

ARTHUR KINNAIRD – WEB BLOG BY ANDY MITCHELL

This is a record of the blog articles published on my old website,
www.lordkinnaird.com

All articles are copyright and should not be reproduced without prior permission.

Young footballers in America, 1865

13/6/2010

To start off the blog, a story about a trip to America for two men who would become football immortals. In 1865, Arthur Kinnaird and Morton Peto Betts, both fresh out of school, travelled across the Atlantic together. Both men would play a key role in the FA Cup in years to come: Arthur would play in nine of the first twelve finals, and Betts would score the winner in the first ever FA Cup final in 1872.

They were taken along with a group of merchants and financiers on a trade mission to invest in America, which was ready for business now that the Civil War was over. The mission was led by Betts' uncle, Sir Morton Peto, a great railway entrepreneur, and Arthur's father Arthur Kinnaird MP, senior partner in Ransom Bouverie and Co, a merchant bank in London.

They set out from Liverpool at the end of August 1865 on the 'Scotia' for the crossing to New York. Arthur and young Betts were both just out of school - Eton and Harrow respectively - and were both about to enrol at Trinity College, Cambridge. No doubt they had plenty of time on the long voyage to debate the respective merits of Eton and Harrow football rules.

The party, described in the American press as 'the English capitalists', were hoping to invest in the expansion of the railways, and even brought with them their own first class carriage, in which to travel over the Atlantic and Great Western Railway that was their primary investment target. The group was feted by local business leaders wherever they went. From New York, they went to inspect the site for a new railway bridge over the Niagara River at Lake Erie to link the USA and Canada; then it was on to Chicago, Cincinnati and (in a 17 hour train journey) as far west as St Louis, where they met General Ulysses Grant. The Kinnairds, father and son, also broke off to meet the US President, Andrew Johnson, who wanted to personally thank Mr Kinnaird for the vocal political support he had given the North during the Civil War.

By early October, Arthur Kinnaird and Morton Betts had returned to England, and matriculated for their first term at university, where they would take the first steps on the long road to football fame.

The perils of Wikipedia

28/6/2010

Apart from this website, an obvious place to look for information on Arthur Kinnaird is Wikipedia. The trouble is, Wikipedia is notoriously unreliable. To be fair, Arthur's page isn't that bad, but I have corrected and updated it a little, in particular the background to his reputation for hacking. But I am regularly frustrated/annoyed/dismayed at the misinformation that crops up elsewhere. As a small example, I am researching his football contemporaries and was checking the background to Charles Chenery, the only man to play for England in the first three official internationals. According to Wikipedia, Chenery was educated at Marlborough College - but a quick check of the school register shows that he wasn't. According to Wikipedia, Chenery went abroad around 1877 and was never heard from again - but it didn't take long to find out that he had emigrated to Australia, settled in the countryside near Melbourne and died there in 1928. I've corrected these, but once 'facts' go on Wikipedia they get repeated elsewhere, and the Marlborough connection crops up on a number of other sites. It does beg the question of what else has been written about early footballers that is accepted as fact, but is just repeated misinformation. More to follow....

The first own goal?

14/6/2010

Having just watched the Danish defence conspire to score the first own goal of this World Cup, it may be of some consolation (well, maybe not) to Poulsen and Agger to know that people have been scoring own goals for over 140 years.

In fact, Arthur Kinnaird may have witnessed the very first own goal, as described in a match report of West Kent v Civil Service, played in the teeth of a gale at Kennington Oval on 13 November 1869. 'One of the Service backs, in attempting to save his lines, had his kick so frustrated by the wind that the ball was driven back into the goal, West Kent consequently scoring a goal by this accident.' Even though the sides then had to change ends, under the rules of the day, giving Civil Service the advantage of having the wind at their backs, it was the only goal of the game.

West Kent? It was a club side, rather than a regional select, possibly based on West Kent Cricket Club. Arthur played for them on several occasions, in between appearances for Wanderers and Old Etonians.

Hunting for Arthur

14/6/2010



Lord Kinnaird crops up in all sorts of places, not just the football archives. As a renowned philanthropist, he was involved in a huge range of charities and organisations, and travelled widely around Europe and further afield to America, India and Egypt. He had the town of Kinnaird (near Castlegar) named after him in Canada, there was to be a Kinnairdpur village in India, and he helped to establish Kinnaird College (in memory of his mother) in Lahore, now Pakistan.

Closer to home, he was regularly invited to perform opening ceremonies - this plaque from 1912 is in Horseferry Road in London. I'd love to hear of any other locations where his name appears.

That beard

14/6/2010

Why the heading for the blog, 'Arthur Kinnaird's Beard'? It was one of the most distinctive features of the great man: a bushy red beard that made him stand out from the mass of players, and in the days before numbers that was quite an asset.

Although whiskers of various sorts were common in the Victorian era, it was unusual to have a full beard, and especially for the young. Yet Arthur grew his beard while still at school - he was photographed at Eton - and kept it for the rest of his life. Unfortunately he never recorded the reasons for having it: too busy to shave, perhaps, while spending his nights down in the slums of the east end? Any theories welcome.

Taking football to the world

23/6/2010

What would Arthur Kinnaird have made of the World Cup? He was initially sceptical about international competitions but came round to the idea. In 1908, he was strangely prophetic, and said: "In future, there existed the possibility of Great Britain's supremacy being challenged by other nations. The international championship might be taken away from these shores, in which event we should go abroad and take it back!" Five years earlier, however, he was so unreceptive to a suggestion that the FA should oversee the formation of FIFA that the French visionary Robert Guérin described a conversation with Arthur as "un coup d'épée dans l'eau" i.e. it was like swishing through water with a sword.

A tennis mystery

1/7/2010

With Wimbledon in full swing, it is an opportune time to mention Arthur Kinnaird's prowess as a tennis player. He was Cambridge University tennis champion in 1868 and 1869, and in both years was selected to face Oxford University - so he was a double tennis blue. This was not lawn tennis - the sport that Walter Clopton Wingfield invented in 1874 - but the much older real tennis, played indoors at a court. There were three tennis courts in Cambridge in the 1860s, and it seems that Arthur spent a lot of his leisure time there to perfect his skills.

While he won both his singles contests against Oxford, there is a bit of a mystery about his doubles playing partner. The press, and subsequent records, gave his name as RD (Robert Drummond) Balfour of Trinity College. However, in Arthur's cuttings book he has crossed out RD and written in AJ. That points to the future prime minister AJ (Arthur James) Balfour, which would make sense as AJ was a self-confessed tennis addict, whereas RD, a multiple cricket blue, was not at Trinity but at Magdalene College, and had left Cambridge in 1866. Unfortunately, while AJ writes enthusiastically about his Cambridge tennis experiences in his autobiography, he makes no mention of winning a blue.

Are there any AJ Balfour experts out there?

Charles Chenery again

7/7/2010

Just to follow up my earlier post about Charles Chenery, I've got to the bottom of the mystery of his school: he was actually at Marlborough Royal Free Grammar School, rather than Marlborough College. Thankfully one of the earliest newspaper reports of his taking part in an athletics meet in London gave his school name. So I'll get back on the Wikipedia page and correct it. The school no longer exists, by the way - it merged with Marlborough Secondary Modern to form what is now St John's School and Community College.

World's oldest football programme?

12/7/2010

As part of the research into Arthur's playing career, I was delighted to make contact with a direct descendant of Alexander Morten, the goalkeeper who played for Scotland as well as England. Not only did this confirm Morten's identity - long a source of debate as he was a notoriously elusive character - but he also turned up a match card from the 1873 international which had remained in the family ever since. It is illustrated on the web page for the match (just click the link above). It is not a football programme in the sense that we know it: just a single flimsy sheet of light card, but with the essential details that enable spectators to identify the players. The man in the scarlet and blue fez? Ah yes, Blackburn of the Royal Engineers. Light blue and red cap? Alex Bonsor. Scarlet cowl? David Wotherspoon. And so on, with Arthur Kinnaird wearing his Etonian blue and white cap.

The card has been overprinted with the score and the scorers, which may make the purist consider whether this could be considered a programme as it was issued after the game. I would say yes, as this was issued in the days when the only template would be cricket scorecards, which would be updated at regular intervals right up to the close of play. This particular card may have been available at the end of the game, printed on site at the

Oval. So I think that, unless anyone can prove me differently, this qualifies as the world's first - and oldest - football programme.

Sherlock Holmes and football?

8/8/2010

I recently acquired a copy of the menu for the Football Association's jubilee banquet, held to celebrate 50 years of football in 1913. A sumptuous affair at the Holborn Restaurant in London, it was chaired by Lord Kinnaird - who else - in his position as president of the FA. However, I am immediately intrigued by one of the guest speakers: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, novelist and creator of Sherlock Holmes. He was down to make the final speech and propose the toast in honour the chairman. This has set me off finding out if they knew each other well, but although a quick search has turned up some common interests - the Olympics and various charities - Doyle doesn't seem to have been a great football man. (He did play as a young man in Portsmouth in the 1880s, but not much apart from that). I would dearly love to find a verbatim report of the speeches at this dinner! Anyway, Doyle's attitude to the FA the following summer, when it persisted in playing football after the outbreak of war, was a good deal less friendly. He was quoted in September 1914: "There was a time for all things in the world. There was a time for games, there was a time for business, and there was a time for domestic life. There was a time for everything, but there is only time for one thing now, and that thing is war. If the cricketer had a straight eye let him look along the barrel of a rifle. If a footballer had strenght of limb let them serve and march in the field of battle."

FA Cup centenary

17/8/2010

The long road to Wembley and FA Cup glory began this week, with the bizarrely titled Extra Preliminary Round. It is cause for celebration as the FA Cup is now 100 years old! Not the competition - the trophy itself. The original trophy lasted till 1895, its replacement was presented to Lord Kinnaird, and in 1910 the FA commissioned the design that is in use today. Click on the link above, 'Kinnaird's FA Cup', for the full story.

New domain

18/8/2010

I've taken the plunge and invested in a new domain name. This site is now simply www.lordkinnaird.com, and any links to the old domain will be transferred automatically to this one. It was amazingly easy, and I suppose I should take this opportunity to recommend weebly as a site host for anyone thinking of setting up a website for the first time.

Famous in Canada!

29/8/2010

Nice article in the Castlegar News this week about www.lordkinnaird.com. Where? Castlegar is a small town in the Rocky Mountains of Canada, and it has a district called Kinnaird. This owes its name to Lord Kinnaird, who was a major shareholder in the Canadian Pacific Railway, which named a stop after him in 1902. See the full story at www.bclocalnews.com/kootenay_rookies/castlegarnews/news/101521169.html and many thanks to reporter Kim Magi for taking such an interest.

Charles Darwin - a missing link

4/9/2010

I was at a writer's workshop last week, part of the Edinburgh Book Festival, which was a useful way of sharing experience with other writers. It was run by Julian Derry, who has recently published a book on Charles Darwin in Edinburgh. Out of curiosity, I tried to find a link between Arthur Kinnaird and Darwin, and much to my surprise found that Arthur was at Trinity College Cambridge with George Darwin, Charles's son. They were both keen

real tennis players - a sport that Arthur excelled at, being Cambridge champion in 1868 and 1869, then winning two blues - and were also both members of a debating club, the Magpie and Stump.

Papal visit

16/9/2010



With the Papal visit underway in Britain, here is a look back at Arthur's own connection with the Pope. In March 1902 he sought an audience with 92-year-old Pope Leo XIII while on a visit to Italy. In itself, this was nothing remarkable, until you realise Arthur was a supporter of the National Protestant League, and the previous year had tabled an amendment in the House of Lords to the government's Royal Declaration Bill, asking for 'an expression of disbelief in the doctrines of the Pope's supremacy and infallibility'. Something caused him to relax his views, and in time he came round to the view that, in effect, any religion was better than no religion at all: he wrote 'we have deliberately weakened the mission of the church of the living God by our sectarian bias.' However, given the anti-Catholic feeling which was prevalent in Britain at the time, it is just as well his visit was not reported in the press.

Rossie Priory

28/9/2010



I visited Rossie Priory yesterday, the third time I have been there. Lord Kinnaird's old home really is a lovely place, although it now bears little resemblance to the stately pile pictured here. The gothic towers, and in fact everything in this photo, were demolished in 1948 after falling into disrepair and the buildings hidden behind are now used as the family home. The estate is farmland, and it was good to hear that this year's harvest has been better than expected, despite the miserable weather.

Blue plaque

29/9/2010

Wrote to English Heritage today to suggest a blue plaque for Arthur Kinnaird, somewhere in London. I had heard they are quite keen for sporting suggestions with the Olympics coming up, and as Arthur was a founding member of the British Olympic Association, then helped organise the 1908 Games, he fits the bill. I've suggested various locations, but the obvious choices would either be his birthplace at Hyde Park Gardens, or on Kinnaird House in Pall Mall East, which was built on the site of the family home (and bank).

The season starts in October

17/10/2010

I'm off to Lyon this week for a Champions League match - hey, someone's got to do it - but it does make me think how the season has changed since Arthur Kinnaird's day. We have already had two international weeks, countless European ties and the league has taken shape, but he would not generally start his season until about now, in mid-October. He would warm up with a trip to Eton, for a Field Game and a Wall Game (sometimes both on the same day), to prepare for the challenges ahead with Wanderers and Old Etonians. In all his years, he never played a match in September, and only on three occasions in April, so effectively football was confined to just half the year. Of course, it didn't help that many of the sports grounds were primarily kept for cricket (over a third of all his matches were at Kennington Oval) and a lot of the prominent footballers had other sporting interests such as athletics and rowing.

Larger than life

27/10/2010

If there is one thing that Arthur Kinnaird did really well on the football field, it was imposing his physical presence. Putting his weight about. There are plenty of references to him being stocky and muscular, but I have just managed to put that into context thanks to two different sources. A Victorian diarist called Lady Monkswell paid him a visit at Rossie Priory and mentioned in passing that he was lower than average height at 5 feet 6 inches. And a match card from a game between Wanderers and Vale of Leven in 1878 - when he was at the peak of fitness - gave the weights of all the players, recording Arthur at 11 stone 9 pounds. In modern terms, using a body mass index calculator, that makes him at least a stone overweight! Yet I have never seen a reference to him being fat, either as a sportsman or in old age. Arthur was simply well built and powerful, and that strength was a great asset on the football field in days when scrimmages were an integral part of the game.

Wanderers humbled in the FA Cup

9/11/2010

It was on this day in 1878 that English football saw one of the biggest shocks of the early days: cup holders Wanderers were thrashed 7-2 in the first round of the FA Cup by Old Etonians. With hindsight, it was a turning point in the history of the game as Wanderers - who had done so much to popularise the game and had dominated the early FA Cups - were never the same again.

Old Etonians had only just been constituted formally, having failed to even put a team together for the previous two seasons' competitions. Their victory heralded a spell of domination by the public school old boys' clubs, led by Old Etonians and Old Carthusians, who won three of the next four Cups before they, too, were overtaken by events.

For the cup-tie itself, Wanderers still had eight of their cup final team from the previous spring, but had no answer to the collected might of Eton's finest, captained by Major Marindin in goal and with Arthur Kinnaird at half-back. They were three up at half-time thanks to Harry Goodhart, an own goal and Alfred Lyttelton. After the break, Wanderers threw everything into attack but this simply opened up gaps which Arthur's team exploited. Three more goals followed - two from Philip Novelli and one by Henry Sedgwick - and only then did Wanderers get any consolation with two quick goals. The last word went to the Etonians, as Hedley Calvert set the seal on a fine victory with the seventh. Old Etonians went on to win the FA Cup that season, putting out Reading, Minerva, Darwen (after two replays), Nottingham Forest and ultimately Clapham Rovers at the Oval on 29 March 1879.

As for Arthur, just to show no hard feelings, his very next match was with Wanderers in a friendly at Westminster.

Happy St Andrew's Day! (but not for Arthur)

30/11/2010

It is St Andrew's Day - the national day of Scotland - an important date in football history, as the world's first recognised football international, Scotland v England, took place in Glasgow on 30 November 1872. Arthur Kinnaird, however, was not in the Scotland team, despite being named in a provisional squad a couple of weeks beforehand. Because there was no Scottish FA at that time, the home team was selected by Queen's Park Football Club. Although they initially opened up possible selection to the best available players, and held a couple of trial matches earlier that month, there was then a backlash from some club members who were adamant that only Queen's Park players should be selected. This group won their argument, and Arthur stayed at home in London. While the international was a great success, he had an abject afternoon at Kennington Oval with a depleted Wanderers side which lost 2-0 to the Royal Engineers.

However, Arthur would not be denied his cap and made his sole Scotland appearance later that season, on 8 March 1873. Click on the tab above for the full story of that match.

Centenary of that FA Cup presentation

4/1/2011

It is coming up for the centenary of the presentation of the FA Cup to Lord Kinnaird, in February 1911 (see Kinnaird's FA Cup, above). I'm tempted to recreate the dinner at the Holborn Restaurant: pot au feu, boiled turbot, devilled whitebait, chicken sauté Windsor, fillets of beef piqué Richelieu, roast pheasant and mayonnaise of lobster, followed by a choice of desserts.

On a more practical level, I'll be contacting a few journalists as this would be a great hook for a feature article about Arthur, perhaps for the Sunday supplements as the exact date is Sunday 6 February. Unfortunately the Cup itself is currently in limbo, as the National Football Museum continues its relocation from Preston to Manchester, and the 'Saved for the Nation' exhibition hasn't been on show since the summer. This could be just the excuse to give it a public airing.

YWCA name change breaks a link with the Kinnaird past

7/1/2011

Oh dear. Arthur would not have been amused. The YWCA, founded by his mother Mary Kinnaird, and which he was an enthusiastic president of, has decided to change its name and drop the Christian link. I'm indebted to the Daily Mail (there's a first time for everything) for revealing that the Young Women's Christian Association is to become Platform 51. Cue outraged reaction - see the comments at the foot of the article!

Mary Jane Kinnaird (nee Hoare) (1816-1888) established the roots of the YWCA, which went on to become a worldwide movement, in 1855 when she opened a home in Upper Charlotte Street for Florence Nightingale's nurses to stay in on their return from the Crimea. Within a couple of years this grew into the North London Home, for girls coming to work in the city, the first of its kind in the capital. Her organisation, initially called the United Association for the Christian and Domestic Improvement of Young Women, aimed 'to care for their souls, and to desire earnestly to remove the pressure of over-work, by which their bodily and mental health is so often impaired.' She worked closely with Emma Roberts, who had formed a successful women's prayer union and in 1877, just before Roberts' death, the two women agreed to merge the movements as the YWCA.

Arthur, who espoused a number of causes that fought to improve the lot of women, became president of the YWCA on his father's death in 1887, and bankrolled the organisation's monthly magazine, 'Our Own Gazette'. His spinster sisters Emily and Gertrude were also heavily involved. He only stepped down as president in 1907 as he had also been appointed president of the YMCA, and found it impossible to carry out both jobs.

One hundred years ago today

6/2/2011

It is exactly one hundred years, not just to the day but to the hour, since Arthur Kinnaird was honoured by the football establishment by the gift of the FA Cup itself. On 6 February 1911, at the Holborn Restaurant in London, he was presented with the famous old trophy and it went home with him to St James's Square at the end of the evening.

I had hoped the media would be interested in helping to celebrate the anniversary, and was interviewed at length by an upmarket Sunday paper, but the story wasn't used - too much going on this week with record transfers, record goalscoring in the Premiership, and an Old Firm cup-tie in Scotland. Understandable in the circumstances, but disappointing.

Great story in the Independent on Sunday

20/2/2011

Delighted at the article which appeared in the Independent on Sunday today (two weeks later than planned, if you read my last post). Phil Shaw, bless him, has written a lovely piece about Arthur Kinnaird and the presentation of the FA Cup in 1911.

Have a read: <http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/fa-league-cups/100-years-on-the-man-so-great-he-was-given-the-cup-to-keep-2219919.html>

Blast from the past

26/2/2011

Here was me thinking the golden age of public schools football was over in the 1880s. Now there is to be a throwback to the 1881 FA Cup Final, in which Old Carthusians beat Old Etonians 3-0, as Charterhouse and Eton have reached the final of the 2011 Independent Schools FA Cup - also known as the Boodles Cup - and will fight it out on Thursday 10 March.

Unfortunately, there will be no nostalgic return to Kennington Oval, as the match will be played in the unlikely surroundings of Milton Keynes, the home of the MK Dons.

According to the Daily Telegraph, 'the historical backdrop is both vast and significant'. See this article for full details: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/othersports/schoolsports/8335371/Harry-Lineker-and-Jack-Ryder-Smith-keep-footballs-aristocratic-traditions-alive.html>

[Note: it finished 2-0 to Charterhouse, with Gary Lineker's son Harry getting the opening goal. Oh well]

Twice in one day: amazing stamina

19/3/2011

The more you look into Arthur's life, the more he comes across as hyperactive. Day job in the bank, night work in the slums, and still time for two or three football matches each week. Today being 19 March is an excuse to look back at Saturday 19 March 1870, one of several occasions when he played two football matches on the same day.

He started off against Charterhouse in a 1-1 draw which finished at 4pm, then hurried across town to Kennington Oval, accompanied by Alfred Baker. By the time the pair arrived, Wanderers were already two goals up against Hampstead Heathens, but both joined in for the latter stages, Arthur for Wanderers and Baker for the Heathens.

OK, it could be argued that he didn't manage two full matches on that occasion, but it was not a unique occurrence. Later that year, he again played two in one day in November, at Eton College.

Open day at Rossie Priory

21/3/2011

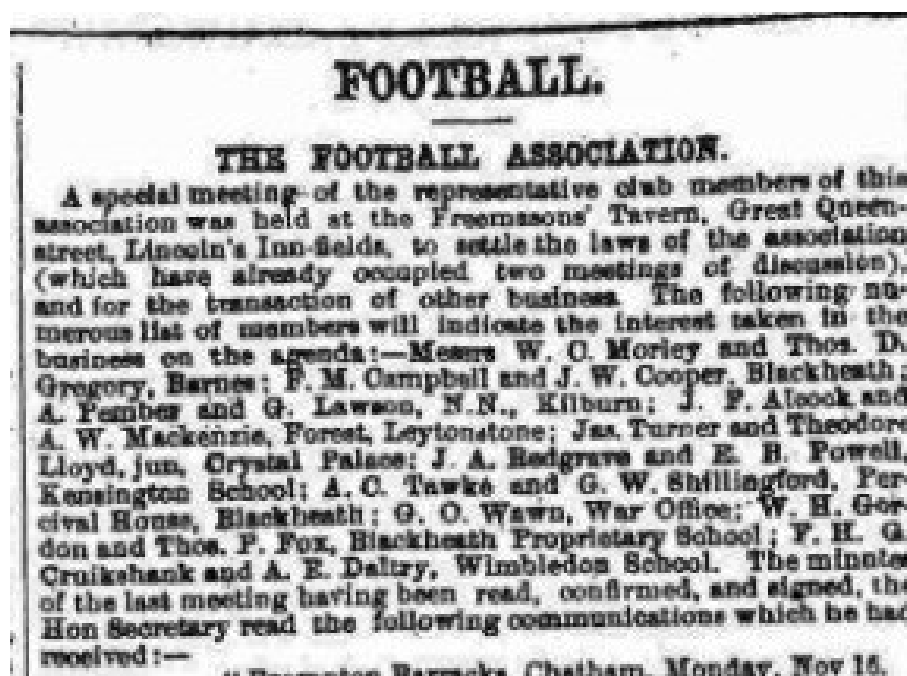
Want to see where Arthur Kinnaird lived? Rossie Priory is opening its gardens for an afternoon this summer under the Scotland's Gardens Scheme - an opportunity to wander round the estate, the walled gardens, the cricket ground and simply admire the views.

The event is on Sunday 26 June, from 2-6 pm, admission £4 for adults, £2 children (proceeds to charity).

See <http://www.gardensofscotland.org/garden.aspx?id=51472ce1-66a3-43c4-8319-9e2500981487>

The joys of research

13/4/2011



Bell's Life, November 1863

I have just spent two days glued to my computer, thanks to a wonderful new archive to play with. I've just got access, via the National Library of Scotland, to Bell's Life in London, one of the major sports papers of the Victorian era. It is addictive - and with good reason: for starters, I have added a further twenty matches to Arthur Kinnaird's records.

I was also particularly pleased this evening to uncover the first name of T Lloyd, the referee in the England v Scotland match of 1873, something which has eluded historians for years. It is Theodore. He was part of the extensive Lloyd family from Croydon who played for Crystal Palace cricket and football clubs throughout the 1860s, previously identifiable by their initials until this cutting turned up.

Facebook

19/4/2011

Time to get into the modern world! As you might have noticed from the home page, Arthur now has his own Facebook page, with lots of different photos: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Arthur-Kinnaird-First-Lord-of->

Football/191725817537929?sk=wall

I always thought Facebook was going to be easier than this, though - they don't half make it complicated.

Rossie Priory gardens open this weekend

22/6/2011

A wee reminder that Rossie Priory is opening its gates this Sunday (2-6 pm), 26 June, under Scotland's Gardens Scheme. <http://www.gardensofscotland.org/garden.aspx?id=51472ce1-66a3-43c4-8319-9e2500981487>

Arthur's first cup wins - 1862

1/6/2011

There is an endless fascination in the online archive of Bell's Life, which is still throwing up new information. I have just stumbled across reports of Arthur Kinnaird winning not just one but two cups at Eton in 1862. His tutor's house, WL Joynes's, won both the House Cricket Cup and the House Football Cup that year, and despite his youth - just 15 years old and still in the school's lower division - Arthur was in the team for both finals. At the end of July, the batting of Alfred Lubbock made it rather a one-sided affair, then in November it was Lubbock the tactician who masterminded the football victory, as he recalled in his memoirs: "I had coached up our eleven beforehand what to do. I gave Tritton strict injunctions, when he saw me running with the ball, to guard behind, and when he had the ball I agreed to do the same. In this way we kept fairly on the safe side, and after a very hard fight we managed to win by 1 rouge to 0. Arthur (now Lord) Kinnaird played for us, but was only a small boy then and in lower division." Of course, this was the first of many football successes, but cricket was not really his game: "too slow for his energetic nature," according to his sister. Football took priority for many years, although when he was in his forties he took up cricket again and even played the game competitively, for Rossie Priory CC in the Dundee and District Cricket League.

The final countdown

4/8/2011

Today, the biography of Arthur Kinnaird became a reality, and it is now published! Corrected the last couple of typos and signed off the proof with Createspace, who seem to have pole position in the self-publishing world.

I have ordered a couple of boxes of books to start me off, in fact the postage from America costs more than the books themselves. Once they arrive - in about a week, they promise - it will be time to start the sales and marketing push. I'll post a preview chapter on the home page but the main thing is to get some good reviews in the quality press.

Now for the sales and publicity drive

28/8/2011

Victorian schoolboy note is world's oldest football letter

Mark Mazankill

A LETTER arranging a football match between two London public schools more than 150 years ago has emerged as the oldest such document in existence.

The handwritten note reveals how Chesham challenged Harrow to a match in 1860, four years before the rules of the modern game were drawn up by the Football Association (FA).

It pre-dates a similar letter, exhibited in the Scottish Football Museum, sent by Glasgow's Queen's Park club to rivals Glasgow Thistle in 1868. It was thought to be the world's oldest football-related letter.

Details of the 1860 game

emerged during research for a biography of Arthur Kincaid, later Lord Kincaid, a lord who played a key role in developing English football into a national sport in the Victorian era.

Several public schools, including Harrow, contributed to the formation of the FA. Under Harrow rules, two goals with posts were placed either end of a rectangular pitch, no more than 100 yards long. The kick-off took place at the centre and there was an offside rule.

"The 1860 letter is a significant piece of football history," said Andy Mitchell, the author of Arthur Kincaid: First Lord of Football. Prior to 1860, there was very little interaction between the schools who contributed to

the formation of the Football Association, so they could rarely agree on the rules to be played. This match between schoolboys in London is right at the birth of organised football.

Kincaid is regarded as football's first reporter. He took part in a second nine FA cup final, selected Scotland's first international team, and was president of the FA for 10 years.

In 1860, he was the 12-year-old captain of the Chesham school team when it challenged Harrow to a match.

His written response, dated November 11 of that year, was kept by Kincaid. It reveals Harrow accepted the challenge and insisted the game be played by their rules. It lists

members of the team, comprising nine players rather than 11.

It reads: "Sir, the following nine will be happy to play a match at football with your club on Tuesday the 14th. Provided we will challenge the whole of your school, the match will be played in the afternoon, and according to the Harrow rules. We have the honour to remain, Sir, your most obedient servants."

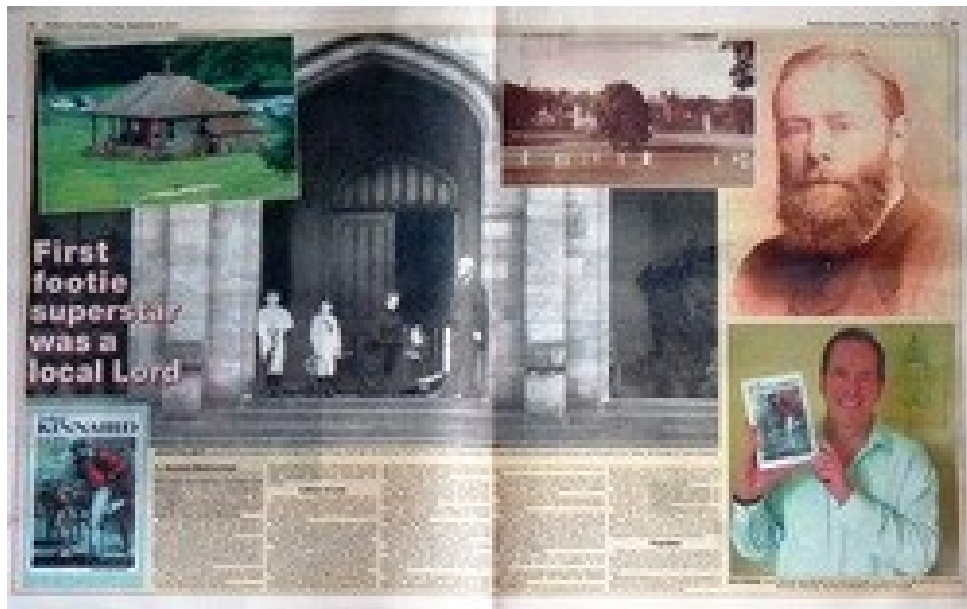
A scribbled note at the letter reveals goals were scored but it ended in a draw. The number of goals was not recorded, the Kincaid family still have the letter.

Richard McIlveney, curator of the Scottish Football Museum, said: "What truly has come across is fascinating."

With the book delivered, the hard work begins! Review copies to the media, copies sent to people who helped, and of course the marketing to generate sales. Very encouraging response so far, and today this article in the Sunday Times about the oldest football letter in existence.

Making Arthur famous again

10/9/2011



It has been an interesting few weeks - review copies sent out, complimentaries provided to those who helped with the book, a good number of sales through the website (thanks!), and some excellent publicity.

The Sunday Times got there first (in Scottish editions only, unfortunately), then Gary Ralston in the Daily Record did a typically tabloid double page spread, the local Allan Water Herald printed my photo, and now the Perthshire Advertiser has devoted its entire centrespread to the book. It is illustrated here, and you can also read Gordon Bannerman's article online by clicking here.

Other big development is that the book is now listed on Amazon in the UK. It had only been listed on the USA version, but the listing has finally filtered across the Atlantic. However, it is still cheaper to buy directly from me!

Hooray for the Sunday Post

9/10/2011

Flew back from Liechtenstein today, having seen Scotland's first away win in goodness knows how long, to find a full page in the Sunday Post (page 29) about my book. Complete with smiling photo of myself, and revelations as to how old I am and which team I support! Many thanks for Rob McLaren for a great article and for taking such an interest.

As for Liechtenstein, not much of a match apart from the result, but Arthur would have been in his element: incessant rain, horribly cold, just the thing for purging the body. All that was missing was a mudbath in the middle of the pitch, but modern surfaces seem to keep in shape much better than the quagmires of Battersea Park or Kennington Oval.

Arthur hits the bestseller list!

23/10/2011

Quite a surprise on Amazon today. My book is also on sale there (although you will be charged more for postage than here) and I find it is now listed in the Bestsellers ranking as one of the top 100 football biographies. Not sure what methodology they use, as Amazon sales have been small compared to the overall total, but this morning I was ranked No 64, by lunchtime it had slipped to 88, and as I write this in the evening it is back to 69, sandwiched between Brian Clough and Tottenham Hotspur's kit man.

Sheffield or London? An identification of the 1873 photo

7/11/2011



This photo was used on the cover of the book 'From Sheffield with Love' by Brendan Murphy, as it was thought to be an early picture of the Sheffield eleven. However, it is now generally accepted that it can't be Sheffield, principally as Arthur Kinnaird is clearly identifiable sitting on the left of the middle row. I believe I have now narrowed it down to the London eleven which faced Sheffield on 15 March 1873 - the week after the England v Scotland match - although I can't prove it conclusively.

The first point is a cutting from the Penny Illustrated Newspaper dated 11 January 1873, which reports on the previous week's match at Kennington Oval. It states: 'The Londoners wore white jerseys with the City arms inscribed thereon in red; the Sheffielders red jerseys with the Sheffield arms on a white ground, so that each player was easily distinguishable.' This indicates strongly that a uniform strip was a novelty that season.

Second, the man in the top hat, middle of the back row, appears to be Charles Alcock. He played in the first of the three London v Sheffield matches that season but was then injured in the notorious 'hacking' match, so did not play in the other two. He was umpire in the March match.

Third, the weather. In the January game it rained heavily and there is no sign of wet weather here. However, in March there was a sharp frost so it was bitterly cold that day, and it is clear the spectators are wrapped up well.

Fourth, according to the match report in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph (18 March 1873), both teams were photographed before the kick-off. It was obviously an unusual occurrence for it to be mentioned in the paper.

Unfortunately I don't have access to good quality pictures of the other players to confirm their identity. But, given the caps worn in the international seven days earlier, could that be Alexander Morten in a black cap, sitting next to Arthur? He clearly looks to be an older man than the rest.

The London team that day (according to Bell's Life) was: A Morten (Crystal Palace, goalkeeper), CJ Chenery (Crystal Palace), AC Thompson (Wanderers), AG Bonsor (Wanderers), GHH Heron (Uxbridge), R de C Welch (Harrow Chequers), AF Kinnaird (Old Etonians, captain), RK Kingsford (Civil Service), R Barker (Hertfordshire Rangers), C Warner (Upton Park), AJ Heath (Harrow Chequers).

Holiday 1912 - winter sun in Egypt

4/1/2012



One of my favourite photos of Arthur is this holiday snap taken exactly 100 years ago, sitting on a camel while visiting the Pyramids. He and his wife Alma sailed from Marseille in mid-December, enjoyed a pleasant cruise through the Mediterranean, and spent two months based at the Heliopolis Palace Hotel - one of the grandest watering holes in the world at that time and now a presidential palace. Among their fellow guests was John Pierpont Morgan, one of the richest men in the world, and - not one to miss an opportunity - Arthur persuaded him to donate £10,000 to the London YMCA appeal.

The anniversary that never was

19/2/2012

Today, 19 February, should have been the date of the world's first international football match in 1870. The teams had been selected and Kennington Oval was booked, but an intense cold snap froze everything solid. If there was one thing that stopped the early footballers playing, it was frozen ground, because of the risk of injury and broken bones was too great for young gentlemen who had to go to work on the Monday. It was not just football that was called off: rowing was impossible because of the blocks of ice floating down the Thames, and the Oxford University sports were postponed.

The match was put back two weeks, to 5 March, but the delay meant changes in the teams. For England, Thomas Hooman dropped out and was replaced by WC Butler. For Scotland, two players were not available for the revised date and never did get the opportunity to represent their country.

Lord Kilmarnock (1852-1927) was a career soldier in the Royal Horse Guards, and was required for military duties. His 'family' name was Charles Gore Hay, and he had been in the football eleven at Harrow. He later fought in the Boer War after becoming Earl of Erroll in 1891. The other was Robert Ronald Norman Ferguson (1848-1903), an Old Etonian and son of the 'physician accoucheur' to Queen Victoria. Although he was not available for the match, his younger brother HS Ferguson did play for Scotland in the last two unofficial internationals.

Big screen debut for Arthur?

23/2/2012

Interesting diary piece in the Daily Mail about the possibility of a film being made on the early days of football, with Arthur Kinnaird at the centre of the tale. Richard Kay's column yesterday had this to say:

Julian Fellowes has temporarily turned his back on the trials and tribulations of Downton Abbey's Lord Grantham and immersed himself in the world of Harry Redknapp and Wayne Rooney.

Lord Fellowes is undergoing a crash course in the history of football in preparation for writing the screenplay for a film about the game's upper-class origins. While insisting he is neither sick as a parrot nor over the moon about the project, Fellowes tells me at a birthday bash for Orion books at the Natural History Museum that the story focuses on the late Lord Kinnaird, who took part in nine FA Cup Finals, winning for the Old Etonians in 1879 and 1882.

'I know nothing about football but I am learning,' says Fellowes. 'It was originally a posh game played by public school boys. The film is about how Lord Kinnaird understood it should be a game for everybody and players should be paid. It is about the end of the old world and the coming of the new century.' Sounds like a film of two halves...

Rossie Priory goes on the market

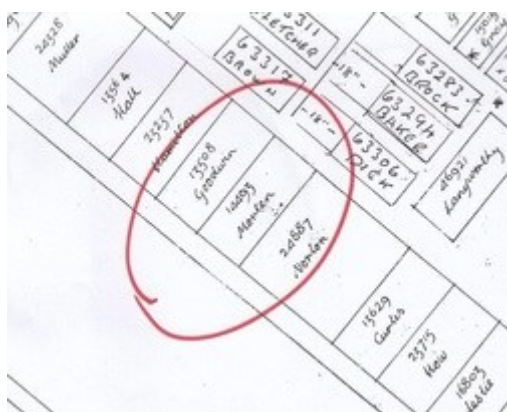
21/5/2012



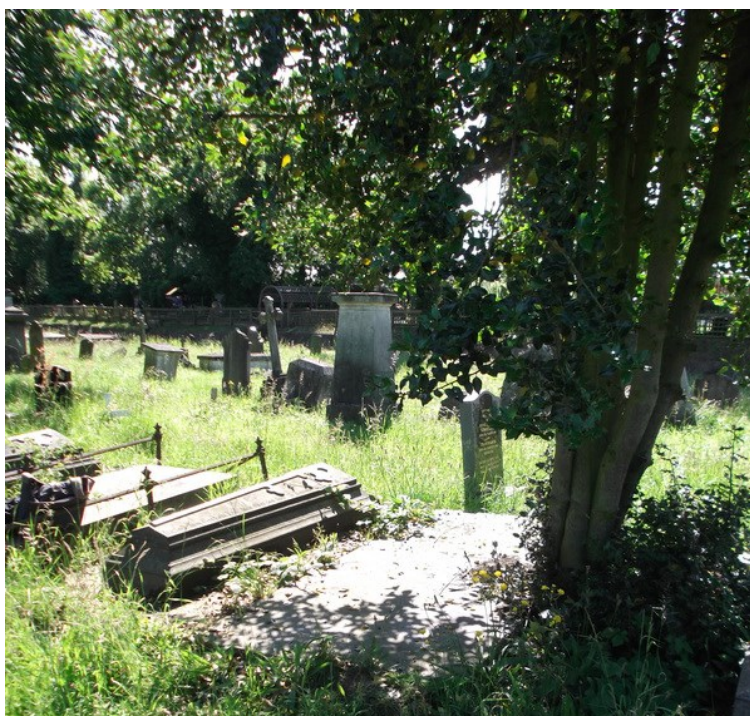
Arthur Kinnaird's historic home in Perthshire, Rossie Priory, has gone on the market after 200 years in the family. Offers over £2.65 million. Details and pictures at: search.knightfrank.com/EDN110137

Alexander Morten - the final resting place

15/6/2012

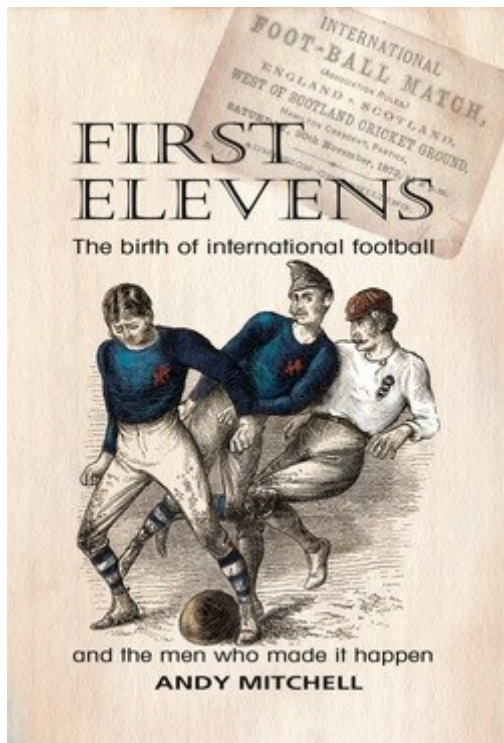


One of the most enigmatic players in the 1860s and early 1870s was Alexander Morten, who was at least 41 years old when he captained England in March 1873. His date of birth, even his parentage and background, has proved maddeningly elusive, so I had the idea of tracking down his gravestone to see if there were any clues. He died in 1900 and was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, a vast burial ground in north London. The staff there could not have been more helpful in pinpointing the location of the grave, where he was buried with his wife Flora and two children who had died young. I duly found plot number 14493, beside the path in an overgrown section, amidst a row of elaborately carved headstones and tombs, all packed with detail about families and dates. Yet, when it came to the Morten stone, to my immense disappointment, there is nothing whatsoever carved on the stone slab. The only identification is the plot number along one edge, not even the family name. It is hard to imagine why this is the case: certainly the deaths of Alexander and Flora took place fairly close together (both in 1900, him on 21 February, her on 9 December) but one would have expected them to have erected a marker for the children (Frances died in 1858, Frederick in 1864). Not only that, but what about their surviving children, who were not short of money and could have provided a memorial to the parents? It all adds to the enigma, and unfortunately I am no further forward to discovering his identity.



A new book and a new website

5/6/2012



It's all go. This week I have launched a new website which as a broad remit to cover all that is interesting about the history of Scottish sport. Have a look at www.scottishsportshistory.com

And what is more, my new book is now available. Called 'First Elevens, the birth of international football', it sells at just £9.99 plus postage from the website. I hope it creates waves, as it is the culmination of a year's research into the players who were responsible for creating our national football teams back in the early 1870s.

Rossie Priory from the air

7/7/2012



This superb aerial image of Arthur Kinnaid's family home, Rossie Priory, was taken in 1927, four years after his death. It shows the full extent of the building before the main part was demolished, emphasising what an extraordinary structure it was.

The picture comes from the fascinating ***Britain from Above*** website which was launched recently. This image

can be found by clicking [here](#), but it is worth spending time browsing the rest of the site for some amazing views, including a number of football and cricket grounds.

Rare football memorabilia from Arthur's Eton days

14/8/2012



I missed out recently on the opportunity to buy two very early Etonian booklets on football, the Eton Football Registers from 1859 and 1861. They had already gone by the time I called the dealer.

The latter is particularly relevant to Arthur Kinnaird, as in 1861 he won his first football trophy, the House Cup, as part of Joynes's team. Although these little booklets would not have contained much more than results and team lists, they are among the earliest publications in existence which relate specifically to football, and pre-date the formation of the Football Association.

No blue plaque for Arthur

10/9/2012

What a shame: English Heritage have knocked back my suggestion that Arthur Kinnaird should be commemorated by a blue plaque on his birthplace in London. Almost two years after my original letter, and numerous committee meetings, requests for further information, letters and so on, the verdict came through: financial constraints and the fact that the only London building was his early childhood home meant that the 'overall case for awarding him a plaque was still not quite convincing enough.'

With the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Football Association on the horizon, I think that's an opportunity missed. There is still just one blue plaque in London for a football man: that of Herbert Chapman.

A grand London home

5/10/2012



On a recent visit to London I passed by Arthur Kinnaid's final home at 10 St James's Square. It is quite a famous property, with a long and prestigious history as no less than three Prime Ministers lived there. They are named on a blue plaque by the front door: William Pitt, the Earl of Derby and WE Gladstone. Arthur bought the house in 1892 and lived in it for over 30 years until his death there in 1923. It is now called Chatham House as the home of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, and gave its name to 'Chatham House Rules', ie for meetings whose contents re

Positive review for Kinnaid book in Sport in History

29/10/2012

Delighted with a review in the new edition of *Sport in History*, the house magazine of the British Society of Sports History. It was written by no less than Professor Emeritus Tony Mason, one of the greatest names in sporting academia. He was one my earliest inspirations in this field with his classic book *Association Football and English Society 1863-1915*, on which I spent the then vast sum of £15.95 when it was published in 1980.

He writes that my biography of Arthur Kinnaid clearly establishes his place in football history. "He [Kinnaid] wrote little, left no sporting memoirs and made few speeches. Andy Mitchell has had to rely largely on newspapers to tell his story and he has done it pretty well."

Eton in the 1860s - but who is who?

31/10/2012



I have just obtained a couple of interesting photos from the 1860s, which almost certainly contain some prominent early footballers. They are both of the Eton boarding house run by JL 'Jimmy' Joynes, who looked after Arthur Kinnaird from 1861 to 1865. One photo is from 1865 but probably taken in the summer or autumn as Arthur is nowhere to be seen - he left the school in April that year. The one shown here is dated 1869, but apart from Joynes himself in the middle, none of the boys can be identified (the Eton College archive don't have a record either).

This is a great shame, as among them would be Alexander Bonsor, an FA Cup winner with Wanderers in 1872 and 1873 and also capped twice by England against Scotland, scoring a goal in 1873 and keeping goal in 1875. There are no known photos of AG Bonsor, as it is thought that the family tried to erase all memories of him after he brought shame by a string of affairs and a messy divorce. The newspaper reports of his divorce case in 1896 were the final straw, with accusations from his estranged wife that he used to come home drunk and threw things at her including, on one occasion, a chicken.

Winning the cup in 1862

27/11/2012

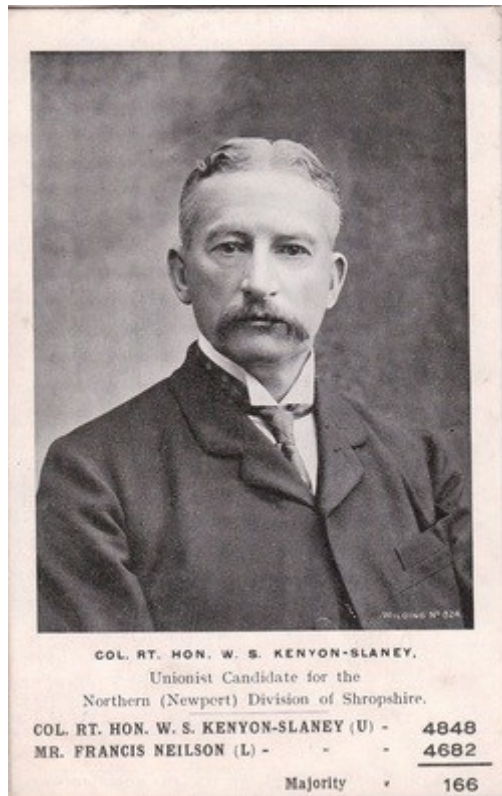


It is 150 years this month since Arthur Kinnaird won his first football trophy, as his tutor's house, JL Joynes's, won the Eton House Football Cup in the autumn of 1862. Despite being only 15 and one of the younger boys, he was brought into the team captained by Alfred Lubbock (pictured). It was an unexpected victory, as Lubbock recalled in his memoirs: "At the outset there was no particular favourite, and the betting would certainly have been 6 to 4 on the field - Marriott's, Gulliver's or Stevens' perhaps the most likely. My tutor's were not considered to be in it. We first managed to beat Wayte's, then Gulliver's and, to our surprise, had to play Stevens' for the final."

At that point Lubbock's gift for tactics came into play, and helped his side to an unlikely victory: "I had coached up our eleven beforehand what to do. I gave Tritton strict injunctions, when he saw me running with the ball, to guard behind, and when he had the ball I agreed to do the same. In this way we kept fairly on the safe side, and after a very hard fight we managed to win by 1 rouge to 0. Arthur (now Lord) Kinnaird played for us, but was only a small boy then and in lower division." Lubbock's sporting talents had already won one trophy that year, as his batting was the decisive factor in Joynes' winning the House Cricket Cup in July.

Kenyon-Slaney's last victory

30/11/2012

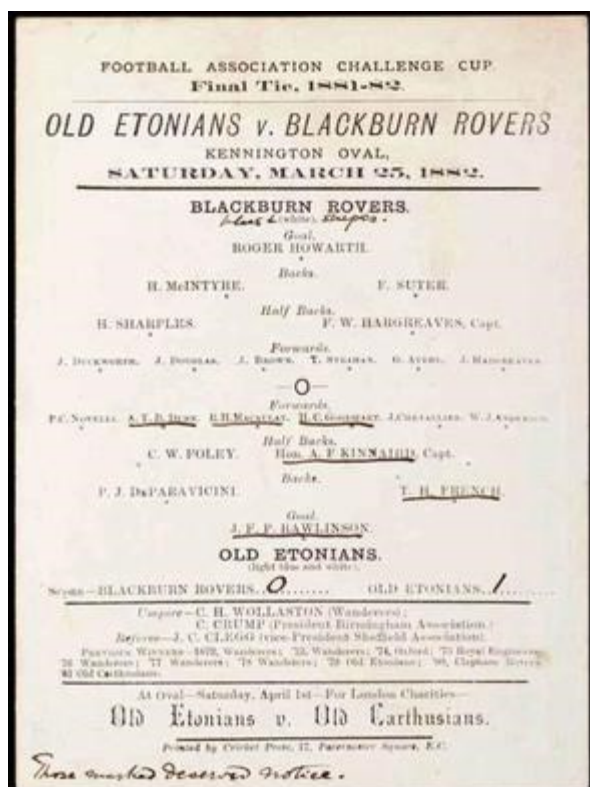


This unusual postcard was published in Shrewsbury in 1906 to celebrate the victory of **Colonel the Rt Hon William Slaney Kenyon-Slaney**, Unionist candidate in the general election of January 1906.

Kenyon-Slaney is perhaps better known as the scorer of the first goal in international football, a feat he managed in the opening minute of the England v Scotland game in March 1873. He scored again in the second half, and rounded off an excellent month by winning the FA Cup with Wanderers. That, however, was pretty much the end of his football activity as his main focus thereafter was on his military career with the Household Brigade. A contemporary of Arthur Kinnaird, also born in 1847, he was educated at Eton, where he learned his football. He was MP for Newport in Shropshire from 1886 until his death in 1908, so the election of 1906 was his last.

Oldest FA Cup programme to be auctioned

30/4/2013



There is a very impressive piece of Old Etonian and Arthur Kinnaird memorabilia coming up for auction. It is this single card programme from the **1882 FA Cup Final**, in which Old Etonians beat Blackburn Rovers 1-0 and was the scene of Arthur's famous post-match handstand.

The programme is being auctioned by Graham Budd at Sotheby's New Bond Street auction rooms in London, on Tuesday, 14 May 2013. You can access the catalogue at www.grahambuddauctions.co.uk but be warned the estimate for this programme, lot 895, is an eye-watering £20-25,000. When Graham Budd sold the 1889 cup final programme it reached £19,000, thought to be a world record, so this could see a new bar being reached. It just goes to show what wonderful things can turn up in scrapbooks, and who knows what else is out there, waiting to be discovered.

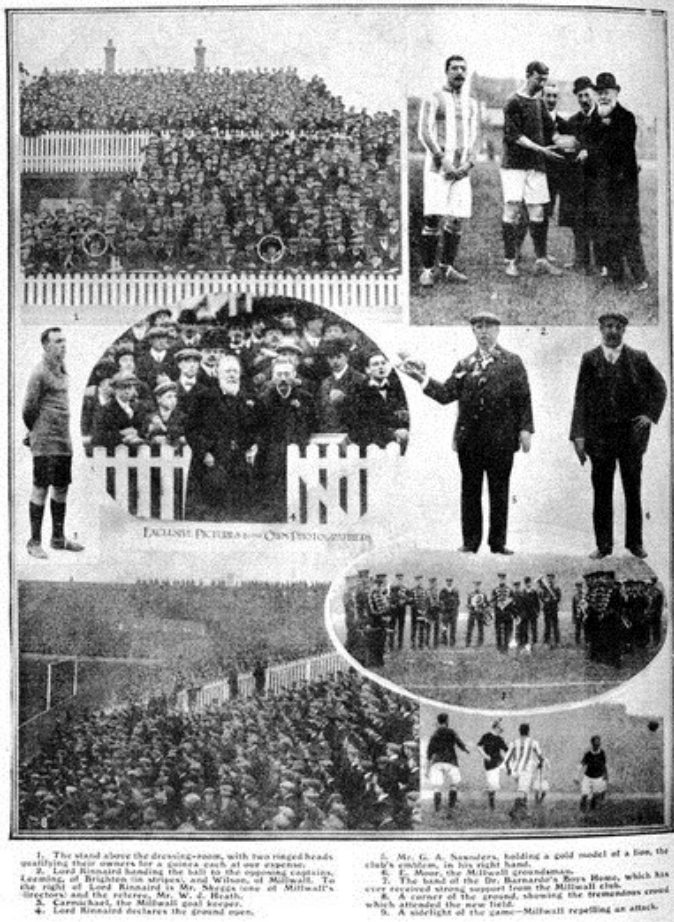
POSTSCRIPT: The auction went even better than expected, the winning buyer choosing to stump up a new world record price of over £35,000. Not bad for a piece of paper 'found in a box of papers bought as a job lot at a previous auction'! Full story at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-22532857>

Lord Kinnaird opens Millwall's new ground in 1910

16/6/2013

MILLWALL'S NEW GROUND.

After many years' sojourn at East Ferry Road and North Greenwich, the old "Lions of the South," Millwall, have migrated to the more populous district of New Cross. The opening ceremony of the new ground was performed on Saturday, the Southern League Champions, Brighton and Hove Albion F.C., providing the successful opposition in a 1-goal match.



I'm grateful to Groundtastic's Vince Taylor for unearthing (and tweeting) this page of pictures from 1910, showing Lord Kinnaird doing the honours to open The Den, Millwall's new ground in east London. The pictures were in *Lotinga's Weekly*, a kind of poor man's Illustrated News, and top right it shows Kinnaird handing the match ball to Wilson, the home team captain, before the match against Brighton. Centre left, having taken his hat off, he formally declares the ground open. Standing at Kinnaird's shoulder is James Buteux Skeggs, a Millwall director who was also an FA Council member and Town Clerk of Poplar. The following year, Skeggs would serve on the organising committee of the dinner at which Kinnaird was presented with the FA Cup.

A second commemorative plaque for FA Cup's first goalscorer

8/7/2013



One of the unsung heroes of early association football was commemorated recently by the unveiling of a plaque at his former home in Surrey. **Jarvis Kenrick**, whose main claim to fame was scoring the first ever goal in the FA Cup on 11 November, 1871. He was playing for Clapham Rovers against Upton Park, and scored twice in a 3-0 victory. One week after scoring that goal, he was selected to represent England in the fourth of the unofficial internationals against Scotland, a match played at Kennington Oval.

Born on 13 November 1852, he was still a teenager while all this happened, and although he never won a full England cap he was still a prominent player for much of the decade. Indeed, he won the FA Cup three times with Wanderers, in 1876, 1877 and 1878, scoring goals in the latter two matches when the Wanderers side included Arthur Kinnaird. He was brought up at Cedar House in Caterham, and the plaque was unveiled there by his great grandson, Jarvis Kenrick Browning. Also in attendance were representatives of various sporting bodies with which he was associated, and David Gold, who brought along the original FA Cup (which was presented to Arthur Kinnaird in 1911). There was also a large display of photos and memorabilia which I gather will go to the local history centre.

In adult life Kenrick was a solicitor based in Bletchingley at Pendell House, a spacious 17th century red brick mansion designed by Inigo Jones, where he and his wife brought up no fewer than nine daughters, supported by two governesses, seven servants and three gardeners. There is already a memorial plaque to him (and his wife) in the parish church there. Kenrick died at East Blatchington on the Sussex coast in January 1949, aged 96, and it is a sobering thought that there are people alive today who would have met him - a living link to the earliest days of football.

With thanks to Ann Lardeur, descendant of WH Bailey, another early footballer, for providing these photos.





Buried at Wembley: Scotland's first goalscorer (and mass murderer)

11/8/2013



By a strange quirk, the scorer of Scotland's first ever goal, in the unofficial international of March 1870, is buried at Wembley. Not the stadium, but the parish church, St John the Evangelist, Wembley.

Robert Erskine Crawford was just a 17-year-old schoolboy at Harrow when he was selected by Arthur Kinnaird and James Kirkpatrick to play for Scotland against England. Although living in London and born in Jersey, he came from a Scottish family background and spent much of his childhood in the Edinburgh area. Playing as a

forward in the match at Kennington Oval, there were just 15 minutes left with no score, when he took advantage of a gaping hole in the English defence (they had moved their goalkeeper into attack) and shot from distance to find the goal. Some English reports churlishly described it as a 'lucky long kick' but no matter, it was a goal, and Scotland led 1-0. Unfortunately, they couldn't hold out against intense English pressure to secure the win and in the last minute Alfred Baker scored the equaliser.

Robert Crawford went on to play four times for Scotland in the unofficial five-match series, and his younger brother Fitzgerald did so twice. The family changed its surname to Copland-Crawford after receiving an inheritance, while Robert embarked on a decorated military career with the King's Royal Rifles, serving in the Afghan War and the Sudan campaign. Unfortunately he also became an alcoholic, which brought a swift end to his marriage, and also probably caused the sudden resignation of his commission in 1884.

What happened next brought him far greater notoriety than his sporting life had ever brought fame. Trying to make a new start, he took up a police command in a remote part of Sierra Leone, then of course part of the British Empire. Within a few months he couldn't contain himself at the political inertia and took unilateral action against local warlords, with over a hundred 'warboys' being killed in one attack under his command. The Colonial Secretary wrote 'it won't do to have subordinates acting independently' but before the story reached a wider audience, Robert was in even greater trouble as one of his servants (suspected of theft) was tortured and beaten to death on his orders. Initially charged with murder, Robert was convicted of manslaughter in a local court but considered too ill to remain in prison and was sent home. There was a lengthy debate about his appalling conduct in the House of Commons the following year, but Robert was already fading and died in 1894 at the family home in Sudbury.

St John the Evangelist stands in Crawford Avenue, named after the family, who were substantial benefactors of the church in the Victorian era. A stained glass window commemorates Robert's father, and an obelisk in the graveyard marks Robert's final resting place (and that of his footballing brother Fitzgerald, who died the same year). Thousands of football fans will pass by the church on their way to this week's England v Scotland match, little knowing that a man who played a crucial role in getting international football off the ground lies just a few feet away.

*For more about Robert Crawford's story, read my book **First Elevens, the Birth of International Football**, or have a look at **Gary Ralston's excellent article in the Daily Record**. [Click here for the website](#) of St John the Evangelist, Wembley.*



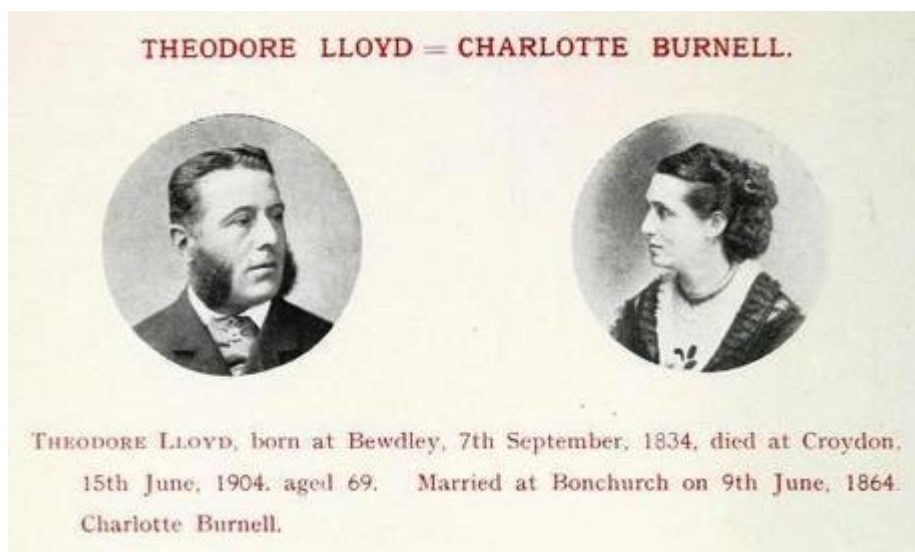
Road sign outside St John's Church at Wembley, named in honour of the Crawford family



Gravestone of Robert Crawford and his brothers at Wembley

A long forgotten face: the referee from 1873

10/9/2013



Two years ago I identified the referee in the 1873 England v Scotland match as **Theodore Lloyd** [see blog post]. Now, I have found this photo of him with his wife, which turned up in a family history.

The Lloyd family were important figures in the early days of association football. Theodore and his younger brothers Robert, Henry and Albert were stalwarts of the original Crystal Palace football club, one of the earliest clubs in London and a founding member of the Football Association. Henry and Theodore each attended one of the FA meetings in the autumn of 1863, and Albert played in the inaugural match of January 1864 to show off the newly written Laws of the Game. The brothers played regularly for Crystal Palace through the 1860s.

Theodore (1834-1904) was held in such respect that he was asked to referee the first international match in London. A noted philanthropist, he was a member of the Stock Exchange and came from a Quaker family of bankers. When he died he left the massive sum of £287,000 in his will, much of which went to charity as he and his wife had no children.

Take the Tube to Latimer Road and ask for Arthur

3/10/2013



Credit to the **Football Association** for the good idea of producing a football-themed map of the London Underground, as part of their 150th anniversary celebrations. With every single station named after a notable player, ranging from the world famous to obscure record setters (Chris Marron and Sean Cato, anyone?), it will liven up the morning commute.

Arthur Kinnaid is there, of course, although what his relevance is to Latimer Road tube is beyond me. A more appropriate choice might have been the Oval, where he played in nine FA Cup finals (that went to Maik Taylor) or the scene of his philanthropic activities at Charing Cross and Embankment (Ray Wilson and Des Walker respectively). But it would be churlish to complain too much about that, there must have been endless discussions.

There are not as many Scots as might be expected. The first Scotland captain, Robert Gardner, has a station (rather bizarrely sharing North Greenwich with Curtis Weston) and you can also see Denis Law, Ian St John, Dave Mackay, Alex Ferguson, Bill Shankly, Matt Busby, Frank McLintock, Alan Hansen, John Connelly, Peter Lorimer, Billy Bremner and Ronnie Simpson. I may have missed one or two, but sadly overall there are more Frenchmen than Scots, which doesn't say much for historical perspective over 150 years, more a reflection of the current state of the Premier League.

Click on this link to download the entire map as a pdf. Or you can apparently buy poster-sized copies from Transport for London.

Arthur's famous handstand

22/10/2013

I visited the **National Football Museum** in Manchester this week for the first time, and was pleased to see that Arthur Kinnaird's achievements are given plenty of recognition.

There is a short film about his football prowess, using photos from my book (with permission!) but most impressive is this full scale statue of Arthur performing his celebratory handstand after winning the 1882 FA Cup final. Legend has it that he was so pleased at winning his fifth winners' medal with Old Etonians that he stood on his hands, but it is hard to know whether the story is true. Although there are plenty of later accounts it is not mentioned in any of the contemporary reports, as far as I can tell. The Museum uses the statue as the foreground to a collage of modern footballers standing on their heads, at the entrance to a gallery of football heroes. Visitors can also see the FA Cup which was presented to Arthur in 1911, with its engraved plaque detailing his achievements.

