Edinburgh 1824
The World’s First Foot-Ball Club

Andy Mitchell

Old Edinburgh Club, 16 October 2019
Foot-Ball Club founder: John Hope (1807-1893)

(Old College Library, Edinburgh University)
Who claims to be the world’s first football club?

– Actually, no it isn’t Sheffield.
Foot-Ball Club founder: John Hope (1807-1893)

(Photo taken c1867; National Records of Scotland)
John Hope’s first Foot-Ball Club notebook, 1824

(National Records of Scotland)
Foot-Ball Club membership list, first season: 1824-25

(National Records of Scotland)
The High School of Edinburgh in John Hope’s time

(engraving by James Storer in 1819)
The High School of Edinburgh in 1819

and as it is today
A typical High School boy in early 19\textsuperscript{th} century

(Henry Cockburn, \textit{Memorials of his Time})
Earliest known illustration of football in Scotland

Dictates of Archibald Flint, a student at Edinburgh University, 1673

(Centre for Research Collections, Edinburgh University Library)
Edinburgh’s sporting ‘world firsts’

Archery:
first club (1676, Royal Company of Archers)

Golf:
first club (1735, Burgess Golfing Society)
first rules (1744, Company of Gentlemen Golfers)
first trophy (1744, Edinburgh Silver Club)

Bowls:
first rules (1769, Edinburgh Society of Bowlers)
first trophy (1771, Edinburgh Silver Jack)

Gymnastics:
first club and trophy (1786, Gymnastic Club)

Curling:
first rules (1811, Duddingston)
first national association of clubs (1838, Caledonian Curling Club)
Edinburgh’s football ‘world firsts’

First club (1824): the Foot-Ball Club, founded by John Hope

First rules (1833): written by John Hope

First trophy (1851): University v 93rd Highlanders silver medal

First inter-school match (1858): Royal High against Merchiston

First games for girls (1861): organised by John Hope

First international match (1871): Scotland v England (rugby rules)
Football on Calton Hill – part of everyday city life

(from Macgill & Schenck’s Panorama of Edinburgh, 1841)
John Hope’s football rules, written in 1833

1. Single soled shoes, no iron
2. No tripping
3. Ball to pass imaginary line
4. A free kick if ball out of bounds
5. Pushing is allowed. Holding not illegal
6. Allow the ball to be lifted between fields

Aff: Fun - air - exercise
Neg: No tripping
How much did a football cost in 1831?

Receipt from James Christie & Son, George Street: purchases and repairs for leather casings and bladders
Foot-Ball Club accounts in 1834:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 bladders at 3d</td>
<td>9d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 laces at 1d</td>
<td>6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin pipe</td>
<td>2d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire</td>
<td>1d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 bladders</td>
<td>2s 3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloth brush</td>
<td>2s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moreen bag</td>
<td>4s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bottle whisky</td>
<td>1s 6d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(For bladders)
The Foot-Ball Club’s first field, near Dalry House
The Foot-Ball Club’s first field, near Dalry House

"Received from Mr John Hope, one pound one shilling as rent for shooting in Dalry Park last summer with bow and arrow, and also received one pound one shilling as rent for playing foot ball in said park from 12th Nov 1825 to 12th March 1826."

George Thomson
“How I envy you the pleasure you must have had the day there were thirty-nine players out. Such kicking of shins & such tumbling.”
Foot-Ball Club membership numbers

1824/25  61
1825/26  77
1826/27  84
1827/28  72  
(no records 1828-31)
1831 summer  70
1831/32  60

Decline after 1832:
1832/33  30
1834  27
1836  26

No further records

Club disbanded 1841
Foot-Ball Club membership register 1832-33

Subscription 6d or 3d

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subscription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Hope</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter McCullouch</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Macgouge</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. Boulton</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Campbell</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Houston</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Hunter</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Hazard</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Johnston</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Irving</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert McRae</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Seabrook</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward George</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Watson</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campion</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Football Club list 1832-1833
Membership addresses – solidly in the New Town

(addresses recorded only from 1831-36)

Melville Street (9);
Heriot Row (7);
Moray Place (6);
Albyn Place, Drummond Place, Forres Street, Great King Street, Royal Terrace (4 each);
Ainslie Place, Albany Street, George Street, Northumberland Street, Queen Street, Royal Circus, Walker Street (3 each);

Many more New Town addresses.
Others in Marchmont, Newington, Morningside and Inverleith, but none in Old Town.
The first footballers to be photographed?

James Moncreiff, Robert Dundas Cay and James Rannie Swinton

(National Library of Scotland)
James Moncreiff, Foot-Ball Club member 1832-33

and below, his son Francis Moncreiff, Scotland rugby captain 1871
Charles Sharpe Kirkpatrick, Foot-Ball Club member 1831-32

and below, his son James Kirkpatrick, Scotland captain 1870, FA Cup winner 1878
The world’s first known football prize: the 1851 silver medal

(Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Museum, Stirling Castle)
RULES OF THE PUBLIC PLAY-GROUND AT STOCKBRIDGE.

The only entrance is from Raeburn Place.

All parties, by entering the Play-Ground, agree to conform to the Rules, and subject themselves to the authority of the Park Keeper.

1. Hours when open.

For Males.—Every morning from 6 till 9, and on the afternoons of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 4 till dark, and on Saturday from 1 o’clock till dark.

For Females.—On the afternoons of Tuesday and Thursday, from 4 till dark.

Note.—If the females cannot avail of the Play-Ground, more in future than they have done in the past, the afternoons reserved for them, will be given to the males, and the Play-Ground will thus become a Play-Ground for males and children only.

For Children of both Sexes.—At all the above named hours, when the field is not otherwise occupied.

2. Who Admissible.—All persons well behaved and not unsuitable, are admissible without charge on the proper day, but no Alcohol, or Tobacco, or Snuff, or Opium, nor persons under the influence or smell of these articles are admissible, and, if they enter, they are liable to be turned out.

Note.—It is expected that the young men who avail of this

9. The Games.—The Games already sanctioned are Football, Cricket, Quoits, Foot-Racing, Hand-Ball, Tig, Cross-Tig, and all ordinary Games, where no implements are required. Games by which parties may be led to strain or injure themselves from competition in feats of strength, or from bragging each other, such as throwing the stone, or hammer, are not permitted.

The Game of Foot-Ball is strongly recommended, as giving most exercise and fun in a short time. There must be no kicking of shins, nor tripping—for these are apt to produce quarrels and hurts, and do not form part of the game. The ball is not “halled,” unless it is sent between the posts, by one of the side whose duty it is to send it through, and unless it touch the ground. If the ball is sent through by one of the other side, it is not “halled.” The ball should not be kicked out of bounds. When this occurs, it should be lifted up by the hand, and brought within bounds. The party thus lifting it, is entitled to a “free kick,” but the ball must not be lifted by the hand from the ground at any other time. The British League Cap, to distinguish sides, cost 2d, is recommended. Beware of kicking the ball over the fences. Mr. Currie, saddler, 18, South Hanover Street, can supply round cases of stout grain dressed shoe leather for 3s. 6d. each. They will be found cheapest in the end, and save bladders.

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Rugby football: Edinburgh hosts the first international

Scotland v England at Raeburn Place, 27 March 1871
Edinburgh’s first association football club:
The 3rd Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers

Regiment founded by John Hope in 1860; football club founded in 1874
‘The Edinburgh Philanthropist’

John Hope died in 1893: his grave is in Greyfriars Kirkyard, where he is buried with his parents
1824: The story of the World’s First Foot-Ball Club

by John Hutchinson and Andy Mitchell

Book on sale:

£13.99 from Amazon

£11.99 from scottishsporthistory.com

Or £10 here tonight!