

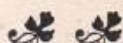
Ayr Football

and

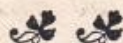
Athletic Club



Bazaar.



Official Guide Book.

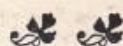


Carrick Street Mission Halls,

Friday,
22,

February,
1901.

Saturday,
23,




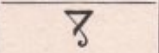


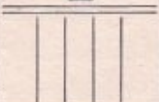



The Halls will be transformed into a Village
in Japan, with a beautiful Tea Garden. . .



ADMISSION :

FRIDAY,	1s. ; after 6, 6d.
SATURDAY,	1s. ; after 3, 6d.

	<h1>Ayr Football</h1>		
	<p>.. AND ..</p>		
	<h1>Athletic Club.</h1>		
	<p>GROUND SOMERSET PARK</p>		
<p>The Finest Equipped Athletic and Football Enclosure in the Provinces</p>			<h2>Season Ticket, 5s.</h2>
			<p>APPLY TO . . .</p>
		<p>Peter Alexander,</p>	
	<p>Hon. Secy.,</p>		
	<p>Rosemont Cottage,</p>		
	<p>Ayr.</p>		



M. A. C.



THE AYR FOOTBALL CLUB was started in the year 1879. 1874 is often attributed as their first year, but the later date is the correct one. It originated in the amalgamation of the Ayr Thistle and Ayr Academicals, both Clubs that had made a name for themselves in the earlier part of the seventies, the Thistle having played the Semi-Final of the Scottish Cup. With varying fortune the Ayr Club kept on its way, sometimes up, sometimes down, but always holding the distinction of being the only senior club in the town; and it cannot be denied that if football has "caught on" in this locality at all, the Ayr Club deserves by far the largest share of whatever credit there may be going.





Up to 1884-85 the Club had lived a so-so existence, but that season they came to the front with a bound. To meeting the Edinburgh Hibernians in the fifth round of the Scottish Cup (there was no such thing as a Qualifying Cup then), the Ayr Club had not met with a defeat. Though beaten by 5 goals to 1 (the game was played in Edinburgh), the men from the "Auld Toun" had no reason to feel disgraced, more especially as their team was under strength, Joe M'Dowall, the inside right, having been totally disabled in an Ayrshire Cup tie against Annbank the previous Saturday. The team that had done so well deserves mention :—

JOS. GLENDINNING.

T. R. CRAWFORD.

AND. YOUNG.

J. W. FERGUSON.

JAS. HUNTER.

JNO. TANNOCK

JNO. ARTHUR.

THOS. M'CREADIE.

GEO. MONAGHAN.

JOS. M'DOWALL.

ROBT. CUNNINGHAM.

Though defeated in the Ayrshire Cup competition that year—1885—they more than paid back with interest their conquerors, Kilmarnock, by defeating them on two successive Saturdays, and becoming possessors of the Kilmarnock and Ayr Charity Cups. 1885 was certainly a noticeable year, in that it was the first year the Ayr Club had ever become possessors of a trophy—all the more worthy when it is considered that they defeated the County Cup holders, when they were considered almost invincible. The





results of these games were:—Kilmarnock Charity Cup, Ayr 3, Kilmarnock 2; Ayr Charity Cup, Ayr 5, Kilmarnock 2. It was a peculiar coincidence that in both games Kilmarnock's two goals were scored in the first seven minutes. The same team that played against the Hibernians won both these matches, with the exception of a new half-back, Jas. P. Campbell (perhaps one of the most steady and effective players the Ayr ever had), and the promotion of John Tannock to the right wing to partner John Arthur. Since then the Ayr Club has won the Ayr Charity Cup on four other occasions, and the Kilmarnock Charity Cup once in 1887. Writing from memory, it was in the same year, 1885, that the Ayr Club was invited to Edinburgh, to assist in the celebration of the ter-centenary of the University. The match was arranged by Dr. John Smith, but terminated disastrously for the University, who were defeated by 10 goals to 0.

About this time the 2nd XI. of the Club (better known as the "Ayr Strollers") were beginning to make a stir in the land, and in 1888 (they played the semi-final tie in 1887), succeeded in winning the 2nd XI. Scottish Cup, defeating the Heart of Mid-Lothian by 3 goals to 1. Many of us do not realise the really great performance this was, but it ought to be borne in mind that at that time *all* the leading clubs in Scotland competed for this trophy. The playing of the final tie in Edinburgh was rather a hardship on the "Strollers," as they had literally no club support, but be it said to the credit of the Hibernians, who





had several of the Lugar Boswell men in their team, they to a man rallied round them, and perhaps their encouragement had more to do with the victory than we can now realise.

It may be interesting to chronicle here a conversation that took place between an Ayr Stroller and a Hibernian player prior to the start of the game. The Hibernian told the Ayr player that he hoped the Strollers would win, but had grave doubts anent their ability, remarking that if they did win they were beating the best team in Edinburgh, as it was a well known fact that the 2nd Hearts were at that time the best team in the Scottish Metropolis. To this the Ayr man replied as follows, (and he was pretty correct as subsequent events proved): "I think we can, and *will* win; and if we don't, no other team in Ayrshire can." The Strollers had previously beaten their own 1st XI. by 4 goals to 0, and capped this performance by defeating the Ayrshire Cup holders, Kilbirnie, by 2 goals to 0. The reception they received on returning to Ayr with the cup almost baffles description, and some of the older followers of the game will not have forgotten it yet. The Strollers also won the Second Eleven Ayrshire Cup the same year, and in 1895 again annexed it.





The team which played the whole season, 1887-88, was :—

GEORGE GLENDINNING.

JNO. FERGUSON.

JNO. TANNOCK.

JNO. DICKIE.

DAN. CHRISTIE.

ADAM DUNNACHIE.

SAM. FEGGANS.

R. M'BURNIE.

ROBT. M'MURTRIE.

A. M'WHIRTER.

JNO. MURRAY.

In athletics as well as football the Club has taken a prominent position. Since about the year 1876 the town of Ayr has always been looked upon as the strongest athletic provincial centre—in fact, no town in Scotland with half-a dozen times the population could compete with the “Auld Toon” for class and quantity. In the late seventies, names well-known were John and W. W. Beveridge, T. R. Crawford, “Bob” Climie, and Tom Kerr — perhaps the fastest amateur the town has turned out, and who latterly won a Sheffield handicap as a professional. A. P. Findlay from '83 till he retired from the path was without exception Scotland's grandest distance runner, and from two miles up to ten held all Scottish records and championships, including the 10 miles cross-country championship. He also ran second at Stamford Bridge, London, in the 10 miles English championship, and but for his shoes, which unfortunately lamed him in the race, he would have won easily, as a lap from the winning post he led the ultimate winner by 80 or 90 yards, and the time was nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes slower than Findlay's time





the previous Saturday at Edinburgh in the Scottish championship. Robert Dickie, a good, plodding runner, won the first go-as-you-please (20 minutes) race in Scotland. R. M'Walter, a plucky and fast mile and half-mile runner; Jos. M'Dowall, Jas. M'Cormack, Tom Irvine were all noted athletes in their day, and Gavin Stevenson was one of the gamest and grandest runners who ever left the town. Stevenson defeated the great Kibblewhite at Hampden Park after a terrific race. Andrew Jack, a natural runner of great ability, won many sprints in his day. H. Cathcart, Alex. Brown, Tommy Brown, Allan Thomson, Alex. Neil, Jas. Hunter, Andrew Young, Walter Hendry, Wm. M'Kie, and many others in the early eighties also brought fame to the Ayr Club.

R. Carty, H. Hunter, Wyllie, and Smith were our best walkers, Hunter having a beautiful style, and being one of the fairest walkers in the country.

R. R. Douglas, the Lindsays (Angus and Norman), T L. Beveridge, James Thomson (now Rev.), who did more for athletes in general, and the Ayr Club in particular, than many know, and many others, were always in the front rank as runners towards the end of the eighties.

J. B. Auld, several times 220 Yards Champion of Scotland; Alex. Aitken, C. Gudgeon, the Browns, Baird, Ramsay, Caldwell, Long Jump Champion of Scotland, and a host of lesser





lights lately were representing the Club in the athletic arena with credit to themselves and the Club.

In the eighties when the Club was at its strongest no meeting in Scotland was looked on as complete without the "Ayr school," and the Executive of the Club promoted many evening meetings on old Beresford Park, and athletics in Ayr flourished amazingly ; in fact, at that time the eyes of Scotland looked on approvingly, and the Secretary of the august body known as the Scottish Amateur Athletic Association was instructed by his Committee to thank the Ayr Club for their enthusiastic efforts in bringing athletics so prominently to the front in the West of Scotland.

About this time no athletic meeting was looked upon as complete without a Tug-of-War competition, and the Ayr Club turned out a team which were known and respected for their prowess, from Edinburgh to Dumfries, for several years. They did not know the meaning of defeat, and carried everything before them. The team had very few changes in it, and won the Championship of Scotland at Burnbank, Glasgow, in 1886.

The team was composed of G. Glendinning, John Tennant, R. Browning, Thomas Tennant, Joseph Glendinning, and Andrew Young.

Young did not take part in the championship, owing to having a cup-tie to play on the same date, and an entire stranger





received a championship badge, though he had absolutely no knowledge of Tug-of-War. As he walked off with his medal at the conclusion of the competition without ever telling his name, it is impossible to state who he was. Most folks will admit he would not regret assisting the Ayr team in their difficulty.

From this time, owing to a dispute with the handicapper, athletics lost much of its hold in the district, and until the Ayr Club laid their Cycle Track on Somerset Park, was practically a dead letter. Dating from the opening day of the track in 1896, athletics have flourished in Ayr and have touched high-water mark, as it is admitted on all hands that the sports run by the Ayr Club have *few if any* equals in the world of sport ; so much so that a gentleman who has travelled Scotland, England, Ireland and the Continent, as an athletic correspondent for several London newspapers, expressed great astonishment as to the way these meetings were arranged, never having seen anything to approach them in all his travels.

In closing this somewhat brief retrospect of the Club's history, it might not be out of place to refer to their adoption of Professionalism. In football there are two classes—the amateur who plays for the love of the game (so at least we are told), and the professional who is paid for taking part in it. The Ayr Club, towards the end of its amateur days,





saw its best players being taken away from it, and felt powerless to stop it. The only course open was to adopt the same method, and pay their men openly. Since they have adopted this method they have been fairly successful. Their players nearly all belong to the County, and be it noted, are the *only* paid men in the club. In every other respect the club is an amateur one, the officials and all concerned giving their services gratuitously. It is interesting to note that with all their difficulties they have found time to promote and encourage junior football, perhaps, more than any other team in Ayr, and it was principally through their efforts that the Junior Cup was instituted. Their annual athletic carnival on the Glasgow Fair Saturday is now looked upon as *the* provincial gathering of Scotland, and the wish of the whole club is that it may always remain a credit to the town

“ wham ne’er a toun surpasses
for honest men and bonnie lassies.”

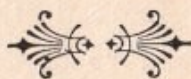


PHOTO BY NIMMO, Ayr.

A. HAMILTON,

A. AITKEN.

T. KENNEDY.

STEVENSON.

WILLS.

ALLAN.

S. KENNEDY.

Trainer.



J. M'DONALD.

H. M'DONALD. M'AVOY.

LINDSAY.

MASSEY.

S. AITKEN.

CALDER.

Ayr Football Club.