater care of the 2nd XI records, and most of them are intact. The summary of events, however, must be restricted. James Ferrier was Captain in 1892, and I was in charge the following three years. George Black and W. M. Ferrier were a pair of good bowlers, and they were followed by W. Henderson, A. Potter, and others. Henderson was an excellent spin bowler, and had he remained in the city would have made his mark in that department. A. Taylor, G. P. S. Burnett, J. Nicoll, and D. M. Lindsay were the reliable batsmen of the period. W. Dear was the first one, however, to score a half-century. This took place in 1893.

James Fowler had a great bowling performance against their strongest rivals, Arbroath 2nd, in 1893, viz., 7 wickets for 18 runs. I began to make good scores, and improved on W. Dear's record, while success also attended my bowling efforts. C. Lammond, C. Ferrier, G. Douglas, G. Cumming, A. Cameron, and R. Wallace were also prominent, the first-named joining the few semi-centurians of those days. In 1896 D. A. Ferrier was skipper. The match list was extended, and from this time onwards more success attended the play.

Jack Ferrier, G. Dundas, and J. Lammond did well, and Douglas Ferrier was in a class by himself from his initial appearance in a great match at Forfar against East End, which, though strengthened by the inclusion of several Strathmore players and its professional, was defeated 58-41. A. Potter, with 7 wickets for 19 runs in that game, was in his best form.

In 1897 the 2nd XI was much stronger. Alex. Morrison had a batting average of 21. Alex. Jack, a great enthusiast, who in a later decade was a competent umpire, G. Smart, Andrew Black, and Harry Ross (the first Brechiner to enter the ranks of professional football), also batted well. The following year four players appeared who were destined to play with distinction in higher ranks, viz., James Lammond, George Shand, W. Campbell, and Sam Edwards. Lammond was the outstanding player, heading both batting and bowling lists—average per innings with the bat 20, and 37 wickets for 5.64 runs each. A. Morrison was second average batsman.

For a few seasons at this stage the second string was difficult to overcome; they were a well-balanced lot of experienced players, fit to meet many so-called senior clubs with every prospect of success. Such strong sides as Forthill XI and Coupar Angus were vanquished. The 2nd XI joined the local League in 1899, and were runners-up for the Championship Cup. The premier honours were easily carried off during the following two seasons, after which they joined the Strathmore League, of which more anon.

Brechin City League originally consisted of five clubs—Denburn, Caldham, Papermakers, I.O.G.T., and Pinegrove. Denburn was winner of the Cup in the first three seasons. When Caldham and Pinegrove dropped out, 2nd Brechin and Half-Holiday XI took their places. The League continued for seven years, and I would strongly recommend its resuscitation.

The Brechin Club has always encouraged the formation of junior clubs, and when the new ground is opened next year it hopes to be in a position to provide suitable facilities for the summer sport for all stages of youth, as it is only in that way that a constant flow of fresh talent can

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emerge to take its place in due time in the senior ranks.

To return to 1899, James Johnston headed the batting; Wm. Ferrier and R. N. Clift were two of the promising recruits. The closing year of last century was, as in the case of the 1st XI, the best in their experience—12 wins and 3 losses. The best of the second class clubs in the county were all vanquished. A. Morrison, J. A. Macdonald, S. Edwards, J. Lammond, T. Pender, J. Johnston, and R. N. Clift all got double figure batting averages. A. Morrison, as has been noticed, was a very consistent batsman; he possessed sound methods and a powerful drive, and had the satisfaction that year of being the first winner of a Silver Cup which an anonymous donor presented to the Club for the best batsman in the 2nd XI. A modest, unassuming spirit, Morrison was always to be relied upon. He appeared far too seldom in the 1st XI, but can always look back with pleasure to the bigger games in which he participated, especially the historic Jubilee match with the Grange.

The bowling was a remarkable feature in 1900, as the following figures show :—

	O.	M.	R.	Wkts.	Aver.
J. Lammond	93	33	141	52	2.71
E. Croall	66	19	117	38	3.07
W. Ferrier	77	28	128	38	3.36

This represents some extraordinary analyses. All three bowlers were to be heard of in better cricket later.

CHAPTER XIII

A SERIES OF MEMORABLE SCORES

1901

BRECHIN C.C. commenced the twentieth century at the apex of its power, and continued to maintain that position for several years. The annals become more than ever interesting, and no excuse is necessary for recalling in more detail such a season as 1901, at which I have arrived. As introduction I give the results of the matches in tabular form:—

		Brechin		Opponents		Result.
		Runs.	Wkts.	Runs.	Wkts.	
Kirriemuir	a	87	—	40	—	won
Perthshire	h	162	—	167	3	lost
Forfarshire	h	103	9	38	—	won
Bowbridge	h	202	4*	52	—	won
Strathmore	h	216	9*	76	—	won
League XVI	h	216	6	77	15	won
Victoria	h	208	9	71	—	won
Kirriemuir	h	262	6	49	—	won
Montrose	h	231	—	34	—	won
Forfarshire	a	88	—	112	—	lost
Strathmore	a	191	—	18	—	won
Arbroath United	h	140	5	174	8*	drawn
Grange	h	75	—	184	—	lost
Victoria	a	64	—	114	—	lost
Rossie Castle XI	h	134	9	51	—	won
Leith Caledonian	h	182	8*	48	6	drawn
Arbroath United	a	100	5	...	...	drawn
Lord Glamis XI	h	121	6	101	—	won
Lord Glamis XI	a	68	—	95	—	lost
Montrose	a	153	6	70	—	won
		3003	162	1571	182	

h Home. a Away. * Signifies closure.

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The total runs scored constituted a record, which, however, was surpassed ten years later, but the average of 18.53 runs per wicket that year remains the record in that respect. The opponent's average was in marked contrast, viz., 10 runs less per wicket. In most of the matches Brechin's runs were scored at twice the rate of those of their adversaries. It will be noticed that the Club only completed a full innings in eight matches. Never before was such a sequence of large scores seen on Nursery Park. On seven successive Saturdays in May and June the Club was irresistible, and each match was won with the greatest ease. First of all, Forfarshire was severely defeated, an event in itself, as hitherto the County men had been too good for Brechin. Now that the spell was broken, victory was no longer to be an unusual experience.

Then followed six successive totals of over 200 runs. No wonder there was enthusiasm among the hundreds of supporters. Brilliant is a weak adjective by which to describe the batting, and the most satisfactory feature was the way the runs were distributed among the players—no individual monopolised the honours. After the first three totals beyond 200, conjecture was rife at the succeeding matches over the possibility of continuing the phenomenal scoring, and the greatest excitement prevailed when for a fourth, fifth, and sixth time the double century was reached and passed, and only on the last occasion was an innings completed. The highest opposing score was only 77, and the credit for it was gained by the local League XVI. Parkes, Lammond and Compbell did all that was necessary to dispose of the other sides.

Of the previous year's champion eleven, J. P. Gibb and G. Douglas were unable to turn out, but after only a few appearances the previous year I was able to play regularly, and as F. Milne, after

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four years' absence in South Africa, also resumed a place in the eleven, the strength of the Club was well maintained. Milne's experience of South African cricket had improved his batting immensely, and he was still able to bowl a good swinging ball. J. F. Lammond, however, was so effective in his support to Parkes with the ball that the full bowling talent at the Captain's disposal had seldom to be called upon. Though five games were lost, they were, with one exception, against very strong and determined opponents—Forfarshire, Perthshire, and Grange, which put forth their utmost efforts to wipe out recent rankling defeats; Glamis Castle XI, always at their strongest against Brechin; and Dundee Victoria, which was our most jealous rival in the county, a very well-balanced side which could play to the last man.

After a preliminary canter at Kirriemuir on a bad wicket, Perthshire made their first appearance at Nursery Park. They were delighted with the playing pitch. Brechin gave an excellent display at the wickets. Parkes and Scott did well, and then Lammond and Shand put on 75 for the fifth wicket, both hitting freely for 45 and 40 respectively. Campbell and Hill added substantially to the score, which reached 162. Brechin's bowling and fielding were not quite at their best, however, and the advantage of this total was lost as the play proceeded. Joe Anderson wore down the bowling, and then Douglas Smith, the professional, treated the spectators to a magnificent innings, which brought victory to his side just on time, the total being 167 for 3 wickets. Anderson scored 53, and Smith 75 not out, the latter's a display which, though bringing about a defeat to Brechin, thrilled the onlookers who could appreciate good cricket.

George Shand was one of the best batsmen and fieldsmen who ever played for Brechin. He had a very sound defence and great patience, was master

of every stroke, and very interesting to watch. He seldom lofted the ball, but when he did open his shoulders the fence felt the force of the ball if it was not sent soaring far over it. Many a wonderful innings did he play in his eight seasons for the Club, ere a weak heart compelled him to relinquish the game. His early death in 1907 removed one of Brechin's greatest athletes, as he was not only one of the finest Forfarshire cricketers in his day but also one of its best footballers.

James F. Lammond's cricketing career was also cut short, but in watching his favourite game he enjoyed it vicariously for many years. He was a hard-hitting batsman, and a fast bowler of ability and good length, with a destructive swerve. A greater enthusiast never stepped upon a cricket field. His vitality was boundless. Never a night was he absent from the net, and wholeheartedly did he bowl, often till he was dead beat. No wonder the batting was of such high class in those days, with quite half-a-dozen other bowlers like himself, pegging away every night on good turfed wickets at which one could practise and experiment with absolute safety. The game was more than pastime to such as Lammond—it was romance and adventure! How sorry everybody was when the loss of an eye at his work after the 1901 season impaired his usefulness so much that he could not retain a permanent place in the eleven. It was almost a tragedy to him! His death, in 1926, after a long and painful illness, is mourned especially by his many friends in the Cricket Club, who loved him not only as an ardent and generous cricketer, but also as a loyal and cheery comrade.

Forfarshire's visit in 1901 followed that of Perthshire, and Brechin gained an easy victory. The wicket was slow, and Parkes bowled with much skill, 6 wickets for 17, while Lammond's swerving ball clean bowled Kyd, Higgins, and Jolly for 19

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runs. Forfarshire was out for one of the smallest scores in their history, 38. Heavy rain then looked like robbing Brechin of victory, but it cleared off, and, after losing three wickets cheaply, D. Ferrier (25) and G. Shand (21) got the runs, and then Campbell (23) and Milne (18) added to the majority, the total reaching 103 for 9 wickets. Higgins took 7 wickets for 49 runs.

The record of six successive totals of over 200, which is here given is eloquent evidence of the great strength of the batting in 1901. Every man could be relied upon for runs, and when one failed another was sure to rise to the occasion. From Inverness in the north to Ayr in the west, and Selkirk in the south, all cricket eyes were turned to the reports of Brechin's matches. In all quarters of the globe, wherever Brechiners gathered, the talk turned to the wonderful doings of the cricketers. A Brechin Bairn then in the Antipodes told me that the arrival of each *Brechin Advertiser* in those days was worth a gold mine to him in his store, the rendezvous of many "exiles," whose first question was always, "What have the boys done this week?" The Ferriers were well known all over the country, Hollingworth's name was equally familiar, Shand and Campbell were to become two of the invincible Forfarshire XI, along with Douglas Ferrier, in the Counties Championship, while the ability of the others was recognised far beyond the bounds of district cricket.

The great sequence commenced on 18th May and was only broken at Forthill on 29th June, while subsequent large scores became again common. It was Lammond's great year as bowler, few others being required to assist the professional. The fielding was also reliable, Galloway at point, Shand at cover, and Parkes in the slips standing out prominently. All these matches which follow took place at Nursery Park, and naturally gave un-

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bounded pleasure to the numerous spectators who flocked to the ground in increasing numbers.

Brechin *v.* Bowbridge (Dundee), 18th May, 1901 :—

BRECHIN.

D. Hill, c Hutton, b Peebles ...	...	...	0
F. Milne, c Hunter, b Wynd ...	...	...	19
Parkes (prof.), b Peebles ...	...	...	75
G. Shand, c Mathers, b Hutton ...	...	...	6
W. Campbell, not out ...	...	...	52
D. Ferrier, do. ...	...	...	31
G. M. Scott, J. Lammond, J. Hollingworth, A. O'Neil, D. W. Galloway did not bat.			
Extras ...	...	...	19

Total (closure) for 4 wkts. ... 202

Bowbridge, all out 52. Parkes 4 wickets for 21 runs; Lammond 5 wickets for 30 runs.

Brechin *v.* Strathmore (Forfar), 25th May, 1901 :—

BRECHIN.

D. Hill, b Grant ...	...	...	13
F. Milne, c Hill, b do. ...	...	...	8
Parkes (prof.), c Hill, b do. ...	...	...	9
D. Ferrier, b do. ...	...	...	36
W. Campbell, c Anderson, b do. ...	...	...	55
G. Shand, b Anderson ...	...	...	30
G. M. Scott, run out ...	...	...	1
J. Hollingworth, not out ...	...	...	38
D. M. Lindsay, b Anderson ...	...	...	0
J. Lammond, c E. Grant, b do. ...	...	...	5
S. Edwards, not out ...	...	...	12
Extras ...	...	...	9

Total (closure) for 9 wkts. ... 216

Strathmore, all out 76. Lammond 8 wickets for 45; Parkes 1 for 25.

Brechin *v.* XVI of local League, 1st June, 1901 :—

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BRECHIN.

A. O'Neil, c Bain, b Simmonds	47
D. W. Galloway, b Croall	25
G. M. Scott, b Caithness	25
W. Campbell, b do.	...	...	12
D. Ferrier, not out	...	...	67
Parkes (prof.), c Anderson, b Caithness	...	...	1
G. Shand, c Milne, b Rankine	17
F. Milne, not out	9
J. Hollingworth, J. Lammond, and D. Hill to bat.			
Extras	13
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Total for 6 wkts.	216

League XVI, all out 77. Parkes 9 wickets for 26; Lammond 3 for 27; Campbell 2 for 15.

Brechin v. Dundee Victoria, 8th June, 1901 :—

BRECHIN.

J. Hollingworth, b Hainsworth	...	...	22
D. Ferrier, c Fleming, b do.	...	...	7
F. Milne, c Jamieson, b Sharp	...	...	45
G. M. Scott, c Craig, b Hainsworth	...	...	0
Parkes (prof.), lbw, b Sharp	...	...	9
W. Campbell, c Sharp, b Hainsworth	...	...	8
G. Shand, c and b Sharp	...	...	16
J. Lammond, run out	9
A. O'Neil, not out	49
D. Hill, c Sharp, b Philip	25
D. W. Galloway, not out	9
Extras	9
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Total for 9 wkts.	208

Victoria, all out 71. Parkes 4 wickets for 14; Campbell 3 for 13; Lammond 3 for 33.

Brechin v. Kirriemuir, 15th June, 1901 :—

BRECHIN.

D. Ferrier, not out	110
J. Hollingworth, b Jamieson	19
Parkes (prof.), b do.	21
W. Campbell, run out	27

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BRECHIN—*Continued.*

G. Shand, b Jamieson	20
A. O'Neil, b D. M'Laren	6
J. Lammond, b Jamieson	42
D. W. Galloway, D. Hill, D. M. Lindsay, and T. M. Guthrie to bat.				
Extras ...	...	...	...	17
Total for 6 wkts. ...				262

Kirriemuir, all out 49. Parkes 6 wickets for 20;
Lammond 4 for 26.

Brechin v. Montrose, 22nd June, 1901 :—

BRECHIN.

J. Hollingworth, b Davidson	...	...	63
G. Shand, lbw, b Fyffe	...	...	5
D. Hill, b do.	...	...	6
W. Campbell, b Steele	...	...	10
J. Lammond, b Fyffe	...	...	18
Parkes (prof.), run out	...	...	29
F. Milne, b Steele	...	...	3
A. O'Neil, b Fyffe	...	...	31
G. M. Scott, c Japp, b Steele	...	...	12
D. M. Lindsay, b Key	...	...	25
W. A. Bain, not out	...	...	12
Extras	...	...	17
Total	...	...	231

Montrose, all out 34. Parkes 6 wickets for 9 runs; Lammond 3 for 20; Campbell 1 for 1.

Great interest was manifested in Brechin's visit to Forthill on the Saturday following these matches, and a fine game took place on a splendid wicket. Forfarshire had out its strongest possible side, and Brechin was well represented, though D. Ferrier was handicapped by an injured wrist. The County had first knock, W. R. Sharp and J. A. Kyd opening to Parkes and Lammond.

Sharp was the greatest player who ever adorned the County colours. He was a prolific scorer, and was chosen to play for Scotland in many repre-

sentative matches. He died suddenly in Edzell two years ago. He was a most generous friend to the Forfarshire Club, presenting it not only with its fine ground at Forthill, Broughty Ferry, but also with its beautiful pavilion. He made sixteen hundreds during his career for Forfarshire, including scores of 150, 138, and 113, each time not out against Perthshire. On the day the pavilion was opened he scored 192 not out against Edinburgh Academicals. He made many large scores against Brechin. On only two occasions did we get rid of him cheaply, and both times it was the result of clever play. In the 1898 match at Brechin, Pepper was causing the ball to rise awkwardly on the off from a fine length, and no one was more surprised than myself when, a few balls after I was placed at long slip, I jumped up to a flying snick and found the ball safely in my right hand, and the great batsman out for a few runs. Ex-Provost Scott remarked to the onlookers nearby, "If Alf had pared his nails this morning he would have missed that one"!

In the match at Forthill to which I now refer, Sharp's downfall was effected by the smartest piece of stumping which Hill ever performed. Not only so, but it was through concerted arrangement, which worked out beautifully according to plan. While discussing probabilities in the train on the way to the match, Sharp's propensity to get out of his crease in playing forward early in an innings was remarked, and it was decided that Parkes would try and get in a shortish fast ball just outside the leg stump, from which, in the event of his missing, a chance of stumping might be offered. In Parkes' second over everything happened as intended, and Sharp was chagrined to find his bails off in a flash and his innings terminated.

Matters continued to go well. Galloway took three smart point catches, and all the cracks were out, but an unfortunate miss in the outfield by

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Parkes allowed Stewart to make 40, and the total reached 112. Brechin found Whitehead's fast left-hand deliveries difficult, and though D. Ferrier, A. O'Neil, Parkes, and Lammond raised hopes, the others fell rather easily and all were out for 88. Going in third wicket down, Ferrier carried his bat for 13, but owing to his injured wrist he was able to do little more than defend. Whitehead took 7 wickets for 31 runs.

Playing in the Inter-County against Perthshire the following Saturday D. Ferrier scored 55 and Campbell 22.

On the Wednesday, playing for Forfarshire against Carlton, Ferrier scored 72 not out.

A weakened Brechin eleven was far too good for Strathmore at Forfar. Brechin's total bordered on the second century, viz., 191, of which Parkes by vigorous hitting scored 90 in an hour and a quarter. Hollingworth, who had 38, assisted the prof. to carry the score from 15 to 100. I was the other chief partner of Parkes' in increasing the total. It was altogether a notable afternoon for Parkes, who, after being hit for two from his first ball, bowled another 65 balls without giving away a single run, and took 5 wickets. Forfar could only score 18.

The "match of the season" took place the next Saturday at Nursery Park—needless to state, that with Arbroath United. The meeting was eagerly anticipated and a record crowd turned out. A beautiful batsman's wicket was in readiness, and Arbroath had the benefit of first knock. Boyes, their professional, then in his twelfth season, had been an important factor in Brechin's defeats before 1897 with his clever bowling and dour batting. In this match he was seen in quite a different style, scoring freely and crisply, especially on the off. He never played a better game against Brechin than he did that afternoon. The crowd thought we were never to get either him or his

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partner, Taylor, out, and it was wondrously quiet. Despite all manner of wiles and tactics by the regular bowlers, the score mounted steadily to 95 ere Ferrier tempted Taylor out of his ground for Hill to stump him. Not until I went on to bowl, for the first time that season, was Boyes' course stayed, and a happier position for Brechin brought about. Boyes was fourth out at 140, of which he had scored 72. Arbroath occupied the wickets three hours and had the credit of being the only Club to apply the closure against Brechin during the season. Their score was 174 for 8 wickets, of which I captured 4 wickets for 20 runs.

With only half the time of Arbroath at Brechin's disposal, victory was hardly to be expected, but the order to force the pace would in all probability have secured the necessary runs in a quarter of an hour more. Each player scored so fast that in the three half hours 140 was on the board for the loss of 5 wickets. This, like the Perthshire match, was greatly enjoyed for its exhilarating match-winning type of batting. The scores were:—

ARBROATH UNITED.

Boyes (prof.), c Hill, b O'Neil	...	...	72
T. Taylor, stp Hill, b Ferrier	...	...	40
J. Duncan, b Parkes	...	...	5
D. Chapel, b O'Neil	...	...	6
J. Milne, c Ferrier, b do.	...	...	1
D. Storrier, b Parkes	...	...	1
K. Chapel, b Lammond	...	...	10
C. S. Salmond, c Ferrier, b O'Neil	...	...	7
W. Rae, not out	...	...	10
G. Napier and H. Corsar did not bat.			
Extras	...	...	22
Total (closure) for 8 wkts.	...	...	174

BRECHIN.

D. Ferrier, c Taylor, b D. Chapel	48
J. Hollingworth, c Milne, b Storrier	20
W. Campbell, b Rae	37

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BRECHIN—*Continued.*

Parkes (prof.), c Taylor, b Chapel	10
A. O'Neil, not out	18
F. Milne, lbw, b Rae	0
G. Shand, not out ...	...	2
D. Hill, J. Lammond, D. W. Galloway, and D. M. Lindsay to bat.		
Extras ...	...	5
Total for 5 wkts. ...	...	140

After this great encounter, the return at Lochlands was eagerly looked forward to, and it was a great disappointment when rain forced an abandonment, as it was Boyes' benefit match. Brechin scored 100 for the loss of half their wickets. The brothers Douglas and Charles Ferrier were associated in the chief stand, playing as usual beautiful cricket—Douglas had 45 not out and Charles 29.

Grange and Dundee Victoria got the better of us. Galloway in both those games came off where the others failed, and followed up with an admirable 38 against Rossie Castle XI, who were easily beaten. Campbell also got 38 in that match, and Parkes 29. The matches with Glamis Castle XI were as usual well contested, each side winning the home fixture. The scores at Brechin were—Glamis 101, Brechin 121 for 6. D. Ferrier was again prominent, not only scoring 42, but taking 4 wickets for 24 runs. Lammond was in his best hitting vein and made 30. At Glamis the combination of his Lordship and Hainsworth was once more Brechin's undoing on a bowler's wicket, and the total only reached 68, Glamis replying with 95, being the result of sixty overs of first-class bowling and fielding.

Interest in the last match, at Montrose, was centered in the hope of reaching the 3000 aggregate for the season. Steele, the Montrose professional, took his benefit that day, but no doubt it was the remarkable cricket of Brechin throughout the summer which accounted for the largest attendance

of spectators I have seen at Union Park. Nor were they disappointed. Steele played a good innings, getting 33 of Montrose's 70.

Brechin was at its brightest and best. Going in first, D. Ferrier and I scored very fast, and 45 was up in a few overs. Parkes then monopolised the hitting, playing splendidly. He got 65, in which were nine fours and a magnificent straight drive out of the ground. He left at 146 for 6 wickets, at which point four runs were required for the desired 3000. C. Ferrier by a huge drive out of the ground passed the coveted number, and one run later the closure was applied. Parkes rounded off his excellent doings throughout the season with 7 wickets for 18 runs, and Lammond just managed to get his 50 wickets.

The visit of Leith Caledonian in the middle of August provided a most interesting match, which, had the closure been applied earlier, might have resulted in a notable victory. Their ranks included Woodburn, the most outstanding Scottish cricketer of the year, next to Douglas Ferrier; also Cairns and O'Hara, all fresh from the Scottish-South African match at Edinburgh, and the brothers C. and J. Ferrier. Cairns on the previous day got a century against Forfarshire at Forthill. Brechin gave a splendid exhibition of batting and closed at 182 for 8 wickets on a pitch which was by no means easy. Scoring was very equal. Parkes and Campbell led off with 37 and 34, then Lammond had 20 and Shand 23. Excellent defensive play was shown by Sam Edwards, 23 not out, and J. Lamb 19. Leith lost 6 wickets for 48 runs. Parkes bowled with deadly accuracy and nip from the turf, getting 4 wickets for 17 runs.

S. Edwards was the Captain and backbone of the 2nd XI this year, and headed the averages with 20 per innings. He had been of great service to the 2nd XI for some years, and only the exceptional

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strength of the players at call of the Committee prevented his earlier inclusion as a regular player in the 1st XI. Next year, 1902, he came into the eleven, and for seven seasons proved to be one of the most reliable run-getters. He possessed a strong defence, a powerful forward cut, a nice leg glide, and was an excellent judge of a run.

The second eleven contained several younger players who were to appear in due course in higher ranks; among them Wm. Ferrier, E. Croall, A. Rankine, W. A. Bain, and R. N. Clift. They easily won the championship of the local League. E. Croall took 55 wickets for 6.32 runs each, G. B. Finlayson 42 for 7.26 each, W. Ferrier 25 for 5 each, and A. Rankine 16 for 5.68 each. G. Cumming assisted occasionally and was third on the list of batting averages.

A separate school wicket was started this year, under the supervision of the professional. It was enthusiastically supported by the boys, who, through the tuition, made rapid progress in correct methods. Several well-known first-class cricketers owe their success to the foundations laid in this and subsequent seasons, at Brechin's "School Wicket."

Mr James Smart gathered a strong eleven of past and present Brechin players, including Parkes, J. Lamb, and C. Ferrier, to provide a pleasant finish to the great season of 1901, and some good cricket was shown. Douglas Ferrier had a hand in the dismissal of all the players in Smart's XI. He took 8 wickets for 18 runs, caught Laing off Shand's bowling, and ran out the other. The scratch team scored 61—Parkes 16, and D. Laing 11. Brechin made 120—S. Edwards 37, D. Ferrier 36, and J. Hollingworth 16. Playing to time, three veterans, J. F. Easson, D. Laing, and H. P. Gordon scored 25, 12, and 10. Dr Anderson acted as an umpire.

The batting averages for the season were naturally better than the best of the past. Ten

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players with twelve or more innings got double figure averages, and, all but the last two, over 220 runs. D. Ferrier had a triumphantly successful year. For Brechin he scored 489 runs with an average of 44.45. He got an equal number of runs in other matches, and with a dozen innings for Forfarshire was third on its list with an average of 30. Parkes was in splendid all-round form—second in batting, average 25; and first in bowling, 84 wickets for 5.77 runs each. The other batting averages were Campbell 22, Hollingworth 16, Lammond 16, O'Neil and Shand 15, Galloway 12, and Milne 11. D. Hill, in his last year, had an average of 9.30, figures which, ten years before, would have been accounted quite good. J. F. Lammond had reason to remember with a thrill of pleasure his share in the Club's success, as he also captured 50 wickets for 9.70 runs each in a dry, run-getting summer.

W. Campbell had jumped right into the front rank of batsmen. Included originally as a bowler, he developed into an attractive batsman, with a neat style, and was master of all the strokes. He was also a first-class fielder in any position. He continued for three more seasons to be one of the best all-rounders in the Club and County, and was then engaged by Montrose to fill the responsible position of professional to them for three years, after which he only appeared occasionally in first-class cricket.

Douglas Ferrier was, unfortunately, lost to Brechin cricket after this season, and was only able to play intermittently for the Club. He played for Uddingston in 1902 and 1903, and headed their batting averages in the latter year. Playing against G. L. Jessop's English XI, he clean bowled that great smiter after he had made 140, and took 4 wickets for 15 in the match. He also distinguished himself for Scotland against Sussex (second of the English Counties in those days of Ranjitsinghi

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and C. B. Fry) and the Philadelphians. Playing for Forfarshire against Perthshire at Forthill in 1902, he was the hero and match-winner on time with 79 not out, while in 1904 in the same fixture he scored 112.

CHAPTER XIV

CONTINUED BRILLIANCY IN 1902

ONLY 1 DEFEAT IN 28 GAMES

THE 1902 season was also most successful, only the match with Rossie Castle XI being lost. The weather, however, was very depressing throughout; four home matches had to be cancelled on account of rain, and of the seventeen engaged in seven were interrupted and interfered with, Brechin having on six of those occasions to handle the greasy ball. The Club came out of the ordeal well, only one of the draws being unfavourable. Only ten overs were bowled in the opening match at Perth, where Galloway (17) and Campbell scored 25 without loss. The spring holiday match with Crescent, Aberdeen, afforded good practice. Crescent scored 118 and six bowlers had a turn with success. A. O'Neil 35 not out, G. Shand 30, and Scott 21, gave a fine display of batting, and 172 was put up for 8 wickets.

Consistent batting was also shown against Forfarshire in a score of 145 at Forthill at the end of the same week. I was again highest scorer with 57. Forfarshire, after extra time, made strenuous efforts for victory and were within three runs of it. J. F. Lammond was generally successful with the ball against Strathmore, and in their score of 135 took 5 wickets for 15 runs. Time did not allow a finish, but Brechin, with 86 for 3 wickets (of which Gibb had 32, and Hollingworth 26), looked like getting the runs. Splendid cricket was shown in the return at Forfar, and a decision reached. Each side occupied the wickets exactly the same time, and the scores demonstrate Brechin's superiority, viz., Brechin 147, Strathmore 80. Gibb 32, Milne

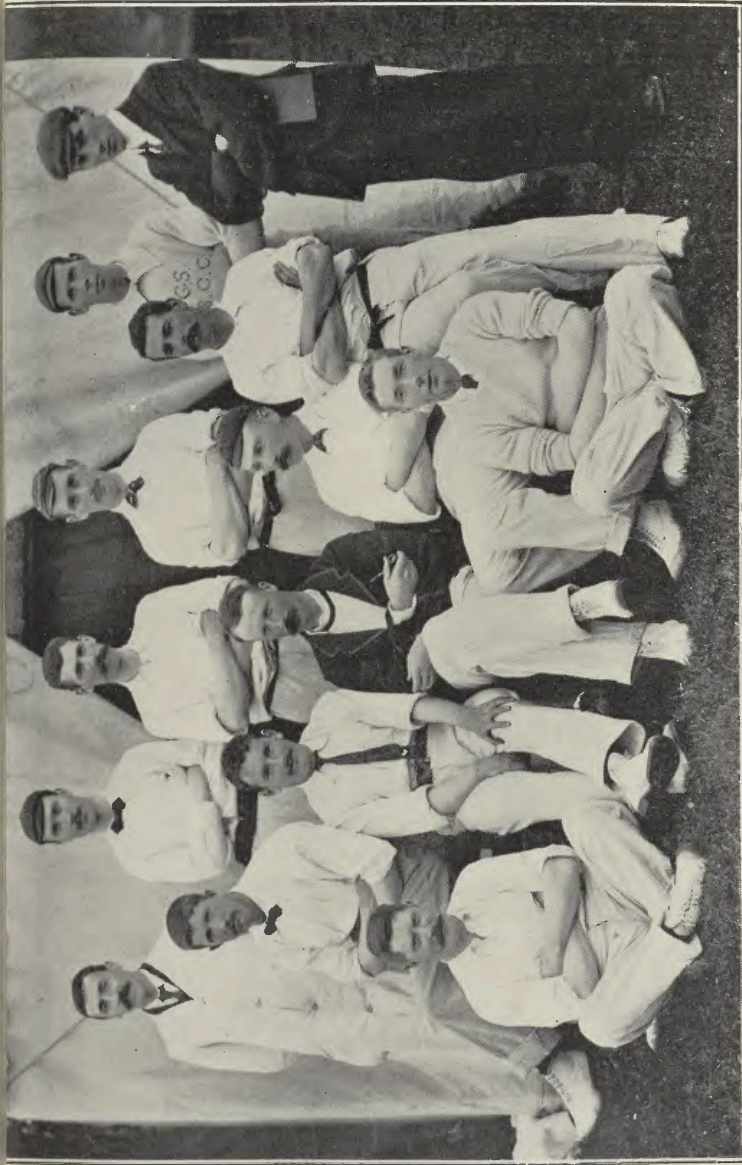


Photo by A. C. Milne, Brechin.]

BRECHIN C.C. 1902.

Standing—A. Potter (Umpire), A. O'Neil, D. W. Galloway, J. P. Gibb, G. Shand, J. Hood (Scorer).

Sitting—F. Milne, J. F. Lammond, G. M. Scott (Captain), S. Edwards, Parkes (prof.).

In front—J. Hollingworth, W. Campbell.

25, and O'Neil 18, played to the liking of the spectators, and Shand, Campbell, and Parkes were almost equally effective. The prof. took 6 wickets for 22. Against Forfarshire at Nursery Park, Shand 43, and W. Ferrier 26, played lively cricket. The score was 136, but the fielding broke down, and Kyd and Lindsay put on 108 without loss.

The most interesting performance of the year was in the match at Edinburgh against the Grange. Brechin was kept long in the field and Grange closed with 225 for 7 wickets. Brechin lost two wickets for five runs, and then Campbell and Edwards gave the finest exhibition of the day, remaining together until the close of play and carrying the score to 118 in one hour and a quarter. Both men batted perfectly, and the ball was never lofted once. Campbell never played a finer innings and reached 80, the highest score in the match, in which were eleven boundaries. Edwards' contribution was 29.

But the story does not end here. In the succeeding match at Nursery Park against Strathmore, which paid a second visit, those batsmen opened Brechin's innings after Forfar had applied the closure, and scored 98, when Campbell was unlucky enough to be caught off the last ball of the match. Campbell's score was 53 and Edwards' 30 not out. Those two fine batsmen had thus a continuous partnership in those two matches which realised 221 runs. This has never been equalled in the Club's history.

Rain spoiled one of the best fixtures, the visit of Selkirk, a first-class Border Club. The wicket was wet and difficult, and Brechin lost 6 wickets for 18 runs. Milne then came in and played an aggressive innings, carrying his bat for 44. Shand also played well and the score reached 88. Selkirk lost four good wickets for 25, Parkes taking three of them for eight runs.

Mr R. C. H. Millar of Rossie Castle had the satisfaction of being able, with his team, to inflict upon Brechin its sole defeat in 1902. It was a bowler's wicket, and, going in to get 62, Brechin were completely at sea with the left-hand slows of Johnson, Aberdeenshire's professional, who took 7 wickets for 21 runs, and all were out for 38. For Brechin Campbell took 5 wickets for 20 runs. It was observed that every now and then Brechin came to grief on a sticky wicket against slow bowlers; the players were never dismayed at fast bowling, but rather inclined to minimise the effect of the crafty tempter's deliveries, hence the occasional collapses, as in this match, and against Lord Glamis, J. A. Grant, Forfar, and later, Sievwright, Arbroath.

The players came away strongly once more towards the end of the season. Heriot's F.P.'s, Edinburgh, were easily beaten. Brechin closed at 123 for 3 wickets, Campbell and Milne hitting merrily for 51 and 36, both not out, while Parkes took 7 wickets for 23. At Glamis 155 was scored—Parkes 40, Milne 33, J. B. Craik 29, and J. Lamb 14 not out. Glamis was dismissed for 50, Parkes taking 5 wickets for 19 runs and Hollingworth 3 for 2.

Parkes was in great form in the last match at Montrose, taking 6 wickets for 15 runs, including the hat-trick, and scoring 52 not out. Montrose scored 76, and Brechin 213 for 7. The scoring was very fast. Shand got 59, Milne 38, and O'Neil 25. W. Campbell with an average of 28 won the Batting Cup. Milne, Shand and I each averaged over 20, and Edwards and Parkes were within a fraction of 20 also. Parkes headed the bowling with 59 wickets for 8.5 runs each. Campbell and Lammond took 21 wickets each, and Hollingworth 11. Brechin's average runs per wicket was 17, against opponents' 13.

The 2nd XI enjoyed an exceptionally brilliant season, not once having to suffer defeat, or being near it, so that of the 28 matches played by the two elevens in 1902 only one was lost. The local League was in abeyance during the season, and the 2nd XI entered the Strathmore League, which consisted of five clubs—Kirriemuir, Meigle, Alyth, East End (Forfar) and Brechin 2nd XI. They had no difficulty in gaining highest points, and the Cup. Such sides as Forthill XI and Craighall, Dundee, were also beaten, and the youngest member of the eleven, J. W. Sorrie, scored a splendid 74 at Forthill, thus early showing a capacity for innings on the grand scale. After another year in the ranks of the 2nd XI, Sorrie took his place among the seniors, and played many magnificent innings before he left for Edinburgh to become the leading batsman in the Capital, and Scotland's opening batsman in many a great international encounter against the Australian and South African teams, as well as against Ireland, Wales, and many English Counties. He has made large scores against the best bowlers in the world, and brought credit not only upon himself and Scotland, but upon the Brechin Club in which he first learned how to play the game and came to the notice of the public. With a fine upstanding style, and perfectly straight bat, which often appeared to the bowler to obscure every wicket, he was most difficult to bowl, and every loose or over-pitched ball got its proper desert with precision and power. He was a first-class fielder, and kept wickets for some time for Brechin, while as a bowler he could uproot the stumps of the best when called upon. He, of course, like Douglas Ferrier, played with distinction in more than one Forfarshire-Perthshire "Derby."

At the annual supper held at the close of this season, the late Rev. E. T. Thomson presided, and with his sparkling wit, great love of cricket, and

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admiration for the Club, made an ideal chairman. A very interesting feature at this gathering was the presentation by the playing members of the Club of a handsome silver cigar and cigarette box to Mr G. Monro Scott, the popular "skipper," in appreciation of his services as Captain of the Club during the previous ten years. Ex-Provost Guthrie, in felicitous language, made the presentation, and paid tribute to the thorough sportsmanship of Captain Scott, the enthusiasm he had infused among the members, and the splendid work he had done in raising the Club so high in the esteem of the public and in Scottish cricket.

Another interesting event during 1902 was the presentation of an address of thanks to myself for gathering together all the existing records of the Club since its formation in 1849. Since that time the records have been carefully kept up-to-date, and without them it would have been impossible to publish these annals. Few cricket clubs possess records so complete and accessible as those of Brechin.

Mr F. A. Ferguson, who had been Treasurer of the Club during the previous three years, was also specially thanked for his valuable services, on departing to Edinburgh for a time. After his return he played with success for the 2nd XI, and held the position of Honorary Secretary to the Club in 1907.

CHAPTER XV

FOUR ELEVENS TAKE THE FIELD

A TOUR IN THE WEST

THE 1903 season was again spoiled by wet weather, and fast wickets were few and far between. Nevertheless it was the most active playing season in the history of the Club. Four elevens took the field. The 2nd XI again won the Strathmore League Cup, and only lost against Forthill XI. In T. Pender, R. J. Bain, J. M. Caithness, E. Croall, J. W. Sorrie, and A. Rankine they had six first-class players who were a tower of strength, soon to be requisitioned by the seniors; in fact, Pender and Croall played a number of times for the 1st XI that year. The Wednesday section played 14 matches, and won the Local League Championship. W. Duncan, D. Easson, Andrew Ross, and D. K. Laing were the nucleus of a capable team. The School Wicket also played a number of matches, and beat all opponents.

The 1st XI fulfilled an ambitious programme, and in 21 matches only lost two in purely Club Cricket. Eight games were won and four lost, and of the eight drawn matches every one was definitely in favour of the Club. The usual pleasant rivalries were renewed with all old friends, but with characteristic enterprise a tour in the West of Scotland was arranged, and those powerful clubs were met—Uddingston and Greenock, joint champions of the Western Union, and Lord Eglinton's XI. The Club emerged from that tour with a greatly enhanced reputation. Other features were sub-

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stantial victories over Forfarshire and Arbroath United.

The opening match with XVI of Arbroath Association was won, and in it Parkes, by taking three wickets with successive balls, repeated his performance in the last match of the previous season. Then brilliant all-round cricket brought honour to the Club against Forfarshire. Sam Edwards played a fine innings, wearing down the bowling, and Hollingworth, who had 27 in the opening match, was also to the fore with another piece of good batting. The fielding was perfect, Galloway distinguished himself at point, and Parkes was in splendid all-round form. The finish was most exciting, as Rorie's wicket was taken by Parkes with the last ball of the match; he bowled throughout and took 4 wickets for 16 runs. Croall also bowled well and got 5 for 45. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

S. Edwards, b Kyd	...	...	...	40
G. Shand, c Stewart, b Lindsay	...	...	...	3
Parkes (prof.), b Rorie	...	...	...	24
J. Hollingworth, b Higgins	...	...	...	35
J. P. Gibb, c Grimond, b Kyd	...	...	...	0
W. Campbell, run out	...	...	...	9
A. O'Neil, lbw, b Kyd	...	...	...	2
G. M. Scott, b Higgins	...	...	...	13
F. Milne, c Pink, b Kyd	...	...	...	2
D. W. Galloway, not out	...	...	...	4
E. Croall, b Higgins	...	...	...	4
Extras	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	142

FORFARSHIRE.

J. A. Kyd, b Parkes	...	...	...	3
A. C. Lindsay, c Galloway, b do.	...	...	...	5
H. Pink, c Parkes, b Croall	0
G. K. Chalmers, c Hollingworth, b Parkes	0
F. G. Powell, c and b Croall	3

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FORFARSHIRE—*Continued.*

W. Stewart, c Scott, b do.	20
Higgins (prof.), c Galloway, b do.	8
F. J. Grimond, b do.	6
T. H. B. Rorie, b Parkes	19
E. Shepherd, c Hollingworth, b Campbell ...	0
B. Luhrs, not out	0
Extras	6
Total	70

E. Croall migrated shortly after this to the Kingdom of Fife, where for more than twenty years he was a well-known bowler, left-hand medium pace, in several clubs. One of his treasured performances was the capture of all ten wickets for Kennoway against Edinburgh University.

S. Edwards played another valuable innings for 39 against Strathmore, and a delightful 44 came from Shand's bat in the same match. Parkes, 52 not out, Scott, and Edwards were chief scorers in a good victory over St. Ronald, for which R. G. Tait, that great Scottish cricketer, made his first appearance against Brechin. Campbell 33, and Milne 24, were in evidence against Montrose, which team, thanks to the clock, escaped defeat.

The specially attractive game with Perthshire at Nursery Park was spoiled by recurrent heavy showers. It was remarkable in several ways. Brechin's runs were almost equally distributed in an unusual manner. Though there was no collapse there was no protracted partnership. Captain Scott had a big drive into the middle of the "kail-yaird," and Hollingworth brought off one of those catches which are never forgotten. Joe Anderson pulled a long hop from Campbell with all his might, and "Jimmy" at square-leg shot up his left hand, where the ball safely stuck. The scores were:—

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BRECHIN.

S. Edwards, c Kennedy, b Mitchell	4
W. Campbell, b do.	10
Parkes (prof.), b do.	1
F. Milne, b Creighton ...	...	13
G. M. Scott, c Kennedy, b do. ...	...	9
J. Hollingworth, c Smith, b Mitchell ...	...	14
G. Shand, not out ...	...	14
A. O'Neil, b Mitchell ...	...	12
D. W. Galloway, b do. ...	...	13
T. Pender, b do. ...	...	12
E. Croall, c Stewart, b do. ...	...	7
Extras ...	...	4
Total ...	...	113

PERTHSHIRE.

J. Anderson, c Hollingworth, b Campbell ...	...	5
W. Stewart, not out ...	...	28
A. K. Bell, b Parkes ...	...	7
W. L. Fraser, run out ...	...	8
J. C. Kennedy, b Parkes ...	...	6
R. Gardiner, not out ...	...	5
W. M'Donald, R. M'Gregor Mitchell, Creighton (prof.), C. R. Smith, and D. Black to bat.	...	
Extras ...	...	4
Total for 4 wickets ...	...	63

A low scoring match at Forfar on a bad wicket was won. The return game with Forfarshire at Forthill was lost through circumstances which favoured the County men. The wicket at first was very fiery and Brechin lost 6 wickets for 45 runs, Parkes and I being the only players to face the bowling with confidence. My innings was finished in a somewhat sensational fashion. After driving Higgins three times in four balls to the boundary, one of the bails was sent flying 47 yards by the next. G. K. Chalmers, the wicket-keeper, lost several teeth and was fearfully gashed in the lips by another ball. A shower of rain then took the

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fire out of the wicket, and the batsmen were more comfortable. Galloway played a fine not out innings of 41, and Hollingworth and W. Ferrier got 18 each, the total reaching 132. Principally through Sharp, Kyd and Lindsay, Forfarshire got the runs in quick time for the loss of 4 wickets, and were thus amply revenged for the defeat at Brechin.

A remarkable coincidence took place during Galloway's innings. Six years before, at Nursery Park, while Galloway was bowling to J. A. Kyd, the ball slipped out of his hand and rolled slowly up the pitch. Kyd promptly ran out and hit it to the boundary. Exactly the reverse happened in this game. The ball slipped out of Kyd's hands and revolved even more slowly between the wickets, giving Galloway the satisfaction, in his turn, of smacking it for 4. I wonder if any other two cricketers have participated in such an experience.

Before going on tour three capital matches were played with Arbroath, Dundee Victoria and Strathmore. Arbroath, after having 76 for two wickets, were disposed of by Parkes and W. Ferrier for 119. Brechin through brilliant batting by Campbell and Hollingworth brought about another victory like that against Forfarshire, in the last over of the match when 6 wickets were down. Campbell scored 43 and Hollingworth 38, both not out. Campbell played another beautiful innings at Dundee, scoring 61. Shand was also in fine hitting form, 33 not out, when the closure was applied at 158 for 7 wickets. Brechin's fielding was not up to standard, however, and the Vics made a good draw with 89 for 3, J. Sharp and Jolly, both strong hitters, getting the runs.

It was a year of many exciting finishes. Strathmore scored 66, and Brechin found the runs difficult to get. Shand batted throughout the innings, and when Lammond, the last man, joined him 12 runs

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were required to win. Lammond kept his end up, and then Shand, who had restrained himself so far, brought relief to the onlookers with a mighty hit out of the field, which won the match, and the total reached 74, of which Shand had 33 not out.

The memorable holiday week tour followed. Time prevented a decision in any game, but Brechin had the better of the opposition in every case, and the eyes of the West were opened at our calibre. Shand, who headed the averages, Hollingworth, and the Captain could not accompany the team, and their places were filled by Joe Anderson, Perthshire; J. B. Craik, Strathmore; and J. Jolly, Dundee Victoria; with D. Godfrey, Forfarshire, reserve. The opening match on Monday against Perthshire had to be abandoned after Perthshire had lost 2 wickets for 46—J. Anderson not out 15.

At Uddingston on Tuesday, on an excellent wicket, Brechin compiled its highest score for the season. Beautiful cricket was displayed. Anderson and Campbell gave a sound lead, as they also did in the subsequent matches. Craik's innings was most attractive, whilst Milne hit very hard. Some capital bowling and fielding got rid of six Uddingston players for less than half of Brechin's total. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

J. Anderson, c W. H. Patterson, b M'Nab ...	36
W. Campbell, b Hirst	17
Parkes (prof.), c Herbertson, b do. ...	6
J. B. Craik, b Lee	44
S. Edwards, b Thorburn	12
J. Jolly, c Hirst, b J. H. Paterson ...	2
F. Milne, c W. H. Paterson, b Cullen ...	38
A. O'Neil, not out	18
D. Godfrey, not out	15
D. W. Galloway and W. Ferrier did not bat.	
Extras	21

Total (closure) for 7 wickets 209

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UDDINGSTON.

J. Downs, c Godfrey, b Jolly	24
H. D. Herbertson, b Parkes	14
W. Thorburn, c Campbell, b Jolly	6
A. Downs, b Campbell ...	...	...	0
D. M'Nab, b O'Neil ...	...	...	27
Hirst (prof.), not out ...	...	...	19
W. Lee, c and b O'Neil ...	...	...	5
W. H. Paterson, not out ...	...	...	2
J. H. Paterson, W. Cullen and W. H. Dick to bat.			
Extras ...	...	...	7
Total for 6 wickets ...			104

Lord Eglinton's XI was very strong, including that wonderful batsman, C. T. Mannes, second only to L. M. Balfour during many years at the wickets; John Kerr, then a young man, destined to be Scotland's Captain and record scorer in many international games; Street, the old Surrey prof.; Welford, and other well-known cricketers. The eleven was unbeaten during the season, and was very fortunate in keeping its record intact that afternoon. Anderson and Campbell were again an ideal opening pair, and the total reached, though comparatively moderate, was the highest made by a visiting side that year. The wicket gave considerable assistance to the bowlers, which the Castle combination found to their cost when they lost 6 wickets for 31 runs. Parkes was unplayable, and it was hard luck when rain caused a stoppage of half-an-hour at that stage. On resuming, the wicket played easily, and two of the pros. by first-class batting saved the match. The following are the details:—

BRECHIN.

J. Anderson, lbw, b Batt ...	...	...	26
W. Campbell, c and b Street	27
F. Milne, c W. Tennant, b do.	2
J. B. Craik, b Batt	7
D. W. Galloway, lbw, b Street	16

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BRECHIN—*Continued.*

Parkes (prof.), b do.	0
S. Edwards, c Kerr, b Fairbairn	7
A. O'Neil, c H. Tennant, b do.	24
J. Jolly, c Batt, b do. ...	...	...	0
W. Ferrier, b do. ...	...	...	8
T. Pender, not out ...	...	...	2
Extras ...	...	...	13
<hr/>			
Total ...	...	...	132

LORD EGLINTON'S XI.

T. C. Barbour, c Edwards, b Ferrier ...	...	...	18
C. T. Mannes, b Parkes ...	...	...	3
Welford (prof.), b do. ...	...	...	0
J. Kerr, c Galloway, b do. ...	...	...	3
Street (prof.), not out ...	...	...	41
F. W. Fairbairn, b Parkes ...	...	...	0
W. Tennant, b do. ...	...	...	0
Batt (prof.), b Campbell ...	...	...	23
H. Tennant, not out ...	...	...	3
Rev. A. Copland and D. G. Ramsay to bat.			
Extras ...	...	...	9
<hr/>			
Total for 7 wks. ...	...	...	100

The concluding match at Greenock was of a stern order. Greenock sent Brechin in on a sticky wicket. Anderson, in first and out last, was a "monument" of patience, and played a masterly innings. Brechin's bowling was of a high order, especially that of W. Ferrier, and the sporting press gave the fielders great praise. Greenock took two hours to get its 82 for 6 wickets, ample testimony to the excellence of the bowling and supporting ground work. Scores:—

BRECHIN.

J. Anderson, b Graham ...	...	...	62
W. Campbell, run out ...	...	...	13
Parkes (prof.), c Graham, b Jenner	11
J. B. Craik, lbw, b do.	0
J. Jolly, c J. R. Kerr, b do.	8
S. Edwards, c and b Gordon	0

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F. Milne, lbw, b Jenner	11
A. O'Neil, b Graham	6
W. Ferrier, c J. Kerr, b do.	4
T. Pender, c W. Lang, b Jenner	0
R. Jolly, not out	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	121

GREENOCK.

John Kerr, c Craik, b Ferrier	...	...	...	9
Jenner (prof.), b do.	...	...	...	21
J. B. Walker, c Craik, b do.	...	...	...	0
A. L. Graham, c Ferrier, b Parkes	...	...	...	5
W. O. Lang, b Ferrier	...	...	...	1
J. R. Kerr, not out	...	...	...	18
W. Lang, b Jolly	...	...	...	20
J. H. Gordon, not out	...	...	...	0
H. Campbell, Waterfall (prof.), and D. G. Ramsay to bat.				
Extras	...	...	...	8
Total for 6 wks.	...	...	...	82

Joe Anderson has reason to remember that week with pride. In the Forfarshire-Perthshire match on the North Inch, which took place on the two days following the Grennock match, he scored 92, thus finishing a week of rare cricket with an aggregate of 231 runs. It was during this match that the grandstand collapsed on the second afternoon, and a considerable number of people were badly injured. Several of the Brechin players and friends were on the stand, but fortunately escaped unhurt.

After the successful tour in the West in 1903, two easy victories were secured over Montrose and Arbroath, but the team fell away unaccountably after that and lost the three remaining matches. Against Montrose on a soft wicket W. Ferrier took 8 wickets for 24 runs, and the Captain, Mr Scott, gave one of his best offensive and defensive displays with 41 not out. In a two-evening's match that

summer, between two strong elevens representing Caldham Works and Brechin, he gave one of the finest exhibitions of hitting against good bowling ever seen on Nursery Park, scoring 69 out of 85 in twenty-five minutes. Five times was the ball sent out of the ground, and five times to the boundary.

Another soft wicket was played on at Arbroath, and on this occasion it was Parkes who was unplayable, bowling 22 overs, eleven of which were maidens, for 24 runs and 9 wickets. Brechin got the 83 required (for the loss of four wickets) by forcing cricket, every moment being precious, and, as at Brechin, Hollingworth was the match winner. I got in "at the death" and gave him good support. Rossie Castle XI beat us in a low scoring match, Parkes again bowling well—7 for 16. The professional's benefit match was played on a good wicket. The opposing side, Mr J. Lamb's XI, gave Brechin a thorough drubbing.

Apart from Parkes and Gibb, the batting went to pieces against Jack Ferrier and A. M. P. Lyle, and 84 was the sum total of runs. Some of the scratch eleven having failed to arrive, substitutes from the 2nd XI took their place, and J. W. Sorrie, whose first experience it was of a first-class match, played a remarkable innings, in fact the only one of value. After being missed twice in the long field, he settled down and played like a Hobbs. Going in first wicket down, he carried his bat for 78, and stamped himself from that moment as a great player. I referred in a previous chapter to his subsequent career of outstanding ability. Mr Lamb's XI scored 153, and the only redeeming feature on Brechin's part was my 4 wickets for 26 runs. The curtain was rung down by Montrose gaining a substantial victory, their first since 1893.

The batting averages, in spite of the wet season, were good. Shand was top with 23; Parkes, Hollingworth, and Campbell had 16; Scott and

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Galloway 12, O'Neil and Edwards 11. Parkes took 69 wickets during the season for 8.03 each. Croall and myself had good figures, and W. Ferrier, with 29, the greatest number among the amateurs, gained the Bowling Cup.

CHAPTER XVI
THE FORFAR COUNTY UNION, 1904-1905
BRECHIN SUPREME

IN 1904 the Club's supremacy over most opponents was again marked, and every member of the eleven contributed to the excellent record. J. W. Sorrie at once took his place among the dependable batsmen, and in several matches two other young players, T. Pender and A. Rankine, justified their inclusion in the team.

A proposal to form a Forfarshire Cricket League had been the subject of discussion in the press, and it ultimately took definite shape this year. The "Forfar County Union," consisting of Arbroath United, Brechin, Dundee Victoria, Montrose, and Strathmore (Forfar), was the result. It was expected that competitive cricket, like competitive football, would attract the public in larger numbers and stimulate greater interest in the game.

The tendency of modern times to take games too seriously, and elevate the purely competitive element, as represented by championships, did not, perhaps fortunately, find much favour in our district. Cricket is the most loveable game in the world because of its sweet amenities, its grace and its humour, its good-fellowship and chivalry, no less than because of its science and technique, its thrilling moments, and all the chances and changes proverbial to the game. It does not lend itself to the excessive sternness and strain, and unhealthy partisanship which hang like a cloud over highly organised competitive and professional sport. The true spirit of the game appears when each match

is played on its own merits, between club and club, town and town, village and village, in healthy, honest rivalry. When cricket is played in that spirit and in conformity with its fine traditions, it is of greater moment than all the championships.

The Forfar County Union only lived for two seasons, and there appeared to be no regrets at its early dissolution. It served to demonstrate the easy supremacy of the Brechin Club in the County, and its power as a finely balanced match-winning side. In the two years only two games were lost—the first of the series in 1904 against Dundee Victoria at Nursery Park, and the last at Arbroath in 1905. Dundee Victoria was nominal leader in 1904, as Brechin, though relatively equal in points, was prevented by rain from fulfilling two fixtures. Brechin was easily champion in 1905.

As stated, the first of the Union fixtures in 1904 was lost. It was a game of surprises, excitement, and uncertainty. Seven Victoria wickets were down for 29, but the tail took the score to 96, and Brechin was dismissed for 52, victory going to the better side. F. Milne made 24 and Campbell took 5 wickets for 31.

Strathmore was vanquished with ease on both occasions. At Brechin they made 103; O'Neil 4 wickets for 16, and Parkes 5 for 27. Brechin scored 105 for 3 by sparkling batting—Shand 35, Edwards 30, and Milne 30 not out. At Forfar, Parkes, who was at his best this year, had a great personal triumph. Brechin closed at 201 for 6, when Parkes reached his century. He scored very fast, without a mistake, being particularly strong on the on side, and hit ten fours. Douglas Ferrier, who played in this and the match against Forfarshire, made 48 in his usual graceful way. The "Strathie" was dismissed for 67, Parkes taking 8 wickets for 32 runs.

Contrary to some expectations prior to the match,

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Arbroath received the same dose as their neighbours in Forfar—Brechin 197, Arbroath 81. Brechin's batting was most consistent. Campbell got 37, Sorrie 33, Shand 31, W. Ferrier 23, Edwards 19, and Galloway 15. Parkes had Arbroath's first four men out for 0, and the result was never in doubt.

At Dundee Parkes came away with another sensational batting performance, and scored 122 not out, without a fault and at great speed, hitting 20 fours and 11 twos. Milne got 21, Scott 18, and Rankine 17 not out. The closure was applied at 198 for 7 wickets. Victoria put up a stern fight against clever bowling and fielding, with the evident intention of making a draw. Nine wickets were down for 96 when the last two men were together. One of the two was their Captain, and he refused to continue the game, contending that time was up, and left the wickets. The neutral umpires pointed out that a quarter of an hour still remained for play in accordance with the regulation time fixed for these matches. On the matter being reported to the Union Committee, and evidence heard, they had no hesitation in awarding the points to Brechin. I took 4 wickets for 18 runs in that game.

Montrose was no match for the Brechin Club, being dismissed for 62; Parkes 8 wickets for 17 runs. Brechin replied with 148, of which Rankine and Milne had 27 each, O'Neil 23, Parkes 15, and L. G. Pattullo, a former Captain of the Club, home on holiday, 16.

Apart from the fresh interest aroused by the Forfar County Union matches in 1904, several interesting games were played. Kirkcaldy made its only appearance at Nursery Park, and Aberdeenshire and Cupar were met after a few years' interval. Parkes had a particularly good season, quite his best during the five years he was professional to the Club. He started with 35 not out,

and 10 wickets for 25 runs against XVI of the Arbroath District Association, and later in the season against the same odds of the Brechin City League he took 10 wickets for 18 runs.

The Kirkcaldy match took place in a gale of wind which rather spoiled good cricket. The men from the "lang toon," among whom was our old friend J. D. M'Petrie, scored 121; and Brechin had 100 for 6 wickets, Parkes 41 not out.

A good fight was made against Forfarshire at Forthill. S. Edwards (33) and J. B. Craik (26) made 61 for the first wicket, but Shand with 26 not out was the only other player to follow up the good start, and the total only reached 103. W. R. Sharp with 41 was the chief instrument in the County men's win by three wickets. Sharp was again in good form at Brechin, with 74 not out of their closure total 182 for 7—O'Neil 3 wickets for 28. Douglas Ferrier by masterly batting held the fort for Brechin and pulled off a draw. He had 25 not out, and Milne a hard-hit 21, out of 80 for 8 wickets.

Against Aberdeenshire at Nursery Park Parkes was again to the fore with 60 not out, and Milne got 22. The closure was applied at 153 for 6 wickets, but there was no time to finish the match, Aberdeenshire reaching 67 for 2 wickets. The return was played at Mannofield at the end of the season. Brechin travelled with eight men rather than cancel the engagement, and in the circumstances defeat could only be expected. The Captain played a good innings, 24 not out, and Sorrie had 20, but Aberdeenshire had an easy win.

At Perth Brechin had a lengthy spell of fielding against rather patient and monotonous batting. Joe Anderson got 83 and Dr C. C. Stuart 55 not out, and the closure was applied at 200 for the loss of only three batsmen. Brechin could not show the same caution, and just managed to save the match. A. Rankine played a safe and watchful game and

got 23 not out; Galloway, O'Neil, Campbell, and Edwards all scored fairly well, but this was an occasion when Brechin was outclassed on the day's play. St. Ronald, Aberdeen, also lowered our colours, but in the other matches Brechin displayed its accustomed form.

An extra match was played with Strathmore, Forfar, in which some good batting was shown on both sides. After Brechin lost 6 wickets for 38 runs, W. Ferrier and I entirely changed the complexion of the game by scoring off almost every ball, reaching 49 and 44 respectively, and the final total was 171. Strathmore got 119 for 8 wickets. The Cupar match was one of the finest ever witnessed at Nursery Park. Cupar scored 153. Shand 54 and Edwards 15, began in their usual careful manner and it did not look as if victory would result, but on Sorrie and Campbell getting together the best batting of the season was seen. Sixty runs were added in twenty minutes in those players' most attractive style, and when time arrived the score was 177 for 2 wickets, Sorrie having 50 not out and Campbell 43 not out.

Rossie Castle XI. did not repeat its performance of the previous two years, when it could boast like Cæsar, "*veni, vidi, vici.*"

The bowlers, who were so successful on sticky wickets, were simple on a fast one. Brechin hit up 194 for 6 wickets, each player making a satisfactory score, the best being Milne 51 not out, Parkes 41, and Campbell 33.

The averages as usual were good reading. Parkes scored 484 runs, with an average of 44. T. Pender and W. Ferrier had 24 and 22, but only played in a third of the matches. All the regular players had double figure averages. F. Milne and Shand almost tied for the Batting Cup with 18.50 and 18.46 respectively. Parkes also headed the bowling with 75 wickets for 8 runs each. I was

easily best among the others and won the Bowling Cup. The average runs per wicket of the team was the high one of 17.75.

The 2nd XI had another successful season, and R. J. Bain with an average of 17 was head of the batting averages. He was a keen and able cricketer, and could acquit himself worthily as batsman, wicket-keeper, and fielder, and was shortly to be fit for the best class of cricket, in which he maintained for many years the reputation of Brechin's "nursery" of great cricketers.

The Club continued its consistency in 1905, and maintained the high position attained in Scottish sport by the quality of its cricket. J. W. Sorrie succeeded me as Secretary, and held that position until his departure for Edinburgh at the end of the following season. W. Campbell left to strengthen the Montrose club as its professional, but C. Ferrier, having returned to the city, resumed his place in the eleven. His inestimable value and outstanding brilliance will be evident as the course of the Club during the succeeding ten years is traced. His brother Walter was another acquisition to the Club during the next three years, when his consistent batting was a great factor in many successes. T. Pender had won his place in the eleven before the end of the previous season, and he became for a short time one of the best, clean, hard-hitting run-getters. Of the 15 matches played in 1905 only three resulted adversely to the Club.

As previously mentioned, the championship of the Forfar County Union was easily gained. Strathmore had dropped out, and only four clubs competed, viz., Arbroath United, Brechin, Montrose, and Dundee Victoria. The first Union match was with Victoria, and for the first time the grass all over the Park was mown as close as the turf. The Vics put up a good score, 167, which necessitated the utmost efforts of the local players to sur-

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pass. Parkes played a fine innings of 58, as did Edwards and Sorrie although in a lesser degree. Montrose made a close match of it—Brechin 138, Montrose 114. Brechin lost 4 wickets for 31, but in the next thirty-five minutes 100 runs were added, of which I had the pleasure of scoring 72. Campbell got 24 for Montrose.

Arbroath was more easily mastered. C. Ferrier, who bowled with great "devil," 5 for 44, and C. Morrison, who exercised excellent judgment, were too good for them. Brechin got their runs in easy, light-hearted fashion. The scores were :—

ARBROATH UNITED.

W. Rae, b Parkes	...	...	...	...	5
Boyes (prof.), c Sorrie, b C. Ferrier	...	...	...	...	3
J. C. Duncan, c O'Neil, b Morrison	...	...	...	...	23
D. Storrier, c Parkes, b C. Ferrier	...	...	...	...	31
R. Irvine, b do.	...	...	...	...	3
N. Chisholm, b do.	...	...	...	...	13
P. Barclay, b Morrison	...	...	...	...	0
R. Shaw, c Morrison, b C. Ferrier	...	...	...	...	4
J. Blair, c Hollingworth, b Morrison	...	...	...	...	9
P. R. K. Leslie, b do.	...	...	...	...	0
G. C. M'Leod, not out	...	...	...	...	2
Extra	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	94

BRECHIN.

J. Hollingworth, c Duncan, b Storrier	...	...	...	...	6
W. M. Ferrier, c M'Leod, b Boyes	...	...	...	...	29
Parkes (prof.), b M'Leod	...	...	...	...	31
C. Ferrier, stp Blair, b Duncan	...	...	...	...	17
D. Easson, c and b do.	...	...	...	...	7
S. Edwards, stp Blair, b do.	...	...	...	...	20
F. Milne, lbw, b do.	...	...	...	...	0
J. W. Sorrie, b Boyes	...	...	...	...	38
A. O'Neil, c Boyes, b Duncan	...	...	...	...	16
C. Morrison, run out	...	...	...	...	7
T. Pender, not out	...	...	...	...	8
Extras	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	181

After the fine victory over Arbroath in the Union match at Nursery Park in 1905, another splendid game was won at Dundee against the Victoria. The Victoria scored 125, and for a time Brechin did not seem likely to get the runs. S. Edwards, C. Ferrier, and Parkes had scored 18 each, but 7 wickets were down for 72. W. Ferrier then joined Sorrie, who had been playing patiently, and those two commenced to hit the bowling all over the field, and won the match. W. Ferrier had 36, and Sorrie 35, and the score reached 152. Montrose was beaten by 123 to 71. Pender was the "star" batsman here with 49, and Parkes took 8 wickets for 24 runs.

Curiously the first and last of the Union matches were the only two in which Brechin suffered defeat during the two years of the series. This last game was at Arbroath, and the "Red Lichties" gave Brechin short shrift that day. The wicket in the early stages was rather tricky, and Boyes was in his best form with the ball, so much so that Brechin's batsmen made a comparatively brief stay at the crease. J. W. Sorrie and I were the only two who put up a fight, and all were out for 67. Arbroath passed that score for the loss of three wickets, and made 171 for 7. Boyes got 33 and D. Chapel, who hit very hard, compiled an excellent 63. This was Arbroath's first success against Brechin for six years.

Some of the other matches provided a considerable amount of excitement and pleasure to both players and spectators. The opening one against XVI of Arbroath Association was a low scoring game, 77—25. Parkes performed the "hat trick."

St. Ronald had the knack of stretching our capacity in those days, and almost defeated us on the spring holiday, 82 to 67 for 8 wickets. S. Edwards made 21, and I got 5 wickets for 21 runs. The game at Forthill was rather badly lost. The

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County men scored 151. C. Ferrier bowled and batted cleverly, but I was the only other batsman to do much, and all were out for 88. I had the pleasure of hitting a ball from Lindsay out of the Forthill ground that afternoon.

The match at Nursery Park with Strathmore was remarkable for a record unfinished partnership by T. Pender and J. Hollingworth for the tenth wicket. Nine wickets were down for 122 when Hollingworth joined Pender, and they took the score to 205, when the closure was applied. Both players gave a beautiful exhibition of batting. Pender's forte was the drive, and he got 76, and Hollingworth 52. C. Ferrier and Parkes dismissed the Forfarians for 47. Strathmore fared little better on their own ground, being dismissed for 37; Parkes 8 wickets for 8 runs. The wicket was of the dangerous order, and Brechin's score of 100 was a good one, C. Ferrier 32 and F. Milne 16 not out. St. Ronald visited Brechin again, and deservedly won.

The matches with Glamis Castle XI were always amongst the most attractive, both home and away. Frequently the home match was allocated for the professional's benefit, and there was always a record crowd. Brechin invariably did well. Many of the games provided cricket of the highest class, and finishes which were thrilling and exciting in the extreme, arousing enthusiasm in the most phlegmatic of individuals. Both the matches in 1905 were of this description. The one at Glamis was played on a bad wicket, and made a rare struggle. The scores speak for themselves:—

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

Earl of Strathmore b C. Ferrier	...	...	20
Hon. P. B. Lyon, c C. Ferrier, b Parkes	...	...	1
J. B. Craik, c Galloway, b C. Ferrier	2
R. H. Anderson, b Parkes	1
Hon. A. B. Lyon, b do.	0
Hon. J. B. Lyon, b do.	0

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GLAMIS CASTLE XI—*Continued.*

Plowright (prof.), c Galloway, b do.	...	0
C. V. Craik, b do.	8
Hon. F. B. Lyon, b C. Ferrier	23
A. F. B. Brown, b Parkes	... ..	5
A. Barson, not out	... ..	0
Extras	... ..	9
Total	... ..	69

BRECHIN.

W. M. Ferrier, c and b Plowright	... ..	33
J. W. Sorrie, c Anderson, b Hon. J. B. Lyon	...	3
F. Milne, lbw, b Earl of Strathmore	... ..	0
C. Morrison, c Barson, b do.	... ..	1
Parkes (prof.), c Hon. J. B. Lyon, b do.	... ..	13
D. W. Galloway, b Plowright	... ..	5
T. Pender, b do.	... ..	1
W. Duncan, run out	... ..	2
W. Ferrier, stp J. B. Craik, b Plowright	... ..	0
D. G. C. Scott, not out	... ..	6
C. Ferrier, b Plowright	... ..	2
Extras	... ..	8
Total	... ..	74

The respective professionals, Parkes and Plowright, had splendid bowling figures, 7 for 19, and 5 for 15.

The Brechin match was a truly sporting one. Glamis was sent in on a drying pitch, and L. M. Balfour-Melville made the most of it before lunch, by hitting 53, in which were a six and eight fours. Subsequent batting was also good, and the closure applied at 151 for 6 wickets. There was scarcely time for Brechin to get the runs, and the opening pair did not force matters. The subsequent men, however, aroused the enthusiasm of the spectators by the manner in which they went for the runs, especially when there appeared a possibility of getting them, and the objective was passed in the last over of the match by Pender making a glorious drive out of the field for 6. The scores were:—

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GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

Earl of Strathmore, c Pender, b W. M. Ferrier	6
L. M. Balfour-Melville, c W. Ferrier, b Parkes	53
R. H. Anderson, c Galloway, b W. Ferrier	46
E. S. Balfour-Melville, b C. Ferrier	... 22
Hon. J. B. Lyon, c Morrison, b W. Ferrier	0
Hon. P. B. Lyon, c O'Neil, b do.	... 9
Hon. A. B. Lyon, not out	... 1
Plowright (prof.), Hon. F. B. Lyon, J. Lammond, and A. Barson did not bat.	
Extras	... 14
Total (closure) for 6 wkts.	... 151

BRECHIN.

W. M. Ferrier, b Earl of Strathmore	... 30
J. W. Sorrie, b Hon. J. B. Lyon	... 8
Parkes (prof.), c Hon. F. B. Lyon, b Earl of Strathmore	... 24
D. W. Galloway, lbw, b do.	... 15
A. O'Neil, c Hon. A. B. Lyon, b Plowright	26
T. Pender, not out	... 30
C. Ferrier, not out	... 4
W. Ferrier, F. Milne, C. Morrison, and R. N. Clift to bat.	
Extras	... 19
Total for 5 wkts.	... 156

Apropos of the bowling of the Earl of Strathmore: on a previous visit of the Glamis XI to Nursery Park, when the Earl was then Lord Glamis, his Lordship had lured several of the Brechin cracks to dismal failure by his artful dodgers from the leg. During an interval, a well-known labouring man, keen local supporter, who possesses an unfortunate stutter, approached his Lordship and said, "Yi'rr a-a bloo-o-omin' fi-fi-fine b-b-booler, Maister Glamis. Yi did rael weel th' day." In the spirit of happy equality which the cricket field inspires, "Maister Glamis" took this in good part, and related the interview with amusement.

This reminds one of the incident which is

recorded on the occasion of Queen Victoria's crossing from Ballater to Invermark over the shoulder of Mount Keen on a visit to the Earl of Dalhousie in 1861. The Earl sent two of his foresters to the top of Glentanner to lead the way. The story goes that one of the foresters took the bridle of the Queen's pony as they went down the steep path to the valley of the Mark. The pony was not too sure-footed and caused the party, especially the forester, much uneasiness by its stumbling. The forester ultimately gave vent to his feelings by turning to the Queen and saying, "That's a fitterin' brute o' a powny o' yours, Mistress Queen." Instead of being offended, as several of the party feared, the Queen expressed her appreciation of the independence of mind and open speech.

The season closed with a visit from Forfarshire, but a late start, and stoppages on account of rain made a draw inevitable. Brechin closed at 123 for 3 wickets. W. M. Ferrier again played soundly and got 41. C. Ferrier hit hard for 29, and Parkes and Morrison were not out with 30 and 14 respectively. Forfarshire got 68 for two wickets, J. B. Craik batting nicely for 35 not out. This was Parkes' last match as professional for Brechin. He again headed the bowling analyses with 61 wickets for 7 runs each, and had a batting average of 18. He received the appointment of caretaker of the Carnegie Park, which was gifted to St. Andrews University by the late Andrew Carnegie, a position which he still holds. During the last twenty-two years he has coached the University cricketers, and played a lot of cricket in Fifeshire circles, and though now a veteran by no means lags superfluous on the stage.

Walter Ferrier headed the batting averages with 22, but did not play sufficient matches to qualify for the Batting Cup. T. Pender with an average of 20 gained that honour. C. Ferrier and I had

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averages of 16, and S. Edwards and J. W. Sorrie were also well up. C. Ferrier, A. O'Neil, and Willie Ferrier shared most of the wickets which fell to the amateurs, and the first-named gained the Bowling Cup.

CHAPTER XVII

BRECHIN LADY CRICKETERS

1906—CLOSE OF A GREAT DECADE

GLANCING back at the supplementary and lighter side of cricket in the early years of this century, I recall some delightful games in which the seniors played with the school wicket, and, one believes, gave them examples of how to bowl, bat, field, judge a run, call a run, throw in, and in general to “play the game” in the spirit of Newbolt’s famous lines. There were many ready pupils, and the standard of the Club and players was such that they were peculiarly fortunate. There were several practice matches also, such as “Married *v.* Single,” “Smokers *v.* Non-Smokers,” etc., which were the essence of all that makes the spirit of the game delightful. The following details of one of those matches played on two summer evenings in 1905 show how good sport they were:—

SINGLE.

G. Shand, b Parkes	...	...	...	0
W. M. Ferrier, b do.	...	...	...	18
F. Milne, c Laing, b O’Neil	...	...	...	30
J. W. Sorrie, lbw, b Parkes	...	...	...	3
W. Ferrier, c Edwards, b Hollingworth	...	...	...	9
T. Pender, b Galloway	...	...	...	27
T. M. Guthrie, b Hollingworth	...	...	...	7
W. Wyllie, b Parkes	...	...	...	10
A. Ross, not out	37
W. A. Bain, c Scott, b O’Neil	4
C. Ferrier, c Scott, b do.	18
Extras	15
Total	178

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MARRIED.

D. W. Galloway, lbw, b W. Ferrier	15
J. Hollingworth, b Sorrie	15
A. O'Neil, b do.	18
S. Edwards, b do. ...	...	7
G. M. Scott, stp Sorrie, b G. Shand ...	...	22
Parkes, not out ...	...	55
D. K. Laing, c Shand, b C. Ferrier ...	...	0
W. Adams, run out ...	...	0
A. Potter, c C. Ferrier, b W. M. Ferrier ...	...	4
A. M'Laggan, c W. Ferrier, b Guthrie ...	...	3
M. A. Jamieson, run out ...	...	1
Extras ...	...	22
Total ...	...	162

The young ladies also found that physically it is not only possible but comparatively easy to make headway with the game, and the sisters of several of the players, notably the Ferriers and Gordons, became no mean exponents of it. For some years there was a lively company of active lady players. A very interesting match was played in 1906 (should I give dates in this connection?) between elevens of Ladies and Gentlemen, in which the gentlemen had to bat, bowl, and field with their left hands. The ladies hit with great freedom and applied the closure. The scores were:—

LADIES.

Miss G. Gordon, c and b O'Neil ...	...	52
Miss M. Mitchell, b Adams ...	...	1
Miss M. Ferguson, b O'Neil ...	...	2
Miss M. A. Bain, stp Pender, b Milne ...	...	1
Miss A. Ferrier, c and b O'Neil ...	...	22
Miss G. Johnston, not out ...	...	36
Miss L. Mitchell, not out ...	...	2
Misses M. Gordon, C. Pirie, M'Alley, and A. Henderson did not bat.		
Extras	16
Total (closure) for 5 wkts.	132

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GENTLEMEN.

E. Fisher, b Miss Gordon	14
R. J. Bain, b Miss Ferguson	8
J. R. Gordon, not out	37
W. D. Adams, not out	...	...	...	12
G. Adam, P. Gordon, A. O'Neil, J. Adam, F. Murray, F. Milne, and T. Pender to bat.				
Extras	...	...	...	6
Total for 2 wkts.	...	...	...	77

It is not generally known that we are indebted for the discovery of round-arm bowling to a woman. This was in 1825, when Miss Willes (or Willis), bowling to her brother John while wearing a crinoline, found it impossible to swing her arm perpendicularly and had to bring it round horizontally. Convinced of the superiority of this "round-arm" bowling, John introduced it into first-class cricket. He, however, lacked the determination to see it through the storm that immediately arose, and it was left to two famous Sussex professionals, William Lillywhite and James Broadbridge, to revive it in 1827, exactly 100 years ago, and to see it generally adopted. The great W. G. Grace was coached by his mother, and Richard Daft is responsible for the statement that "she knew ten times more about cricket than any lady I ever met."

There are several clubs of lady cricketers who are capable players, and make large scores. Cases have been known in the south of a lady here and there with a regular place in the town team. A few years ago Miss Muriel Maxted, or Mrs King Turner, as she has since become, challenged Jack Hobbs to let her bowl to him. She is acknowledged to be a very fine cricketer. In 1923 she took 79 wickets for a little over 4 runs each, for Beaver Wednesday (Men's) C.C. She has even captained a team of men, the Ashford (Kent) XI.

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"Historicus" of *The Cricketer* records that 100 years ago, on August 2, 1827, the town-crier of Chichester announced: "This is to give notice that a very grand match of cricket will be played in the Stoneyfields, Halnaker, by eleven women, who have been lawfully married, decorated with orange ribbons, against eleven females, who wish to be married, decorated with blue ribbons: will assemble at the Marquis of Anglesea's Arms Inn, to proceed to the ground with a band of music, at one o'clock." On August 5, the same year, a match took place near Tunbridge Wells between XI Old Ladies of Southborough and XI Young Ladies of Tunbridge, for three bottles of gin and three pounds of the best gunpowder tea. The Old Ladies completely out-generalled the Young ones, and won by 52 runs. *Tempora mutantur!*

Mr G. M. Scott, who captained the Club for thirteen years, retired at the end of 1905, and was succeeded in 1906 by Mr Charles Ferrier, with Mr Sam Edwards as Vice-Captain. A new professional in the person of Edmund Fisher, from Kirkheaton, Yorkshire, took the place of Parkes.

Another good season was enjoyed; 19 matches were engaged in, 8 of which were won, 3 lost, 6 drawn, and 2 abandoned. There was little change in the personnel of the eleven. W. M. Ferrier was able to play regularly, and his brother Jack appeared for part of the season.

A great start was made in the opening match against Strathmore, though perhaps victory was sacrificed for run getting. Brechin scored 232 for 8 wickets before declaring, and Strathmore got 115 for 5. Five of the players got a good send-off, W. M. Ferrier 52, J. Hollingworth 52, S. Edwards 33, C. Ferrier 32, and J. W. Sorrie 24.

On spring holiday, Cults gave the Club a fright. After dismissing Brechin for 92 they had 75 on the board for 2 wickets, but Fisher and Milne tumbled



[Photo by Elliot & Fry Ltd.

THREE GENERATIONS :—

G. MONRO SCOTT, Captain, 1893—1905.

G. A. SCOTT, Captain, 1858—59.

D. N. SCOTT, Treasurer, 1926—1927.



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out the others for another dozen, Milne 3 wickets for 5 runs, and Fisher 5 for 22. The following game with Montrose was equally close, but, owing chiefly to Willie Campbell's good all-round work, Brechin finished on the wrong side, 69 to 72. Cupar was met at Bonvil Park, where our old friend Parkes played against us. Play only lasted three hours. Brechin closed at 110 for 7. S. Edwards played a fine free innings for 32, and Hollingworth was 22 not out. Cupar scored 46 for 1 wicket. Dundee Victoria just escaped defeat. J. W. Sorrie gave a great batting display and scored 75 not out, and I got 24. The closure was applied at 166 for 7 wickets. Victoria lost 9 wickets for 78. Sorrie played another fine innings of 41 the following Saturday against Crescent, Aberdeen, but Fred Milne was top scorer with 67. The closure was again applied—184 for 8. Fisher took 7 wickets for 15 runs, bowling very fast, and had Crescent out for 53.

The match at Forfar was played on a very fiery wicket, but well won. F. Milne took 4 wickets for 24. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Anderson, b Brown	...	...	...	32
W. M. Ferrier, b do.	...	...	...	8
F. Milne, stp Stewart, b Lones	...	...	...	7
J. W. Sorrie, b Robertson	...	...	...	19
A. O'Neil, b do.	...	...	...	23
R. J. Bain, b do.	...	...	...	2
S. Edwards lbw, b do.	...	...	...	19
Fisher (prof.), c Milne, b do.	...	...	...	18
T. Pender, stp Stewart, b Lones	19
R. N. Clift, c Thornton, b do.	0
J. Ferrier, not out	2
Extras	10
Total	159

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STRATHMORE.

D. H. Gourlay, c Clift, b C. Ferrier	5
T. F. Lamont, c W. M. Ferrier, b Fisher	0
G. Thornton, c O'Neil, b C. Ferrier ...	...	14
Lones (prof.), c Clift, b Fisher ...	...	6
J. Robertson, b Milne ...	...	33
A. F. B. Brown, lbw, b do. ...	...	1
J. A. Grant, not out ...	...	34
A. Stewart, b Milne ...	...	0
J. Prophet, b J. Ferrier ...	...	1
J. Anderson, b Milne ...	...	1
W. Milne, b Fisher ...	...	1
Extras ...	...	11
Total ...	...	107

Strathmore had the satisfaction of beating Brechin in the last match of the season at Forfar; its first victory over the B.C.C. for 8 years. It was a September day of overpowering heat. Strathmore got 132 and Brechin only 69. C. Ferrier worked like a Trojan, took 6 wickets for 36 runs and scored 29, but the others were "boiled out."

Montrose was thoroughly beaten on its own ground. Brechin scored 143 for 7 wickets and applied the closure. S. Edwards played a characteristic innings and reached 55 not out. J. Ferrier and F. Milne each hit over a score. Montrose succumbed against Fisher and C. Ferrier for 68.

The Captain had won the toss five weeks in succession and substantial scores were made—110 for 7; 166 for 7; 184 for 8; 159; and 143 for 7. Better was to follow. The toss was won once more and 188 for 6 (closure) made against St. Ronald. S. Edwards was again the hero, with a splendid 72 not out, in which were seven fours. Sorrie got 26 and C. Ferrier 21. St. Ronald effected a good draw by scoring 75 for 3 wickets.

Arbroath United gained a victory at Nursery Park on the first Saturday of July in 1906, after the sequence of large scores just mentioned, the

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local team, with the exception of Fisher with the ball and Galloway with the bat, failing completely. After this lapse the team was invincible, and played in a most refreshing and delightful manner.

At Dundee in the succeeding match against Victoria it demonstrated its true batting strength. Victoria scored 207, of which Jimmie Sharp (the international footballer, who was equally good as cricketer for his own club, Dundee Victoria, and Forfarshire), by magnificent hitting in front of the wicket, had 107 not out. Brechin replied with 146 for 4. Sorrie (55) and Milne (39) gave of their best, and the others who batted were equally at home.

The match with Cupar at Nursery Park was a finely contested one, in which the interest was maintained from beginning to end. It perhaps fittingly ended in a draw, though a palpable umpiring mistake in the last over snatched the fruits of victory from Brechin. The local side lost 6 wickets for 34, but the later batsmen showed commendable grit, and Fisher took the nine Cupar wickets, which fell for 68 runs. It will be seen that Cupar, though short of its full team, got capable substitutes and was a very hot side :—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Montgomery, b Parkes	...	...	...	0
J. W. Sorrie, b Taylor	...	...	...	2
S. Edwards, run out	...	...	...	2
F. Milne, b Taylor	...	...	...	12
Fisher (prof.), b Taylor	...	...	...	3
D. W. Galloway, b do.	...	...	...	9
W. M. Ferrier, c Parkes, b Montgomery	...	...	...	41
A. O'Neil, b Taylor	19
T. Pender, b do.	10
R. J. Bain, not out	19
W. D. Adams, b Parkes	4
Extras	16
Total	137

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CUPAR.

Taylor (prof.), c C. Ferrier, b Fisher	...	16
Montgomery (Ayr prof.), b do.	...	0
S. Parkes, c W. M. Ferrier, b do.	...	12
D. S. Cooper, c Adams, b do.	...	41
W. S. Birrell, c Pender, b do.	...	12
H. A. Newman, b do.	...	15
A. Wallace, c W. M. Ferrier, b do.	...	1
G. O. Muckersie, not out	...	19
D. M. Lindsay, c O'Neil, b Fisher	...	1
A. Shand, c W. M. Ferrier, b do.	...	9
P. Darroch, not out	...	0
Extras	...	3
Total for 9 wkts.	...	129

St. Ronald was played at Duthie Park, but rain prevented a finish. The first of several annual matches with Edinburgh-Forfarshire, a first-class touring side, was won. Fisher (47) got his highest score for Brechin in this game.

One of the finest achievements of the Club at Lochlands came next, when, as will be noticed, Brechin's batting, bowling and fielding completely outclassed the old rivals:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, stp Milne, b Chapel	...	51
Fisher (prof.), c Irvine, b do.	...	28
S. Edwards, b Cargill	...	12
A. O'Neil, stp Milne, b Boyes	...	10
J. W. Sorrie, c Wray, b Storrier	...	27
W. M. Ferrier, not out	...	28
J. Hollingworth, c Boyes, b Duncan	...	40
F. Milne, not out	...	21
R. J. Bain, A. Ford, and W. D. Adams did not bat.
Extras	...	4
Total (closure) for 6 wkts.	...	221

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ARBROATH.

W. S. Bruce, b Fisher	0
Boyes (prof.), b do.	7
Wray (prof.), run out	3
D. Storrier, c Hollingworth, b O'Neil	7
R. Irvine b do.	...	...	...	0
N. W. Chisholm, c Edwards, b C. Ferrier	...	...	...	14
G. G. G. Milne, b O'Neil	...	...	...	10
J. C. Duncan, b Fisher	...	...	...	11
D. Chapel, b do.	...	...	...	0
W. F. Cargill, c Fisher, b C. Ferrier	...	...	...	0
P. R. K. Leslie, not out	...	...	...	4
Extras	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	58

C. Ferrier made the first of his many huge scores at Glamis this year. A fine victory was gained. Glamis was dismissed for 97, Fisher 6 for 35; and Brechin scored 173, of which C. Ferrier had 79, R. J. Bain 28, and W. M. Ferrier 26 not out. Glamis had a much stronger side at Brechin, including L. M. and E. S. Balfour-Melville, R. Gorell Barnes, an Oxford Blue, and the Hon. J. B. Lyon, who was an excellent fast bowler and twelfth man for the Oxford eleven. These players were prominent on the side for several years. This was another of those thrilling and sensational matches with the ever-welcome side, led by the Earl of Strathmore. On a slow drying wicket which gave the bowlers considerable assistance, Brechin opened well, J. Hollingworth (18) and C. Ferrier (17) making 37 for the first wicket. After this it was a struggle for runs, and all were out for 80. Glamis, with only four wickets down, was within eleven of victory, but there were evident possibilities. Going on at the fall of the second wicket, I was able to take full advantage of the conditions, and when inspired captaincy by C. Ferrier led to a change of ends by Fisher and me, we were able, with the help of splendid fielding, to bring about a collapse, and

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amid great enthusiasm the last six wickets fell for seven runs. I took 5 wickets for 9 runs. For Rossie Castle XI, Parkes played a fine not out innings of 51 against his old club, and I again bowled with success.

Sam Edwards was at the top of his form this season and was easily at the head of the batting list, gaining Mr Christopher Wood's Cup with an average of 26. C. Ferrier, W. M. Ferrier, and J. W. Sorrie had averages of over 20, Hollingworth and Milne 17, and most of the others double figures. Fisher took 68 wickets for 8 runs each. I was easily best among the amateurs with 19 wickets, but was only called upon during August. C. Ferrier took 28 wickets, and a similar number was distributed amongst F. Milne, William, John, and Walter Ferrier. The average runs scored per wicket was again good, viz.:—17, against opponents' 12.

The season of 1906 closed a period of ten years during which Brechin cricket was in its flood tide of glory. The Club had been fortunate during that time in retaining a nucleus of experienced first-class cricketers. Such a happy position could not last forever in a small city like Brechin, and when the good players of the past dropped out gradually their places were not immediately filled, as had happened in so many previous years, by equally efficient young players. The records of 1907, 1908, and 1909 show an ebb in the tide, but the advent of several clever young players in the last year enabled the Club to recover its hold; fresh records were made and many first-class exhibitions of cricket given. Some of the most pleasant and thrilling games in the history of the Club fall to be chronicled, as will be seen, in the years to come.

CHAPTER XVIII

EBB AND FLOW OF THE TIDE OF SUCCESS

As has been indicated, there were fewer young players of outstanding ability in the second elevens of 1905 and 1906, and the places of J. W. Sorrie, J. Hollingworth, and J. Ferrier, who were not available in 1907, were not adequately filled for some time. The next two years were rather shadowed after the long period of brilliancy. In 1907, with the exception of Strathmore (Forfar), which was defeated three times, all the old friends claimed a victory, and Arbroath United was Brechin's superior twice. Only four players were in anything like their usual form—C. Ferrier, A. O'Neil, W. M. Ferrier, and F. Milne—which was in striking contrast to the former years, when the majority of the eleven was invariably reliable in some department at every match.

An encouraging start was made against Forfarshire at Forthill. This was Ringrose's first match with the County. He took the place so long held by Higgins. Higgins was by no means a spent force, but his best days in the field were over. Ringrose had done some remarkable bowling for Yorkshire, but had not the physique for continuous English County Cricket. He was, naturally, a great force in Scotland for some years as a fast bowler, and many notable deeds were performed by him for Forfarshire. The County Club was not content with one professional in those days, and Chambers of Notts, a sturdy left-hand bowler, was also on the staff, and Brechin was generally faced by the full

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complement of paid men. Forfarshire scored 214 for 7 wickets in this match, and Brechin replied with 156, a total only surpassed once by visitors at Forthill that year. A chapter of accidents befell Brechin, three run outs and three lbw's, or a larger score would likely have been made. C. Ferrier was run out before he got a ball. W. M. Ferrier (38) and S. Edwards (29) played fine cricket. "Mr Extras" proved that he may occasionally be a most useful twelfth man, and provided the unusually large number of 35, that great Forfarshire and Scottish 'keeper, G. K. Chalmers, being unable to co-operate successfully with Ringrose on this initial occasion.

Aberdeen University was met for the first time since 1882, and several interesting matches were played with them onwards till 1914. Brechin men distinguished themselves from time to time in the 'Varsity ranks, and in this first encounter the Ferrier family was prominent. Batting first on a sodden wicket, the students made a good show before a Brechin crowd, and were in a position to closure their innings at 150 for 6 wickets. W. Ferrier scored 53, and took the two Brechin wickets which fell. The local side got 97 for 2 wickets when time arrived, of which C. Ferrier had 60, and Paul Gordon 22 not out.

This was a miserably wet summer, and many of the matches were played on soft wickets. A heavy defeat was administered by Montrose at Nursery Park, 115—58, due to Campbell, 6 wickets for 22, and R. C. H. Millar, who amassed 63. Sam Edwards was the most successful of seven bowlers tried, taking 3 wickets for 3 runs. Arbroath, for a change, found Brechin easy prey. At Arbroath, Fisher and I got them out for 80, and when Galloway (26) and W. M. Ferrier (14) had 41 on the board for the loss of one wicket the position appeared to be rosy. But a sorry transformation occurred, and the side was out for 60.

A young left-handed bowler called Sievwright, on getting the ball, found ready victims, and by taking 7 wickets for 6 runs in 10 overs established his place in the team, and began a great career, which is by no means ended yet. This must be one of his greatest performances, and though he often bowled better in subsequent years against Brechin he never again finished with such exceptional figures. R. W. Sievwright has represented his country as a bowler against many Australian, South African, and English elevens, and never failed to justify his selection. He keeps a model length, breaks just the necessary few inches from either side, and uses the yorker and faster ball with uncanny psychology. On perfect wickets he keeps the best of batsmen playing all the time, and with any assistance from the turf is deadly. He looks simple from the pavilion, but on closer acquaintance he assumes intriguing qualities which quickly bring the over-confident or unwary to grief. Of course he can be hit at times, and on a plumb wicket, but like all good bowlers is unperturbed by it. Those who have withstood him oftenest are the first to acknowledge his subtle skill.

Arbroath was met at Nursery Park in the following match, and again won easily, scoring 177 to Brechin's 96. C. Ferrier bowled well and secured 7 wickets for 54. W. M. Ferrier and I scored most of the runs. St. Ronald registered a huge win at Aberdeen, and Aberdeenshire was well on the road to victory at Brechin.

There was some consolation, amid these debacles, in three victories over Strathmore, Forfar. The first, on Nursery Park, was a bowlers' match, scores 51 to 30. Fisher for Brechin took 8 wickets for 9 runs, and Grant for Forfar 8 for 27. An exhibition game of one hour's batting each was then played, when the large number of 250 runs was scored—Strathmore 88 for 6 wickets, and Brechin

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162 for 6—C. Ferrier 69 not out, P. Gordon 32, and F. Milne 20. At Forfar the scores were—Strathmore 97, Brechin 108 for 8 wickets. In the last match of the season at Nursery Park, when the Clubs met again, Strathmore was dismissed for 51, after which a magnificent exhibition of batting was given by F. Milne, 74, and Douglas Ferrier, 58, in a total of 167 for 3 wickets.

Not until 1st August was there a fast wicket, and on that day a delightful game was played, where the bat, in the hands of experts, was supreme. Edinburgh Royal High School F.P.'s were the visitors, and they made the fine score of 214 for 7 wickets, of which their professional, Gaukrodger, scored 100 not out. Brechin was not far behind with 183 for 9 wickets, chief contributors being J. W. Sorrie (70), W. M. Ferrier (38), Fisher (27), and D. Ferrier (20). Edinburgh-Forfarshire provided a good match, scoring 123 against Brechin's 127 for 6 wickets. The Captain, C. Ferrier, was in his element, scoring a brilliant 84.

The visit of Forfarshire attracted the largest crowd of the season, which was interested to see Ringrose, their famous professional. The County was exceptionally strong with their three professionals, also Douglas Ferrier, J. B. Craik (Forfar), and Dawson, prof. to Dundee Victoria. A very sporting match took place, the interest being sustained from start to finish, as the fortune of the game fluctuated. Ringrose was seen at his best on a drying wicket, bowling very fast, and swerving in a most disconcerting manner. F. Milne and I were the only players to make any headway. I happened to be in particularly good form against the formidable attack. Forfarshire had to strive hard for victory, and had D. Ferrier not stayed with Chambers and helped to add 77 for the third wicket it is exceedingly doubtful if they would have succeeded. The details were:—

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BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c and b Ringrose	11
S. Edwards, b do.	1
W. D. Adams, b Chambers	1
W. M. Ferrier, lbw, b do.	0
A. O'Neil, not out ...	...	...	...	46
W. Ferrier, b Ringrose ...	...	...	...	1
F. Milne, b Higgins ...	...	...	...	14
Fisher (prof.), b do. ...	...	...	...	0
R. J. Bain, run out ...	...	...	...	2
P. Gordon, b Ringrose ...	...	...	...	7
A. B. Edwards, b do. ...	...	...	...	4
Extras ...	...	...	...	8
Total ...	...	...	...	95

FORFARSHIRE.

J. B. Craik, c W. M. Ferrier, b Fisher ...	...	...	...	7
T. H. B. Rorie, lbw, b W. Ferrier ...	...	...	...	0
D. Ferrier, c Bain, b O'Neil ...	...	...	...	19
Chambers (prof.), c Bain, b C. Ferrier ...	...	...	...	55
W. Stewart, c W. Ferrier, b O'Neil ...	...	...	...	0
Dawson (prof.), c and b Fisher ...	...	...	...	5
W. Ovenstone, c Edwards, b do. ...	...	...	...	17
E. A. Shepherd, b do. ...	...	...	...	7
Higgins (prof.), not out ...	...	...	...	0
Ringrose (prof.) and J. Crighton to bat.	...	...	...	...
Extras ...	...	...	...	7
Total for 8 wkts. ...	...	...	...	117

Glamis Castle XI enjoyed a pronounced success at Nursery Park, by scoring 159 on a soft wicket, and dismissing Brechin for 39. By taking 7 wickets for 36 in such an innings, I proved that the Captain's policy of sending Glamis to bat after winning the toss was not altogether foolish, but the other bowlers were unable to make as good use of their opportunities. The veteran L. M. Balfour-Melville hit as well as ever, and Hon. J. B. Lyon both batted and bowled in fine style. C. F. Younger, a slow left-hand bowler, was very effective, taking 5 wickets for 8 runs. Rossie Castle XI was also too

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good for Brechin this year. M. R. Dickson, who was to bring back some of Arbroath's lost glory, and lead Scotland's select in many international games, was Mr Millar's chief scorer. The totals were—Rossie Castle XI, 141; Brechin, 69 (W. M. Ferrier 27, F. Milne 16).

The return game with Montrose at Union Park was one of the best between the clubs, fluctuating in a most interesting way and typifying cricket which is always worth playing and watching. Montrose lost 4 wickets for 3 runs, 5 for 34, 6 for 64, 7 for 103, and were all out for 105. Brechin's innings was more consistent, but 7 wickets were down for 67. Fisher and P. Gordon then took the score to 98. The ninth wicket fell at 103, but Fisher and D. M. Lindsay got the necessary runs in the last over and were not out at 107. This was Fisher's match; he took 5 wickets for 41 and carried his bat for 26, bringing victory at the critical time. A stubborn 23 from S. Edwards earlier in the innings was another factor in the welcome success.

Fisher's record for the season was rather poor, but the wickets were unsuitable for a fast bowler. He took 46 wickets for 13 runs each. I took first place in the bowling department. W. Ferrier, F. Milne, and C. Ferrier were the other leading bowlers. C. Ferrier, W. M. Ferrier, F. Milne and I were the only players to reach double figure batting averages. The average runs scored per wicket was four less than those of the opposing sides. Fielding, too, was not up to the former standard. The players were value for better things, and with re-organisation the desired recovery was ultimately effected.

To bring the 2nd XI again into line with events, I must refer to seasons 1905, 1906, and 1907. In 1905, G. Shand was of great assistance, and made large scores when he was able to play. D. Easson, son of J. F. Easson, a former well-known batsman,

gave special promise. The batting generally was good, A. Shand, G. Adam, W. D. Adams, and A. Chalmers all shaping well. Easson and Adams found their way in due course into the 1st XI. In 1906 R. J. Bain was so good in the early matches that he was drafted into the senior ranks, in which he was always fit company thereafter. Jack Gordon was leading batsman, and he too eventually became a member of the 1st. W. D. Adams was very consistent with the bat, as was also F. A. Ferguson, who played a fine innings of 36 at Fort-hill against Forfarshire's reserves. The Captain (D. Stewart) and D. Gourlay formed another pair of steady players. A. Chalmers was best amongst a quartette of bowlers, with 30 wickets for 6 runs apiece. D. Glen, Fitzroy Murray, and D. Gourlay were the other three who rendered good service with the ball. The side did very well, but in 1907 they did better, and in the following two seasons won the majority of their matches.

A. Reoch and W. Eddie were a splendid pair of batsmen in 1907, and while both gained promotion through their batting they became equally useful with the ball. W. Eddie, though the youngest member of the team, gave evidence of a quickness of vision and fine timing as a batsman, and activity and accuracy as a fielder beyond the others, and the Committee showed sound judgment by including him in the 1st XI from the start of the following season. His powers as a bowler were still in the embryo stage, but in 1909 he got his opportunity, and developed into one more of those complete cricketers who have arisen in Brechin and brought renown to the Club by their many great performances against the leading combinations of players in the land.

W. Wyllie won the 2nd XI Bowling Cup in 1907 with the fine figures of 45 wickets for 6.50 runs each. Tom Pender, like G. Shand, was not above

lending a hand to the juniors after his senior days were over, and gave them valuable aid as a bowler in 1907 and 1908. In a few matches in those seasons he took 34 wickets for exactly 3 runs each.

Archie Ross was Captain in 1908, and gave a good lead in many games, winning the Batting Cup. Fitzroy Murray, who had bowled very consistently for a few seasons, gained the Bowling Cup. D. Easson and J. R. Gordon gained a permanent place in the 1st XI by their displays. R. L. Laing and G. Y. Macfarlane from the school wicket made their debut, and the former showed such a sound style of batting that, like Eddie the previous year, he was at once drafted into the 1st XI at the beginning of the following season. He was an apt pupil of Smith, the professional, and before the end of his first year in the senior ranks he was entrusted to open the innings along with C. Ferrier, an arrangement which proved to be ideal in every respect.

South African cricket reached its zenith in 1907. Never before was a visiting side to England so rich in clever and accomplished bowlers as the South Africans that summer. It contained eight first-class bowlers, four of them those masters of the "googly"—Schwarz, Vogler, Faulkner, and White. Their batting, too, was remarkable for its consistency, and the side was very difficult to overcome. Their greatest run-getter and stoutest defender of the wickets was A. D. Nourse, now the "G.O.M." of South African cricket, who has scored more runs against England than any other South African. Nourse was a personal friend of one of the members of Arbroath United, and when the South Africans were in Scotland he spent a few days in Arbroath. The Arbroath Club officials were naturally anxious to have Nourse appear if possible in a cricket match during his stay, and I was asked to collect a scratch eleven and provide a game.

The hope of seeing Nourse play a big innings was

realised. Coming fresh from a century at Glasgow against "All Scotland," he scored 101 before being doubly out, both caught and stumped by D. K. Laing off W. D. Adams, who, as it happened, was a native of South Africa. Nourse, who is left-handed, combined watchful defence and powerful hitting, which were well worth seeing and learning from at close quarters.

D. K. Laing, who kept wickets for the Wednesday XI of the Club, was destined to convert what had been rather a weak spot for a few years into a strong one. The value of a first-class "keeper" in a side is inestimable. A. B. Edwards, who had no pretensions in that capacity, very pluckily filled the breach during 1907, but with the advent of Smith, the new professional, a left-hand slow bowler, the position of stumper assumed great importance, and the Club was fortunate in finding the right man in Laing. The eleven was also strengthened by the inclusion of W. Eddie, and later D. Easson, as aforementioned. W. M. Ferrier, who had left the city, was much missed, however. I was appointed Captain of the Club, with Sam Edwards Vice-Captain, and D. W. Galloway Hon. Secretary, and gradually the playing strength was restored to something like its standard of a few years earlier, while the financial position was also improved. The younger element, which was encouraged by the Committee, and to which Smith proved an admirable, painstaking, and enthusiastic coach, was a great asset in the field, while its batting and bowling developed quickly. There was a happy blend of experience and youth.

C. Ferrier became the outstanding personality as batsman, and he frequently bowled with good effect, while he always fielded magnificently. Batting always makes a vivid appeal to the general public, and there is no doubt that one of the great attractions to lovers of the game in Brechin and district

from this time until the War was the consistent brilliance of Charles Ferrier's batting. Though never rising to great representative occasions like his brother Douglas, he was equally good to watch, and in the plenitude of his powers a faster and more prolific scorer. "Chick," to use his popular cognomen, undoubtedly ranked amongst the greatest Scottish batsmen of the early twentieth century. From his return in 1905, until 1914, ten seasons, he scored for the Brechin Club 4911 runs, with an average of 29.40, while an additional odd thousand at least came from his bat in other games. From 1910 he practically dominated the batting. Compiler of many centuries, he had the rare achievement in Scottish cricket of scoring 200 runs in a first-class match. This was at Glamis in 1913. Vigorous, various, versatile, no field could contain the ball when he was in form. Far from rash, he was one of the soundest and most correct of players, but he was quick to "get in his eye" and "get off the mark," adapt himself to all wickets, and smite all sorts of bowling by clean powerful strokes in every direction. Shall we ever see his like again?

The records of this new season, 1908, certainly showed promise, and had the drawn matches been finished a majority of victories would have resulted. The Club suffered through cancelled engagements, and it was the middle of June until a first-class match was seen at Nursery Park.

Our neighbouring club, Montrose, which was again a good side, was met at Union Park in the first match of the season, and a close and interesting game took place. D. W. Galloway played a fine innings for 37, and W. Eddie got 16 of a total of 73, the others quite evidently being short of practice. F. Milne, bowling with something like his old vim, took 6 wickets for 15 runs, and Montrose was dismissed for 58.

Though lacking C. Ferrier, and with half the

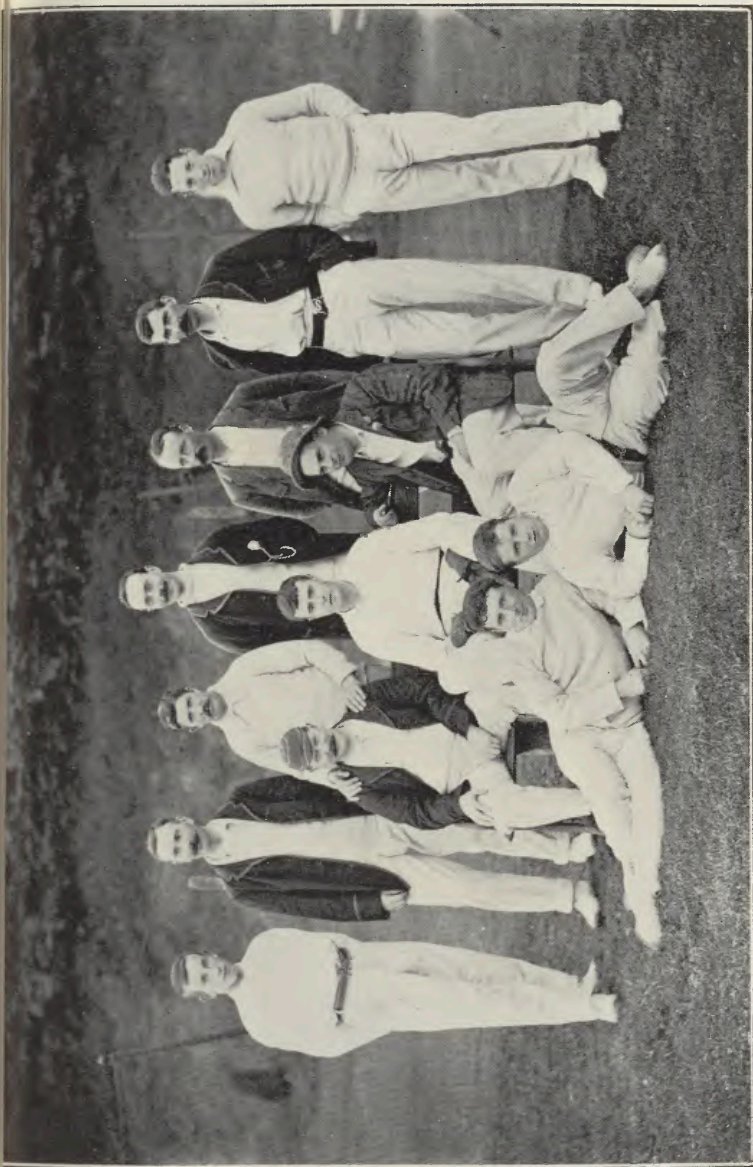


Photo by A. C. Milne, Brechin.]

BRECHIN C.C. 1908.

Standing—W. Eddie, S. Edwards, F. Milne, A. O'Neil (Captain), G. M. Scott, D. W. Galloway, J. R. Gordon.

Sitting—J. Hollingworth, D. K. Laing and C. Ferrier.

Reclining—Smith (prof.) and D. Eason.



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side without experience against such a club as Perthshire, the Brechin eleven, which visited the Fair City on the following Saturday, gave the "Big County" men a fright. Perthshire was at its full County strength. F. Milne by a notable effort bowled Joe Anderson with a lovely "swinger," and through subsequent splendid bowling and fielding Perthshire was disposed of for 116. I took 4 wickets for 33. It was an opportunity which a more experienced batting side might have seized with advantage, but one never knows. In any case it was a very creditable performance, and the young recruits acquitted themselves with distinction on the field. D. W. Galloway revelled in his position at point, and Jack Gordon in the country judged a big hit and brought off a lovely running catch. The scores were:—

PERTHSHIRE.

J. Anderson, b Milne	15
F. Smith, c Galloway, b Smith	13
Dr C. C. Stuart, c Galloway, b Milne	8
W. Lovat Fraser, lbw, b Smith	1
A. M. P. Lyle, c Gordon, b O'Neil	15
R. Gardiner, c Eddie, b do.	18
J. Henderson, b do.	14
R. M'Gregor Mitchell, b Adams	4
Sutton (prof.), c Galloway, b do.	1
Halmshaw (prof.), not out	24
A. K. Bell, b O'Neil	1
Extras	2
Total	116

BRECHIN.

S. Edwards, b Mitchell	0
W. M. Ferrier, b Sutton	7
D. W. Galloway, c Halmshaw, b Mitchell	2
F. Milne, c Henderson, b Stuart	22
A. O'Neil, c Fraser, b Henderson	13
W. Eddie, c Anderson, b Mitchell	0
Smith (prof.), b do.	0
J. R. Gordon, b Stuart	6

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BRECHIN—*Continued.*

D. K. Laing, b do.	0
W. D. Adams, not out	3
A. Wilson, c Gardiner, b Henderson	0
Extras	19
Total	72

Dundee Victoria won at Dundee in spectacular fashion. Brechin made a bad start, losing 6 wickets for 40, but Edwards (16), Eddie (34), and myself (33) enabled a total of 134 to be reached. The Victoria, chiefly through D. S. Cooper, holder of Forfarshire's record individual score, hit desperately, and in the course of 24 overs scored 140 for 7 wickets, winning within a few minutes of time. Cooper's share was 70. Needless to relate there were no bowling analyses to boast about that evening.

A very pleasant visit was paid to one of the earliest seats of Scottish cricket, Colonel Buchanan's policies at Drumpellier, Coatbridge, a hive of enthusiasm for the game, which the Drumpellier Club has maintained at a high level. Brechin unfortunately was not represented by its best eleven, but made quite a creditable appearance. The wicket was fast, and Drumpellier scored 211, Smith taking 6 wickets. Brechin's total was 118. W. Eddie with 33 was again top scorer, and Galloway played particularly well for 27. Aberdeenshire was due at Brechin the following week, and it was a great disappointment when they failed at the last moment to fulfil their engagement. A match was hurriedly arranged with a local club, "The Ancient City." In this game one of their bowlers, James Smith, who kept a most accurate length, just failed to capture all ten wickets. He bowled throughout Brechin's innings of 133 and took 9 wickets for 44 runs. "The Ancient City"

scored 49. W. Eddie was again chief scorer with 37, and six others reached "doubles."

St. Andrews University C.C. paid its first visit to Nursery Park and showed the players were good pupils of our old friend Parkes, their coach. Brechin closed at 142 for 9 wickets. F. Milne (40) and I (28) put on 68 for the first wicket. St. Andrews made a creditable draw with 86 for 6 wickets, of which Parkes had 35 not out. St. Ronald found our batting and fielding very much under par, and won by 194 to 106. J. B. Anderson carried his bat for 84 for the Aberdonians. For Brechin, F. Milne got 22, while I got 28, and 3 wickets for 23.

D. Easson had been scoring so well for the 2nd XI that he was included in the team chosen to play Arbroath United in the next match, and he batted magnificently, scoring a faultless 79 not out of the score of 191. C. Ferrier was next highest with 27. Easson had a fine eye, and was master of all the strokes, particularly the cut past point's left, and when set was second to none as a rapid scorer. He was also a first-class fielder and a fair bowler, and should have had a far longer career. This was also M. R. Dickson's first season as Captain of Arbroath United. He was a lithe and accomplished batsman, quite fit for English County Cricket, and was twelfth man for his 'varsity. Boyes and he made a fine start that afternoon by scoring 100 together, ere I went on and bowled them. The interest was then intensified as wickets fell fast, but Arbroath eventually pulled together again and made a good draw, getting 151 for 7 wickets, of which I took 4 wickets for 24.

The following week, at King's College ground, against Aberdeen University on a sticky wicket, Brechin had a good victory, 100—50. C. Ferrier scored 29, Smith 20, and Easson 16. There were capital bowling performances on the respective

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sides. I captured 7 wickets for 21, and Menzies for the 'varsity 8 for 38. Time robbed Brechin of a victory in the return against Dundee Victoria. C. Ferrier and F. Milne put on 74 for the first wicket. Ferrier made 62, Easson got 25, Milne 17, and Galloway 15. W. S. Whyte, who arrived late, bowled exceptionally well, and finished off the innings with the "hat trick," taking in all 6 wickets for 25. Brechin's score was 171 against Victoria's 115 for 8 wickets.

The visit to Forfar was particularly successful, the Strathmore Club being overwhelmed. After 6 wickets were down for 86, of which Galloway had 35, S. Edwards and I took the score to 179, and the closure was applied at 195 for 7 wickets. I scored 58 and S. Edwards 50 not out. Smith and I then bundled the Forfarrians out for 25.

Joe Anderson brought a Perthshire XI to Nursery Park and it was successful in a very interesting game, 117—95. C. Ferrier (32) and J. Anderson (29) batted well, while Sutton (prof.) and I bowled creditably for the respective sides. Brechin fell badly to Arbroath at Lochlands, for whom Dickson played a brilliant innings of 73, supported by Boyes 37, and Irvine 33. They closed at 238 for 6 wickets. Shades of the 'eighties! Brechin could only muster 54. C. Ferrier was badly run out, and S. Edwards the only one who could play his usual game.

The boot was on the other foot at home next week, when Montrose had the mixed pleasure of fielding out when Brechin piled on the runs till the closure was applied at 271 for 9 wickets. C. Ferrier 57, and Easson 36 laid the foundation, and Galloway (59) and Milne (58) built upon it without mercy. Montrose, however, which played exceptionally well throughout that summer, escaped defeat by getting 119 for 8 wickets at the close of play, J. Davidson, a good batsman, having 42.

The Glamis ground was now one of the best in the country, with a beautiful wicket and perfect outfield, a batsman's paradise, and large scores were the rule in the matches played upon it at this period. The Earl of Strathmore, at considerable expense, completely transformed the field a few years before, and it continued to be maintained in first-class order until the War. It was a pity it was available for such a short time each season. The turf was consolidated, and by the modern methods of top dressing was in perfect condition. Brechin had its first real experience of the new wicket this year, as rain had supervened in 1907 before the XI. got an opportunity of testing its batting qualities. Brechin had first knock but lost five good men for 50 runs before lunch, Galloway 19, and C. Ferrier 17. Thereafter the score was taken to 187 by A. O'Neil 45, A. F. B. Brown (Forfar) 30, and C. Lammond 29 not out. This respectable score was however completely eclipsed by the Glamis XI. Three wickets fell to me for 10 runs, but the Earl of Strathmore and his son Lord Glamis stopped the rot. The latter, with A. C. Don, now Provost of St. Paul's Scottish Episcopal Church, Dundee, gave a magnificent display of hard resourceful hitting, and when the last wicket fell the score was 275—the record against the Brechin Club. A. C. Don passed the century by 3 runs, Lord Glamis got 70, and A. Moon 44.

CHAPTER XIX

A CLASSIC CONTEST

THE visit of Glamis Castle XI. in 1908 a few days after its record score, was eagerly anticipated, and the reputation of the meeting of the two sides for first-class play and exciting incident was maintained from beginning to end. This game surpassed all the previous ones in its intensity of interest, and most dramatic finish. The respective elevens were stronger than those which met at Glamis. Hon. P. B. Lyon, R. Gorrell Barnes, the Oxford Blue; and the brothers Balfour-Melville came into the visitors' side, and Douglas Ferrier made a welcome appearance, his last, for Brechin. "Dug" was then in Sheffield where in the Sheffield United XI. he was as successful as ever, and he still played occasionally for Forfarshire in its big engagements, making large scores.

The Glamis XI. batted first, and the Earl of Strathmore defied the attack for over an hour, showing the full face of the bat to every wile of the bowlers, and getting several good leg shots. Barnes gave a delightful display of batting, but his dismissal was hailed with relief. It was brought about by a brilliant one-handed catch low down in the slips by D. Ferrier. More good batting as well as bowling and fielding was seen after lunch, and the score reached 144. Smith, who had not enjoyed the best of luck during the season, bowled with judgment and got a substantial and well deserved "benefit."

Two hours remained for play, time either to get the runs or to fall short. C. Ferrier with a single

and three successive cuts to the boundary made an excellent start. Two wickets were down at 39, and then the brothers Ferrier were together. Skilful bowling was met by masterly batting, and runs came steadily. The contrasting styles of the batsmen, each equally attractive and effective, were much admired, more especially as the famous brothers had seldom been associated at the wickets before, Douglas's regular Brechin cricket having been played during the years Charles was in Edinburgh. At 74 C. Ferrier was out. Then Reynolds, a Yorkshire friend of Hollingworth, kept his end up till 104 was reached, when D. Ferrier was run out. Forty minutes were left to get the 41 runs, but it proved no easy matter.

Six wickets were down for 118. Reynolds and I took the score to 136. There were three more men to bat, and a four bye brought the score to 140. There was only time for two more overs and excitement rose, especially as C. Lammond lost his wicket through risking a second run. W. Eddie then went in and cut his first ball for three, making the match a tie. Reynolds, who had stayed so well, was stumped next ball, and Freeman, the last man, joined Eddie. Eddie was to get the last over. Would the single run required for victory be secured, or would the match go down to history as a draw or a tie? The first five balls went past untouched. Up flew the last, well pitched, a little wide on the off. Eddie swiped at the ball in an endeavour to make the winning hit, but mishit it and gave a palpable chance to either of the two slip fielders. Both fieldsmen grabbed for the ball but failed to hold it, while Eddie stood spellbound looking on. Freeman, on the other hand, saw the position from a different angle, and made an instantaneous decision to do or die in the attempt for that precious run. Freeman was no youth and no featherweight, but he had played in good cricket in England and could

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judge and steal a run. His coolness and experience won the day. He had backed well up, as every good cricketer should in such circumstances, and yelled to his partner to run. Before the sound of Freeman's call had time to fade away he was up and safely into the batting crease, while Eddie had to hustle and sprint for all he was worth down the 20 yards and get home if possible. When the ball was gathered up after the fumbling it was thrown to the wicketkeeper who knocked off the bails when Freeman was easily in, and before he could get it thrown down to the bowler's end Eddie was safely in also, and the match won and lost. The whole incident took place in a flash, and was as fine an example of the proverbial chances, changes and uncertainties of cricket as one could wish to see. During those closing moments the spectators were keyed up to a crescendo of excitement, and the participants in the glorious finish were cheered again and again. Such matches preserve the very life and soul of cricket. The following are the full details of this classic contest :—

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

Earl of Strathmore, st. Freeman, b Smith ...	24
Hon. P. B. Lyon, c and b do.	9
L. M. Balfour-Melville, c C. Ferrier, b do. ...	8
R. Gorrel Barnes, c D. Ferrier, b O'Neil ...	29
E. S. Balfour-Melville, b Smith	1
Hon. J. B. Lyon, b O'Neil	20
Hon. A. B. Lyon, c Reynolds, b do.	13
L. Egerton, not out	12
Plowright (prof.), c and b Smith	6
Hon. F. B. Lyon, c Reynolds, b do.	0
Hon. M. B. Lyon, b do.	1
Extras	21
Total	144

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, lbw, b Hon. A. B. Lyon	33
J. Hollingworth, b Hon. J. B. Lyon	0
D. W. Galloway, b do.	10

BRECHIN—*Continued.*

D. Ferrier, run out	36
H. E. Reynolds, st. Barnes, b Hon. A. B. Lyon	22
F. Milne, st. Barnes, b do.	0
Smith (prof.), c Barnes, b Hon. J. B. Lyon	5
A. O'Neil, b Hon. A. B. Lyon	11
C. Lammond, run out	0
W. Eddie, not out	4
J. Freeman, not out	0
Extras	24

Total for 9 wickets 145

BOWLING ANALYSES.

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

	O.	M.	R.	Wkts.
F. Milne	6	2	8	0
Smith	20	3	67	7
A. O'Neil	16	3	39	3
C. Ferrier	2	1	9	0

BRECHIN.

Hon. J. B. Lyon	21	4	56	3
R. G. Barnes	5	1	22	0
Hon. A. B. Lyon	15	3	45	4

Runs at the fall of each wicket.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Glamis	16	32	78	80	83	112	125	136	137	144
Brechin	13	39	74	104	113	118	136	140	144	

I was asked to take an eleven to Glamis two days after, and whipped up a good side, including Joe Anderson and A. K. Bell (Perthshire), Millership, prof. (Montrose), D. Robinson, a Yorkshire bowler on trial for Perthshire, C. Ferrier, Smith, and Reynolds. The pace of the wicket proved to be our undoing, and we failed to score enough runs. C. Ferrier played a magnificent innings, getting 61 out of 126. The Glamis XI. scored 216 for 7, of which L. M. Balfour-Melville had 63, Hon. J. B. Lyon 40, and the Earl of Strathmore 21.

The Earl of Airlie had a short cricket season at

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Cortachy for a few years, and the Brechin Club usually sent up a moderate side to play his eleven. Several interesting matches were played, but they never reached the quality of the Glamis encounters.

The home and home games with Forfarshire were played on the last two Saturdays of the season, but in neither did the B.C.C. fare well. W. R. Sharp made his last appearance against us at Brechin and scored 31. Five Forfarshire wickets were down for 21, but the "tail" carried the score to 149, after which Chambers and Ringrose caused a "procession" of Brechin players to and from the wickets, and the miserable total of 30. It was not so bad as this at Forthill, but the Forfarshire smiters, then in their heyday, especially Fred Batchelor and Alec Lindsay, were in great form. Smith, the professional, was top scorer, 32, for Brechin, and played his best game of the season.

The Committee was well satisfied with Smith as a groundsman and coach, and confident that he would do much better in the matches by another season. He was therefore re-engaged, and subsequently was very successful with the ball. During this, his first summer, he took 54 wickets for the 1st XI. at 15 runs each. I was fortunate enough to win the Bowling Cup with 33 wickets for 11 apiece, F. Milne took 25 for 14 runs each, and C. Ferrier 16 at a cost of 17 runs each. W. D. Adams looked like developing into a good "googly" bowler, but he was lost to the Club when he left for Canada at the end of the season. C. Ferrier topped the batting list with an average of 26; Easson's average was 25; my own, 22; Galloway's, 16; Eddie's and Edwards's, 15; Milne's, 14, and Smith's, 10.

CHAPTER XX

DRAWN MATCHES AND TALL SCORES, 1909

SEASON 1909 was notable for the number of aggravating drawn games, eight of a total of 18 matches, seven of them very favourable. The other ten matches resulted in 5 wins and 5 losses. The promise of the younger players brought into the eleven was amply fulfilled, and the only defeats suffered were against the very strongest opposition, viz., Forfarshire, Perthshire, Arbroath, and Glamis. Dilatory starts, and stoppages for rain were responsible, as is generally the case, for the drawn matches.

The older players were gradually dropping out. J. Hollingworth and F. Milne appeared but seldom, and S. Edwards had left the city; but George Douglas made a welcome re-appearance in three matches, and had a dashing sequence of 35, 20, and 24 against Arbroath, Glamis, and Rossie Castle XI., and J. W. Sorrie was a tower of strength in the August matches. R. J. Bain was able to play most of the season, and shared the wicket-keeping with D. K. Laing. D. Easson was the most consistent and brilliant batsman of the year, and C. Ferrier as usual gave many sparkling displays. W. Eddie made further headway, and his natural bowling gifts and acquired art developed rapidly. R. L. Laing began his first-class career this summer when little more than a boy, like so many before at Nursery Park. These early beginnings were the result of the coaching available, and demonstrations by so many high-class players in the Brechin Club and their visiting friends. Brechin was on the way to regain its erstwhile proud position.

The opening match against Forfarshire at Fort-hill was noteworthy in that Brechin dismissed its full side for its lowest home score of the season, viz., 101. To show that this was no fluke Brechin also had the honour of dismissing Forfarshire at Nursery Park for its lowest score from home. At Forthill A. C. Lindsay, who was at the top of his form, and scored over 1000 runs during the season, won the match by a fine uncompleted innings of 51. Brechin only managed to get 60; C. Ferrier 14, and F. Milne, 12. Smith took 6 wickets for 35 runs.

The first home match, with Montrose, was well contested. Our neighbours got 121, J. N. Johnston playing well for 44. Smith again bowled cleverly, 5 for 30, and I got 3 for 13. Brechin had the game well in hand at the close with 108 for 7.

Perthshire brought a powerful side to beat Brechin and succeeded, but the local batsmen did wonderfully well by scoring 135; F. Milne 29, W. Eddie 27, R. J. Bain 24. Perthshire reached 203 for 6 wickets; J. S. B. Brown 89 and Dr. C. C. Stuart 61. Several large individual scores were made both for and against Brechin this year on the fine batting wickets which prevailed. J. Dewar of Dundee Victoria, a sound and stylish player, was within four of his century at Dundee, where the only unfavourable draw took place. At Arbroath M. R. Dickson and Boyes were again in form against Brechin, the former making 92. He led the Scottish Eleven against the Australians on the following Monday at Edinburgh, and again had top score, 41, in a match which the Australians just managed to draw. Forfarshire had five representatives in the Scottish XI., viz.—M. R. Dickson, Arbroath (Captain); R. G. Tait, A. C. Lindsay, G. K. Chalmers, and Ringrose. Smith made a splendid effort to save the Arbroath match, getting 38 out of 104.

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Against Strathmore at Forfar the following week, D. W. Galloway played a perfect innings of 66, characterised by lovely leg hits and square cuts. He had eleven boundaries in his innings. Easson and he enjoyed a lucrative partnership, Easson hitting hard for 46. Jack Gordon added 23 by his fine driving, and a total of 186 was reached. Strathmore were all out to Smith and I for 55 runs.

A vacant date in June was filled by an interesting match with a genuine "Old Boys" XI. (with Smith) the details of which were:

OLD BOYS.

D. Hill, b Ferrier	...	...	...	22
D. M. Lindsay, c Eddie, b Ross	...	...	...	2
W. Balnaves, b do.	...	...	...	5
H. P. Gordon, b do.	...	...	...	1
J. F. Lammond, b Laing	...	...	...	0
J. Smart, b Eddie	...	...	...	37
T. M. Guthrie, c Laing, b O'Neil	...	...	...	1
Smith (prof.), lbw, b do.	...	...	...	10
T. Pender, b do.	...	...	...	0
G. M. Scott, not out	...	...	...	16
A. Copland, b Eddie	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	13
Total	...	...	...	107

BRECHIN.

A. Wilson, b Smith	...	...	...	3
W. Cameron, c Smart, b do.	...	...	...	9
R. L. Laing, b Copland	...	...	...	9
J. R. Gordon, b Smith	...	...	...	0
W. Eddie, lbw, b do.	...	...	...	6
D. Easson, st. Hill, b do.	...	...	...	15
A. Ross, c and b Lammond	...	...	...	7
C. Ferrier, b Pender	...	...	...	55
G. Y. Macfarlane, not out	18
J. Cameron, st. Hill, b Smith	0
A. O'Neil, c Hill, b do.	4
Extras	10
Total	136

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The eccentricities of the wicket at Montrose led to another interesting struggle which was only won by one of C. Ferrier's best bowling efforts, 4 for 10. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, b Millership	...	...	...	7
D. W. Galloway, c Anderson, b Campbell	...	...	...	8
D. Easson, b do.	...	...	...	15
W. Eddie, c and b Millership	...	...	...	12
Smith (prof.), c Johnston, b do.	...	...	...	1
R. L. Laing, b do.	...	...	...	4
G. M. Scott, c and b Campbell	...	...	...	26
A. O'Neil, b do.	...	...	...	10
D. Hill, b Millership	...	...	...	4
J. R. Gordon, not out	...	...	...	3
A. Wilson, c Key, b Millership	...	...	...	2
Extra	...	...	...	1
Total				93

MONTROSE.

R. C. H. Millar, c Eddie, b Smith	...	...	...	5
J. N. Johnstone, c Ferrier, b O'Neil	...	...	...	0
Millership (prof.), lbw, b Smith	...	...	...	0
W. A. Key, b do.	...	...	...	12
J. Davidson, c Easson, b O'Neil	...	...	...	2
C. V. Craigie, not out	...	...	...	19
W. Campbell, b Ferrier	...	...	...	8
J. R. Howie, b do.	...	...	...	10
Dr Milne, b do.	...	...	...	0
J. Cranston, b Smith	...	...	...	1
J. Anderson, b Ferrier	...	...	...	3
Extras	...	...	...	15
Total				75

A good all-round display of batting was given against St. Ronald, and the closure applied at 154 for 7 wickets. D. Easson had 37, C. Ferrier 32 and W. Eddie 30. St. Ronald played out time with 115 for 9 wickets, a tantalising draw. A repetition of this experience took place with Dundee Victoria. Brechin's score was 136, of which W. Eddie scored

45 and five others reached double figures. Nine Victoria wickets were down for 116. W. M. Cooper for the Vics scored 70 of these runs and hit ten fours. Strathmore put up a better fight at Brechin, the scores in Brechin's favour being 137—107. Smith, with 14 from the bat and 8 wickets for 52, did a good afternoon's work. W. Eddie was again top scorer with 30. C. Ferrier had 24, and the last two men, A. Wilson 14, and W. Cameron helped materially to gain the day. Cameron was a promising colt, and Wilson on not a few occasions was a useful last man, who combined grit with enthusiasm.

The match at Aberdeen with St. Ronald was played on the 'Varsity ground, but rain compelled a stoppage. Smith 34, and D. W. Galloway 33, put on 64 for the first wicket. Easson followed with 32, and the closure was applied at 123 for 3 wickets. J. P. Gibb, then resident in Aberdeen, turned out for Brechin, "for auld lang syne." St. Ronald got 64 for 4 wickets.

The Arbroath match at home was a dour contest and an exhibition on both sides of first-class batting, bowling, and fielding. Brechin scored 142, of which Easson's share was 55, while G. Douglas was much freer than of yore, and contributed a capital 35. D. Chapel of Arbroath bowled throughout and claimed 7 wickets for 64 runs. He was one of Arbroath's best products in those days, a good fast medium left-hand bowler and right-hand batsman, with powerful strokes, and he earned a place in several Scottish representative matches, chiefly as a result of his able performances for the Grange Club. Arbroath had lost 7 wickets for 92 when time was reached.

The Glamis matches in 1909 were both productive of tall scores. What is comparatively rare in Scottish one-day matches was an individual century score on each side. This took place at Glamis. For

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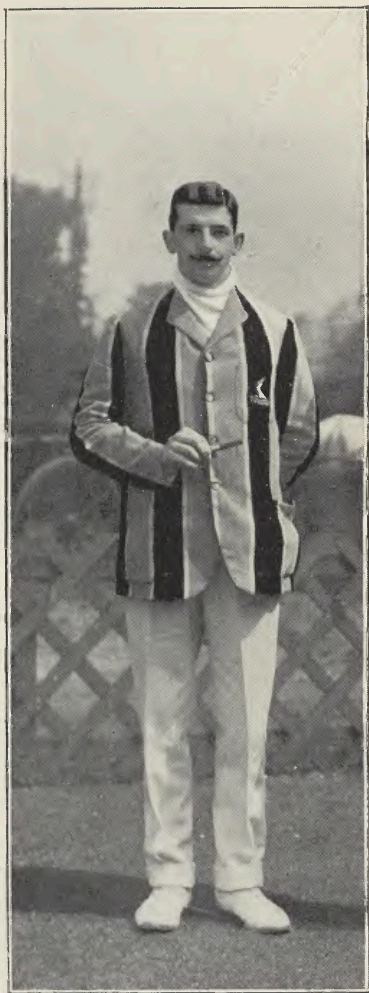
Brechin, Easson played the innings of his life, an absolutely flawless one, distinguished by hard and perfect cutting. In his score of 111 he hit a six, 18 fours, 3 threes, and 3 twos! Glamis surpassed Brechin's fine score, and three of their players, Hon. P. B. Lyon, Lord Glamis, and J. A. Don were equally brilliant. Lord Carnegie, then at Eton, played his first match with Brechin and took 2 wickets for 13 runs. He was a very correct batsman, and bowled an effective googly. The scores of this match were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c J. A. Don, b Hon. A. B. Lyon ...	0
J. W. Sorrie, c Hon. M. B. Lyon, b Plowright	9
D. Easson, c Moon, b do.	111
Smith (prof.), b Lord Glamis	25
Lord Carnegie, c Barson, b do.	4
G. Douglas, c A. C. Don, b Plowright ...	20
D. W. Galloway, b do.	0
R. J. Bain, not out	8
A. O'Neil, c and b Plowright	9
J. R. Gordon, b J. A. Don	0
A. Wilson, run out	5
Extras	11
<hr/>	
Total	202

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

A. C. Don, run out	23
J. A. Don, b Smith	50
Hon. P. B. Lyon, c O'Neil, b do.	101
Lord Glamis, b O'Neil	56
Hon. A. B. Lyon, c Smith, b Lord Carnegie	7
A. Moon, b do.	0
Earl of Strathmore, not out	15
Hon. M. B. Lyon, b Bain	4
W. J. Heskett, b Smith	0
A. Barson, c Gordon, b do.	0
Plowright (prof.), to bat.	
Extras	10
<hr/>	
Total for 9 wickets	266



J. W. SORRIE

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Runs again came in abundance at Brechin in the return match, and another of the close finishes which were customary in that fixture was seen, this time in favour of the visitors. C. Ferrier set the pace by beautiful hitting, and a number of lesser scores were got by good cricket. Everything was however eclipsed by the brilliant driving of Scotland's grand old veteran, L. M. Balfour-Melville, who in his 48 hit 2 sixes, 5 fours, 6 twos, and only four singles. Hon. Patrick Bowes Lyon was again highest scorer for his side, playing in a most attractive manner. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, lbw, b Plowright	45
J. W. Sorrie, c E. S. B. Melville, b Lord Glamis	5
D. Easson, c Younger, b Earl of Strathmore	29
Smith (prof.), b do.	3
R. J. Bain, c Egerton, b do.	2
W. Eddie, c Strathmore, b Younger	21
W. Ferrier, c E. S. B. Melville, b Lord Glamis	0
Lord Carnegie, c Plowright, b Hon. A. B. Lyon	19
D. W. Galloway, b Plowright	23
R. L. Laing, not out	2
A. O'Neil, c Hon. P. B. Lyon, b Younger ...	11
Extras	20
<hr/>	
Total	180

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

L. M. Balfour-Melville, c W. Ferrier, b C. Ferrier	48
Hon. P. B. Lyon, c W. Ferrier, b Smith ...	74
Lord Glamis, b Eddie	13
C. F. Younger, b Smith	14
E. S. Balfour-Melville, b W. Ferrier	0
L. Egerton, lbw, b Smith	3
Hon. A. B. Lyon, b W. Ferrier	6
V. Smith, c Bain, b Smith	0
Plowright (prof.), not out	23
Hon. M. B. Lyon, c Easson, b O'Neil ...	20
Earl of Strathmore, not out	8
Extras	9
<hr/>	
Total for 9 wickets	218

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The season finished in brilliant style. The exceptional scoring of the Glamis matches was continued against Rossie Castle XI. and Perthshire, and the closing match against Forfarshire was in many ways noteworthy. Against Rossie Castle XI. C. Ferrier and J. W. Sorrie were not separated until 150 was on the board, Ferrier's share being 82, and Sorrie's 75. Finer batting one could not see anywhere. G. Douglas got 24 and at 227 for 6 wickets the closure was applied. Rain then supervened, and a wet ball and easy wicket enabled the Rossie Castle XI. to reach 140 for 4 wickets, A. F. Perkins making 73 not out, and Major Perkins 50.

The Perthshire match on the North Inch, the last which was played between those clubs, was also interfered with by rain. Perthshire closed at 202 for 9 wickets, of which their prof. Gregson got 62, F. Smith 33, W. M. Shaw 31, and J. Mailer 26. Sorrie, however, dwarfed them all by the quality of his innings of 67 not out. Brechin's reply to the formidable score was 125 for 4 wickets.

The Forfarshire match was full of cricket in the best sense. The County Club substituted several well-known professionals for a few of their players who could not travel, and it was a powerful side, in no way inferior to the regular one, but a succession of brilliant catches brought it low. Those by R. L. Laing, D. Easson, and Smith were the sort which will be talked of when hairs are grey, and the pavilion gossipers of a generation hence recall the great deeds of the past. Laing's was the first, taken one hand on the run in front of the old football stand. T. H. B. Rorie was a crestfallen mortal indeed when he saw a nicely timed pull, with every ounce of power behind it, snapped up like an "unconsidered trifle."

Chambers drove the first ball he received from Smith straight back to him with terrific force, but the plucky little Tyke caught it. This was in a

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sense a "hat trick" by Smith, as it was the third time in succession in which he had dismissed his fellow professional with the first ball sent up to him. Then Easson, after running thirty yards along the boundary, brought off another spectacular catch. The other catches were only less wonderful. So many first-class catches were never before seen in an afternoon at Nursery Park. W. Eddie had his first big success with the ball, taking 6 wickets for 28 runs. For Forfarshire Nixon's 7 for 24 was the best piece of bowling against Brechin that season. Sorrie again batted in masterly fashion. The scores were :—

FORFARSHIRE.

T. H. B. Rorie, c R. Laing, b Smith ...	10
D. H. L. Stewart, c O'Neil, b Eddie ...	0
Dawson (prof.), b do. ...	7
Chambers (prof.), c and b Smith ...	0
Nixon (prof.), c Galloway, b Eddie ...	7
W. Stewart, c Easson, b Smith ...	22
P. B. Leslie, c Galloway, b Eddie ...	3
Higgins (prof.), b do. ...	2
R. W. M'Intyre, not out ...	4
A. J. Mortimer, c D. Laing, b Smith ...	0
W. S. Lane, c Galloway, b Eddie ...	13
Extras ...	5
Total ...	73

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, lbw, b Higgins ...	2
J. W. Sorrie, b Nixon ...	35
D. Easson, c D. Stewart, b Chambers ...	17
D. W. Galloway, b Nixon ...	8
R. J. Bain, b do. ...	2
W. Eddie, b do. ...	2
Smith (prof.), c M'Intyre, b do. ...	19
R. L. Laing, b do. ...	0
A. O'Neil, c Higgins, b D. Stewart ...	16
A. Wilson, lbw, b Nixon ...	0
D. K. Laing, not out ...	6
Extras ...	6
Total ...	113

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D. Easson was Brechin's premier batsman for the season, scoring 412 runs with an average of 26. C. Ferrier followed with 364 runs and an average of 24. J. W. Sorrie's five matches realised 191 runs and an average of 47.75. W. Eddie averaged 18, and D. W. Galloway, Smith and I had creditable figures. Smith, as will have been noticed, bowled very well, and in 1st XI. matches took 73 wickets for 11 runs each; in all matches 131 for 7.78 runs each. W. Eddie gained the bowling Cup with 23 wickets costing 10.56 runs each. I also captured 23 wickets and C. Ferrier 18.

The Second Eleven enjoyed an excellent season in 1909. They played 13 matches, 8 of which were won, 4 lost, and 1 drawn. Budding talent was evident, quite a number of the young players showing signs of ability which led them to higher spheres of play. Alec Reoch had the fine batting average of 42. R. Hill had an average of 28, and W. Cameron 25. R. M. Gordon and D. E. Black also scored well. All those players were soon to receive their opportunity in the 1st XI.

G. Y. Macfarlane, the youngest player in the eleven, was most successful with the ball. He had a beautiful length when a boy, and it was evident that when he grew in years and strength he would become a first-class trundler. He took 34 wickets for $5\frac{1}{2}$ runs each. G. Scott, A. Ross, and J. M. S. Duke also bowled to good purpose in many games.

One of the matches is worth recalling for its many remarkable feats. The Dundee High School F.P.'s 2nd XI on their own ground scored 110 for 5 wickets, but were all out for 116. J. M. S. Duke finished off their innings with the "hat trick," and an analysis of 3 wickets for no runs. Archie Ross's performance was even better, as he took 4 wickets for no runs during the innings. When the Brechin side went to bat, J. R. Gordon was dismissed after scoring 20, but A. Reoch and W. Martland then

occupied the wickets for the remainder of the afternoon, and banged the bowling all over the field. The score reached 202 for 1 wicket, Reoch carrying his bat for 105, in which were sixteen boundaries. Martland ably seconded him with a score of 64. Martland in the previous match scored 53, and it was unfortunate that his business interests in the district never afterwards brought him north in the cricket season, as he would have been an acquisition to the Club.

Such doings augured well for the future, and the next few years brought the Club once more into its former prominence.

CHAPTER XXI

"GREEN DAYS AND BLUE DAYS" 1910—1911

THE season of 1910 was most successful, Forfarshire being the only rival which could claim superiority in results. Arbroath United, the gallant and ancient "enemy," gained the laurels at Nursery Park, but at Lochlands Brechin was more emphatic in its victory. Montrose likewise succeeded once, but in a less decisive manner than in the other encounter. Altogether 13 victories were recorded, 5 defeats, and 3 draws.

The combination of W. Eddie and Smith with the ball, and C. Ferrier's prolific scoring were the chief features. R. H. Anderson of Forfar assisted when he was not engaged with Strathmore, and, like J. P. Gibb before, found his association with Brechin cricket brought him more success than in his home club. D. E. Black got his colours and made a good start.

The opening game was at Nursery Park against Montrose, and it was thoroughly satisfactory. W. Eddie inaugurated a season which was to bring him much credit by a fine forcible innings of 69, which included two "sixers." Smith scored 23, C. Ferrier 12, and F. Milne, in what was his last appearance for the Club, 17. A total of 158 was recorded. Smith by excellent bowling took 6 wickets for 26 runs, and Montrose was out for 92. J. N. Johnston scored 32 and W. Campbell, who now divided his allegiance between Montrose and Brechin, followed his 5 wickets for 36 runs by scoring 17 not out.

A rather weak Aberdeenshire eleven was severely defeated on the Spring holiday. W. Eddie carried

everything before him, and had an analysis of 7 wickets for 14 runs. Aberdeenshire could only muster 34. Their professional, Bridges, a young Somerset player, subsequently gained a permanent place in the Somerset County XI as a bowler, and he continues to retain it. C. Ferrier 49, and Smith 32, knocked off the runs, but the remainder, except W. Cameron and R. L. Laing, did very little, and the majority was exactly 100.

Aberdeen University succeeded on the Saturday where the County failed on the Monday, but the fact that one of the students was one of the Brechin Club's able members made an important difference. C. Ferrier again gave a fine lead, and, supported by Easson and Smith, had 100 up for three wickets, but owing to the development of a "tail" the whole side was out for 115. The 'Varsity men improved on that, by two of their number, R. J. Bain and E. Newton, scoring over 40 each, and 150 was reached. The return match at Aberdeen was much closer, and had an exciting finish, as the students' last wicket fell in the last over to Eddie, who bowled 18 overs, of which 8 were maidens, for 19 runs and 6 wickets. Brechin's score was 113 (Easson 44, and Smith 20), and the 'Varsity's 90.

Dundee Victoria, thanks to D. M. Lindsay, who played as sub, avoided a crushing defeat at Brechin. Batting first on a beautiful wicket, Brechin lost Smith at 7, and then C. Ferrier and R. H. Anderson broke all previous records by making 189 for the second wicket. Ferrier was stumped immediately after reaching his first century. The cricket of both players was very attractive. The closure was then applied, the score being 196 for 2 wickets. Anderson's share in the great partnership was 90 not out. Victoria played out time, getting 125 with one wicket to fall.

Though the Vics managed to thwart the Brechin Club at Nursery Park, they did not escape at

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Dundee. Brechin by fine all-round play proved its superiority by 148 to 60. J. R. Gordon excelled himself and scored 36, while W. Ferrier had a capital 27. W. Eddie and Smith shared the wickets, 5 for 23 and 5 for 32 respectively.

Strathmore was beaten twice. On both occasions scoring was low. At Forfar fielding was specially good on both sides. Brechin got 85, C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing 18 each, and Easson 17. Strathmore replied with 55, of which Anderson had 17. Smith was rampant, and took 7 wickets for 25 runs.

The Motherwell Club was entertained at Nursery Park, but was no match for Brechin, which, after closing at 206 for 7 wickets, dismissed the men from "Steelopolis" for 39. W. Eddie scored 71, Smith 56, and C. Ferrier 34, and the professional captured 7 wickets for 17 runs.

The Arbroath matches as usual were eagerly looked forward to. Brechin had so far only lost the match with Aberdeen University, and the team acquitted itself splendidly in every way at Arbroath. C. Ferrier and Easson gave a sparkling display of batting, Eddie took 4 wickets for 17 runs, and Smith in the course of his bowling took the three valuable wickets of Dickson, Eastwood, and Baldwin (prof.) with four balls. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, b Boyes	...	...	...	...	44
Smith (prof.), c Dickson, b Baldwin	...	...	...	...	8
D. Easson, c Baldwin, b Sievwright	...	...	...	...	33
R. L. Laing, stp Gauldie, b do.	...	...	...	...	6
W. Eddie, c and b do.	...	...	...	...	0
A. O'Neil, c Barclay, b Sievwright	...	...	...	...	13
D. W. Galloway, run out	...	...	...	...	17
J. R. Gordon, b Sievwright	...	...	...	...	2
R. Hill, b do.	5
D. E. Black, c Eastwood, b do.	17
D. K. Laing, not out	3
Extras	10
Total	158

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ARBROATH UNITED.

M. R. Dickson, b Smith	19
Boyes (prof.), c Galloway, b Eddie	10
J. C. Duncan, run out	4
R. Irvine, b Eddie	...	...	...	7
G. S. Eastwood, b Smith	...	...	...	0
Baldwin (prof.), c Eddie, b do.	...	...	...	0
J. B. Ritchie, not out	...	...	...	29
J. B. Meikle, c Smith, b Eddie	...	...	...	0
P. Barclay, c Easson, b Smith	...	...	...	1
R. W. Sievwright, c Easson, b Eddie	...	...	...	1
D. C. Gauldie, c Black, b Smith	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	73

A fortnight afterwards Arbroath stopped Brechin's conquering career. The temperament for the occasion was lacking, and winning form appeared too late in the afternoon. Arbroath, through the old warrior Boyes, got the necessary runs for 3 wickets; then Eddie, going on a second time, took 5 wickets for 10 runs. The scores in this match were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Boyes, b Dickson	...	...	...	0
Smith (prof.), b Sievwright	...	...	...	14
D. Easson, c Baldwin, b Dickson	...	...	...	13
R. L. Laing, c Rae, b Sievwright	...	...	...	9
W. Eddie, b do.	...	...	...	4
J. R. Gordon, b Dickson	...	...	...	1
D. W. Galloway, c Gauldie, b Baldwin	...	...	...	9
A. O'Neil, c Rae, b Sievwright	...	...	...	10
W. A. Bain, b Baldwin	...	...	...	5
D. E. Black, c Sievwright, b Dickson	...	...	...	8
D. K. Laing, not out	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	5
Total	...	...	...	78

ARBROATH UNITED.

M. R. Dickson, run out	...	...	...	10
Boyes (prof.), c and b Smith	43
J. C. Duncan, c Black, b O'Neil	16
G. S. Eastwood, b Eddie	24

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ARBROATH UNITED—*Continued.*

R. Irvine, c Smith, b do.	0
W. Rae, b do.	0
J. B. Ritchie, b do.	8
Baldwin (prof.), b do.	...	...	...	0
P. Barclay, c Easson, b Smith	...	...	...	2
R. W. Sievwright, b Smith	...	...	...	4
D. C. Gauldie, b Smith	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	110

After a lapse of sixteen years, Blairgowrie was visited in July 1910. I was the only representative of the Brechin eleven of 1894, and there was only one of the Blairgowrie men who had also played then. Rain unfortunately delayed play, and only two hours and a half were available. In those days the demands of the railway time-table were responsible for many games of limited duration. The advent of the motor car and "summer time" have been a great boon to cricketers, as to all sportsmen.

Forfarshire was too good for Brechin at both meetings. At Forthill, Ringrose took 6 wickets for 23. W. Ferrier was the only player able to cope with him, and got 24 of Brechin's score of 61. Keen bowling and fielding got rid of half of the Forfarshire team for 20 runs, but W. S. Whyte and W. Ovenstone stemmed the tide, and their total amounted to 135. Going in again, Brechin scored 129 for 4 wickets, of which C. Ferrier had 42, and Easson 39 not out. As in last year's match at Forthill, Brechin enjoyed the distinction of dismissing the County Club for its lowest score of the season.

Forfarshire was far and away the strongest club in Scotland at this time, and Brechin had always to face a stronger side than was allowed in the County Championship, as in its games each county was only allowed to play one professional. Chambers, the second professional, was a rare foil to Ringrose. Peculiarly, Ringrose was a fast right-

hand bowler and a left-hand batsman, while Chambers bowled slow to medium left-hand, and batted right. At Brechin the wicket was never really playable, and Brechin had to bat last when it was utterly destroyed, with the result that Chambers had a harvest of 6 wickets for 9 runs.

The match with St. Ronald, Aberdeen, provided the spectators with a brilliant batting treat. During a short afternoon, on a perfect batting wicket, 250 runs were scored for the loss of only 3 wickets. St. Ronald closed at 162 for 3 wickets. Dr A. Ross and J. Berry batted beautifully and got over 50 runs each not out. The first of many rare partnerships between C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing was then seen. They scored 88 without loss. Ferrier was seen at his best and had 62 of the number, in which were 8 boundaries and 10 twos, Laing's share was 23.

In order to give a trial to some of the juniors, scratch teams played two matches at Sunnyside during the holidays, with happy results. In the first, J. Walker and J. Winter scored 58 not out and 35 respectively, and in the second, delight was given to everyone by a first-class innings of 26 not out on a difficult wicket by that keen and loveable player, and excellent judge of the game, D. K. Laing. J. Walker was a born cricketer, and though quite a youngster showed mastery of all the batting strokes, and was a bowler of immaculate length and low trajectory. He played several good defensive games in pre-war days, but did not rise to the top of the tree until the post-war period.

On a soft wicket at Union Park, Montrose managed to get one of their few victories by 117 to 98. A. Reoch and Smith seemed like pulling off the match, but the latter was badly hurt when well set. A. Reoch and C. Ferrier got 20 each and Smith 19.

Tall scoring was as usual the order of the day at Glamis. The Castle XI was rather easily disposed

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of. After the veterans, the Earl of Strathmore and L. M. Balfour-Melville, got 21 and 16 each, and a good partnership by Lord Glamis and Plowright (prof.), with 41 and 39, all were out for 135. C. Ferrier, who generally found the Glamis pitch and "atmosphere" to his liking, then played a magnificent innings, which was not terminated until it added 109 to Brechin's total. He never gave a chance, and hit 3 sixes, 8 fours, and 6 threes. The score was 234 for 7 wickets, the other chief run-getters being W. Eddie 30, Lord Carnegie 28, and R. H. Anderson 29.

The match at Brechin was again extremely interesting and well contested. C. Ferrier once more had a prominent share in the victory. C. F. Younger, a player of all-round ability beyond the ordinary, was a power on his side. W. Eddie took 5 wickets for 28 runs. The details were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Hon. M. B. Lyon, b Younger ...	50
R. L. Laing, c L. M. Balfour-Melville, b Lord Glamis	19
Smith (prof.), run out	8
R. J. Bain, lbw, b Younger	10
W. Eddie, c Plowright, b do.	6
Lord Carnegie, c L. M. Balfour-Melville, b Lord Glamis	11
D. W. Galloway, b Younger	2
H. E. Reynolds, c Lord Glamis, b Plowright	9
J. R. Gordon, b do.	3
D. E. Black, not out	6
A. O'Neil, c Plowright, b Younger	6
Extras	16
Total	146

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

L. M. Balfour-Melville, stp Bain, b Smith ...	39
Plowright (prof.), b Eddie	3
Capt. Erskine, b do.	0
Capt. Laverton, b do.	0
C. F. Younger, c Bain, b O'Neil	37
Lord Glamis, c and b Ferrier	19

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GLAMIS CASTLE XI—*Continued.*

C. B. Lyon, c Reynolds, b Smith	13
Hon. M. B. Lyon, b do.	5
A. Barson, c Bain, b Eddie	1
Earl of Strathmore, b do.	...	...	...	1
Hon. F. Lyon, not out	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	10
Total	...	...	...	128

During the season the large number of 35 members played one or more matches in the ranks of the 1st XI. The Club scored 2555 runs for the loss of 177 wickets, giving an average per wicket of 14.43, as compared with the opponents' 1883 runs for 200 wickets, yielding the much smaller average of 9.41. C. Ferrier enjoyed a great year with the bat. He scored 676 runs for the Brechin Club, with an average of 35.57, but in all matches he scored 1020 runs with an average of 44.34. In addition to his two centuries for Brechin, he hit other two, both at the expense of Montrose. These were 129 for Brechin Wednesday XI against Montrose Wednesday XI, and 102 not out for Sunnyside *v.* Montrose. R. H. Anderson's average was 27.50, Easson's 17, Eddie's 16, Smith's 13, and J. R. Gordon's 10. R. L. Laing and D. E. Black, for a first season, batted and fielded most creditably.

The Club was never so well served with an opening pair of bowlers as in 1910. W. Eddie exceeded the number of wickets captured by any amateur in a season since 1865, his record being 64 for 7.50 runs each. Smith took 87 for 8.59 runs each. C. Ferrier and I were seldom required, but succeeded more than once in breaking formidable partnerships.

The year 1911 was in many ways the brightest and best in the Club's history. The conditions were favourable for batting, and three records were set up which will be difficult to beat. The number of runs scored constituted a record. Record first-

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wicket stands were created: the record for all matches by C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing, viz., 217 at Glamis, and the record for Nursery Park by C. Ferrier and A. O'Neil, viz., 171. Twenty-two matches were played, 10 being won, 4 lost, and 8 drawn. Brechin's average per wicket was 17.12, and the opponents' 12.01. The statistics of these matches are:—

		Brechin		Opponents		Result.
		Runs.	Wkts.	Runs.	Wkts.	
Montrose	a	126	4	88	—	won
Forfarshire	h	70	—	55	—	won
Arbroath United	h	158	—	21	—	won
Aberdeen 'Varsity	a	168	—	70	4	drawn
Dundee Victoria	a	70	—	57	—	won
St Andrews 'Varsity	h	62	—	100	—	lost
Arbroath United	a	230	—	120	4	drawn
Uddingston	h	43	—	102	9*	lost
Montrose	h	166	5*	133	8	drawn
Forfarshire	a	185	8*	152	2	drawn
Strathmore	a	114	—	150	—	lost
Dundee Victoria	h	108	—	104	8	drawn
Visitors	h	175	—	109	8	drawn
Strathmore	h	67	—	107	—	lost
Arbroath United	a	127	2	169	—	drawn
Rossie Castle XI	a	114	—	63	—	won
Edinburgh F'shire	h	108	6	89	—	won
Glamis Castle XI	a	268	3*	135	—	won
Glamis Castle XI	h	162	—	146	—	won
Rossie Castle XI	h	169	—	108	—	won
Montrose	h	100	5	139	—	drawn
Edinburgh Schools	h	259	5*	101	—	won
		3049	178	2318	193	

* Indicates closure. h Home. a Away.

Each year found a few changes in the personnel of the elevens, and 1911 was no exception. W. Eddie, the bowler who was so deadly during the previous summer, left for Peebles after the early matches. This was a distinct loss, and Peebles County greatly gained. D. Easson's connection had ceased, but improved form on the part of the

younger players, and the inclusion of several capable new members available occasionally, along with the return of Jack Ferrier, maintained the strength of the Club, while C. Ferrier's deeds with the bat were phenomenal.

The Club opened in brilliant style by defeating Montrose, Forfarshire, Arbroath United and Dundee Victoria in the opening month. At Montrose the local club was dismissed for 88. J. N. Johnston, following several top scores against Brechin in previous years, made 35. J. Ferrier took 5 wickets for 34 runs. Brechin scored 126 for 4 wickets. R. L. Laing, by finished and cautious batting, reaching his first half-century, 52 not out. Smith also did well and scored 24.

The opening game at Nursery Park was with the redoubtable Forfarshire, and one of the greatest achievements of the Club took place. On a rather dead wicket six Forfarshire wickets were down against the bowling of Smith and Eddie, and two lovely catches on the boundary by Black, for 9 runs, and the whole side was out in an hour for 55. Eighteen overs were bowled, and Eddie's analysis was 5 for 14, a very fine performance. Smith's 3 cost 23, and J. Ferrier took 2 for 15.

Then against a superlative attack Brechin kept up its end for two hours by sterling defensive play. It was slow work, but there was no debacle like that of Forfarshire, and the interest grew more intense as the afternoon wore on. Six wickets were down, however, at the tea interval, for 34. Eight wickets were down for 42, and nine for 51. Five runs were required to win when D. K. Laing joined Black, who was a veritable rock of defence. Laing got a brace, and after two maiden overs a double bye brought the scores level, 55 each. Other two maidens followed, and another bye brought victory to Brechin, amid great cheering. Ringrose and Chambers had bowled unchanged for 50 overs, and

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now received a well earned rest. No boundary had been hit throughout the match, but Laing dispatched the first ball from the change bowler, a full toss to leg, for five, all run. The closing stages were bright, and the score reached 70.

It was a triumph for the young generation. R. L. Laing, J. Walker, and D. E. Black showed their sterling worth against perhaps the most experienced attack in Scotland. Black went in when five wickets had fallen for 25 runs, and was chiefly responsible for the splendid result. His runs, though few as individual scores count, were that day priceless. It was a great and notable victory, as Brechin shared the honour with Essex County that year of the only clubs to lower the County colours. No Scottish club was able to equal Brechin's performance. The scores were :—

FORFARSHIRE.

T. H. B. Rorie, b Eddie	...	...	...	0
W. S. Whyte, c Black, b Smith	...	...	...	0
A. C. Lindsay, c D. Laing, b do.	...	...	...	3
G. B. Harrison, c Black, b do.	...	...	...	0
J. E. M'Intyre, b Eddie	...	...	...	2
J. S. Winter, b do.	...	...	...	4
Chambers (prof.), b J. Ferrier	...	...	...	35
G. K. Chalmers, b Eddie	...	...	...	7
D. C. Lyttleton, b J. Ferrier	...	...	...	0
B. S. Sturrock, b Eddie	...	...	...	1
Ringrose (prof.), not out	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	55

BRECHIN.

R. L. Laing, b Ringrose	...	...	...	5
Smith (prof.), b do.	...	...	...	8
J. Ferrier, c Chalmers, b do.	...	...	...	2
W. Eddie, c M'Intyre, b do.	...	...	...	3
W. Cameron, stp Chalmers, b Chambers	...	...	...	2
J. Walker, b do.	8
D. E. Black, not out	10
J. R. Gordon, c Sturrock, b Chambers	4
A. O'Neil, b do.	0

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BRECHIN—*Continued.*

D. W. Galloway, c M'Intyre, b Ringrose	...	4
D. K. Laing, c Whyte, b Lindsay	...	12
Extras	...	12
Total	...	70

The following match was the ever attractive one with Arbroath United, and it was a runaway victory, as will be seen below. C. Ferrier, who did not share in the great win over Forfarshire, added another to his great performances against the "Red Lichties," and Eddie "laid on the wood" with gusto. Smith took 4 wickets for 7 runs, including the "hat trick," and Eddie's 6 cost only 12.

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Gauldie, b Sievwright	...	57
R. L. Laing, lbw, b Boyes	...	1
R. H. Anderson, b Sievwright	...	9
Smith (prof.), lbw, b Boyes	...	9
W. Eddie, c Duncan, b Sievwright	...	37
D. E. Black, c M'Leod, b do.	...	21
J. Walker, b do.	...	2
D. W. Galloway, c M'Leod, b Sievwright	...	6
D. K. Laing, b Boyes	...	0
J. R. Gordon, c M'Leod, b Sievwright	...	10
A. O'Neil, not out	...	0
Extras	...	6
Total	...	158

ARBROATH UNITED.

J. C. Duncan, b Eddie	...	1
Boyes (prof.), b do.	...	0
W. Rae, b Smith	...	1
R. Irvine, c D. Laing, b Eddie	...	15
J. B. Ritchie, b do.	...	0
R. W. Sievwright, b Smith	...	1
J. G. Thyne, b do.	...	0
G. C. M'Leod, b do.	...	0
E. W. R. Myles, b Eddie	...	0
D. K. Mitchell, lbw, b do.	...	0
D. C. Gauldie, not out	...	1
Extras	...	2
Total	...	21

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C. Ferrier was again in splendid form at Aberdeen against the 'Varsity with another half-century, and Black got 24. Brechin scored 168, and the 'Varsity 70 for 4 wickets. The match at Dundee on Wester Clepington, Victoria's new ground, was played on a very bad wicket, the turf having been newly laid, and scoring was low, 70—57 in Brechin's favour. It was another test of defence, which the Brechin players emerged from with credit. Winyard, the Victoria prof., took 8 wickets for 23 runs, and W. Eddie 5 for 17.

After these victories, the Club suffered a rather lean time until August, when another spell of brilliantly successful cricket was enjoyed. The departure of W. Eddie meant the loss of a match-winning compelling force, while the batting was a little deficient at times in balanced strength, but these defects were gradually overcome. St. Andrews University won on a fast fiery wicket by 100 to 62. Parkes bowled finely for them, and took 5 wickets for 16 runs. The return match with Arbroath United was inconclusive. Brechin gave a beautiful exhibition of batting, and scored 230, R. L. Laing and R. H. Anderson added 74 for the second wicket, and R. L. Laing and D. E. Black 86 for the fourth by delightful play. Laing scored 68, Black 49, and Anderson 46. R. Irvine, who had 15 of the 21 scored at Brechin, was the saviour of his side, getting a well-played 62 not out of the Arbroath score, which amounted to 120 for 4 wickets.

An interesting match with Uddingston, the Champion West of Scotland XI, was arranged through the interest and kindness of the Town Council on 22nd June as part of the local programme in celebration of the Coronation of King George V. and Queen Mary. The Council arranged for the match being free to the citizens, and entertained the teams to luncheon. Unfortunately the

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weather broke down in the forenoon and spoiled the wicket. The advantage of the toss went against Brechin, but in bowling and fielding the local eleven were seen to advantage in the circumstances. Smith had the fine analysis of 7 wickets for 48 runs. This was the only time the closure was applied against Brechin during the season. The scores were :—

UDDINGSTON.

Broadbent (prof.), b Eddie ...	...	...	0
A. C. Tennant, c O'Neil, b Smith ...	...	...	3
G. P. Burt, b Eddie ...	...	...	16
D. C. M'Nab, c Walker, b Smith ...	...	...	17
H. C. Shaw, stp Laing, b do. ...	...	...	4
D. Kennedy, c and b do. ...	...	...	4
A. M'Nab, c Galloway, b Smith ...	...	...	12
W. Thorburn, c Black, b do. ...	...	...	32
R. M. Bryson, c C. Ferrier, b do. ...	...	...	0
A. C. Cullen, not out ...	...	...	8
J. Downs, not out ...	...	...	0
Extras ...	...	...	6

Total (closure) for 9 wkts. ... 102

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Downs, b A. M'Nab ...	...	...	1
R. H. Anderson, c Kennedy, b Broadbent ...	...	...	1
R. L. Laing, c Thorburn, b A. M'Nab ...	...	...	0
D. W. Galloway, c Downs, b Broadbent ...	...	...	0
D. E. Black, run out ...	...	...	14
W. Eddie, stp Kennedy, b A. M'Nab ...	...	...	6
Smith (prof.), b Broadbent ...	...	...	0
J. Ferrier, stp Kennedy, b do. ...	...	...	3
A. O'Neil, not out ...	...	...	5
J. Walker, c A. M'Nab, b Broadbent ...	...	...	2
D. K. Laing, b do. ...	...	...	0
Extras ...	...	...	11

Total ... 43

Following the visit of Uddingston on King George V's Coronation Day, Montrose was met at Nursery Park, and C. Ferrier scored the first of his three centuries in 1911. He collared the bowling

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from the start, and scored at a terrific rate. When he had made 104 not out, the closure was applied, the total being 166 for 5 wickets. He hit a six, 9 fours, 6 threes, and 13 twos. The supporting batsmen were his brother Jack, who scored even faster for a short time, getting 33 from ten strokes—2 sixes, 4 fours, a two, and three singles—and Galloway 16 not out. Montrose batted out time, and got 133 for 8 wickets, Millership (prof.) 44, and W. Campbell 36, enjoying a good partnership.

The next Saturday at Forthill, C. Ferrier figured in one of the greatest innings of his life, just missing the ambition of his cricketing career, a century against Forfarshire. Seldom, if ever, did he play a more careful and correct innings, and it was disappointing even to his opponents when Tait got past his defence with a yorker when he required only four runs to complete the three figures. "The little more and how much it is, and the little less and what worlds away!" He hit 11 fours, 3 threes, and 4 twos. The closure was applied at 185 for 8 wickets. Forfarshire made a great bid for the runs, scoring tremendously fast at the rate of seven runs per over, and only skilful placing of the field saved Brechin from defeat. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, b Tait	...	...	...	96
R. L. Laing, c Cleghorn, b do.	...	...	...	9
D. E. Black, run out	...	...	...	17
Smith (prof.), b Ringrose	...	...	...	2
R. M. Gordon, c Cleghorn, b Sturrock	...	...	...	0
J. Ferrier, c M'Intyre, b Ringrose	...	...	...	18
D. W. Galloway, b do.	...	...	...	10
A. O'Neil, c Leslie, b do.	...	...	...	11
G. Y. Macfarlane, not out	...	...	...	2
A. Ross and D. Carcary did not bat.				
Extras	...	...	...	20
Total (closure) for 8 wkts.	...	...	...	185

FORFARSHIRE.

R. G. Tait, not out	...	...	...	...	67
F. Batchelor, c Smith, b Ferrier	...	...	...	...	26
R. M. Lindsay, c and b Smith	...	...	...	...	33
W. S. Whyte, not out	...	...	...	...	13
C. Cleghorn, R. L. M'Intyre, P. B. Leslie, J. S. Winter, B. S. Sturrock, G. Carmichael and Ringrose (prof.) to bat.					
Extras	...	...	...	...	13
Total for 2 wks.	...	...	...	...	152

Peculiarly, Strathmore, which had only beaten Brechin once during the previous thirteen years, had the better of the exchanges in both matches this year. Under Northrop, a first-class bowler, they had a revival, and were a capable side, with Grant, Anderson, and Brown, and several young players who showed ability. At Forfar the Strathmore, by sound batting from first to last, reached a total of 150. Brechin had the same number of runs as Strathmore at the fall of the eighth wicket, viz., 108, but the last two batsmen failed to emulate the last wicket stand of their opponents, and the innings closed at 114. D. E. Black again proved his worth when matters did not go well, and played a splendid innings of 42.

At Brechin, Strathmore scored 107, of which Grant's share was 44, a capital innings, but he was palpably caught behind the wickets before he scored. Northrop was almost unplayable on a cut up wicket, and Brechin was all out for 67, of which, going in last, I had 18.

The match with Dundee Victoria led to an exciting drawn battle; one more amongst many with that keen side. Some bright hitting by J. Ferrier (30) and G. Y. Macfarlane (29) gave Brechin a total of 108. Veteran Sword played a wonderful defensive innings of 32 not out, and when stumps and the match were drawn, Victoria's score was 104 for 8 wickets.

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An interesting match was played with a good eleven of Glasgow visitors, in which C. Ferrier had again the tantalising experience of almost reaching a century, viz., 95. A third match took place with Arbroath United, and time alone prevented Brechin from getting the requisite number of runs required for victory. Arbroath's batting was more consistent than usual, five of their players scoring over 20, with Sievwright top score, 35, and a total of 169 was accumulated. Brechin, with only a short time to bat, scored rapidly. C. Ferrier gave another brilliant display in an innings of 75 not out, which was admired by everyone for its complete mastery over all sorts of bowling. He hit 9 fours, 2 threes, and 11 twos. R. L. Laing played one of his stylish games for 30. The total was 127 for 2 wickets.

The first of several enjoyable visits was paid to Rossie Castle ground, where Mr Millar had laid out a fair wicket. Brechin scored 114, of which Gallo-way made 21, Black 20, J. Ferrier 17, and Lord Carnegie 16. Rossie Castle XI was dismissed for 63, of which R. C. H. Millar had 27. Rev. W. Loudon, who was a sound batsman, made his first appearance in this match, and in the following game, against Edinburgh-Forfarshire, proved his worth against a good attack. This was a most interesting match. The Edinburgh-Forfarshire XI was disposed of for 89. Smith and I bowled unchanged and divided the wickets. One of Brechin's former rocks of defence, S. Edwards, who then played for Dalkeith C.C., showed that he still retained his form. Brechin lost 6 wickets for 60 runs, but Lord Carnegie and Rev. W. Loudon wore down the bowling, and won the match by attractive play. The scores were :—

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EDINBURGH-FORFARSHIRE.

W. S. Bruce, c Laing, b Smith	20
G. Thornton, c and b O'Neil	0
R. H. Anderson, lbw, b Smith	...	...	6
S. Edwards, c Black, b O'Neil	...	...	20
W. A. Key, b Smith	...	...	2
R. Irvine, b do.	...	...	4
J. D. Smith, c Laing, b O'Neil	...	...	14
J. D. O. Coats, b do.	...	...	0
D. Chapel, c Galloway, b do.	...	...	17
D. M. Bruce, c and b Smith	...	...	2
J. R. Adam, not out	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	4
Total	...	...	89

BRECHIN.

R.L. Laing, b Chapel	...	...	13
D. E. Black, b Smith	...	...	13
D. W. Galloway, c Edwards, b do	...	...	11
R. J. Bain, b Chapel	...	...	3
Lord Carnegie, not out	...	...	27
J. Ferrier, b Smith	...	...	2
R. N. Duke, b do.	...	...	1
Rev. W. Loudon, not out	...	...	30
A. O'Neil, Smith (prof.) and J. F. Lammond to bat.	...	...
Extras	...	...	8
Total for 6 wkts.	...	...	108

From the middle of July to the close of the season, the B.C.C. enjoyed a series of victories which were the result of some supremely fine batting. On a perfect wicket at Glamis, of which Brechin enjoyed first lease, the greatest stand in the history of the Club was made by C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing. Opening quietly, 50 was up before lunch. On resuming, Ferrier scored very fast, and both were playing with such confidence and sureness that it was evident they would not be easily separated, but no one expected they would pursue their course as far as they did. Each drove, pulled,

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cut, and glided the ball past the fielders with uncanny precision. Never was a ball raised from the ground except when Ferrier stepped out and drove one out the field. One of his hits landed well into the second field beyond the playing ground, which was an average size. Ferrier reached his third century of the season at 170, and shortly after completed his 1000 runs.

All records were broken as 200 went up, and still the players untiringly placed the balls whither they would by superb artistry. At 217, Ferrier was at last beaten, his share of the record partnership being 126, in which were 3 sixes and 16 fours. Laing's score at this point was 85, and every run from his bat was now counted by the onlookers. The second wicket fell at 235, and soon afterwards Laing passed his century, amid great applause. The closure was applied at 269 for 3 wickets, Laing carrying his bat for 112. He hit 9 fours, 5 threes, and 16 twos. Ferrier's innings was faultless, and Laing made only one stroke which might have been caught. The Glamis XI occupied the wickets for the remaining two hours, and the last wicket fell at 135 in the last over. Brechin completed this memorable match by perfect fielding and a number of excellent catches. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, b Plowright	...	...	...	126
R. L. Laing, not out	...	...	...	112
Smith (prof.), c Barson, by Plowright	...			8
R. H. Anderson, c C. B. Lyon, b Lord Strathmore	...	...	...	10
Lord Carnegie, not out	...	...	...	3
D. E. Black, J. Ferrier, A. O'Neil, A. F. Brown, W. C. Guthrie, and D. K. Laing did not bat.				
Extras	...	...	...	10
Total (closure) for 3 wkts.	...			269

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

Capt. Egerton, c O'Neil, b Smith	...	...	7
Plowright (prof.), c Guthrie, b Brown	...	...	54
C. B. Lyon, c and b Smith	...	...	6
F. D. Hamilton, b O'Neil	...	...	2
Lord Glamis, c O'Neil, b Smith	...	...	37
Earl of Strathmore, b do.	...	...	3
R. C. H. Millar, c Carnegie, by Brown	...	...	8
J. Freer Myles, b Smith	...	...	1
A. Barson, not out	...	...	4
A. Calvert, b Smith	...	...	0
Hon. M. Lyon, absent	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	13
Total	...	...	135

The Glamis XI which visited Brechin after its leather-hunt from C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing did not appear to be so strong as usual on paper, but it was not easily beaten, replying to the local score of 162 with 146. C. Ferrier scored 43, D. W. Galloway and J. Ferrier 26 each, J. W. Sorrie 16, and R. N. Duke, one of Merchiston's good batsmen and century scorers, 11. Hon. R. Anson, who played for Middlesex, was in the Glamis XI and was agreeably surprised at the quality of Brechin cricket.

More history was destined to be made in this wonderful season. A good side from Rossie Castle provided a fine match. Brechin scored 169. C. Ferrier continued his conquering career with a score of 51. D. K. Laing had a splendid 29, and J. W. Sorrie 28. Rossie Castle XI got 108. G. Y. Macfarlane, who had several trials with the ball in previous matches, bowled very well by taking 4 wickets for 39 runs. Another young player signalled his first trial as a bowler in this match by a better performance. This was R. M. Gordon, who bowled 6 overs, two of which were maidens, for 6 runs and 3 wickets, which was most encouraging for the future.

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Montrose was met a second time at Nursery Park, and again secured a draw. W. Campbell (50) and Millership (prof.) (46) gave the Brechin men some trouble by scoring 86 for the first wicket, but the others were more or less "rabbits" and the total only reached 139. Brechin was 100 for 5 wickets at the close of play—C. Ferrier 46, J. W. Sorrie 20, and Lord Carnegie 12 not out.

The concluding match again Edinburgh Schools' XI crowned the season's splendid doings with another record-breaking exhibition. The rate of Brechin's scoring was phenomenal—171 in an hour and 259 in an hour and three-quarters! Needless to write, Charlie Ferrier was again the dominant personality. On winning the toss, I accompanied Ferrier to the wickets. Ferrier at once proceeded to flog the bowling unmercifully. He had most of the batting, and off the first two overs scored 30. Fours and sixes came in rapid succession from his bat, and 100 was registered in half an hour. Several times the ball was lost in the adjoining fields, and a reserve one requisitioned. I got an occasional ball, from which I scored, but I was little more than a spectator. Off one over Ferrier scored 24—2 sixes and 3 fours. At the end of an hour, when the score reached 171, he was stumped after scoring 133 at a rate and in a manner worthy of C. I. Thornton, England's mightiest hitter, or G. L. Jessop, the human catapult. It will be interesting to reproduce the exact hits in this remarkable innings, viz. :—

2, 4, 2, 4, 6, 6, 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 6, 4, 4, 4, 6, 2, 4, 1,
1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 4, 4, 4, 6, 6, 2, 6, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1,
4, 4, 6, 1, 4, 2, 2.

It will be noticed that the boundaries and sixes alone (21 hits) amount to 100, and in all there were 45 scoring strokes. Incidentally, this score of 171 remains the record for the first wicket at Nursery Park. J. W. Sorrie and Lord Carnegie carried on

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the scoring, followed by J. Ferrier and W. M. Gordon, and the closure was applied at 259 for 5 wickets. An excellent attack, and fine fielding completed the discomfiture of the Edinburgh eleven, but they lived to fight another day, and two years afterwards got their revenge. The scores of this match were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, stp Coats, b Clark	...	...	133
A. O'Neil, b A. Marshall	...	...	34
J. W. Sorrie, b Wallace	...	...	41
Lord Carnegie, b A. Marshall	...	...	9
J. Ferrier, not out	...	...	18
D. E. Black, stp Coats, b Fiddes	...	...	1
W. M. Gordon, not out	...	...	11
G. Y. Macfarlane, Smith (prof.), J. R. Gordon, and D. K. Laing did not bat.			
Extras	...	...	12
Total (closure) for 5 wks.	...	...	259

EDINBURGH SCHOOLS' XI.

W. M. Wallace, b Smith	...	...	27
R. Clark, b O'Neil	...	...	0
I. Bain, c Macfarlane, b do.	...	...	11
R. P. Donaldson, b Macfarlane	...	...	22
C. O. Marshall, b Smith	...	...	0
G. S. Martin, b Macfarlane	...	...	1
A. O. Marshall, c O'Neil, b Smith	...	...	4
J. G. Young, b Macfarlane	...	...	0
E. J. Fiddes, b Smith	...	...	0
T. T. Muir, c O'Neil, b do.	...	...	4
J. D. O. Coats, not out	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	32
Total	...	...	101

For Bailie Ferrier—"Chick" was then a Bailie of the Royal and Ancient City—this was an *Annus Mirabilis*. He scored more runs than any other Scottish cricketer. In Brechin cricket alone he scored 1037 runs, and in all, over 1400 runs. In August alone he scored 800 runs! For Brechin

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his average was 51.85, and in all matches it worked out at 60. I recapitulate his bigger efforts—133 *v.* Edinburgh Schools' XI; 126 and 43 *v.* Glamis Castle XI; 104 not out and 46 *v.* Montrose; 96 *v.* Forfarshire; 95 *v.* Glasgow Visitors; 75 not out and 57 *v.* Arbroath United; 51 *v.* Aberdeen University; and 51 *v.* Rossie Castle XI. In matches for other clubs he scored 150 not out *v.* Edinburgh Forfarshire; 93 *v.* Arbroath United; 88 *v.* Montrose; and 72 *v.* Sunnyside. It reads like the record of a great English County Cricketer, and he would have done credit to any first-class English side this year, when at the apex of his powers.

Though Ferrier dwarfed his contemporaries, he was well supported, and enabled to get those scores by good partners. R. L. Laing scored 379 runs, and averaged 21. The value of D. E. Black's 275 runs, and average of 15 cannot be represented by mere figures, many of his scores being invaluable when he was left to carry the burden of the side during anxious moments. J. Ferrier and I averaged 13, D. W. Galloway 12, and G. Y. Macfarlane 11. The averages of those who played four to six matches were—J. W. Sorrie 26, Lord Carnegie 24, W. Eddie 15, and R. H. Anderson 13.

Smith's record with the ball, 105 wickets for 8.5 runs each, in a dry season, was remarkable, but he was supported by fielding which has seldom, if ever, been surpassed by the Club. The outfielding of R. L. Laing and D. E. Black was always a treat, while W. Cameron, and Smith himself, nearer the wicket, were very smart. W. Eddie in his half-dozen games for the Club took 19 wickets for 6.21 runs each, J. Ferrier captured 25, and Macfarlane 15. Earnest harmonious team work had its share in the heights reached. With the exception of C. Ferrier, D. W. Galloway and myself, the regular eleven was composed of young players coming to maturity, and the experience and judgment of the

older players was often effective in those timely tactics and decisions which cannot be recorded by figures and statistics, which enabled the best to be got out of each individual, and are part of every game where well-matched sides with skilful leaders are pitted against each other.

Before concluding this long chapter it is necessary to glance at the 2nd XI's doings during 1910 and 1911. There was a large number of players to choose from, and while the results in 1910 were not so satisfactory, the team under James Cameron in 1911 and 1912 was very successful. A. Reoch headed both batting and bowling lists in 1910. R. M. Gordon, W. Cameron, and Alec Joe batted well also. The bowling was in the hands of G. Y. Macfarlane, D. Young, and A. H. Ross, in addition to Reoch.

In 1911 there was a long programme, and R. M. Gordon was the leading all-round player. He scored 312 runs, with an average of 28, and took 20 wickets for 5.30 runs each. Four large scores came from his bat in excellent style, 44 not out, 52, 69 and 75. He was a sound batsman, who could use his height and reach effectively, and was coming fast into the first flight of run-getters, following the footsteps of his cousin, J. W. Sorrie, when War broke out and caused disability which ended his active pursuit of the game. He had a remarkable performance with the ball at Cortachy this year, taking five wickets for no runs. Tom Douglas was another good batsman. There was, in addition to Gordon, a trio of capable bowlers, C. Hill, son of David Hill, who headed the averages with 30 wickets for 4.90 runs each; A. C. Durie, and A. Reoch.

In the following year, 1912, C. Hill was still more effective, with 58 wickets for 5.6 runs each. J. Walker and A. Reoch did some excellent work also. A young fast bowler, E. Allan, took 30 wickets for

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4.3 runs each, and, along with Reoch, was advanced to the 1st XI. J. Walker was the outstanding batsman, with an average of 33. A. Reoch was almost equally good at scoring, and averaged 24, while C. Hill, D. Carcary, D. C. Martin, A. Joe, and D. Dakers contributed frequently to the success of the batting. In those two years, 1911 and 1912, twenty-two matches were won, seven lost, and four drawn. There was no lack of enthusiasm amongst the coming generation; fully a score of players, eager and ardent, outside the senior ranks, could play the game with talent and intelligence, and Smith had much credit in their development.

CHAPTER XXII

HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS—1912

I RETIRED from the Captaincy at the end of 1911, and D. W. Galloway, who had rendered yeoman service to the Club in many ways, latterly as Secretary, was Captain in 1912, and C. Ferrier, who was Captain during 1906 and 1907, again took up the reins in the two years prior to the outbreak of war. The secretarial duties were carried on by D. E. Black during 1912, till his departure for the U.S.A. R. L. Laing then acted in that capacity until war put a stop to the Club's activities, and caused a blank in its continuity.

Captain Galloway was able to look back upon a season which compared well with many of its predecessors and on one event in particular which gave the members unbounded satisfaction. Nearly every club of any consequence had to acknowledge defeat from Brechin in recent years, from the Grange C.C. in the south to Aberdeenshire in the north, but one desire remained unsatisfied—a victory over Forfarshire on “their ain midden heid.” Forfarshire's colours had been lowered at Nursery Park on more than one occasion, but never at Forthill. This crowning achievement took place in the second of the season's fixtures.

The list of engagements was the longest in the annals of the Club, and included a tour of Yorkshire. Think of it,—Brechin engaging such clubs as Bradford, Scarborough and Wakefield! It is doubtful if ever before a club from a small provincial Scottish town like Brechin had ventured to cross the border and travel so far to tackle such eminent clubs. Unfortunately miserable weather

permitted play in the first of the series only, that at Keighley. The matches at Pateley Bridge and Scarborough were partly played, but those with Wakefield and Bradford had to be abandoned altogether.

The summer of 1912 was notoriously wet, with the result that the bowlers met with considerable success. Altogether 25 matches were played, 13 being won, 8 lost, 3 drawn, and one ended in a tie. The course of events resembled that of the previous year when a falling from form in the middle of the season was sandwiched between fine runs of success at the beginning and the end.

The opening game was with Kirriemuir at Nursery Park. Kirriemuir C.C. had not played Brechin 1st XI. since 1901, and with an endeavour to revive the game which had flourished in "Thrums," in the days of Peter Lindsay, the Club secured a professional, and the veteran Lindsay turned out once more. Their team was no match for Brechin, however.

Brechin closed when the score reached 168 for 9 wickets. The feature of the game was an innings of 71 by R. L. Laing, who hit 9 fours, 3 threes and 4 twos. Laing opened the season in fine form, as he followed this effort with 35 v. Forfarshire, and 47 v. Aberdeen University, each time top score. D. E. Black and G. Y. Macfarlane scored 25 and 24 respectively against Kirriemuir. The Thrums "hillites" scored 43 for 5 wickets.

By the narrow margin of four runs, after a match full of incident, finishing amid great excitement, Brechin were worthy winners in the notable match against Forfarshire at Forthill to which I have referred. The interest began with the first ball of the match, from which C. Ferrier was caught at point. This was a striking contrast to his experience the previous year when he defied the Forthill attack until he piled on 96. Black was out in the

same manner as Ferrier at 5. R. L. Laing and I improved matters, the former playing with confidence and freedom. Five wickets however were down for 52 and then Tait accomplished the "hat trick," eight wickets being down for 56, when Smith and Wilson remained together, hitting out lustily until the professional was caught at 88. Smith reached the boundary five times by good "carpet" drives in his most valuable 24. Wilson and Allan made another brave stand for the last wicket, facing bumping balls with much pluck, and the total reached 103. Tait took 5 wickets for 18 runs.

Forfarshire no doubt thought the task set them was easily within their capacity, but they did not reckon with Brechin's young express messenger, Macfarlane, who kept so fine a length on the dry fiery wicket that he had to be played with the utmost caution. Three wickets were down for 28, five for 53, and six for 67. All this time Sturrock was playing a masterly game and trying to get as much as possible of the bowling. When he was joined by Chalmers, who had often dashed Brechin's hopes in the past, there were some anxious moments. Fortunately he never got one of his characteristic big broad-field pulls, and was always in difficulties, but 93 was on the board before he left.

The next batsman was bowled first ball, and then excitement rose. Nichols hesitated in attempting a double run, and should have been out, over-anxiety affecting both sides. This should have steadied him, but, when within four runs of victory, he started to run without waiting for a call from Sturrock, and no second mistake was made by the Brechin men. Macfarlane sent Ringrose's balls flying next ball and settled the issue, amid the mutual congratulations and rejoicings of the Brechin players, and consolations with Sturrock over his brilliant effort, which just failed through no fault of his own. "Mac" never bowled better, and secured 6 wickets

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for 23 runs. He was honoured with a place in several of the County Championship matches from then until the War. Alas, both those bright spirits and brilliant cricketers, Sturrock and Macfarlane, went out to France, never to return. Archie Ross kept wickets admirably, and did not allow a single bye, the extra being a leg bye. The details of this memorable occasion were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Philips, b Ringrose	...	...	0
R. L. Lanig, c Dr. Rorie, b Tait	...	...	35
D. E. Black, c Philips, b Sturrock	...	...	1
A. O'Neil, c Tait, b Ringrose	...	...	8
R. M. Gordon, b do.	...	...	2
D. W. Galloway, c Winter, b Tait	...	...	6
G. Y. Macfarlane, b do.	...	...	0
Smith (prof.), c Chalmers, b Ringrose	...	...	24
A. Ross, b Tait	...	...	0
A. Wilson, b do.	...	...	11
E. Allan, not out	...	...	10
Extras	...	...	6
Total	...	...	103

FORFARSHIRE.

R. G. Tait, c Ferrier, b Smith	...	...	8
W. S. Whyte, b do.	...	...	18
B. S. Sturrock, not out	...	...	57
T. H. B. Rorie, c Galloway, b Macfarlane	...	...	0
J. R. Philip, run out	...	...	6
Dr. G. A. Rorie, b Macfarlane	...	...	0
J. Winter, b do.	...	...	3
G. K. Chalmers, c Smith, b do.	...	...	4
R. A. Douglas, b Macfarlane	...	...	0
H. Nichols, run out	...	...	2
Ringrose (prof.), b Macfarlane	...	...	0
Extra	...	...	1
Total	...	...	99

Aberdeen University was well beaten both at home and away. At Nursery Park the week after the great victory at Forthill, two of the players who were then prominent were again chiefly responsible

for Brechin's supremacy. R. L. Laing got 47 and Macfarlane captured 6 wickets for 14 runs. The scores were 111 to 53. At Aberdeen the respective totals were 127 and 64. C. Ferrier was highest scorer with 46. Macfarlane got 20 runs and took 4 wickets for 31, while Smith's all-round share in the match was 15 runs and 6 wickets for 27.

Another close and exciting finish marked the match with Arbroath United at Lochlands, as will be seen below. The game was a tie when Brechin's last man joined Black who had batted practically right through the innings on a wicket which assisted the bowlers throughout.

ARBROATH UNITED.

M. R. Dickson, b Macfarlane	...	...	23
A. P. Nicoll, c Ferrier, b Smith	...	...	13
J. C. Duncan, b Macfarlane	...	...	0
R. Irvine, b Smith	...	...	13
W. Rae, b Macfarlane	...	...	4
Rainsford (prof.), lbw, b do.	...	...	0
R. W. Sievwright, c Macfarlane, b Smith	...	...	15
J. G. Thyne, c Walker, b Smith	...	...	2
J. B. Ritchie, c Macfarlane, b do.	...	...	5
R. W. Bennett, not out	...	...	1
G. C. M'Leod, b Smith	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	11
Total	...	...	87

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, run out	...	...	2
R. L. Laing, b Rainsford	...	...	0
D. E. Black, not out	...	...	38
R. M. Gordon, c and b Sievwright	...	...	5
J. Walker, b Rainsford	...	...	2
G. Y. Macfarlane, c Duncan, b do.	...	...	19
D. W. Galloway, b do.	...	...	2
Smith (prof.), c Irvine, b M'Leod	...	...	10
D. K. Laing, lbw, b Sievwright	6
E. Allan, b Rainsford	0
A. Ross, c and b Sievwright	2
Extras	6
Total	92

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After this splendid start a most disappointing falling-off took place. C. Ferrier, R. L. Laing, and D. E. Black did not give the accustomed lead, and, as there was a lack of seasoned veterans in the eleven, opponents of old standing like Arbroath United, Strathmore, and Dundee Victoria were able to get "a little of their own back," to use a colloquialism.

Dundee Victoria was the first Club to play havoc with Brechin's side. Their bowlers took advantage of a high east wind to such an extent that when the wickets were not hit the ball beat the wicket-keeper. Only 27 runs were made by the bat, and those, with 18 extras, composed Brechin's score. Fraser took 7 wickets for 13 runs. The Victorians lost half their wickets to Smith, who also bowled well, before they got the runs, but they ultimately scored 108.

St. Andrew's University had a good win at Carnegie Park—150 to 123. Brechin's last four players scored most of the runs. The failure of Brechin's early batsmen placed upon the later players a handicap which they were unable to overcome, though R. M. Gordon 30, and Smith 29, by splendid play strove hard to do it.

The exhibition of the team against Arbroath United at Nursery Park was deplorable, and one has to go back to 1893 to find a parallel to it. True, Sievwright never bowled a loose ball on a wicket just suited to him, but a score of 31, of which 9 were extras, seemed to be no true index of the ability of Brechin cricketers. I was the only player who could score at all against Sievwright. The left-hander bowled 8 overs, 3 of which were maidens, for 9 runs and 7 wickets. Worse was to follow. M. R. Dickson enjoyed an afternoon's big hitting at the bowlers' expense. He scored 136 of a total of 262, hitting two sixes, 12 fours, and 22 twos. Brechin could only claim one piece of good cricket, a record

in its way, as A. Ross stumped four men off Smith's bowling.

One would like to draw a veil over those weeks, but history must relate facts, favourable or unfavourable. A slight salve relieved the sores, when a weak Forfarshire side was beaten the following Saturday by 167 runs to 109. W. Eddie, on holiday, made a difference by taking 3 wickets for 19 runs, and scoring 32; while C. Ferrier returned to form and scored 48. Rossie Castle XI. had a good victory at Rossie by 5 runs and 3 wickets. The clerical element was well represented in this match. Rev. W. Loudon and Rev. J. M. Hunter played for Brechin, and Rev. G. K. S. Clarke, Edinburgh, for Rossie Castle; the latter bowled splendidly and was responsible for 6 wickets at a cost of only 18 runs. Macfarlane for Brechin took 5 wickets for 28 runs.

The game at Montrose was in an interesting state when rain put a stop to it. Montrose scored 112, of which R. C. H. Millar had 47, and J. N. Johnston 29. C. L. St. Leger, going on near the end of Montrose's innings, clean bowled the last three men for 3 runs by clever googlies. The same player batted stylishly for 16 not out when the game finished with Brechin only 32 for 4 wickets.

A welcome victory was gained over Cupar in a well-contested match on a tricky wicket. Brechin got 105, R. L. Laing 21, C. Ferrier 19, D. E. Black and R. M. Gordon 15 each, and A. Wilson 10; and Cupar was dismissed for 75. Smith and Macfarlane bowled unchanged, the former taking 6 wickets for 31 and the latter 4 for 34.

Perhaps the bitterest pill which had to be swallowed during the disastrous spell in the middle of this season, certainly the most humiliating experience, was the complete debacle at Forfar, where, after dismissing Strathmore for 75 runs, the Brechin batsmen did little more than walk towards, and return from the wickets. Fifty-four balls from

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J. A. Grant and Northrop (prof.) were sufficient to complete the rout. Brechin failed to pass the unlucky 13. Grant's analysis was 6 wickets for 7 runs in 4 overs, and Northrop's 4 wickets for 5 runs in 5 overs. *Sic transit gloria Brechinensis!*

After these humiliations the Club pulled itself together and though two more matches were lost in Scotland, there were no further serious relapses. A sensational piece of bowling by A. Reoch brought victory in its train at Dundee the following week. Victoria's score was 55 without loss when Reoch went on to bowl. By his swerving ball he took 6 wickets for 8 runs in 6 overs and Victoria's innings finished for 81. Strong and confident batting by the Brechin players in something like their true form realised 136 for 6 wickets. Black played another of his sound innings and got 46. Macfarlane was 32 not out, and St. Leger 18.

Strathmore was again top dog at Brechin, but not in the manner of the Forfar match. They scored 173 by steady play. G. Thornton 38, D. Maclean 33, Anderson and Grant 27 each. C. Ferrier had the fine bowling performance of 5 wickets for 26 runs. He then proceeded to score 49, including 3 sixes, but of the others only Reoch 25, St. Leger 24, and R. L. Laing 15 followed his splendid lead, and the total only reached 137. A second game at Lochlands had to be abandoned on account of rain after Brechin had made a promising start with 80 on the board and only three men out. C. Ferrier was again chief scorer with 47. St. Leger had 17 and Black 10 not out.

The tour in Yorkshire, as has been mentioned, was completely spoiled by wet weather. Leeds was the headquarters of the eleven, which included R. H. Anderson and G. Thornton of the Strathmore Club. The pleasure which was lost on some of the most famous of Yorkshire's grounds, such as those at Scarborough and Bradford, was to some extent

compensated by the kindness and hospitality of the Tykes, who did all that was possible to make the visit enjoyable in the social way. The first match was at Keighley, and it was the only one completed. Brechin made quite a favourable impression, and though on the losing side gave a creditable display of bowling and fielding. C. Ferrier took 5 wickets for 35 runs, and Smith 5 for 56. The scores were :—

KEIGHLEY.

E. P. Hardy, lbw, b Smith ...	...	...	8
J. Nelson, b do. ...	...	...	49
M. Nunweek, c Anderson, b Ferrier ...	...	...	26
H. Riley, b do. ...	...	...	6
W. Woodhouse, c Anderson, b do. ...	...	...	0
J. Williams, c and b do. ...	...	...	7
Duffield (prof.), b do. ...	...	...	8
Dr. Seeley, b Smith	0
F. Dearnley, b do.	0
J. W. Booth, c Winter, b do.	4
Dr. Melvin, not out	10
Extra	1
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Total	119

BRECHIN.

R. H. Anderson, run out	7
R. L. Laing, c Booth, b Riley	14
D. E. Black, c Woodhouse, b do.	5
J. W. Winter, st. Seeley, b Duffield ...	...	...	1
C. Ferrier, c Nelson, b Riley ...	...	...	0
G. Thornton, b Melvin ...	...	...	17
A. Wilson, b Duffield ...	...	...	0
Smith (prof.), c Williams, b Riley ...	...	...	10
D. K. Laing, b Melvin	4
E. Allan, c William, b Riley	6
C. M. Denholm, not out	1
Extras	12
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Total	77

Dr. Melvin, who led the Keighley side, was a son of Ex-Provost Melvin, Montrose. At Pateley Bridge

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Brechin scored 38 for 1 wicket when play had to be abandoned. C. Ferrier was given out lbw after scoring 13, and R. H. Anderson and R. L. Laing were the not outs with 16 and 7 runs to their account. Brechin completed an innings at Scarborough, as follows, when rain again set its seal on the day's cricket.

BRECHIN v. SCARBOROUGH.

C. Ferrier, c Tyson, b Bayes ...	...	...	25
R. H. Anderson, b do. ...	...	...	3
R. L. Laing, c Huggan, b do. ...	...	...	26
D. E. Black, b do. ...	...	...	2
G. Thornton, c Tinsley, b do. ...	...	...	6
J. W. Winter, b do. ...	...	...	7
F. More, b Bayes ...	...	...	0
Smith (prof.), b Clarkson ...	...	...	0
A. Wilson, not out ...	...	...	4
D. K. Laing, b Bayes ...	...	...	7
E. Allan, b Clarkson ...	...	...	7
Extras ...	...	...	11
<hr/>			
Total ...	...	...	98

Bayes, a very fast bowler, who played for Yorkshire occasionally, took 8 wickets for 33. At Wakefield the local Club scored 27 without loss when the clouds descended and the rain fell in torrents. Play was out of the question owing to the same cause at Bradford the following day. Thus ended the first, though possibly not the last, of Brechin's English tours.

Cupar was too good for Brechin on the return from Yorkshire. Lane, the professional, bowled superbly, taking 6 wickets for 16 runs, besides scoring 39 with the bat. Cupar's total was 122 and Brechin's 62. G. M. Scott made one of his too infrequent appearances for Brechin and was top-scorer with 26.

After a lapse of many years a team representing Kinnaird Castle, captained by Lord Carnegie, met



Left to right—EARL OF STRATHMORE, A. O'NEIL, R. H. ANDERSON,
LORD CARNEGIE, SMITH (prof.), D. E. BLACK and
D. K. LAING.



EARL OF STRATHMORE and D. W. GALLOWAY



Brechin. It was a good side, but with C. Ferrier in spanking form had too much to do at the end of the day. Ferrier scored 104, which was composed of 4 sixes, 8 fours, 12 twos, and singles. Macfarlane got 22, and then Rev. J. M. Hunter and Smith put on 72 for the eighth wicket, and the closure was applied at 236, when Hunter was run out. Both batsmen hit out strongly, the reverend gentleman getting 40, and the professional 32 not out. Kin-naird Castle XI. scored 106, of which R. H. Anderson had 46, and the veteran L. M. Balfour-Melville a dozen. Against St. Ronald at Nursery Park Brechin ventured to closure at 62 for 7 wickets, and succeeded in dismissing the Aberdonians for 48. Smith took 5 wickets for 20, and C. Ferrier 3 for 18.

The visit to Glamis was most satisfactory, the left-handers, C. Ferrier and Smith, being in their best form with both bat and ball. Two of Brechin's players, Bain and Wilson, assisted the Glamis XI. with considerable credit. The scores were :—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Wigan, b Dexter	...	...	48
R. L. Laing, c and b Plowright	...	...	13
R. H. Anderson, c and b do.	...	...	6
R. N. Duke, b Dexter	...	...	24
D. E. Black, b do.	...	...	42
G. Y. Macfarlane, c Egerton, b Earl of Strathmore	...	...	7
Lord Carnegie, b Dexter	...	...	0
Smith (prof.), b Earl of Strathmore	...	...	20
R. M. Gordon, c Guthrie, b do.	...	...	1
D. W. Galloway, not out	...	...	17
D. K. Laing, b Dexter	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	13
Total	...	...	191

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

Capt. Egerton, c R. Laing, b Macfarlane	...	11
D. G. Wigan, b Smith	...	8
Plowright (prof.), b do.	...	3

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GLAMIS CASTLE XI—*Continued.*

Hon. M. B. Lyon, lbw, b do.	0
R. J. Bain, b do.	21
Dexter (prof.), c Carnegie, b do.	10
W. C. Guthrie, c Galloway, b Ferrier ...	...	...	6
A. F. Brown, b do. ...	...	...	5
Earl of Strathmore, not out ...	...	...	17
A. Wilson, st. D. Laing, b Smith ...	...	...	15
A. Barson, b Ferrier ...	...	...	0
Extras ...	...	...	7
<hr/>			
Total ...	...	...	103

At Brechin the game was unfinished, Glamis was stronger, and those first-class players, C. F. Younger (Oxford and Scotland), and D. G. Wigan (Eton's Captain) gave a fine exhibition of batting, scoring 62 and 47 respectively. The total was 168, and Brechin lost four wickets for 61—Galloway 20 not out. The match with Edinburgh Forfarshire ended in one of those rare results, a tie, with all its pent-up excitement towards the finish. J. W. Sorrie made a great effort, by nursing the bowling and retaining the batting end, to gain victory for his side, but it was denied. The scores were:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Bruce, b Inverarity ...	...	...	2
D. E. Black, b do. ...	...	...	3
R. J. Bain, c Key, b Sorrie ...	...	...	30
Smith (prof.), c Brown, b Inverarity ...	...	...	10
W. Thorburn, b Sorrie ...	...	...	4
D. W. Galloway, c Key, b do. ...	...	...	1
G. Y. Macfarlane, b do. ...	...	...	0
Rev. J. M. Hunter, c Edwards, b do. ...	...	...	4
F. More, c Brown, b Inverarity	3
D. E. Young, not out	12
A. Joe, c and b Inverarity	1
Extras	6
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Total	76

EDINBURGH FORFARSHIRE.

J. R. Kerr, b Macfarlane	5
T. Lyall, b Smith	3
D. Inverarity, st. Hunter, b do.	0
S. Edwards, c Ferrier, b do.	...	...	...	1
J. W. Sorrie, not out	...	...	...	41
W. S. Bruce, c Young, b Smith	...	...	...	0
G. K. Drimmie, b Macfarlane	...	...	...	4
J. M'Laren, b Smith	...	...	...	2
G. R. Lamb, b do.	...	...	...	0
W. A. Key, b do.	...	...	...	2
J. G. L. Brown, c Bain, b do.	...	...	...	4
Extras	...	...	...	14
Total	...	...	...	76

Smith took 8 wickets for 38 runs. Sorrie was responsible for 5 of Brechin's wickets for 27 runs. He scored over 1000 runs in various matches during the summer. He was one of Scotland's representatives against both the Australian and South African teams which were across to take part in the Triangular Tournament. Against the Australians he scored 32 and took 1 wicket for 2 runs, and against South Africa had 15 in the first innings and 14 in the second in a low scoring game, Scotland making totals of only 94 and 72.

Other four Forfarshire men were chosen to represent Scotland in these great international matches. M. R. Dickson of Arbroath played a great innings of 98 against the Australians at Edinburgh, and another of 49 at Perth. R. W. Sievwright (Arbroath) took seven Australian wickets for 71 runs at Edinburgh and 4 for 51 at Perth, while R. G. Tait (Forfarshire) was top scorer against the South Africans, and G. K. Chalmers (Forfarshire) kept wickets with his usual excellence. J. W. Sorrie again had the honour of representing Scotland against the Australians in 1921 at Perth, and opened both innings, scoring 23 in the first, and 18

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not out in the second when J. Kerr (Greenock) and he made 79 without loss.

Sorrie made all the difference to Brechin's team in a third match with Strathmore, Forfar, towards the close of the 1912 season, and victory resulted on that occasion. The bowling of Sorrie, Smith and Reoch accounted for the Forfarrians for 69 runs. Brechin lost 8 wickets for 63, but Sorrie, who had been in from the beginning, was playing one of those numerous innings of his, compact of that confidence and correctness, defence and defiance, which betokens the perfect batsman, and he found a resolute partner in Wilson, who was keyed up to the position. The result was that Strathmore's score was passed, and they were not separated until Brechin's total was five over the century. The last wicket fell at 111, Sorrie's share being 61.

Two more matches remained, and they were both won—Edinburgh Schools XI., 139 to 56, and Montrose 62 to 49. C. Ferrier scored 40 against the Edinburgh XI. and J. Drimmie 24 not out. Reoch came away with one of his inspired pieces of bowling against Montrose, 4 wickets for 9 runs, and Smith concluded a hard and successful season, his best for the Club, by scoring 22 not out and taking 5 wickets for 22.

Smith was particularly consistent and successful with the ball throughout the season, and captured exactly half the number of wickets taken by the bowlers, viz., 121, at a cost of 8.31 runs each, a record which will be difficult for anyone, professional or amateur, to beat in the future. He had a good year also with the bat, going to the wickets 23 times and scoring 221 runs, without any big score to swell his aggregate, giving an average of 11. A. Reoch took 14 wickets for 6 runs each, and C. Ferrier 20 for 11.60 each. G. Y. Macfarlane was Smith's chief supporter, and in his second season with the 1st XI. won the bowling cup with

the splendid figures of 45 wickets for 11 runs each.

Though not so consistent and meteoric as in 1911, C. Ferrier was again easily the outstanding batsman. He scored 568 runs for Brechin with an average of 22. In all matches he just fell short of 1000 runs for the season by 30 runs. R. L. Laing and D. E. Black played many fine games, combining patience and attack as required, in the manner of much more experienced players. Their magnificent work in the outfield was another source of strength which never failed, and Smith was particularly fortunate to have such a pair upon whom complete reliance could be placed. The other players also distinguished themselves in their several positions; the catching, stopping, and returning generally reached a high standard, and often compensated for batting failures. G. Y. Macfarlane also acquitted himself well with the bat, as did C. L. St. Leger.

CHAPTER XXIII

THE RECORD INDIVIDUAL SCORE, 1913

DURING 1913 the Club continued to maintain its high reputation, and on no occasion lost grip as it did in the middle of the previous summer. Of 25 matches arranged, 9 were won, 4 lost, 6 drawn (only one of them unfavourably), 2 tied, 2 abandoned, and 2 cancelled owing to wet weather.

The season will be memorable for C. Ferrier's remarkable score of 200 at Glamis. Individual scores of such magnitude have been rare in Scottish cricket. Then, two tied matches in one season was another unusual occurrence.

The bowling was materially strengthened by two new members, R. Martin from Rossie Priory, and Tom Peddie, a master at the High School, both stalwarts, and bowlers of the express type. This was fortunate, as G. Y. Macfarlane failed to maintain his excellence of the previous year. The batting strength was also well maintained, with C. Ferrier again in the forefront, though D. E. Black was missed. D. E. Black continued to keep up the game in the U.S.A., and last summer headed the batting averages of his Club, the Everett, Newtonville, Mass. He was chosen for several representative State matches, in which he justified his selection. In a match at Lawrence which was won by Everett, David excelled himself with bat and ball. There were many old Brechiners present at the match, and it is said that in spite of the "dry" regulations in force the occasion was fittingly celebrated in the good old Brechin fashion.

The opening match at Forthill against Forfar-

RECORD INDIVIDUAL SCORE 255

shire was proceeding favourably, 5 of Forfarshire's best wickets being down for 76 when rain caused abandonment. The return at Brechin had also to be abandoned for the same cause when Brechin had scored 29 without loss. Forfarshire very kindly sent a strong team to Brechin at the end of the season when a splendid match ended in an open draw.

The first home match was against Arbroath United which won by 114 to 80. N. J. A. Smith played a fine innings of 51 not out for Arbroath. Tom Peddie signalled his first appearance by taking 5 wickets for 21. R. L. Laing scored 30 and C. Ferrier 18, but there was a decided "tail."

The first of the ties took place at King's College, Aberdeen, against the University. Peddie again bowled well, 4 for 10. The students were 58 for 7 wickets, but Smith in his last five balls captured the remaining three wickets without further addition to the score, and in all took 6 wickets for 30 runs. Brechin's innings was almost a duplicate of the 'Varsity's, as 7 wickets were also down for 58, which remained without change at the end. The scores were:—

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.

C. H. Webster, c Hunter, b Peddie ...	...	16
J. F. W. Sanderson, c and b Smith ...	...	6
R. J. Bain, not out ...	...	9
E. Newton, c Ferrier, b Peddie ...	...	2
T. B. Myles, b Smith ...	...	1
E. Dewar, c Duke, b Peddie ...	...	6
A. B. Clark, b Smith ...	...	2
Owen, b Peddie ...	...	3
C. Lewis, st. Hunter, b Smith	7
Irvine, c Ferrier, b do.	0
Valentine, c and b do.	0
Extras	6
Total ...		58

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BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Valentine, b Webster	36
Smith (prof.), c Clark, b do.	7
T. Peddie, b Clark	0
R. M. Gordon, c Owen, b Webster ...	...	2
J. Finlay, run out ...	...	0
Rev. J. M. Hunter, c Webster, b Clark ...	...	1
D. Balfour, b Webster ...	...	4
G. Y. Macfarlane, b Clark ...	...	2
J. Graham, run out ...	...	0
A. W. Duke, b Clark ...	...	0
F. Gray, not out ...	...	0
Extras ...	...	6
Total ...	...	58

St. Andrews University did not fare so well. Brechin gave an exhilarating display of batting. C. Ferrier was very severe on Parkes, and had 52 out of 59 for the first wicket, including 3 sixes, 4 fours, and 6 twos. The rest of the players followed suit with bright batting, Peddie getting 42, Macfarlane 36 not out, R. J. Bain 25, and Smith 15 not out, enabling the closure to be applied when 5 wickets were down for 202. Smith then took 7 wickets for 19 runs, and the 'Varsity men were all out for 67. A close tussle was the outcome at Dundee against Victoria, and Brechin was on the right side 83-64. Smith had 6 wickets for 30 runs and Peddie 3 for 16.

During the history of the Brechin Club matches ended in a tie on six occasions—viz., *v.* Strathmore at Kinnaird Castle in 1883, 50 each; *v.* Strathmore again at Cookston in 1891 (the last match which was played there), 58 each; *v.* Montrose at Nursery Park in 1893, 44 each; *v.* Edinburgh Forfarshire at Nursery Park in 1912, 76 each; *v.* Aberdeen University at Aberdeen in 1913, just recorded, 58 each; and at Arbroath the same year, seventeen days later, 43 each.

These were naturally all most exciting matches towards their end, but none more so, in the nature

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of the case, than that with Arbroath, with which the rivalry has always been keen and intense in a marked degree. A disagreeable cross wind favoured the bowlers, and correspondingly caused difficulties to the batsmen. W. Eddie, who assisted his home club, is an adept at taking full advantage of such conditions, and was deadly with well pitched swinging balls, dismissing six opponents for 15 runs. Smith got the other 4 for 32, and Arbroath's score was only 43. Spirits were high as this looked a comparatively small total for the Brechin men, but they found the Arbroath bowlers up to their business also, and faces were not so cheerful when 7 wickets were down for 25. R. L. Laing with consummate ease had kept his wickets intact from the start, and Gordon and he by singles took the score to 35, when the latter was bowled. D. K. Laing joined his brother, and with a four and a single brought out 40. R. L.'s invaluable innings was closed two balls later. A. Reoch, the last man, hit his first ball for three, and the match was a tie. In attempting to get the winning hit off the next ball, the first of a new over from Sievwright, he was caught, and honours were even between the clubs. Sievwright took 5 wickets for 14 runs, and Hulme 5 for 28. The scores were:—

ARBROATH UNITED.

M. R. Dickson, b Smith	...	...	...	21
A. J. Smith, b Eddie	...	...	...	0
R. W. Sievwright, lbw, b do.	...	...	...	2
R. Irvine, b Smith	...	...	...	9
Hulme (prof.), c Gordon, b do.	...	...	...	2
J. Henry, b Eddie	...	...	...	0
W. Mann, b do.	...	...	...	0
P. Barclay, not out	...	...	...	1
R. W. Bennet, b Eddie	...	...	...	7
J. B. Meikle, b do.	...	...	...	0
D. C. Gauldie, b Smith	...	...	...	0
Extra	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	43

258 ANNALS OF BRECHIN CRICKET

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Dickson, b Sievwright ...	...	4
R. L. Laing, c Henry, b Hulme ...	...	16
T. Peddie, b Sievwright ...	...	2
W. Eddie, b do. ...	...	2
G. Y. Macfarlane, c Irvine, b do. ...	...	4
D. Balfour, b Hulme ...	...	2
Smith (prof.), b do. ...	...	0
R. Martin, b do. ...	...	0
R. M. Gordon, b do. ...	...	4
D. K. Laing, not out ...	...	5
A. Reoch, c Dickson, b Sievwright ...	...	3
Extra ...	...	1
Total ...		43

The upper hand was held over Strathmore this year. Three matches as usual were played. Brechin prevailed in two, while Strathmore was successful in one. The first game, at Nursery Park, was won in a thorough manner. Strathmore was dismissed for 76, Smith taking 6 wickets for 24 runs, and Brechin passed that total for the loss of three wickets and carried the score to 126 for 7 wickets. R. L. Laing scored 35, R. J. Bain and Smith 27 each. The first of two matches at Forfar was lost 90 to 58. D. Balfour showed that the Forfar bowling could be hit, as he scored 24, including five boundaries. The rubber game was a close one, 89 to 81 in Brechin's favour. Peddie did a capital piece of bowling, taking 5 wickets for 19 runs. R. L. Laing scored 38, and for Strathmore D. H. Gourlay carried his bat for 37. Brechin was minus C. Ferrier in those three matches, as he was assisting the County.

A splendid victory was achieved at Cupar by 127 to 77. This was chiefly due to the later batsmen. R. Martin played a great defensive innings until the winning hit was secured, and then opened out brilliantly, getting most of his 39 not out after that. Smith and D. K. Laing were his main supports. In

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the return at Nursery Park the game ended very much in favour of Brechin, whose players were seen to great advantage at the wickets. R. L. Laing gave a beautiful display of batting, and was well set for his century when he was run out. His score was 74, and included 2 sixes, 4 fours, 3 threes, and 9 twos. Bob's frequent singles in many of his big innings were the product of skilful placing of defensive strokes, and he was a master in stealing the units. The other contributors to the score were C. Ferrier 29, R. Martin 21, R. N. Duke 19, A. Joe 18, and Smith 17.

A team representing the Royal Flying Corps, stationed at Montrose, was met in 1913, and also in 1914, but their wonderful feats in the air were not reproduced on the cricket field. In the match this year C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing treated the spectators to another of their brilliant first wicket partnerships, making 157 before they were separated. Laing got 56, and Ferrier went on to compile 166 not out when the closure was applied at 236 for 2 wickets. Ferrier, as usual in his big efforts, hit tremendously hard, having 7 sixes, 16 fours, and 5 threes. In one over he hit 3 sixes and 2 twos. The aviators only managed to reply with 46.

Montrose served Brechin with a surprise at Union Park by closing at 151 for 7 wickets, and then dismissing eight of the Nursery Park men for 67. Willie Campbell played a prominent part in the suppression of his old side by taking 6 of the wickets for 26 runs, after scoring 28. Dundee Victoria was the champion drawist club at Nursery Park. Time and again the meeting between the clubs ended at a most interesting stage, and the match in 1913 was a typical example. It will be noticed that three of the younger players, W. Cameron, R. M. Gordon, and G. Y. Macfarlane gave a good account of themselves. I reproduce the scores :—

260 ANNALS OF BRECHIN CRICKET

DUNDEE VICTORIA.

P. W. Thomson, b Peddie	...	...	...	20
F. Smith, b Smith	...	...	...	3
A. Fraser, c R. Laing, b do.	...	...	...	62
W. Labrum, c Macfarlane, b do.	...	...	...	19
W. Langer, b do.	...	...	...	2
G. Sword, c Balfour, b Macfarlane	...	...	...	6
J. Ogg, b Smith	...	...	...	7
R. Jolly, run out	...	...	...	10
D. Gault, run out	...	...	...	1
S. M'Intosh, c Cameron, b Martin	...	...	...	10
J. Flynn, not out	...	...	...	2
Extras	...	...	...	12
Total	...	...	...	154

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Ogg, b Labrum	...	...	...	26
R. L. Laing, run out	...	...	...	5
T. Peddie, b Fraser	...	...	...	6
G. Y. Macfarlane, b Labrum	...	...	...	16
R. Martin, b Fraser	...	...	...	0
R. M. Gordon, c Thomson, b do.	...	...	...	24
W. Cameron, b Ogg	...	...	...	40
D. Balfour, run out	...	...	...	8
A. Joe, not out	...	...	...	4
Smith, not out	...	...	...	1
F. Gray to bat.	...	...	...
Extras	...	...	...	22
Total for 8 wks.	...	...	...	152

Another splendid drawn match was the outcome of a second visit to Arbroath. C. Ferrier again gave a brilliant batting display. In his 64 he hit a six, 9 fours, 2 threes, 6 twos, and only 4 singles. David Dakers, a young left-handed batsman, played a stylish innings, marked by correct strokes and showing distinct talent. The scores of this game were:—

ARBROATH UNITED.

M. R. Dickson, b Campbell	...	...	...	27
G. P. Burt, c Ferrier, b Smith	...	...	...	22
A. J. Smith, b Campbell	...	...	...	0

RECORD INDIVIDUAL SCORE 261

ARBROATH UNITED—*Continued.*

J. C. Duncan, c Ferrier, b Smith	...	...	55
R. Irvine, c Martin, b Campbell	...	...	0
R. W. Sievwright, lbw, b Smith	...	...	2
P. Barclay, lbw, b do. ...	...	...	5
P. B. Duffus, b Campbell	...	...	3
Hulme (prof.), b do. ...	...	...	11
A. V. Kinnear, c Cameron, b Martin	...	...	24
D. C. Gauldie, not out	...	...	8
Extras	...	...	7
Total	...	...	164

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, b Hulme	...	...	64
R. L. Laing, b do.	...	...	0
W. Cameron, stp Gauldie, b Sievwright	...	...	13
G. Y. Marfarlane, b do.	...	...	5
W. Campbell, c Gauldie, b Hulme	...	...	2
D. Dakers, not out	...	...	19
R. M. Gordon, c Kinnear, b Sievwright	...	...	4
R. Martin, c Burt, b Hulme	...	...	2
R. N. Duke, stp Gauldie, b Sievwright	...	...	11
Smith and D. K. Laing to bat.	...	...	...
Extras	...	...	15
Total for 8 wkts.	...	...	135

A satisfactory victory was secured over Crescent, Aberdeen, in which R. M. Gordon, D. Balfour, and W. Cameron, in their diverse styles, gave encouraging displays, and Martin took 7 wickets for 23 runs. The Edinburgh Schools XI had a meritorious victory on their last visit to Nursery Park by 126 to 88. J. D. O. Coats had arranged this popular fixture each year, and he was naturally jubilant at the turn of events. An Aberdeenshire XI just escaped defeat. Brechin closed at 141 for 8 wickets, and succeeded in disposing of eight of the Aberdonians for 82. W. Hackney, one of the Edinburgh Schools XI, who had scored 36 against Brechin, was, on this occasion, top-scorer for Brechin with 33. Macfarlane scored 27.

262 ANNALS OF BRECHIN CRICKET

The following match was the one at Glamis, in which C. Ferrier gave a glorious exhibition of batting, transcending all his previous mighty innings, and made the largest score in the history of the Club. By splendid bowling from Martin, on a lovely wicket, the Glamis Castle XI were all disposed of shortly after luncheon for 77. Martin took 7 wickets for 45 runs. The afternoon was then occupied by C. Ferrier, who sent the bowling, bowling of no second-rate quality, to all quarters of the field and beyond it. With an ideal partner in R. L. Laing, 144 was scored for the first wicket, of which Laing's share was only 32. With W. A. Bain as next partner, 80 more runs were scored, of which Bain's share was 11. The scoring went on merrily, until at 271 Ferrier's record innings ended just as he reached exactly 200. In this incomparable exhibition, which, as an eye-witness (who had seen all the great English batsmen of the time) said was the most dazzling and delightful innings he had ever seen, were 4 sixes, 27 fours, 4 threes, and 14 twos. The details of the match were:—

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

Earl of Strathmore, c and b Martin ...	...	7
Hon. F. B. Lyon, b do. ...	...	2
Plowright (prof.), c Ferrier, b Smith ...	...	6
G. W. Craik, c Duke, b Martin ...	...	21
Lord Glamis, c Ferrier, b do. ...	...	1
Hon. J. B. Lyon, c D. Laing, b do. ...	...	0
A. H. Peters, run out ...	...	4
Hon. M. B. Lyon, c Ferrier, b Martin ...	...	23
D. M'Lean, c D. Laing, b do. ...	...	4
A. Barson, not out ...	...	4
H. Morrison, c Martin, b Smith ...	...	0
Extras ...	...	5
Total ...	...	<hr/>77

RECORD INDIVIDUAL SCORE 263

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c Barson, b Hon. M. B. Lyon ...	200
R. L. Laing, c Morrison, b Earl of Strathmore	32
W. A. Bain, c Hon. J. B. Lyon, b do. ...	11
C. Hill, not out	16
R. N. Duke, Smith, R. Martin, D. K. Laing, F. Esplin, and J. D. O. Coats to bat.	
Extras	12
Total for 3 wks.	271

It is an indication of the extraordinary rate of scoring by C. Ferrier, when I mention that there was time for the Glamis XI to bat again and score as many as 107 for 3 wickets. The return game took place a few days later, but runs were not so rife or easy to get, and Brechin was defeated. As this was the last meeting between the sides at Nursery Park I give the scores:—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, b Wigan	24
R. L. Laing, c L. M. B.-Melville, b Hon. J. B. Lyon	11
W. Cameron, c and b do.	0
R. N. Duke, lbw, b do.	21
R. Martin, b Wigan	0
G. Y. Macfarlane, c Lord Glamis, b do. ...	5
T. Peddie, b do.	20
C. Hill, c L. M. B.-Melville, b Hon. J. B. Lyon	0
R. M. Gordon, c and b Wigan	1
Smith (prof.), c Lord Ipswich, b do. ...	8
D. K. Laing, not out	0
Extras	6
Total	96

GLAMIS CASTLE XI.

L. M. Balfour-Melville, b Smith	8
D. Wigan, c D. Laing, b do.	31
Lord Ipswich, b do.	0
E. F. Campbell, b Peddie	22
J. H. Bevan, b Smith	2

264 ANNALS OF BRECHIN CRICKET

GLAMIS CASTLE XI—*Continued.*

Hon. J. B. Lyon, b Peddie	...	...	...	8
Lord Glamis, c Martin, b Smith	...	...	...	17
O. S. Portal, run out	...	...	...	31
Hon. M. B. Lyon, b Smith	...	...	...	7
Plowright (prof.), not out	...	...	...	1
G. M. Balfour-Melville, absent, hurt.	...	...	...	0
Extras	...	...	...	5
Total	...	...	...	132

Glamis was a happy hunting ground for C. Ferrier, but he scored freely in the games at Nursery Park also against the Earl of Strathmore's side. It is interesting to see the statistics of all his innings in those matches, viz. :—

Inns.	Times not out.	Highest score.	Total runs.	Average.
24	1	200	867	37.69

The annual visit of Mr R. C. H. Millar's Rossie Castle XI provided a happy afternoon's cricket, and it was refreshing to see some of the younger players assert themselves. The visitors, though a strong side, were outmatched. The scores were :—

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, b Clark	...	...	...	14
R. L. Laing, b Simpson	...	...	...	4
R. J. Bain, c and b do.	...	...	...	7
W. Eddie, b Campbell	...	...	...	33
F. Esplin, b Simpson	...	...	...	21
Smith (prof.), b Campbell	...	...	...	0
B. Eggo, b do.	...	...	...	3
W. G. Falconer, b Clarke	...	...	...	11
W. A. Bain, stp Fry, b Simpson	...	...	...	25
J. D. O. Coats, b do.	...	...	...	21
Rev. J. M. Hunter, not out	...	...	...	8
Extras	...	...	...	9
Total	...	...	...	156

RECORD INDIVIDUAL SCORE 265

ROSSIE CASTLE XI

R. C. H. Millar, c Laing, b Smith	...	...	35
W. Campbell, c Hunter, b Eddie	...	...	9
E. Simpson, c Coats, b Smith	...	...	5
M. A. Milne, b Eddie	...	...	0
J. N. Johnston, b Smith	...	...	8
K. R. B. Fry, c Ferrier, b Smith	...	...	3
J. Kerr, c Eggo, b do.	...	...	0
Rev. G. S. Clarke, b Eddie	...	...	8
S. Ramsay, b do.	...	...	5
E. G. W. Millar, c Ferrier, b Smith	...	...	0
H. Morrison, not out	...	...	2
Extras	...	...	12
Total	...	...	87

Forfarshire closed the season at Nursery Park, and one of the most interesting matches of the summer took place. Alex. Reoch at the beginning and end of Forfarshire's innings bowled with great effect, and his analysis was 5 wickets for 27 runs. As will be seen from the scores there were several productive innings from the famous batsmen on both sides.

FORFARSHIRE.

G. M. Cleghorn, b Peddie	...	...	15
Wynward (prof.), c Sorrie, b Reoch	...	...	1
Higgins (prof.), b do.	...	...	4
A. C. Lindsay, c Hill, b Sorrie	...	...	31
J. A. Kyd, retired	...	...	46
W. Stewart, c Bain, b Hill	...	...	36
G. B. Gilroy, b Peddie	...	...	11
R. G. Tait, not out	28
J. R. Philip, c Bain, b Reoch	15
A. Duke, b do.	0
A. Joe, c Duke, b do.	0
Extras	17
Total	204

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BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, b Wynward	7
J. W. Sorrie, lbw, b Lindsay	46
W. Cameron, c Duke, b do.	4
T. Peddie, stp Gilroy, b do.	...	...	...	4
R. N. Duke, b Wynward	...	...	...	25
W. A. Bain, c Gilroy, b Lindsay	...	...	...	0
R. M. Gordon, b Tait	...	...	...	27
C. Hill, c Lindsay, b Wynward	...	...	...	18
Rev. J. M. Hunter, not out	...	...	...	3
A. Reoch, not out	...	...	...	5
J. Ferrier to bat.				
Extras	...	...	...	22
Total for 8 wkts.				161

The average runs scored per wicket by the Club during the season amounted to 15, as compared with the opponents' 10. C. Ferrier's aggregate of runs was 723, giving an average of 45. R. L. Laing was second with half of that number of runs to his credit, and an average of 19. The other regular members of the eleven, G. Y. Macfarlane, R. N. Duke, Smith, R. M. Gordon, W. Cameron, R. Martin, T. Peddie, and D. Balfour were each of value at the wickets on several occasions. R. M. Gordon and G. Y. Macfarlane showed distinct advance as batsmen, but the bowling of the latter had sadly deteriorated. Fortunately the newcomers, R. Martin and T. Peddie, compensated largely for Mac's decline, and as Smith was as successful as ever, the bowling was really stronger than in the two previous seasons. T. Peddie took 33, and R. Martin 26 wickets, for a fraction over 9 runs each.

CHAPTER XXIV

THE RECORDS OF THE PROFESSIONALS

The season of 1913 concluded Smith's engagement with the Club. The following table shows the excellent service which he rendered as a bowler. The figures show also that each year was an improvement upon its predecessor in respect of the cost per wicket, and are a striking example of versatility and ability over a series of years against, as a rule, the same opposing batsmen :—

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av. cost per wkt.
1908	287	41	959	76	12.35
1909	254	33	801	73	10.97
1910	486	44	747	87	8.59
1911	323	52	899	105	8.56
1912	389	56	1045	121	8.63
1913	356	64	748	96	7.79
	<hr/> 2095	<hr/> 290	<hr/> 5199	<hr/> 558	<hr/> 9.31

Smith's batting was not so much in evidence, but he rose to the occasion in several important matches. His figures with the bat were :—

	Inns.	Times not out.	Highest score.	Total runs.	Aver.
1908	21	1	32	200	10.00
1909	16	0	38	194	12.12
1910	19	0	56	240	12.63
1911	18	0	24	101	5.61
1912	23	3	32	221	11.05
1913	18	3	29	166	11.00
	<hr/> 115	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 1122	<hr/> 10.38

268 ANNALS OF BRECHIN CRICKET

Owing to restricted income the Committee of the Club decided to carry on the following season without the services of a professional, and the succession of professionals which served the Club so well for 21 years came to a close. It is interesting to record the doings of the professionals who preceded Smith.

Hirst—

BATTING.					
	Inns.	Times not out.	Highest score.	Total runs.	Aver.
1893	17	1	65	286	17.87
1894	19	2	49	280	16.47
	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 566	<hr/> 17.15

BOWLING.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av. cost per wkt.
1893	288	110	464	92	5.04
1894	303	95	470	103	4.56
	<hr/> 591	<hr/> 205	<hr/> 934	<hr/> 195	<hr/> 4.78

Davies—

BATTING.					
	Inns.	Times not out.	Highest score.	Total runs.	Aver.
1895	14	2	72	398	33.16
1896	18	7	80*	480	43.63
	<hr/> 32	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 80*	<hr/> 878	<hr/> 38.17

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av. cost per wkt.
1895	91	25	197	29	6.79
1896	202	57	419	49	8.55
	<hr/> 293	<hr/> 82	<hr/> 616	<hr/> 78	<hr/> 7.89

RECORDS OF THE PROFS 269

Pepper—

BATTING.					
	Inns.	Times not out.	Highest score.	Total runs.	Aver.
1897	17	0	32	221	13.00
1898	19	2	52	408	24.00
1899	17	3	61*	454	32.42
1900	19	3	105*	498	31.12
	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 105*	<hr/> 1581	<hr/> 24.70

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING.					Av. cost
	O.	M.	R.	W.	per wkt.
1897	300	96	502	74	6.78
1898	323	105	659	84	7.84
1899	312	122	536	72	7.44
1900	232	69	481	85	5.65
	<hr/> 1167	<hr/> 392	<hr/> 2178	<hr/> 315	<hr/> 6.91

Parkes—

BATTING.					
	Inns.	Times not out.	Highest score.	Total runs.	Aver.
1901	20	1	90	470	24.73
1902	13	3	52*	191	19.10
1903	20	2	52*	296	16.44
1904	16	5	122*	484	44.00
1905	15	1	58	254	18.14
	<hr/> 84	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 122*	<hr/> 1695	<hr/> 23.54

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING.					Av. cost
	O.	M.	R.	W.	per wkt.
1901	303	114	485	84	5.77
1902	336	122	506	59	8.57
1903	352	122	596	69	8.63
1904	320	86	607	75	8.09
1905	210	58	435	61	7.13
	<hr/> 1521	<hr/> 502	<hr/> 2629	<hr/> 348	<hr/> 7.55

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Fisher—

BATTING.					
	Inns.	Times not out.	Highest score.	Total runs.	Aver.
1906	17	2	47	178	11.86
1907	15	2	27	96	7.46
	<hr/> 32	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 47	<hr/> 274	<hr/> 9.78

BOWLING.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av. cost per wkt.
1906	223	41	551	68	8.10
1907	196	41	588	46	12.78
	<hr/> 419	<hr/> 82	<hr/> 1139	<hr/> 114	<hr/> 9.99

To those with an exact statistical mind I would mention that the number of balls in an over was increased in 1900 from five to six.

Discussion arises at times amongst followers of Brechin cricket on the respective merits of those professionals. It is generally conceded that Hirst was the best bowler and Davies the best batsman, while opinion is divided as to whether Pepper or Parkes was the best all-round player. Each one certainly contributed to the progress and success of Brechin cricket by their example, coaching, and care of the wickets, and worthily earns a place in these annals. The habitues of Nursery Park in pre-war days look back with pleasure and satisfaction on their many outstanding performances, in alliance with the equally clever and capable native exponents of the game.

CHAPTER XXV

FATEFUL 1914, THE DISRUPTION OF WAR

LAST SEASON ON NURSERY PARK

ANOTHER generation of keen young cricketers was coming forward, and with an admixture of the older 2nd XI players the Club's second line of attack was a very stout and aggressive one. Its record for 1913 and 1914 proved it to be the strongest junior team in Angus and the Mearns.

In 1913 ten matches were won, two lost, and two drawn. The eleven was well-balanced. C. Hill, E. Allan, D. Dakers, and F. Gray formed a quartette of excellent bowlers. D. Dakers, the Captain, was the best all-round player, heading the batting with an average of 16, and capturing 20 wickets for under 6 runs a-piece. He was a stylish left-handed batsman, who was all too soon lost to Brechin cricket. J. Finlay was another player of promise, followed by F. Esplin, D. Carcary, and A. Gray. "Sandy" Gray became the lusty smiter of the team, and during the following summer played many brilliant innings, with the splendid average of 36.

In 1914 the 2nd XI won eight matches and lost four. While the matches of the senior eleven were too often disappointing that year, those of the second string were never uninteresting. J. Adam, a relative of the great player of the same name, became a first-class wicket-keeper, and L. M. Bonar developed into a capable all-round player, while "Jock" Ferrier, a slow left-hand bowler, was a welcome "discovery." Several remarkable bowling feats were performed. Against St. John's, Forfar, Ferrier took 5 wickets with 7 balls, and in all 8 for 39 runs. Allan was unplayable against

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"Balmoral," Aberdeen, with 8 wickets for 5 runs, and Bonar against the Royal Flying Corps took 5 wickets for 7 runs. One of their best performances was against Arbroath United 2nd XI at Lochlands on 19th June 1914, as follows :—

BRECHIN 2ND XI.

J. Finlay, b Smith	...	...	...	15
J. Adam, lbw, b Neish	...	...	...	44
H. Douglas, lbw, b do.	...	...	...	21
J. Ferrier, b do.	...	...	...	2
A. Gray, not out	...	...	...	50
L. M. Bonar, not out	...	...	...	16
J. M'Pherson, D. Carcary, W. Milne, J. Heatherington and E. Allan did not bat.				
Extras	...	...	...	6
Total (closure) for 4 wkts.				154

ARBROATH UNITED 2ND XI.

P. Barclay, b Ferrier	...	...	...	2
J. M. Dundas, c Allan, b do.	...	...	...	2
A. D. Neish, c and b do.	...	...	...	1
A. J. Smith, b Allan	...	...	...	12
H. A. Warden, c Adam, b do.	...	...	...	13
G. C. M'Leod, b Ferrier	...	...	...	2
D. J. A. Neish, c Finlay, b do.	...	...	...	10
R. D. Blair, lbw, b do.	...	...	...	4
A. Butchart, b Allan	...	...	...	1
G. Johnston, b do.	...	...	...	0
J. Herald, not out	...	...	...	8
Extras	...	...	...	5
Total				60

The senior season of 1914 did not open with the hopeful and confident outlook which had been customary during the previous twenty years. It was decided, as has been mentioned, to carry on with a purely amateur side. The members and players worked hard and were well led by Captain Ferrier, but the results were disappointing, and had subsequent events not led to the concentration of every energy in the city, country, and empire on one

supreme object for the next four years a professional would no doubt have been again engaged. So far as the care of the ground and preparation of wickets were concerned, the Club was exceedingly fortunate.

Mr Robert Dunbar, one of the Club's most loyal and enthusiastic members, undertook the important work of groundsman, and nothing was left to be desired in that respect as a result of his skilled and faithful labours, supported as they were in minor degree by D. Balfour, J. Graham and others. Nursery Park was kept in a model condition. Batting proved to be the weak point, and the bowlers were but moderately successful. Of the 16 matches played only four were won. Seven games were lost and five drawn.

Brechin opened Forfarshire's season at Forthill, but was severely defeated. Against a total of 80, Forfarshire amassed 265 for 5 wickets. R. G. Tait and A. C. Lindsay scored 140 for the second wicket. Tait gave one of his great displays and entered the select circle of those who passed the century against the B.C.C. A creditable display was made on the spring holiday against Aberdeenshire, the scores being 98 and 73 in the visitors' favour. The feature of the match was C. Ferrier's bowling—7 wickets for 36 runs. Aberdeen University and Arbroath United gained substantial victories, the latter club pleasing its supporters by scoring 206.

The first success was that which was gained at Aberdeen in the return match with the northern county. Aberdeenshire was dismissed for 107, R. M. Gordon taking 6 wickets for 30, and Brechin replied with 110 for 7 wickets, C. Ferrier 38 and D. W. Galloway 18. Two splendid victories were gained at the expense of Cupar. On both those occasions Brechin's play was reminiscent of former glories.

At Cupar, C. Ferrier was again triumphant with

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the ball, performing the "hat trick" and taking 7 wickets for 51. Cupar scored 90 and Brechin 151 for 9 wickets. D. K. Laing and R. Martin were thorns in the flesh of the Fifers, giving a fine exhibition of defensive and aggressive batting for 36 and 28 runs respectively. J. Hollingworth made one of his few appearances and scored 24, and L. M. Bonar carried his bat with 20. The return match at Brechin a few weeks later was an ideal one from every point of view, interest being maintained throughout. W. G. Innes for Cupar, a delightful young player, gave a great display. The wickets of the Brechin players fell with regular persistency before any pair got settled down, and seven men were out for 82, when Macfarlane joined Martin. Four runs later Martin's splendid effort was finished, and Cupar appeared to have the match in hand. They were speedily disillusioned. Macfarlane without preliminary caution sent the ball spinning all over the field, while R. M. Gordon, who had joined him, showed perfect defence and contrived to let him get the major share of the batting. The score mounted rapidly, and a thrilling victory was achieved before those players were separated. In "Mac's" 46 there were eight boundary strokes. The scores were:—

CUPAR.

W. G. Innes, stp D. K. Laing, b Martin	...	...	...	63
W. S. Birrel, b Gordon	...	...	...	0
Webster (prof.), b do.	...	...	...	6
C. C. Edmond, c D. K. Laing, b do.	...	...	...	13
A. C. Wilkie, b do.	...	...	...	12
A. E. Connon, b Peddie	...	...	...	5
A. S. Reid, b Gordon	...	...	...	5
A. W. Douglas, lbw, b Peddie	...	...	...	4
J. M'Farlane, b Martin	...	...	...	9
J. O. Ramsay, b Peddie	...	...	...	0
J. Aitken, not out	...	...	...	2
Extras	...	...	...	16
Total	...	...	...	135

BRECHIN.

R. L. Laing, lbw, b Ramsay ...	...	...	...	12
W. Cameron, b do. ...	...	...	...	10
T. Peddie, c Edmond, b do. ...	...	...	...	10
J. Adam, lbw, b do. ...	...	...	...	3
R. Martin, b Innes ...	...	...	...	28
D. Balfour, c Ramsay, b Webster ...	...	...	...	4
D. K. Laing, c M'Farlane, b Innes ...	...	...	...	13
C. Hill, c Ramsay, b Reid ...	...	...	...	0
G. Y. Macfarlane, b Ramsay ...	...	...	...	46
R. M. Gordon, b do. ...	...	...	...	9
A. K. Gray, not out ...	...	...	...	1
Extras ...	...	...	...	4
Total ...	...	...	...	140

The game at Nursery Park with Dundee Victoria on a batsman's paradise was productive of 341 runs during four hours' play. Brechin closed at 193 for 8 wickets, and Victoria was 148 for 3 wickets. C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing enjoyed another prolific opening partnership, 131 being registered before their separation. Ferrier got 83, the highest individual score of the season, in his best style. R. L. Laing scored 38, and Martin 20 not out. For Victoria, J. Dewar gave a polished and vigorous display for 62 not out; A. Fraser scored 47 and veteran Sword 21 not out. At Dundee, Victoria had the better of a drawn match, in which Sword scored 46 not out, the highest innings of his side. George Sword played for Victoria against Brechin from 1892, the first year of occupancy of Nursery Park, and in this, the last meeting of the Clubs, was as sprightly as when a stripling 22 years before. He still retained the flick of the wrist which turned the ball so cleverly to leg, and had gained many runs during his long "innings." Dundee Victoria C.C. is now a memory of the past, but the name will recall many keen fights to three generations of Brechin cricketers—1889—1914. It strove hard during its existence to maintain a first-class

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club in Dundee, and it deserved better support. Many splendid cricketers passed through its ranks and were chosen for county honours.

The remainder of the fateful summer of 1914 saw some interesting cricket between old rivals before the war clouds burst and caused the August fixtures to be abandoned. Strathmore, Forfar, had the better of the exchanges. Brechin managed to avoid defeat at Forfar. After "Strathie" scored 124 Brechin lost nine wickets for 76—C. Hill 25 and G. A. Burns 11, alone reaching double figures. Grant as usual bowled with skill. Bowling for Brechin Bob Martin took five wickets for no runs with his last twelve deliveries. In the last pre-war match with the Forfarrians at Brechin, J. A. Grant was once more master of the situation with his deceptive well-pitched slows of varying velocity and height, and the Club which he had gallantly led so long returned home with all the honours. It scored 122, and Brechin's response was only 42, Grant accounting for 8 wickets at a cost of 23 runs.

In other two games with Arbroath United the sides were well matched, and interesting play was seen. At Nursery Park the scores were—Arbroath 125, Brechin 114. For the respective clubs M. R. Dickson 50 and R. L. Laing 62 gave masterly displays of batting.

The match at Lochlands provided a joyous afternoon of hitting and leather chasing. Both elevens were strengthened, and a holiday crowd enjoyed plenty of the "'it 'im 'ard, 'igh and of'en" kind of batting, along with much of the more orthodox and stylish. Brechin amassed the highest total of either Club in their encounters, which date back to 1850. No new bowling records were in evidence, unless it may be Sievwright's 3 wickets for 95 runs! The scores of this match were:—

THE DISRUPTION OF WAR 277

BRECHIN.

R. L. Laing, lbw, b Sievwright	...	...	10
R. N. Duke, b do.	...	...	45
S. Parkes, b do.	...	...	13
W. S. Whyte, c M'Leod, b Scott	...	...	9
J. W. Winter, c Mechan, b Dickson	...	...	18
C. Ferrier, c Barclay, b M'Leod	...	...	25
G. B. Gilroy, b Scott	...	...	47
R. Martin, b Hulme	...	...	6
D. Balfour, b Dickson	...	...	30
R. M. Gordon, not out	...	...	36
D. W. Galloway, not out	...	...	9
Extras	...	...	20

Total (closure) for 9 wickets 268

ARBROATH UNITED.

M. R. Dickson, lbw, b Martin	...	...	23
A. C. Mechan, b do.	...	...	12
J. Reid Kerr, c Ferrier, b Parkes	...	...	19
A. V. Kinnear, b Martin	...	...	2
Hulme (prof.), c Winter, b Ferrier	...	...	51
R. W. Sievwright, lbw, b do.	...	...	5
G. S. Eastwood, c Winter, b do.	...	...	22
P. Barclay, not out	...	...	6
J. C. Hansen, G. C. M'Leod and W. Scott to bat.	...	...	11
Extras	...	...	11

Total for 7 wickets ... 151

The Royal Flying Corps enabled the Club to compile another good total, viz., 185, to which the response was only 43. R. M. Gordon scored 62 not out, and took 6 wickets for 17 runs. R. Martin secured the other 4 wickets for 13 runs, and his quota with the bat was 29.

It was whilst the Club was engaged against Mon-trose at Nursery Park on 1st August that the shadow of war hung over the country. The spec-tators followed the game as usual with close atten-tion, but there was something in the atmosphere which suggested that more weighty matters than

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cricket were in men's thoughts. As soon as the only decision possible had been come to three days later, every Club was affected, as one after another of the payers responded to the military call. The remaining fixtures were cancelled.

This match was the last to be played at Nursery Park, and on that account alone is worthy of detailed record. C. Ferrier was more restrained than usual, as in his 72 there were only three boundaries. It was left to Dave Balfour, the burly goal-keeper of Dundee F.C., to supply the fireworks, his 37 being registered by the following nine strokes, 6,2,2,4,2,6,6,2. Bowling for Montrose the old Brechin player W. Campbell took 5 wickets for 55 runs.

BRECHIN.

C. Ferrier, c and b Campbell ...	...	...	72
R. N. Duke, run out ...	...	...	6
H. Douglas, b Campbell ...	...	...	8
D. Balfour, b do. ...	...	...	37
W. Cameron, c Craigie, b do. ...	...	...	19
C. Hill, not out ...	...	...	13
R. Martin, c and b Campbell ...	...	...	2
J. D. O. Coats, c and b do. ...	...	...	0
J. Adam, J. Ferrier and W. Milne did not bat.			
Extras ...	...	...	10
Total (closure) for 7 wickets ...			167

MONTROSE.

C. V. Craigie, b Martin ...	...	...	2
E. Thomson, b J. Ferrier ...	...	...	7
R. C. H. Millar, c and b Martin ...	...	...	2
W. Campbell, b J. Ferrier ...	...	...	0
J. Hogg, not out ...	...	...	38
M. A. Milne, b Martin ...	...	...	9
W. Hogg, run out ...	...	...	4
J. R. Howie, c Balfour, b C. Ferrier ...	...	...	30
M. Dunn, not out ...	...	...	2
G. Wilson and A. Reoch to bat.			
Extras ...	...	...	11
Total for 7 wickets ...			105

The season of 1914 which was thus brought to an abrupt conclusion was not outstanding apart from the fact that two good all-round cricketers in R. M. Gordon and R. Martin gave evidence of emulating the great deeds of the past.

C. Ferrier for the fifth successive year headed the batting averages. This great cricketer gained the triple honour of the highest average, the highest aggregate, and the highest individual score during those five seasons. He also gained the same distinction in 1897 and 1907, while in 1906 he had the highest score and highest aggregate and in 1908 the highest average and highest aggregate. During his cricketing career for Brechin he exceeded the century nine times, one of these scores being exactly 200. R. M. Gordon, D. Balfour, D. K. Laing, R. L. Laing, R. Martin, and D. W. Galloway in the order named had double figure averages. R. M. Gordon headed the bowling analyses with 35 wickets for 9.6 runs each. R. Martin took 32 wickets for 12 runs each and C. Ferrier 34 wickets for 13 apiece.

CHAPTER XXVI

THE WAR RECORD OF THE CLUB

WITH the exception of one of the Brechin players, who was declared unfit for active service, all those who played in the last match served on one or other of the fronts in the course of the war. G. Y. Macfarlane, who was at camp with the Territorials on that date, volunteered immediately for service, and was amongst the first in the Territorial Forces of the Black Watch to be in the French fighting zone in November. Less than a year had passed ere James Adam died of wounds, and, in all, nine young men who had played in one or other of the Brechin elevens laid down their lives before hostilities ceased. Their names are :—

ROLL OF HONOUR

JAMES ADAM, Pte., 5th B.W. - - -	1915
LAWRENCE M. BONAR, Trooper, Dra- goon Guards - - - - -	1915
A. R. DAVIDSON, Lt., Seaforth H. -	1916
DAVID GLEN, Sgt., Royal Scots - -	1917
JOHN S. LYON, Pte., 2nd S.A. Infantry	1916
G. Y. MACFARLANE, D.C.M., Sgt., B.W.	1917
ROBERT MARTIN, Pte., Scots Guards -	1916
D. COLLIE MARTIN, Cpl., B.W. - -	1917
ROBERT STRACHAN, L.-Cpl., B.W. -	1916

Of these it will be noticed that G. Y. Macfarlane gained the D.C.M. for distinguished conduct on many occasions. He was the life and soul of his

company, and he courageously "played the game" on the fields of battle as he always did on the green and peaceful fields of cricket. Thirteen of the Forfarshire C.C. laid down their lives, and to their honour and memory a beautiful Memorial Tablet has been erected in the pavilion at Forthill. G. Y. Macfarlane's name is among that number, also J. B. Craik (Forfar) and G. B. Gilroy, both of whom had assisted Brechin during their lives.

A large number of other members took part in war service at home and abroad and several won distinction for gallantry. R. N. Duke received a commission in the Black Watch when war broke out. He rapidly won promotion and rose to be Acting-Brigade-Major in the 27th Infantry Brigade. He was mentioned frequently in despatches, and received the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross. Captain G. M. Adam was also awarded the Military Cross, and David Dakers was decorated with the French Croix de Guerre. G. R. Smith, a former professional, was Sergeant in the R.F.A. and received the Military Medal for gallantry.

Several were wounded, and more than one suffered harassing experiences as prisoners in the hands of the enemy. Colin Hampton was for a short time in the hands of the Turks in Mesopotamia. Alex. Joe's experience was the most trying of all the cricketers. He was acting as Surgeon Probationer on the "Nestor" which was sunk at the naval battle off Jutland in May 1916, and reported lost. He was afterwards found to have been rescued by the Germans and interned for 20 months before being exchanged and returned to this country. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for "having behaved with the greatest coolness under fire, tending the wounded single-handed both on the 'Nestor' and later on board a German Destroyer."

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Quite a number of former players received commissions. T. M. Guthrie was Captain commanding Brechin Detachment, 5th Black Watch (Territorials) at the outbreak of war. He gave valuable service in various capacities during the course of the war, and was promoted to be Major. J. W. Winter saw much active service at Gallipoli and the near East, and also finished with the rank of Major. J. M. S. Duke and A. W. Duke were drafted to France with the Back Watch Territorials early in the war, and became Captains in the regiment. A. Wilson was a Captain in the Gordon Highlanders, J. D. O. Coats received a commission in the Black Watch, and also finished as a Captain, while Duncan M'Lellan and J. R. Gordon were Lieutenants in their respective regiments.

In the quieter but necessary support which those at home rendered to the nation in its extremity, members of the Cricket Club took their full share in organising and contributing to Relief Funds, providing comforts to the soldiers and prisoners of war, and caring for the dependents of those serving at the front. In this respect it was noted with pleasure that a former Captain of the Club, L. G. Pattullo, was conspicuous at Seattle, U.S.A., where, as President of the British-American Relief Association, he raised over £15,000 for War Relief work.

Altogether the cricketers worthily "did their bit" in the dread crisis through which the country passed from 1914 to 1918.

CHAPTER XXVII

THE YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

CRICKET in marked contrast to other sports, was entirely suspended throughout the country during the first two years of the war. Without suggestion or coercion of any kind, every Club, from the M.C.C. downwards, voluntarily closed its gates. When the nightmare of war came to be regarded as a normal condition, most of the national popular sports and recreations resumed their regular activities, but it was not until after the Armistice that Cricket Clubs decided to arrange programmes of matches. In some of the English centres interest was kept alive by local matches for War charities, but in Scotland a cricket match of any kind was seldom heard of. Cricketers can never be accused of offending the proprieties of the strictest public conscience in those grave days.

No cricket match was played in Brechin from 1st August, 1914, until the summer of 1922, although the Brechin Club continued to exist as an official entity. A match was arranged with Arbroath and played at Lochlands in July, 1915. The elevens were as representative of the respective towns as was possible under the prevailing circumstances, and an interesting game resulted in favour of Brechin by 134 for 6 wickets to 46. W. Cameron scored 48, Bombardier Hall, of the Royal Field Artillery stationed in Brechin at the time, 27, W. Eddie 23, and R. L. Laing 10. "Jock" Ferrier with left-hand slows captured 7 wickets for 17 runs.

During the height of the war the Committee of the Club decided with regret to end the tenancy of

Nursery Park, so that it could be used for the production of foodstuffs at a time when it was imperative that every available and suitable piece of land should be cultivated.

The sacrifice of Nursery Park, the scene of so many triumphs, with its happy memories of 23 years, was made with the utmost reluctance, and the realisation that however soon the war should come to an end, the Club would be faced with a fresh beginning, involving many anxieties and strenuous labour. The Committee believed however that when the time came the people of Brechin would rally round them and assist in providing facilities once more for the renewal of the activities of the Club. Their faith was fully justified. It has taken time, but efforts and circumstances have gradually evolved to enable the Club, as we shall see, to renew its life with every expectation of a future in keeping with, and even surpassing, perhaps, its former long and honourable history.

When in 1919 the young men were once more free to indulge in the peaceful pursuits of leisure, Nursery Park could not be secured for the Cricket Club, and search had to be made for a new ground. Unfortunately nothing suitable could be got for some years. The more ardent spirits however were not to be denied an occasional game, and in July 1919, without any previous practice, three matches were arranged, two at Sunnyside, and one at Arbroath. The Brechiners gave a good account of themselves. Sunnyside was beaten twice. On the first occasion their representatives, including some of the Arbroath Club, were dismissed for 65, and Brechin replied with 132, of which J. Walker scored 28, A. Joe 23 not out, and myself 20. Brechin improved upon that on the subsequent visit by scoring 172 against Sunnyside's 57. R. M. Gordon made 44 and C. Hill 35, while W. Eddie took 4 wickets for 5 runs, and J. Hollingworth 3 for 5. Arbroath

United had resumed and were carrying out a successful list of engagements. The resumption of the former friendly feud with Arbroath, which had so long possessed a peculiar fascination for both Clubs and their followers, was eagerly desired by both parties. A match was accordingly arranged and took place at Lochlands, resulting as follows :—

BRECHIN.

R. L. Laing, run out	14
J. Walker, stp Gauldie, b Sievwright	5
R. M. Gordon, c Scott, b do.	14
J. W. Sorrie, c Gauldie, b do.	58
W. Eddie, c and b J. B. Meikle	13
G. M. Scott, c Duncan, b Smith	4
B. Eggo, c Myles, b J. B. Meikle	8
J. Winter, stp Gauldie, b Sievwright... ..	8
A. Joe, c Murray, b Scott	7
P. B. Leslie, b Sievwright	0
E. Croall, not out	1
Extras	6
Total	138

ARBROATH UNITED.

J. C. Duncan, c Scott, b Eddie	19
W. Mann, b Croall	7
J. B. Meikle, c Gordon, b Sorrie	56
R. W. Sievwright, lbw, b do.	10
J. D. Small, b Eddie	17
C. Y. Myles, c Gordon, b do.... ..	7
A. D. M'Laren, not out	14
T. Meikle, not out	3
J. Murray, W. Scott, and D. C. Gauldie to bat.	
Extras	9
Total for 6 wkts	142

This match proved that, given facilities for practice, Brechin possessed cricketing talent and ability fit to face the best with every prospect of success. J. W. Sorrie was without a peer as a batsman in Scotland at this time. A few weeks earlier,

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playing for Scotland against the Australians at Edinburgh, he helped to put on 64 for the first wicket with John Kerr of Greenock, the Scottish Captain, and stayed until 179 runs had been scored, his share, the highest innings for Scotland, being 79.

No ground could yet be secured, and 1920 was a blank year, but in 1921 permission was received to practise in the Public Park, and a few of the older players set about to coach the High School boys, and incidentally create an interest in cricket amongst the new generation of youth. Visits were again arranged to neighbouring clubs. The first was to Arbroath, where a splendid game was played. Owing to the fine all-round work of W. Campbell, a former Brechin player, victory rested in the end with Arbroath after an exciting finish. Brechin scored 152, of which W. Eddie had 65, Bert Eggo 21, and C. Ferrier 11. Arbroath scored 158 for 9 wickets, of which M. R. Dickson had 77, and W. Campbell, following 6 wickets for 28 runs, made 21 not out. In a second match at Arbroath later in the summer Brechin turned the tables on its old rivals. As the majority of the Brechin players belonged to a previous generation, the result was very pleasing. I had the honour of captaining the side. G. M. Scott, D. K. Laing, E. Croall, S. Parkes, at one time professional to the Brechin Club, and myself were of the older school who would probably never appear again in those typical "Ashes" contests. The details were:—

BRECHIN.

W. Cameron, c Murray, b Sievwright	...	4
W. Eddie, stp Gauldie, b do. ...	...	15
S. Parkes, b do. ...	...	2
J. Walker, not out ...	...	23
H. Cameron, c Small, b Sievwright	0
A. O'Neil, b Small	4
G. M. Scott, b do.	0
C. Eddie, b do.	4

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BRECHIN—*Continued.*

E. Croall, stp Gauldie, b Sievwright	1
D. K. Laing, b do.	6
J. Ferrier, b do.	2
Total ... ..	...	61

ARBROATH UNITED.

D. S. Greig, lbw, b Parkes ... ..	...	3
A. M. Fairweather, c Croall, b do. ...	...	0
Gibbon (prof). b W. Eddie ... ..	...	1
J. D. Small, c Laing, b do. ... ..	...	1
W. Campbell, not out ... ..	...	14
R. W. Sievwright, b W. Eddie ... ..	...	7
P. R. K. Leslie, c W. Eddie, b Parkes	...	0
F. Raitt, run out ... ..	...	2
J. R. Murray, b Eddie ... ..	...	0
D. C. Gauldie, b do. ... ..	...	2
W. Herron, b do. ... ..	...	0
Total ... ..	...	30

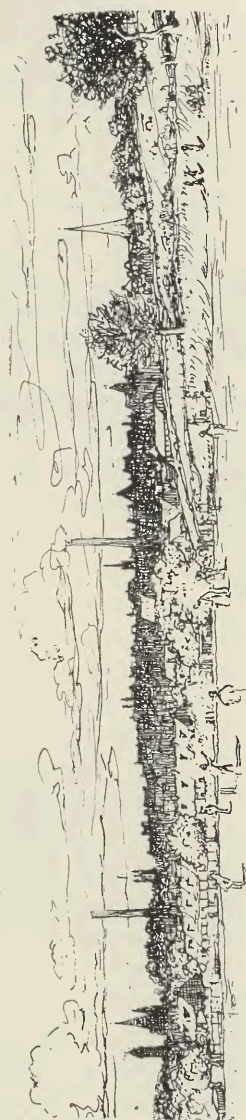
J. Walker played a perfect innings, carrying his bat from second wicket down. W. Eddie took 6 wickets for 14 runs, and Parkes 3 for 16, while the fielding was of a high standard. During Brechin's innings Sievwright, who was the ablest bowler in Scotland at the time, and a first choice for representative matches, completed his 100 wickets for the season. A match took place at Sunnyside which was drawn—Sunnyside 131, Brechin 90 for 6 wickets, W. Eddie 30 and B. Eggo 34. At Forfar, Strathmore was played with a rather weak eleven, and defeat was Brechin's portion.

During this year the Y.M.C.A. formed a cricket club, and under the guiding influence and example, first of R. M. Gordon, and later R. L. Laing, a very capable and enthusiastic eleven was got together, which upheld the honour of the city for the next three years. The Public Park was the only possible place for play, and the Y.M.C.A. played their home games there in 1922 and 1923. It was impossible

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to make a satisfactory wicket, but they made the best of it, and the large crowds which watched the play were evidence that cricket continued to offer attraction to countless numbers of the citizens, while the young players showed an aptitude for the game which, under better conditions of practice and coaching indicated that the youth of Brechin as in past years would soon be able to establish a first-class side.

Meanwhile, Brechin eleven played two matches in 1922, in which Strathmore and Sunnyside made very inferior appearances against them. At Forfar, Brechin scored 114 against Strathmore's 26. W. Eddie made 50 and took 7 wickets for 9 runs. R. M. Eggo, captain of Reading F.C., which reached the semi-final for the English Cup in 1927, scored a stylish 20. At Sunnyside the same pair were again chief scorers, Eddie 54 and Eggo 19. W. Eddie was obviously in a class by himself and has retained better than most players his pre-war ability. Forfarshire requisitioned his services during 1923, 1924, and 1925, and he was admittedly the best all-round player in their eleven.



GUTHRIE PARK



CHAPTER XXVIII

THE FUTURE OF BRECHIN CRICKET

INTERESTING developments took place in 1922. It is now no secret that my eldest brother, D. W. O'Neil, New York, an old friend of the Club, decided to purchase and equip Dall's Park (a fine level stretch of land covering over seven acres, situated south of the railway line, with access from Montrose Street and Scott Street) and present it to the Brechin C.C. He was on his way to the city to complete the transaction when he was fatally stricken down. This was naturally a deep disappointment and misfortune. The Town Council, however, being convinced of the need for cricket facilities in the city, and additional ground for recreational purposes, shortly afterwards decided to purchase Dall's Park. Bailie Barrie took the lead in this matter, and his colleagues were unanimous with their support. The major portion of the park was marked out for cricket, and a stretch of turf laid for matches. Later Ex-Provost Guthrie generously relieved the Town Council of the cost of the ground, and while doing so expressed his desire that the Cricket Club should receive priority in the use of it for cricket so long as they did not have a private ground.

Thus the chief obstacle in the way of the revival of first-class cricket was removed, and the Brechin Club prepared to avail itself of the provision so handsomely made. The Y.M.C.A. Club had the honour of opening the ground on 31st May 1924. Stonehaven Thistle was the opposing side, and the local club gained a brilliant victory. R. L. Laing

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and J. Walker batted in a manner reminiscent of pre-war days. The details are worthy of record:—

Y.M.C.A.

J. Walker, c Sherriffs, b Callaghan ...	49
W. D. M'Leod, b do. ...	4
D. D. Lindsay, c Burness, b do. ...	1
R. L. Laing, run out ...	61
H. R. Cross, c Simpson, b Callaghan ...	15
C. M. Moir, b do. ...	2
A. K. Murray, not out ...	12
D. E. Black, not out ...	6
H. Neish, J. G. Burness and A. A. Kinnear did not bat.	
Extras ...	5

Total (closure) for 6 wkts. ... 155

STONEHAVEN THISTLE.

J. V. Vernon, lbw, b Moir ...	7
J. H. Jackson, c Cross, b Laing ...	0
G. Skinner, c Walker, b Moir ...	10
D. D. Callaghan, c Neish, b do. ...	0
W. F. Vernon, c Walker, b do. ...	0
J. G. Sherriffs, b Laing ...	1
J. M'Pherson, b Moir ...	7
J. A. M'Gill, b Laing ...	1
A. Shepherd, not out ...	3
W. D. Simpson, b Laing ...	4
W. Burness, c Lindsay, b do. ...	0
Extras ...	2

Total ... 35

C. M. Moir took 5 wickets for 16 runs, and Laing 5 for 17.

Strathmore Club was vanquished at Forfar. The Y.M.C.A. enjoyed a very successful season, though few of the matches could be reckoned first-class: 15 were won and only 4 lost. R. L. Laing and J. Walker continued to be the backbone of the eleven, giving many brilliant exhibitions of both batting and bowling.

The Brechin Club was in a position the following year to arrange a fixture list, and both clubs—

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Y.M.C.A. and Brechin—carried out very similar programmes, occupying Guthrie Park, as it was now designated, on alternate Saturdays. The existence of the two clubs, with their friendly rivalry, served the excellent purpose of mutual stimulation and emulation, and the creation of renewed interest in the game amongst the citizens. This purpose having been served, the Y.M.C.A. decided in 1926 to join forces with the Brechin Club, with the object of providing the city once more with a first-class club, capable of playing other first-class clubs in the country. The satisfactory results consequent upon this wise step are fresh in the memory. Under the competent leadership of G. B. Smart, a cricketer of first-class merit and training (he got his Cap and century for Merchiston School), with the judicial temperament and other qualifications necessary for the position, the best traditions of the succession of Brechin Captains has been fully maintained. R. L. Laing is Vice-Captain and W. Eddie Hon. Secretary, ideal officials also, as well as players of the first rank. The Hon. Treasurer, D. Noel Scott, follows his father, G. Monro Scott; grandfather, ex-Provost Scott; and grand-uncle J. M. Scott, former Captains of the Club, as a most capable office-bearer. Messrs Smart, Laing, and Eddie, along with J. Walker and D. Chapman (a nephew of George Shand, one of Brechin's great players of 20 odd years ago) form a quintette of players unequalled at the present time in any other club in the county. Other young cricketers show promise and may be expected to steadily reinforce and complete a very strong senior side. There is life in many of the old dogs, too, and it is refreshing to see G. M. Scott, J. Hollingworth, G. Douglas, C. Ferrier and others sometimes at the nets, supporting the officials and advising and inspiring the new generation both by precept and example.

Nor can we forget the rare fidelity of many other enthusiastic members, such as H. G. Mitchell, never adepts with bat or ball, but full of understanding of all the fine points of the game, brimful of suggestion for the benefit of the Club, and unsparing in efforts to promote its welfare. The Club has always been surrounded by such a crowd of witnesses, which has followed its fortunes on every occasion during their lives, rejoicing in its triumphs and sympathising in its failures. These, alike with the players, deserve a tribute for their constancy and encouragement throughout the existence of the Club, and their share in its progress.

Since the close of the 1926 season an important and far-reaching step has been taken which should assure the Club of every opportunity very soon to be in a better position than in all its long history. The Town Council, faced with too heavy a burden of expense to keep Guthrie Park in a manner worthy of its trust, entered into an agreement with the Cricket Club whereby the Club has received a twenty-five years' lease of the Park at mutually favourable terms. The Club is now busy raising funds for enclosing and adequately fitting Guthrie Park for its purpose. Already many old members and friends have subscribed generously, but a large sum of money will be required. The efforts of the Club, through a Bazaar, and other means, deserve the utmost support of the community. The Club is not only worthy of this support for its own sake, but also for the additional attraction and amenity which will be provided to the city.

The future of Brechin cricket is now entrusted to a new generation, and it is hoped they will be stimulated by the chronicles of past generations of cricketers to carry on the best traditions of the Brechin Cricket Club.

As I lay down my pen a great procession of past Brechin cricketers passes before my inward vision

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—the Peer and the Peasant; the Squire and the Parson; Dominie and Doctor; Soldier and Sailor; Statesman and Diplomat; Captains of Industry and Commerce; Lawyer and Banker; Farmer and Tradesman; Artisan and Clerk; Provost and Bailie—all on one equality, all Jock Tamson's bairns, respecting each other, and with fun and laughter and good fellowship playing with zest and unselfishness on many a summer day. When—

*The grass glistens green with emerald sheen
And birds sing in every thicket;
Send care to the dogs and put on your togs
And never say die while there's Cricket.*

SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTER

BRECHIN'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTER-COUNTY PLAYERS

THE geographical position of Brechin, which has confined its usual radius for matches between the Tay and the Don, and the uninformed notions so often to be found amongst creators of public opinion that the best in Scottish Cricket can only be found in a few of the large city clubs, have undoubtedly been responsible for comparatively few of Brechin's many clever cricketers receiving international honours. It was only when J. W. Sorrie and W. Eddie came more into the view of the powers that be in Edinburgh, through their play for Carlton and Peebles County, that they were recognised in that way. Of Douglas Ferrier, too, it may be said that the fortuitous circumstance of his playing occasionally for Uddingston and West of Scotland led to his international honours. Full many a flower in cricket, as in other fields of life,

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is born to blush unseen, and waste its fragrance on the village green (apologies to Gray). Those three represented Scotland as follows:—

D. Ferrier *v.* Philadelphians and Sussex in 1903.
W. Eddie *v.* Ireland in 1913.

J. W. Sorrie, *v.* Ireland 1912-13-14-20. Oxford University 1913; Surrey 1913; Northamptonshire 1913; South Africa 1912; Australia 1912, 1921; Australian Imperial Forces XI 1919; and Wales 1924.

It will be seen that from 1912 to 1924 J. W. Sorrie retained his place in every important international game, all of which were under the aegis of the Scottish Cricket Union. He was often the opening batsman, first with that great Aberdeenshire-Forfarshire cricketer, R. G. Tait, and, after the War, with John Kerr of Greenock. Those three, Sorrie, Tait, and Kerr, will be linked for all time with L. M. Balfour-Melville (Grange), C. T. Mannes (Drumpellier), W. R. Sharp (Forfarshire), Joe Anderson (Perthshire), and M. R. Dickson (Arbroath) as amongst the greatest batsmen who have ever played for Scotland. The opinion of every Brechiner, of course, is that Douglas Ferrier towered above them all in style and ability during his shorter life in Scottish cricket.

Of the Scotland *versus* Surrey match at the Oval in 1913, "Rover" in the *Daily News*, in writing of the first day's play, said: "So far as defensive cricket is concerned, I am bound to say Scotland possesses a few batsmen who have nothing to learn in that department. J. W. Sorrie, for instance, who batted $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours for 61 without making a bad stroke, played all the bowlers, and especially Hitch, with an ease that must have surprised the Surrey cracks. I would go further and say that Sorrie played Hitch as well as any batsman has done this season." Scotland made 250 that day, of which Sorrie was top-scorer with 61, and before the drawing of

stumps R. W. Sievwright, of Arbroath, had clean bowled Ernie Hayes, and got the famous Hobbs caught for a few runs. Against the Australians at Perth in 1912, Sorrie scored 32; in 1919 he was top-scorer with 79 *v.* the Australian Imperial Forces XI; while in 1922 in the match at Perth with the Australians he scored 23 and 18 not out.

In representative Forfarshire matches Brechin men have frequently played an important and conspicuous part. The late W. R. Sharp, Captain of Forfarshire for a generation, than whom no man ever did so much for cricket, was quick to appreciate the abilities of his opponents, and their temperament for big cricket. From the late 'nineties until the outbreak of War, he made frequent calls upon the services of Brechin men for the great Scottish cricket "Derby"—Forfarshire *v.* Perthshire, as well as for other Scottish County fixtures after the institution of the County Championship. The Brechin Club never raised any objections, or placed any difficulties in the way, but always loyally released its players, sometimes to the sacrifice of its side when an important fixture happened to be on the same date. All of the players who were selected from time to time worthily upheld their reputation, and by their all-round play helped to bring many a victory to their native county. D. M'Hardy, D. Dundas, J. Adam, and J. Lamb represented Forfarshire on several occasions. From 1897 to the present day the following were frequently called upon, viz. :—

J. Hollingworth, C. Ferrier, G. Douglas, J. P. Gibb, D. Ferrier, W. Campbell, G. Shand, W. Ferrier, J. W. Sorrie, G. Y. Macfarlane, and W. Eddie. No doubt, on account of the fact that I was fortunate enough to distinguish myself on several occasions against Forfarshire, I was honoured with an invitation to play against Fifeshire in a mid-week match, but business circumstances were in-

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convenient and I had regretfully to decline. Other players were worthy of the honour, but in those spacious days of W. R. Sharp, J. A. Kyd, R. G. Tait, A. C. Lindsay, G. K. Chalmers, R. L. M'Intyre, F. Batchelor, Higgins and Ringrose, a place was difficult to achieve, and the fact that so many Brechin players, often two and three in a match, were chosen, is eloquent testimony of the quality of the Brechin Cricket Club, and the ability and temperament of its players for great occasions. Of that eleven, Douglas Ferrier was undoubtedly the outstanding player, and the hero of several of the historic Inter-County tussles with Perthshire. Who that was present will ever forget the thrilling finish at Forthill in 1902, when, after Perthshire had scored 197, and seemed safe for a draw, Forfarshire scored at a terrific rate, and, thanks chiefly to Ferrier, who had 79 not out, won in the last over, and got 206 for 4 wickets in an hour and three-quarters. Ferrier and Jolly (Dundee Victoria), who made the winning hit, were carried shoulder high off the field. In 1904 he exceeded the century against Perthshire at Forthill, scoring 112, while in 1901 he scored 55 in the corresponding match. Countless other large scores came from his bat for the County. J. P. Gibb was another Brechin centurion in that great encounter, getting a brilliant 112 not out in 1899 on the Saturday following his 100 not out against Montrose at Nursery Park. G. Shand and W. Campbell were contemporaries in many Inter-County games, and always gave a good account of themselves. J. Hollingworth scored 40 in the 1897 match on the North Inch, along with W. R. Sharp, who that day made 150, the record score in these games. During the post-war seasons of 1923-24-25, W. Eddie, as a regular member of the County XI, was a great source of strength to it, and in 1925 headed both the batting and bowling averages.

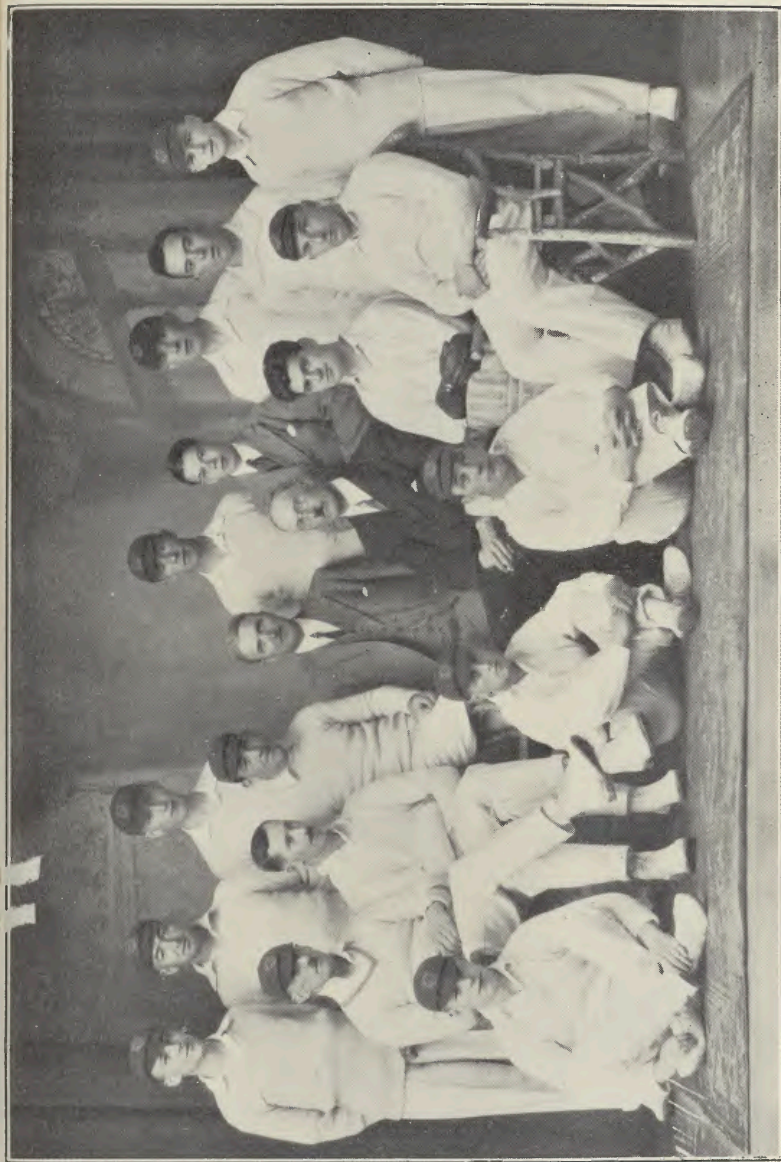


Photo by A. C. Milne, Brechin.]

BRECHIN C.C. 1927.

Back row—G. A. Moir, C. Hill, D. D. Lindsay, D. Chapman, A. W. R. O'Neil (Scorer),
G. Petrie, F. Dalgetty and C. M. Moir.

Middle Row—R. L. Laing, G. B. Smart (Captain), E. Smart, H. G. Mitchell, A. O'Neil, H.
Cross and W. Eddie.

Front row—W. Macleod, L. Morton and J. Walker.



OFFICE-BEARERS OF BRECHIN CRICKET CLUB.

STATISTICS

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	<i>Captain.</i>	<i>Vice-Captain.</i>	<i>Secretary.</i>	<i>Treasurer.</i>
1849	James Adamson	Charles R. Kinnear	Charles Anderson	James L. Gordon
1850	W. Cloake	J. Harris	—	—
1858	G. A. Scott	—	—	—
1859	do.	—	—	—
1863	G. Soutar	—	—	—
1865	Walter Brodie	A. Davidson	J. M'Donald	J. M'Donald
1866	do.	do.	do.	do.
1867	do.	do.	A. Davidson	A. Davidson
1868	G. S. Mitchell	John M. Scott	J. P. Cargill	J. P. Cargill
	A Davidson	—	Thos. Kerr	Thos. Kerr
1869	do.	do.	do.	do.
1870	do.	—	do.	do.
1871	Robert Black	Tom Kerr	Jas. Ireland, jun.	Jas. Ireland, jun.
1872	do.	—	do.	do.
1873	Jas. Ireland, jun.	—	John Smart	John Smart
1874	do.	—	do.	do.
1875	John M. Scott	—	Jas. G. Durie	Jas. G. Durie
1876	Jas. G. Durie	—	H. P. Gordon	H. P. Gordon
1877	do.	—	Gregor Cumming	Gregor Cumming
1878	John M. Scott	—	W. Balnaves	W. Balnaves
1879	do.	—	do.	do.

OFFICE-BEARERS OF BRECHIN CRICKET CLUB—Continued.

	<i>Captain.</i>	<i>Vice-Captain.</i>	<i>Secretary.</i>	<i>Treasurer.</i>
1880	Dr Anderson	J. Macartney	W. Balnaves	Thos. Gardner
1881	do.	do.	do.	do.
1882	do.	Geo. Vallentine	do.	R. S. Cargill
1883	do.	do.	J. C. Inverarity	D. G. Wood
1884	Geo. Vallentine	R. S. Cargill	do.	do.
1885	Jas. Macartney	W. Balnaves	do.	R. S. Cargill
1886	W. Balnaves	W. Bruce	do.	do.
1887	do.	do.	do.	do.
1888	R. S. Cargill	James Adam	do.	Alex. Thomson
1889	do.	do.	do.	D. Mackenzie
1890	do.	do.	do.	L. G. Pattullo
1891	L. G. Pattullo	do.	do.	Fred Morgan
1892	R. S. Cargill	D. Riach	do.	do.
1893	G. Monro Scott	D. Hill	do.	do.
1894	do.	J. Hollingworth	D. A. Ferrier	do.
1895	do.	do.	{ Fred Morgan	C. Lammond }
1896	do.	do.	{ C. Lammond	F. Morgan }
1897	do.	do.	Alfred O'Neil	D. A. Ferrier
1898	do.	do.	do.	Geo. Cumming
1899	do.	James Smart	do.	do.
			do.	A. O'Neil

OFFICE-BEARERS OF BRECHIN CRICKET CLUB—Continued.

	<i>Captain.</i>	<i>Vice-Captain.</i>	<i>Secretary.</i>	<i>Treasurer.</i>
1900	G. Monro Scott	—	Alfred O'Neil	F. A. Ferguson
1901	do.	—	do.	do.
1902	do.	Alfred O'Neil	do.	do.
1903	do.	do.	do.	James Caithness
1904	do.	do.	do.	do.
1905	do.	D. W. Galloway	James W. Sorrie	{ J. F. Lammond
1906	Charles Ferrier	Sam Edwards	{ James W. Sorrie	{ James Emslie
1907	do.	—	{ M. A. Jamieson	Tom Pender
1908	Alfred O'Neil	Sam Edwards	F. A. Ferguson	do.
1909	do.	do.	D. W. Galloway	Charles Main
1910	do.	Charles Ferrier	do.	do.
1911	do.	do.	do.	J. W. Henderson
1912	D. W. Galloway	do.	David E. Black	do.
1913	Charles Ferrier	do.	Robert L. Laing	do.
1914	do.	D. W. Galloway	do.	Robert L. Laing
1925	do.	William Eddie	William Eddie	H. G. Mitchell
1926	G. B. Smart	Geo. Douglas	do.	D. N. Scott
1927	do.	Robert L. Laing	do.	do.

LONG PARTNERSHIPS.

Record First Wicket Partnership—

217—C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing at Glamis Castle 1911.

Record First Wicket Partnership at Brechin—

171—C. Ferrier and A. O'Neil *v.* Edinburgh Schools XI, Nursery Park, 1911.

Other First Wicket Partnerships—

157—C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing *v.* R.F.C., Nursery Park, 1913.

150—C. Ferrier and J. W. Sorrie *v.* Rossie Castle XI, Nursery Park, 1909.

144—C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing at Glamis Castle 1913.

131—C. Ferrier and R. L. Laing, *v.* Dundee Victoria, Nursery Park, 1914.

Record Second Wicket Partnerships—

189—C. Ferrier and R. H. Anderson *v.* Dundee Victoria, Nursery Park, 1910.

156—W. Eddie and D. Chapman *v.* Arbroath United, Guthrie Park, 1926.

128—Davies (prof.) and D. Hill *v.* Arbroath United, at Arbroath, 1895.

103—J. Walker and W. Eddie *v.* Aberdeen Grammar School F.P.'s, at Aberdeen, 1927.

Record Third Wicket Partnerships—

125—W. W. Lancaster and Davies (prof.) *v.* Montrose, Nursery Park, 1895.

113—W. Campbell and S. Edwards *v.* Grange, Edinburgh, at Raeburn Place, 1902.

110—F. Milne and Douglas Ferrier *v.* Strathmore, Forfar, at Nursery Park, 1907.

Record Fourth Wicket Partnership—

87—W. Campbell and F. Milne *v.* Heriot's F.P.'s, at Nursery Park, 1902.

Record Fifth Wicket Partnership—

114—R. L. Laing and G. B. Smart *v.* Forthill XI at Forthill, 1927.

Record Sixth Wicket Partnership—

74—W. Cameron and R. M. Gordon *v.* Dundee Victoria, Nursery Park, 1913.

Record Seventh Wicket Partnership—

93—A. O'Neil and S. Edwards *v.* Strathmore, Forfar, at Forfar, 1908.

Record Eighth Wicket Partnership—

78—R. M. Gordon and R. Martin *v.* R.F.C, Nursery Park, 1914.

Record Ninth Wicket Partnership—

79—Parkes (Prof.) and A. Rankine *v.* Dundee Victoria, at Dundee, 1904.

Record Tenth Wicket Partnership—

83—T. Pender and J. Hollingworth *v.* Strathmore, Forfar, at Nursery Park, 1905.

The closure was applied at 129, *without a wicket having fallen*, in a match at Guthrie Park in 1926, against Ward Foundry, Dundee, by J. Walker and D. Chapman.

BEST ALL-ROUND PLAY TO 1914.

	<i>Runs.</i>	<i>Average.</i>	<i>Wkts.</i>	<i>Cost.</i>
C. Ferrier ...	5928	25.55	201	14.61
W. Campbell ...	1210	14.57	156	14.09
A. O'Neil ...	2260	11.90	225	12.13
J. Hollingworth	2425	11.88	195	9.23
J. Adam ...	1140	11.07	308	?
F. Milne ...	1942	10.66	204	10.76

PLAYERS WITH OVER 1000 RUNS TO 1914.

	<i>Runs.</i>	<i>Average.</i>
Douglas Ferrier ...	1267	23.46
J. W. Sorrie ...	1163	21.14
G. Shand ...	1483	17.86
R. L. Laing ...	1463	14.20
S. Edwards ...	1162	14.00
D. Hill ...	1446	11.66
D. W. Galloway ...	1559	9.56
J. F. Easson ...	1271	9.08
G. M. Scott ...	1252	7.72

PLAYERS WITH OVER 100 WICKETS TO 1914.

					<i>Wkts.</i>	<i>Cost.</i>
J. Gordon	...	...	...	...	382	?
Walter Bruce	...	...	...	...	154	?
Dr Anderson	...	...	...	...	114	?
W. Eddie	...	...	...	...	119	7.87
J. Lamb	...	...	...	...	104	6.92

Probably Walter Brodie, Gregor Cumming, and D. Dundas also topped the hundred. The greatest number of wickets taken in one season by an amateur is 80 by Walter Brodie in 1865.

BRECHIN'S CENTURIONS.

- C. Ferrier, 200 *v.* Glamis Castle XI, 1913.
- C. Ferrier, 166 *v.* Royal Flying Corps, 1913.
- C. Ferrier, 133 *v.* Edinburgh Schools XI, 1911.
- W. Eddie, 133 *v.* Arbroath United, 1926.
- C. Ferrier, 129 *v.* Montrose H.H. XI, 1910.
- C. Ferrier, 126 *v.* Glamis Castle XI, 1911.
- Sam Parkes, 122* *v.* Dundee Victoria, 1904.
- G. Shand, 119 *v.* Balruddery, 1900.
- R. L. Laing, 112* *v.* Glamis Castle XI, 1911.
- D. Easson, 111 *v.* Glamis Castle XI, 1909.
- D. Ferrier, 110* *v.* Local League XVI, 1901.
- C. Ferrier, 109 *v.* Glamis Castle XI, 1910.
- C. Pepper, 105* *v.* Grange, Edinburgh, 1900.
- A. Reoch, 105* *v.* Dundee High School F.P.'s, 1909.
- S. Parkes, 104* *v.* Strathmore, Forfar 1904.
- C. Ferrier, 104* *v.* Montrose, 1911.
- C. Ferrier, 104 *v.* Kinnaird Castle XI, 1912.
- C. E. Dunlop, 102* *v.* Carnoustie, 1896.
- J. Walker, 102* *v.* Aberdeen Grammar School F.P.'s, 1927.
- J. P. Gibb, 100* *v.* Montrose, 1899.
- C. Ferrier 100 *v.* Dundee Victoria, 1910.

* Indicates not out.

CENTURIES SCORED AGAINST BRECHIN.

- 1912—M. R. Dickson, Arbroath United—136.
- 1900—J. A. Kyd, Forfarshire—127*.
- 1914—R. G. Tait, Forfarshire—120.
- 1896—A. L. Wood, Stonehaven—115*.
- 1899—George Sword, Victoria, Dundee—112*.
- 1875—J. A. Wood, Montrose—109.
- 1906—James Sharp, Victoria, Dundee—107*.
- 1880—A. Reid, Arbroath United—103.

1908—A. C. Don, Glamis Castle XI—103.

1909—Hon. P. B. Lyon, Glamis Castle XI—101.

1907—Gaukrodger (prof.), Edinburgh R.H.S. F.P.'s—100*.

* Indicates not out.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Players who have scored over 50 and under 100 on four or more occasions :—C. Ferrier, 27 times; W. Eddie, 11 times; J. Hollingworth and R. L. Laing, 9 times; J. W. Sorrie, 8 times; R. O. Davies, S. Parkes, and J. Walker, 7 times; W. Campbell and G. Shand, 6 times; D. Ferrier, A. O'Neil, and D. Chapman, 5 times; F. Milne, R. M. Gordon, and C. Pepper, 4 times.

The highest score recorded by the Club is 310 *v.* Balruddery in 1900, and the lowest 6 *v.* Strathmore in 1873.

The highest score made against Brechin is 275 by Glamis Castle XI in 1908, and the lowest 6 by Sunnyside in 1888.

Brechin has passed the double century 34 times against 19 different sides; 6 times against Arbroath United. Eleven clubs have passed the 200 mark 28 times against Brechin, of which Arbroath United has 7 to its credit.

In 1901 Brechin passed the second century six times in successive matches, and the whole side was only once dismissed.

The Club has only been dismissed five times for less than 20 runs, while opponents have been disposed of on 14 occasions for less than 20.

GREAT BOWLING FEATS.

5 Wickets with successive balls, D. Dundas *v.* Montrose, 1871.

4 Wickets with successive balls, D. Dundas *v.* Kirriemuir, 1871.

4 Wickets with successive balls, D. Laing *v.* Blairgowrie, 1887.

4 Wickets with successive balls, W. Eddie *v.* Montrose Y.M.C.A., 1925.

3 Wickets with successive balls, S. Parkes (3 times), D. Dundas (twice), J. Adam (twice), Gregor Cumming, J. Gordon, W. Campbell, R. O. Davies, G. R. Smith, T. H. Hirst, C. Ferrier, W. Eddie, and J. Walker.

J. Adam took all 10 wickets for 13 runs *v.* Stonehaven in 1891.

G. Soutar took 9 wickets *v.* Strathmore, Forfar, in 1863, and the 10th man was run out.

W. Brodie and Dr Anderson have also 9 wickets in an innings to their credit.

S. Parkes took 10 wickets for 25 *v.* XVI of Arbroath and District Association in 1904, and E. Croall 9 for 20 against the same side in 1903. Parkes also had 10 for 18 *v.* XVI of Brechin City League in 1904.

E. Fisher took all 9 wickets which fell *v.* Cupar in 1906. And 8 wickets twice.

S. Parkes took 9 wickets twice, 8 wickets 4 times, and 7 wickets 4 times.

G. R. Smith took 8 wickets 3 times and 7 wickets 9 times.

C. Pepper took 8 wickets 5 times and 7 wickets 6 times.

T. H. Hirst took 8 wickets twice and 7 wickets 4 times.

J. Adam and J. Gordon each took 7 wickets six times, and 8 wickets once.

R. L. Laing has 8 wickets in an innings to his credit 3 times, and 7 wickets twice. W. Eddie 7 wickets 3 times and 8 wickets once. Walter Bruce took 8 wickets against Arbroath twice. J. Hollingworth had 8 wickets once, and 7 wickets twice, while A. O'Neil, R. Martin, and C. Ferrier each had 7 wickets on two occasions.

"Hat-tricks" (3 wickets with successive balls) against Brechin have only been performed 5 times, viz. :—G. Sword, Dundee Victoria, 1892; W. Webster, Aberdeenshire, 1898; Steele (prof.), Montrose, 1901; W. S. Whyte, Dundee Victoria, 1908; and R. G. Tait, Forfarshire, 1912.



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