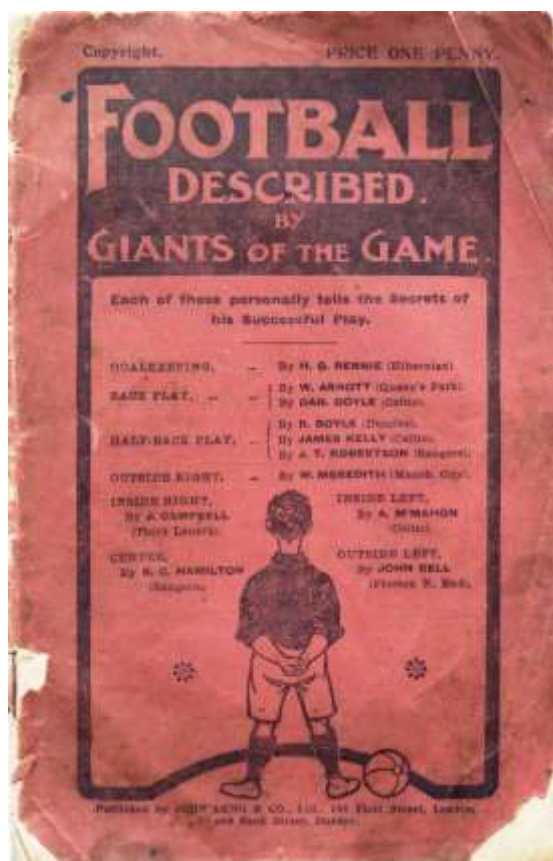


# Football Described by Giants of the Game



This flimsy booklet from 1904 gives a fascinating insight to the attitudes and lifestyles of a full team of prominent footballers, who describe their training methods, their philosophy and their experiences in the game.

With the exception of Billy Meredith, all are Scots but many had played in England; and all are internationalists (although Richard Boyle played for the Scottish League rather than the full international side). As several of them had finished their playing careers by the time of publication, the book covers two decades of top level football in its formative years.

## Chapter headings:

Goalkeeping: Harry Rennie (Hibernian)  
Right back: Walter Arnott (Queen's Park)  
Full back: Dan Doyle (Celtic)  
Right half: Richard Boyle (Dundee)  
Centre half: James Kelly (Celtic)  
Left half: Jackie Robertson (Rangers)  
Outside right: Billy Meredith (Manchester City)  
Inside right: John Campbell (Third Lanark)  
Centre forward: Bob Hamilton (Rangers)  
Inside left: Alex McMahon (Celtic)  
Outside left: John Bell (Preston North End)

Originally published 1904 by John Leng & Co, London and Dundee. NB the advertising pages have not been included in this reproduction.

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# Football Described

BY GIANTS OF THE GAME.

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## Eleven Great Players and their Methods.

Each of Them Tells His Own Story.

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### PREFACE.

In issuing this book, we do so confident that it will receive a warm welcome from all who take an interest in the great winter pastime. In its production we have been fortunate in securing the co-operation of eleven footballers whose names are known throughout the athletic world, and in "Football Described" the player who plays the game and the spectator who looks on will learn how it should be played from the pens of such giants of the dribbling code as Harry Rennie, Walter Arnott, Dan Doyle, R. H. Boyle, James Kelly, J. T. Robertson, W. Meredith, J. Campbell, R. C. Hamilton, A. M'Mahon, and J. Bell. Thus from goal to centre-forward, each of the eleven positions on the football field is dealt with by one of its foremost exponents.

Rennie is admittedly one of the finest goalkeepers of the present day; Arnott's fame as a full back will last as long as the game itself; while Dan Doyle is considered the greatest left back that ever represented Scotland. Boyle, of Everton and Dundee fame, a star artiste all his days, tells how to play right half-back; James Kelly's great work for Renton, Celtic, and Scotland invests his advice with undoubted authority; and of John T. Robertson, who deals with the left half-back position, nothing more need be said than that he has taken the field for Scotland against England every year since 1896. W. Meredith, the Welsh Internationalist, helped Manchester City to win the English Cup last April; Campbell, who used to be at home anywhere in the forward line, and M'Mahon, when forming the Celtic left wing in the early nineties, showed Scotland to what perfection combined play could be brought; R. C. Hamilton is Scotland's best centre-forward at the present moment; and Jack Bell, who describes the duties of an outside left, had no equal in that position in his Everton days. It will thus be seen that they are admirably qualified for the task we imposed upon them, and with this brief introduction our eleven players may be left to speak for themselves.

August 1904.

## INTRODUCTION.

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# THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF FOOTBALL.

## WHAT WAS ONCE THOUGHT OF THE GAME.

It is not our purpose to trace the history of football to its origin, for, if Homer is to be believed, that would take us back to the time of the destruction of Troy. Rather let us gather from ancient records the gradual growth of our great winter pastime in these islands. Thus in the 13th century Fitzstephen says "annually upon Shrove Tuesday the London schoolboys go into the fields after dinner and play at the celebrated game of football." That the pastime was not confined to boys is proved by various enactments passed by successive Parliaments in the vain hope of stamping out the game. Richard II. caused an Act to be passed in 1389 forbidding "all playing at tennis, football, and other importune games." Henry VIII. made it a penal offence for any one "to make gain by keeping a house or ground for sporting purposes." And in 1458 our own Scottish King James III. decreed that displays of weapons take place four times yearly, and that "footballe and golfe be utterly put down."

### "A Beastlie Furie."

Nor do we find a single writer with a kindly word for the game. Sir Thomas Elliot wrote of football "as nothing but beastlie furie and extreme violence whereof proceedeth hurte and consequent rancour and malice." The eminent antiquary Stubbs says:—

"Concerning football playing, I protest unto you it may rather be called a friendlie kind of fighting than recreation. For, doth not every one lye in waight for his adversarie, seeking to everthrow him and pick him on his nose, though it be on hard stones, in ditch or dale, or whatsoever place it be he careth not, so be he have him down. And he that can serve the most of this, he is counted the

only fellow, and who but he. So that by this means sometimes their necks are broken, sometimes their backs or legs, sometimes their noses just out with blood, and sometimes their eyes start out. And no mervaille, for they dash him against the hart with their elbows, butt him under the short ribs with griped fists, and a hundred such murthering devices."

Evidently there was much need of rough-play rules in those far-off Elizabethan days. It would have been passing strange if Shakespeare had not touched on the game, for nothing escaped his observation, as we can judge by his writings. Thus in the "Comedy of Errors," "That like a football you do spur me thus," and again in "Lear"—"Nor tripped neither, you base football player."

### The Game of the People.

So, too, the busy chronicler Pepys, who found nothing too insignificant for his diary, records that on January 2, being a great frost, the "streets were full of footballs." And from other sources we know that in London, Scone, Chester, Derby, and elsewhere football had become the game of the people. There seems to have been no rules to govern the game; any number of players took part, the ball could be either kicked or carried, and there was no specified limits of ground or goal.

### Modern Football.

The great public schools of Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Winchester, Charterhouse, and Westminster played the game for centuries, each school after its own fashion, and to this day the "rouge" of Eton and the "hot" of Winchester are peculiar to these institutions. At length, in 1863, a conference was held at Cambridge to simplify and unify the prevailing laws of the game, and

from this year we may date the existence of modern Association football. The Cambridge conference issued 14 rules, which enacted that the goals should consist of upright poles 15 feet apart, without tapes or cross-bars; that the ball must not be hit or held by arms, hands, or shoulders; that all charging is fair; and that holding, pushing, tripping, and hacking be declared illegal.

In the same year (1863) the English Association was formed, and five years later that body sent a copy of their rules to a newly formed Club in Glasgow called Queen's Park. So pleased were the Scotsmen at this act of recognition, and so much progress did they make, that in 1870 they applied for permission to join the English parent body. Their application was granted, and Queen's Park had the honour of taking part in the newly formed competition for the English Cup, meeting London Wanderers at Kennington Oval on March 4, 1872. The match was drawn, but the Glasgow team could not make a second visit to the metropolis, and scratched to the Wanderers, who then met and beat the Royal Engineers in the final, and thus became the first holders of the English Cup.

#### The First International.

The outcome of the Queen's visit to the Oval was a proposal from Mr Alcock, the English Secretary, to have a genuine international game between England and Scotland. Queen's Park took up the gauntlet on behalf of all Scotland, and had the satisfaction of drawing with an all-England eleven at the West of Scotland Cricket Club ground on November 20, 1872, so that this, the first real international, ended with honours easy.

#### The Growth of Football.

At this time Association football had obtained a strong hold on the English people, and Clubs sprang up in every direction. In Scotland, however, the game had made little progress, and, with the exception of Queen's Park, there were only the Glasgow Eastern, and Thistle, the Airdrie and Kilmarnock Clubs to reckon on, with one or two minor organisations—not 10 Clubs in all. But 1873 witnessed a startling change, for in that year such renowned Clubs as

Rangers, 3d Lanark, Vale, Renton, and Dumbarton sprang into existence. Clubs appeared in other towns and villages, and in 1873 Queen's Park called a meeting, at which the Scottish Football Association and Scottish Cup competition were established. There were only eight Clubs represented at this meeting, but by 1880 the affiliated Clubs had increased to 140.

It would be going beyond the confines of this article to follow the introduction of professionalism into football, the rise of the various Leagues and combinations, or the sequence of internationals between Scotland, England, Wales, and Ireland. To sketch the progress of the game from the earliest times was our object, and just to show what progress has been made, we may mention that the income of Queen's Park in 1868 was £5, and that of Celtic in this year of grace (1904) close on £13,000.

It has been said that figures can be made to prove anything, but surely never have figures spoken so eloquently as in this case, and let us hope that it will be long before football, the king of winter games, comes to be regarded as it was in the days of Elizabeth, "nothing but beastlie furie."

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It is said that 10,000 football matches take place within the metropolitan district every Saturday. How and where all the Clubs find grounds is one of "life's little mysteries."

## THE ART OF GOOD GOALKEEPING.

By H. G. RENNIE, of Hibernian F.C.

From a Photograph by MacLure Macdonald & Co



H G Rennie. Hibernian

The art of goalkeeping has not made the same progress towards perfection as has that of half-back or forward play.

The tactics of goalkeepers are the same now as when the game first started. This is not as it should be.

The combination game between goalkeepers and backs has not advanced at the same rate as that between half-backs and forwards. Neither is this as it should be.

### My Idea of what Goalkeeping should be.

My idea is that a goalkeeper should follow up his backs and assist them by being prepared for a pass back when the

backs find themselves in a tight corner, and get all the long bounding balls that are frequently sent over their heads, thus reminding them that there is a goalkeeper in their team. Some of them too often forget this. A great field for ingenuity and ability to show itself is here opened for the enterprising man between the sticks.

I think a goalkeeper should not be content to stand and catch cold in his goal, letting his opponents shoot at their own sweet will. He should try and inflict his will on them by leaving his goal (within easy reach), and thus inducing his opponents to throw away their chances by

shooting from impossible distances, while otherwise they might have dribbled close in and given him no chance of saving. The art can be greatly developed in this direction.

Goalkeeping is an art at which those possessing mental and physical activity, keenness of eye, good height and agility, strength of joints and muscles, coolness and deliberation of action, will succeed. They must also have judgment, or the knack of anticipating, combined fielding ability, and the knowledge of where to be and how to be there at the right time. A first-class goalkeeper having developed these characteristics in a marked degree will have every chance of succeeding.

#### Special Exercises.

Now the question arises how best to develop these mental and physical qualities. Of course the practice of goalkeeping develops them all, but if special exercises are taken they can be developed separately, and a greater degree of perfection attained, with consequently more likelihood of success as a goalkeeper. For instance, special bending, twisting, stretching, and breathing exercises will give that vitality and agility so essential for good goalkeeping.

#### Practice and Experience the best Teachers.

A goalkeeper who has played in the outfield has a better chance of success than one who has not, because for a goalkeeper outfield play is a special means for acquiring general judgment and fielding ability. But practice is the best all-round exercise, and experience the best all-round teacher.

The best of all practice is to have half a dozen players told off to pepper one with half a dozen balls. Under these circumstances a goalkeeper will have more varied shots in five minutes than may come his way in several League games. He will scarcely have cleared a fast low shot than in comes a "curly" one just under the bar. This parried, another oblique shot breast high may come in from the left, and anon a cross from the other wing which looks like finding its way into the net low down at the post. If making up one's mind quickly be one of the supreme qualities of a goalkeeper, then here indeed will he have ample time and opportunity for developing this habit.

#### How to get Rid of a Ball.

This seems to puzzle many goalkeepers. Some, daring and reckless to a degree, will kick out low shots and fist out high ones with the utmost nonchalance. This sort of thing is no doubt good to look at,

but should the unexpected happen, should the ball somehow manage to get under the soles of one's boot, or glance over his knuckles into the net, then is the pride of that goalkeeper lowered, and a sorry man is he as he turns to pick the ball out of the meshes, and at the same time listens to the outspoken remarks of the candid critics behind the posts. There are times when a goalkeeper has no other course open to him than to fist or kick away, but as a rule his backs will be able to protect him sufficiently, and then he will do the correct thing—grasp the ball with both hands and return it to that part of the field where it best suits his purpose. In this connection I would point out the absolute necessity of being able to punt and drop-kick like a Rugby back. The goalkeeper who has not learned to do both is not worthy of the name.

#### Hesitation is Fatal.

The successful goalkeeper must have plenty of pluck; he must be willing to run many risks, and not only so, but he must lose no time in making up his mind to run that risk. The man who hesitates is lost, and a goalkeeper doubly so. He must not think twice about flinging himself at a forward's feet or dashing out to meet an opponent with the ball midway between. A fraction of a second will decide the matter either way, and a goal be saved or scored as the goalkeeper's judgment, nerve, and pluck have been in evidence. In a word, grasp the situation and the ball at the same moment if you wish to serve your side. Practice will bring agility, experience will give coolness, but the faculty of doing the right thing at the right time is inherent in some goalkeepers, and distinguishes the international from the common or Club custodian.

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"Gamage for football" has almost become a proverb. This firm makes a specialty of everything connected with the great winter pastime; but hockey, cycling, cricket, tennis, and golf requisites are provided in wonderful variety. The headquarters are in Holborn, London.

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## The Right Back and his Play.

By WALTER ARNOTT, of Queen's Park F.C.



Back again to the scenes of old associations and happy football memories which make the Scottish blood loup in my veins whenever I ponder over the good old days of long ago in the football world, I sometimes find myself in a brown study contrasting the old familiar players and those who bulk so prominently on the football stage to-day.

Occasionally I am asked by friends I run across in out-of-the-way places if the game is as well played now as it was in the "80's." For nine years I have been buried in the Border district, far from the pulsating influences of football, but the bigger Club and International matches always prove an irresistible magnet, and on those occasions I find myself back among the old brigade watching the grand old game and exchanging opinions with those of an older

generations—veterans of the past—who helped to make the Association game what it is to-day.

### Not so Good as it Was.

To the query I am reluctantly forced to the conclusion that modern football is not "in the same street" as the football played in my days. The game has developed wonderfully in many ways; we have bigger and better grounds, bigger crowds watching the play, and a corresponding increase in the number of players, but with it all, the general standard of play has deteriorated.

The play of to-day is quite different from what it was in my time. I have witnessed games played in the "80's" by Queen's Park that I have never seen equalled since—from goal to forward. In the old days we indulged in good honest charging a player off the ball. It was right manly

shoulder-charging generally, and fair honest sport. Nowadays charging has almost disappeared, and the slightest interference with a player's movements calls for the interposition of the referee and a stoppage to the game.

To my mind, legislation in regard to refereeing has been carried to a fine art, with the result that the stoppages that occur in an ordinary game greatly exceed what ruled in the earlier days. The conditions have greatly changed, and the Association doubtless has been influenced in adding to its rules and exactions by the conduct of a considerable section of the players.

#### Advice to Young Players.

One of the best bits of advice I can offer to the young player is to mind his own game, and accept, with as good grace as he can, the decisions of the referee. He can assist that official and make matters much more pleasant all round by acquiescing with the referee's ruling, and refrain from wrangling. The football field is not the place for a rude display of temper—and it would always be a tremendous help to the game if players would only bear this in mind.

To the tyro who desires to excel at back I would tender the advice that he should act promptly in dealing with the ball, and try from the very earliest to kick freely with either foot, bringing the ankle into action in his efforts as much as possible so as to acquire power in kicking. He should never attempt to play to the gallery by making an easy feat appear difficult, or by waiting till an opponent comes to close quarters ere he attempts to get in his kick. Delay is often fatal. If he is too late in clearing and a goal is popped on against his side, he is made to look most foolish.

The back should be of good physique, because of the heavy work he has often to perform, and the requirements of the position in which he plays. He must also be courageous in meeting the attacks by the other side, and exercise a deal of judgment at close quarters. He should strive not to impede his goalkeeper's vision by lying too close on the goal when pressure is brought to bear upon his side, and endeavour by every legitimate means in his power to stop the forwards opposed to him.

#### Combine with the Other Back.

An excellent plan to adopt by the backs is to cultivate a knowledge of each other's play. Apart from the necessary combination with the half-backs, the backs should study the movements of each other, and be ready to cover up each other. If the one back rushes forward to checkmate an opponent, the other should at once drop behind ready to tackle the player or return

the ball, if his partner is beaten. Take for example, my old Queen's Park friend Smellie and myself. It was child's play for me to know what he was going to do. I could even tell if he would manage what he was trying for, and, knowing that, I could plant myself where I saw suited best.

#### The Brothers Walters.

Much the same course was followed by that brilliant Corinthian pair, the brothers A. M. and P. M. Walters. The one knew intuitively what the other was going to do, and they covered up each other in the most perfect manner. We hear a great deal in modern times about the back putting his opponents "off-side," but the modern school has not a little to learn from the brothers Walters, who played the forward "off-side" in a manner I have never seen equalled. Their tactics were never properly appreciated by Scottish crowds, and sometimes resented by Scottish players, but they were a cute pair, and as fearless a back combination as ever stepped on to a field.

#### Work Together.

The defence all round should work in harmony. Each back should closely watch the wing half-back in front of him. When the half-back goes out to tackle a wing forward, to compel him to part with the ball, the back, if he be the nearest player, ought to rush forward to obtain the ball, ere it can be secured by a colleague of the forward who was compelled to part with it. In the case of a back giving the ball to the half-back, he ought to pass it with the side of the foot in order to secure greater accuracy in passing. It may look a little ugly, but it is ten times more effective than a pass with the toe.

#### Cultivate Speed.

This little homily may conclude with the general advice that the back should cultivate speed by short sprinting exercises and the other methods adopted by players in training. A fast back is as necessary to a football team as an expert goalkeeper, and no matter how slow a man may be at first, it is wonderful what perseverance with the spikes will accomplish.

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Bovril is one of the most popular foods of the great football players; it is used by them not only before and after matches, and at half-time, but also very largely in training. For building up muscle and producing stamina it is a most reliable food, while its refreshing and sustaining properties as a beverage are also a great recommendation.

## FULL BACK PLAY.

By D. DOYLE, of Celtic F.C.



The player who hopes to be a successful full back must possess many qualities, most of them gifted by Nature, others developed by practice. He must have a keen eye, an iron nerve, a sturdy physique. These are three indispensable gifts, without which he need never hope to succeed. Granted that Nature has been kind to him in these respects, the young player must set about acquiring other attributes quite as necessary in their way.

He must learn to tackle cleanly, to kick and head with certainty, to act promptly, to combine with the goalkeeper behind, the back alongside, and the half-back in front of him. Other little tricks and touches may be grafted on as the player develops, but I think I have mentioned the most important.

### Tackling.

To tackle means to deprive an opponent of the ball, or at least prevent him from making further headway with it. To make an opponent part with the ball is quite as meritorious as to deprive him of it. To tackle successfully, one must be quick to think and prompt to act. There must be no hesitation, no dilly-dallying; but simply go straight for man and ball once your mind is made up, and your audacity often pulls you through.

Of course, your judgment will tell you how best to tackle each opponent. Some forwards are most easily beaten by dashing in as I have described; with others one must play the waiting game, and let them do the rushing. Experience is the only teacher, but I repeat, whichever method

be adopted, let there be no hesitancy, no half-measures.

### Kicking and Heading.

A full back must be able to kick equally well with either foot. I have never seen one who could do this naturally, but continuous practice will make one proficient. I have seen a few one-legged backs—that is, backs able to use but one foot—but they never rose above mediocrity. Not only must a back be able to use both feet, but he must be able to clear the ball, no matter how awkwardly it comes to him. Fast, oblique shots from either wing, balls coming breast-high or over one's head, balls travelling with as much "side" and "top" as a billiard ball—all these must he negotiate with the utmost certainty.

### Heading.

But there are times when one has no opportunity of getting in one's kick. A well-placed free kick or corner kick, a neat header, an overhead kick—any of these may result in the ball dropping in the goal-mouth at such a height as to absolutely prevent the full back getting in a return kick. It is now that the "heady" header comes in—the player who has learned by constant practice to apply his head at the proper moment and clear what would otherwise have been an unsavable shot.

### Value of Combination.

Again the full back perhaps more than any member of the team must learn the value of combination. He must have a complete understanding with his goalkeeper, so that in time he will know exactly how far he may leave him unprotected, which shots may be left to him to clear, and which must be cleared for him. I need only refer to the combination which existed between Hillman, Burgess, and Kelso, in the Dundee team, to make my meaning plain. The defence could give as many corners as they pleased, because not one of them was likely to cost a goal, so well did this stalwart trio understand each other. Nothing is so tantalising to a goalkeeper as to have a full back continually getting in his way, hampering his movements, and unsighting him at the critical moment. Give the goalkeeper plenty of elbow-room; it shows you have confidence in him, and if he be worth his salt his play will improve 50 per cent.

### The Two Backs.

Then there must be complete understanding between both full backs. To begin with, they should never be found standing abreast as we see them in diagrams, and sometimes in reality. Should the opposing left wing have possession, then the right back will go well ahead of his companion,

who, of course, takes up such a position as will prevent his wing catching up a wide pass and dashing in on goal. Similarly, if the right wing becomes dangerous, the left back will do the scouting and his mate act as reserve. Should the attackers favour the inside game, then I prefer to send the faster of the backs up the field, and the slower to fall back on goal. These tactics were used by N. Smith (Rangers) and myself at the Crystal Palace in 1897, and with disastrous results to England. Should danger come neither from wing play nor an inside movement but solely from an individual opponent who has taken upon himself to rush the defence, there is just the same necessity for an understanding. If one back goes out to tackle the daring one, let the other get into such a position as will cover up his companion in case of failure. Should both backs decide to go out for the forward, one should mark the man, the other the ball; if only one succeeds in his object, he will have covered the other's failure. How often do we see both backs make for the man, get in each other's way, and allow the ball to travel to another opponent, who finds an open goal and no difficulty in scoring.

### The Backs and the Half-Backs.

And above all must the full back be thoroughly acquainted with the tactics of the half-back in front. It is not easy to lay down any fixed rule about their respective duties, but I have always found it advisable to hold the half-back responsible for the opposing inside forward, and take the outside man myself. The inside forward is the worker, the extreme man the waiter, so that the more hampered the worker the longer will the other be kept waiting. Under no circumstances should the full back get mixed up in the half-back line. By doing so he leaves his side of the field exposed, and unless the other back be very speedy disaster will follow.

### Placing.

While it is the recognised duty of the half-back to place to his forwards, few full backs take this trouble. They seem to think that all they have to do is to get in a huge kick, high and hard—let the ball drop anywhere, so long as their lines are cleared. The result is that instead of exerting half the strength, and dropping the ball to the feet of their own forwards, they kick straight to the feet of the opposing backs.

To all young players I would say—Keep your temper under provocation; remain cool under pressure; avoid all shady tactics, and, above all, make up your mind quickly, and act with the utmost promptitude.

## How to Excel as a Right Half.

By R. H. BOYLE, of Dundee F.C.



The youth who intends to make his mark as a footballer must first have a great love for the game. He must be keen, keep himself in condition, and enter into each encounter with whole-hearted enthusiasm; without these essentials he will never be a first-class player. If he is a half-back, then he must pay particular attention to training. A half-back is continually on the move, and to keep up his end there must be nothing wrong with his wind. The trainer should be able to look after that, but the young player must do his own share to make himself fit.

I have played half-back all my football days. Once or twice I had a try at for-

ward, and I have taken a spell at back for Dundee, but half-back has really been my only position. When I went from Dumbarton to Everton, I found a big difference between the game played there and what I was accustomed to in Scotland. In England the forwards were speedier, and the moves generally struck me as being more intelligently thought out. My partners in the half-back line were Holt and Stewart; I did my utmost to follow their style of play, and it was in my early Everton days that I began to understand the finer points of half-back play.

### Understanding with the Back.

At that time Bob Kelso was playing behind me, and we used to have an almost

perfect understanding. If I went for one forward, he took the other; if he was beat, I covered him up; by watching what each other was going to do we made our work much easier, and at the same time rendered it more difficult for the opposing forwards to break through. Kelso used to shout to me when necessary, and I did the same to him; we had the utmost confidence in each other, and even if his back was to me, and he was preparing to take the ball, he would leave it to me if I gave the word. Our idea was that the man in the best position should clear.

#### The Question of Shouting.

Since coming to Scotland I have noticed that players seldom cry out directions to each other. In fact, in this side of the Border it seems to be resented. If a half-back cries to a forward, the forward doesn't like it, and the same applies to the half-backs when the back shouts a word of warning. This is where, I think, Scottish players make a mistake. This shouting to each other is part of the game. A man can't have eyes in the back of his head, and a timely warning from a player who is in a better position to see ought to be welcomed instead of resented.

Any one who has seen the old Preston North End play will understand what I mean. I saw them beat Renton in that memorable English Cup tie, and I was struck with the manner in which the players cried to each other. It seemed a part of their system of play, and every one knows the high standard of the North End's game in those days.

Scottish League football of the present day is every bit as hard and as good as English League games. In England the player has to turn out oftener, but there is practically no difference in the standard of play. Scottish players are developing a more speedy style, and the games are consequently getting faster. For myself, I think that the public see better football than, say, a dozen years ago. The introduction of professionalism has brought the footballer as near perfection as possible. There is as much skill nowadays, and the professional is better trained, and his powers, sprinting and otherwise, are more fully developed than was the case at the time I mention.

#### Feeding and Shooting.

Coming to half-back play, an important essential, as I have pointed out, is an understanding with the full back. Then you must remember that it is your duty to break up the combination of the opposing wing, but foremost of all you must feed your own forwards. Don't indulge in fancy dribbling. If the forwards are not fed, the game is not going on. Before

passing, a half-back should make sure that his forward is not covered. A half-back is not of much use if his forwards do not put themselves in position to receive the ball; but the men in front of him, if they are worth their place, know where to be; if they don't, then much of the value of a half-back's play is lost. Don't kick the ball away immediately you get it. Wait until you can dispose of it to the best advantage, and then pass it to a player who is likely to make good use of your pass.

As regards shooting for goal, a good half-back, I admit, can put in some dangerous shots; but this is occasionally overdone by wing halves. Playing with a high wind, he should shoot at every opportunity. To be always popping away at goal, unless you are a potshot, which every half-back is not, is simply wasting time and irritating your forwards. Remember you are there to feed the men in front of you. But whatever you do study co-operation; forwards, half-backs, and backs should all work together.

I don't smoke or drink myself; I don't object to others doing so, but the footballer who wishes to excel can be doing with as little alcohol and nicotine as possible. I know players who smoke a good deal before a match; it does not seem to affect them, but the young player should learn to do without his pipe and cigarette on Saturday forenoon. He will feel all the fresher at the end of the ninety minutes.

#### A Good Story of Forrest.

A reporter, interviewing Forrest, the famous half-back of Blackburn Rovers, asked how he liked being a professional footballer. "Immensely," he replied. "Ay, but well enough to bring your children up to it?" said the reporter. "No," replied Forrest, "not well enough for that." "But why?" asked the reporter. "Because they're lassies," said Jimmy, with a broad grin. The reporter collapsed.

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## THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CENTRE HALF.

By JAMES KELLY, of Celtic F.C.



To the young player who wishes for advice as to how to become a capable centre-half, I would repeat the famous advice of "Punch" to those about to marry—"Don't." Of all the positions in the football field, the half-back line is the most difficult to fill, and of all the halves the duties of the centre-half are most onerous. He has to keep a watchful eye on the opposing centre-forward, to shadow him at every turn, and nullify his every movement. Now, as the centre-forward is generally reckoned to be the biggest and best of the forwards, this is no easy task, though only one of the many that falls to the hard-wrought centre-half back. For if his wing

half-back finds—as is so often the case—that the task of holding the opposing wing forwards is too great, then must the centre-half dash across and give him the necessary assistance. Again, should the full backs be beaten close in on goal, the centre-half is supposed to pop up from nowhere in particular and save the situation.

### The Ubiquitous Centre-Half.

Talk about the handy man of the "King's Navee," why, he is not in it with the centre-half-back, the handy man of the football field, of whom so much is expected, and who generally receives more kicks than caps. But as some one must fill the position, I will attempt to define the qualifications and duties of the centre-half.

To begin with, he must be fast, for, as I have indicated, he is the general utility man, and liable to be called upon to act on any part of the field. In the old days of six forwards and two halves I managed to gain an Irish cap as an inside right forward, but when the three half-back system was adopted I was selected as centre-half in the Renton team, mainly because of my speed and inclination to go back and help the halves.

Not only must a centre-half be speedy, but he must be able to get up top speed in a twinkling. He must, if possible, anticipate his opponent's movements, and when that is impossible he must be on him or after him like a flash. 'Tis an old saying that a good beginning is everything, and in nothing is this better exemplified than in a dash for possession of the ball.

#### Placing the Ball.

Assuming that the race for the ball has ended in favour of the half-back, his next thought is how to part with it to the greatest advantage to his side—in other words, how will he place the ball. And this brings me to an oft-debated point—the inability of centre-halves to place the ball to their forwards. Wing halves like M'Laren (Celtic), Wilson (Third Lanark), and Needham (Sheffield United) have acquired the art of placing to perfection, and the question is often asked by thoughtless people why could not such noted centre-halves as Holt (Everton), Crawshaw (Sheffield Wednesday), and Raisbeck (Liverpool) also learn to place properly?

I shall attempt to answer this question in Scotch fashion by asking another. Who ever knew a really fast forward who could dribble well? We have had fliers like Hodgetts, Bell, Cobbold, and Spikesley, and slow, sinuous dribblers like M'Mahon, M'Pherson, Berry, and Settle, but never a player who could sprint and yet retain possession—in other words, dribble—at top speed. Such a player would be a phenomenon, a pearl of great price far exceeding £4 per week.

#### Breakers and Builders.

So with the centre-half. Chosen principally for his speed, as I have pointed out, he cannot be expected to have the qualities of the slow, plodding wing-half on either side of him. He is a breaker-up; they are builders-up. He smashes up the attack; they build up another. Of course, I repeat, the centre-half who can both demolish his opponent's attack and help to build up his own is a marvel, and, like the fast-dribbling forward, worth any money. The centre-half will always remain a free lance, lending as-

sistance to all and sundry, but too much should not be asked of him.

The model centre-half should be fast and fearless, not afraid of work, a sure tackler, and in addition a deadly shot. How often does it happen that from a scrimmage in goal the ball comes out to the centre-half lying clear. The goalkeeper is defenceless at this stage, for so hampered is he by friend and foe alike that a fast, low, drive through a crowd of legs, or a high, rather slow shot just under the bar, finds him quite unprepared.

#### The Best Centre Forward.

I have often been asked my opinion as to who was the best centre-forward I have met. Well, I have played many times behind John Campbell (Renton) when in his prime and several times against John Goodall, Jack Southworth, G. O. Smit, and R. C. Hamilton, the reputedly best centres of the past 15 years. They were all good men, but the player who gave me most trouble was undoubtedly R. C. M'Coll. The Queen's Park player was by far the most intellectual centre; he played with his head all the time, and was never more dangerous than when brought to bay with the ball at his foot. He would then lay a trap for his opponent, and, by feinting to pass, would strive to throw his pursuer off the scent. Very speedy when he chose to show it, he preferred to weave his way round and past an opponent. He had the knack of bewildering a goalkeeper, for it was impossible to say how or when he would shoot, and most of his shots were therefore of the unsavable order. M'Coll was undoubtedly the most elusive forward I have ever seen called upon to tackle, and, in my opinion, the most skilful. Comparisons are odious, I know, but I must say it was child's play to meet R. C. Hamilton compared with M'Coll. Hamilton trusted to his heels, and was therefore always an easy prey. M'Coll trusted to his head, and required all the attention I could give him.

#### A Mutual Understanding.

The work of centre-half is made easier if he have a pair of backs behind him who have a mutual understanding with him and with each other. In this connection I have never seen the equal of Hannah and M'Call, the Renton backs. Individually strong and clever, they combined perfectly, so much so that very rarely could a forward, single-handed, penetrate the defence of this powerful pair, and thus was I spared many a long, stern chase. The brothers Walters made an excellent defence, so did Hannah and Doyle, Arnot and Forbes, but nothing so fine as the play of Hannah and M'Call in Renton's palmy days have I seen.

## Advice to the Budding Left Half.

By JOHN TAIT ROBERTSON, of Rangers F.C.



From a Photograph by MacLure Macdonald & Co

The half-back plays such an important part in the football of to-day that the youth who aspires to become expert at the game ought to model his play on the best lines. Ambition is an excellent thing for the player—and especially for the half-back. The back-bone of the team is generally acknowledged to rest with the middle division. For years England owed her greater excellence over the other nations to the better standard of her half-backs. When I first went to Everton the Club was served by three such masters of the game as Dickie Boyle, Johnnie Holt, and Bill Stewart, of Arbroath. I was a season with the Combination team at

Goodison Park, and all the time I was ambitious to get into the first rank. Watching these players whenever I could, and paying attention to what they said, I picked up something useful from all three. A great deal can be acquired if a man keeps his ears open and profits by what he hears.

### Covering Up.

A player can expend every ounce of his strength in a match, and yet only play a moderate game. This arises from the fact that he does not study the art properly. The easiest game for the player, and the most effective for the rest of the team, is the combination game between the half-backs and the forwards, and as opportunity

occurs, when playing on the defensive, to combine also with the backs. In any special match, where there is something at stake, the half-back can always render invaluable aid to his side by covering up the back. That is to say, when he sees the back drawn out to the wing to checkmate a player on the opposite side, he should drop behind the back and be ready, if required, to do what his clubmate has failed to accomplish.

It is co-operation all round which leads to success. We cannot have too much of this co-operation between the halves and forwards. Close following-up by halves, the passing on of the ball to the forward, and the passing back by the forward to the half-back is the game that pays. "Bobbie" Walker of the Heart of Midlothian, John Campbell (now of Third Lanark), and Sandy McMahon, the veteran Celt, are the best forwards I have played behind who follow out this style of game.

#### The Advantages of Combination.

I would never have turned out in the League International against England at the Crystal Palace in 1900 but for the fact that I was playing behind Alec Smith, Campbell, and McMahon. I was feeling none too well at the time, but I knew I would be saved a lot of unnecessary running about by such skilful colleagues, and I was none the worse for playing, while doing my own share of the work. It is as easy again for the half-back to shine if he gets good men in front who can carry out combination and give back a pass, while he keeps shoving on the ball. McMahon gives a lovely pass—I know none better.

#### Shoot for Goal.

Then a half-back should always shoot for goal when opportunity occurs. I had 13 goals from half-back in my first season with Everton's first team, and I was only six months of that time in the senior eleven. I had 17 goals in one season at Southampton, and ever since in the ranks of the Rangers I have kept up my end. The half-back gets numerous opportunities to score, and he ought to cultivate accuracy in shooting if he wants to get on.

Combination can be carried out with the head as well as the feet. I have seen in the Rangers, times without number, the ball being headed by Gibson to Neill, and by Neill to me, and in turn I headed it back or to the forward in front of me—thus carrying out combination to its limit.

A good half-back should be as clever with his head in placing as he is with his feet in tackling or in passing. A rash-kicking forward is of no use nowadays, when combination is so well practised. By kicking the ball wildly in the air the player simply

handicaps his team, for the kick as often as not gives the ball to the other side, and loses any advantage his own team may have secured up to that point.

#### Training Hints.

A player ought always to attend seriously to his training, and to the instructions of his trainer. If he leads a temperate life and is physically sound, the training exercises will be a pleasure to him. Training with some Clubs is overdone. I have seen a team enter the field on the occasion of an important match after the men had undergone a spell of special training, more in need of a rest than having to engage in a hot worrying game for an hour and a half. The result was they could not stand the pace, and were unfit for the task set them.

There is a tendency in Scotland to make training too exacting—and discipline too severe. When I was playing for Southampton and Everton, all the training we got was light sprinting exercises every Tuesday and Thursday. The matches we engaged in every week proved sufficient to harden the muscles, and the sprinting exercises we got at the Club headquarters on the days I mention served the purpose of developing speed and keeping us fit.

A man does not require to turn out and have football practice every day of the week. If the training is confined chiefly to light exercises, judicious baths, and short sprints, nothing else is necessary. The player who has not seen a ball from the one match to the other will be keener on the ball than one who has indulged in practice games in the interval.

#### Not Too Much Walking.

In the case of a team being taken from home for special training on the eve of a cup tie, there ought not to be too much walking to weary the limbs. Walking is a capital exercise for giving one stamina, but the danger is in making walking spins too fatiguing. Ten-mile walks and prolonged spells of ball-punching are sometimes overdone. The special training should be more of a rest and change of air than hard work, if the players are otherwise in good health and seasoned with a round of Club games. My experience of special training in England was principally on the lines I have indicated.

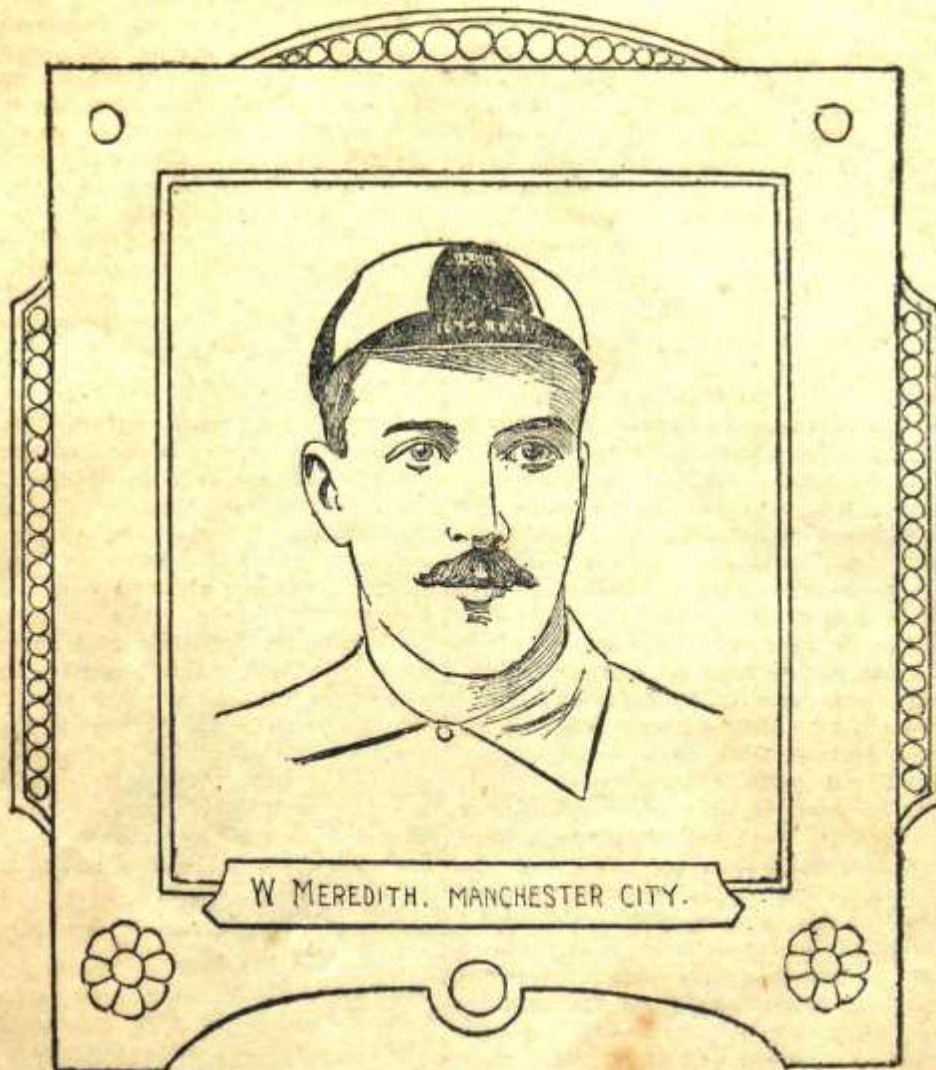
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#### A HINT TO FOOTBALLERS.

Footballers should drink a cup of Vi-Cocoa before playing. A well-known international gymnast declares, that all athletes, previous to engaging in any contest, should partake of this beverage, and they will find it strengthening.

## How to Play Outside Right.

By W. MEREDITH, of Manchester City F.C.



To play the game is one thing; to teach others how to play is another. Just as there are no two people alike, so there are not two players with exactly the same idea of how to play the game. Each has his own notion, and, of course, each fancies that his opinion is the correct one. In nothing is this shown so much as the way extreme wing forwards have of making their final centre. One man prefers to send in a lofty, hanging centre, which drops somewhere in front of the posts, and must be rushed through; another puts across at an angle, trusting to see the ball driven into the net by the opposite wing; while yet another be-

lieves in "squaring" the ball high and hard, thus allowing the other wing forwards to breast or head through. All these methods are very good in their way, but for my part I much prefer to run right up to the corner flag, and then centre the ball, not at a forward angle, nor yet square across, but between the six yards line and the penalty line. Now, just see the advantages of this. To begin with—By aiming down the field, as it were, I never commit the

### Unpardonable Mistake

of putting the ball behind the goal-line. Then, again—and here is the great advantage—by centring at what I may call

a backward angle, I put all the other forwards on-side, so that it does not matter which of them is in position to net the ball as it comes across. To be able to centre on the run is no mean feat, but to keep all one's own forwards on side at the same time is ever so much better. This is a matter of real importance. How often do we see extreme wing forwards make brilliant runs for three parts of the field, only to send past or dally at the corner flag until the ball is taken from them when by the slightest exercise of judgment they could have centred the ball as I have shown, and so seen their work crowned by a goal.

#### What Constitutes a Good "Winger"

To be a successful wing player, one must be fast rather than tricky. Should one's own goal be besieged and the ball come out from a defender, it invariably goes to the extreme winger, for it is to him the whole side look to raise the siege. One sharp, fleeting run from him nullifies all the work of the other side, and if there be another forward up to support him it may be the turn of the other side to defend their goal.

And this brings me to an oft-debated problem—Should extreme wing players come back and help their half-backs? Most emphatically I say no. If the hard-wrought half-back requires help, let him get it from the inside forward. The outside man requires all his strength and stamina for those long, punishing goal-to-goal runs of which I have just spoken. And how can a player go back to extricate his half-back from a difficult position, work the ball between, say, a couple of opponents, and then set off on a 70 yards' run, after having been charged or otherwise mauled for possession of the ball? It cannot be done. A soldier cannot at once be a skirmisher and a member of the regular firing line; and no more can an extreme wing player carry war into the enemy's ground and at the same time go back and defend his own territory. An extreme wing player is an attacker all the time, and should leave the defending to others.

#### Speed is Necessary.

While speed is everything to an outside man, he must also be an expert dribbler, though not to the extent of an inside or centre-forward. He is not so often called upon as they to weave his way through his opponents' lines. But he must have that command over the ball which will prevent his over-running it or his waiting opponent getting hold of it, while, of course, he must be able to pass and centre accurately on the run. Unless he can do this he will avail nothing, even if he have the speed of a

Duffy or a Downer. To deceive your opponent is, of course, the first principle of every one. The forward who hopes to deceive the opposing half or full back must be possessed of a fair amount of skill and judgment. He must have a number of tricks up his sleeve, as it were, and work them judiciously. Thus, if he feints to pass an opponent on the inside, and instead slips round him on the touch-line, he will have the sense to vary that before the trick becomes stale. Similarly, if he sprints round the full back at the corner flag and gets in an accurate centre, he will not attempt this on every occasion. The back will soon learn to wait for your final "dart" past, and will throw himself at you to block your passage, in which case you will simply deaden the ball; touch it to one side, and you will have a clear road for goal.

#### Sundry Hints.

Any advice on shooting should come from inside forwards. It is the business of the extreme forward to make openings, and of the inside men to turn them to account. Any hints I give here are meant particularly for extreme forwards only. Practise centring on the run. Learn to trap the ball dead. Never give the full back much scope to get rid of the ball. Don't sacrifice dribbling power for speed, else you will often lose control of the ball. Always keep to the touch-line. Keep the ball low, and pass with the side of the foot. Always lie a little in advance of your inside man. Never shoot from the corner flag; always centre, as I have told you, backwards, not squarely or forward. Be unselfish.

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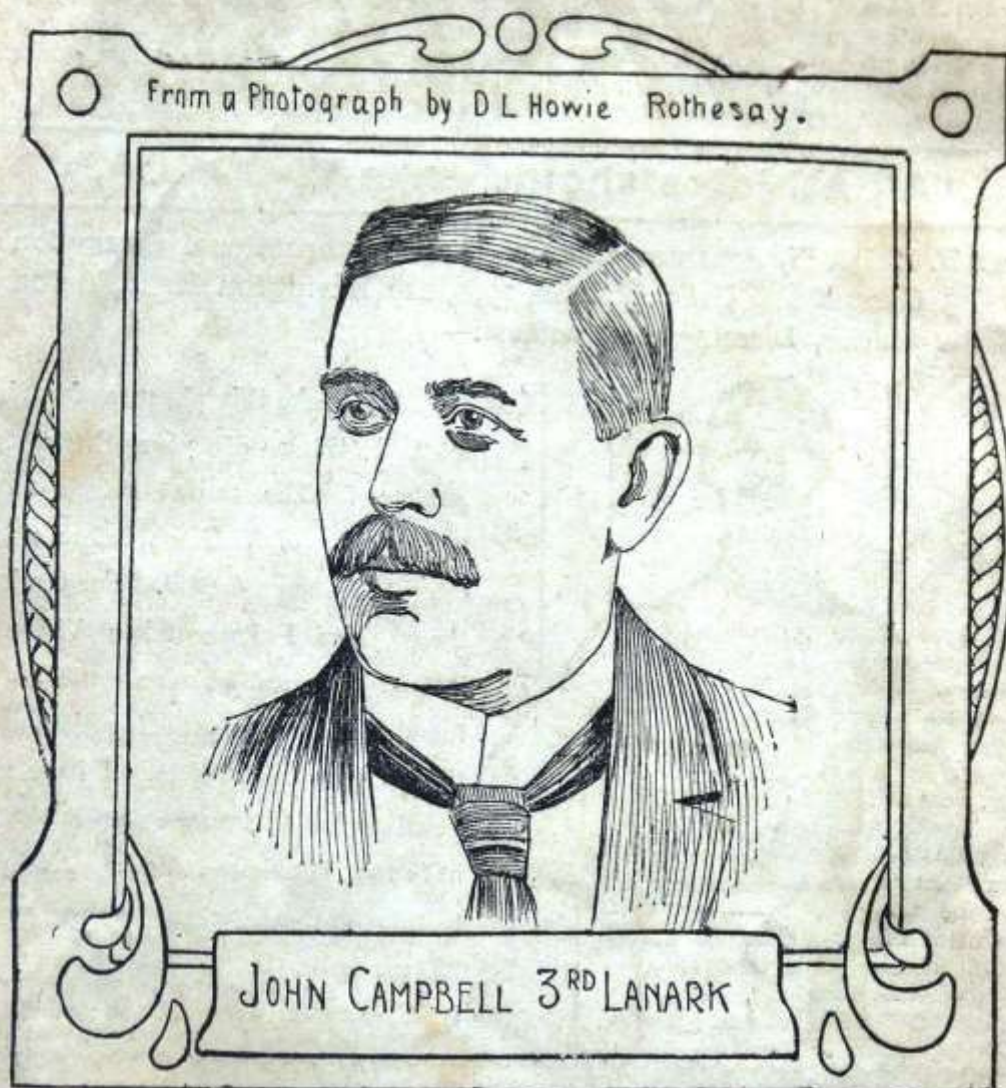
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## The Duties of Inside Right.

By J. CAMPBELL, of Third Lanark F.C.



To be successful an inside player must be untiring and unselfish in the outfield, and a deadly shot at goal. He must not be above going back to help his half-back when pressed, nor should he seek to gain applause by clever individual work when he could more profitably pass to a comrade in front. The ideal inside forward should have all the qualities of a good half-back; he should learn to tackle and rob an opponent by pure skill, to dribble at close quarters, to retain possession when tackled, and, above all, to place accurately to a comrade. How to tackle and how to avoid

being tackled are qualities which only constant practice can bring. The Club trainer may add yards to one's speed, and a course of baths and dumb-bells add to one's strength, but it lies with the player himself to develop those little touches—fancy touches, if you will—which take a forward out of so many difficulties and mark him as a class player.

### My Advice to Young Players

then, is to frequently take out the ball, and by one's self practise back-heeling, passing with the side of the foot while on the run, overhead kicking, trapping and shooting, dribbling, volleying and half-volleying, and

corner and penalty kicking. All this can be done without assistance. The young player may have seen a senior bring off some particularly clever feat in a League match on the previous Saturday. Let him now attempt the same feat, and if he fail—as fail he will at the start—there is no one to discourage him by jeering remarks. Once he has mastered most of the points indicated, he can ask another junior as ardent as himself to provide the opposition. The spirit of emulation now creeps in; the newcomer may possess more skill in some points and be backward in others; he may be able to trap a ball coming at any speed or angle, yet be unable to dribble it a dozen yards without losing it. When fairly confident the beginner should seek a place in a sides game—I don't mean a regular eleven a side match, but a rough up game of perhaps five or six a side—and then he can put to the test the tricks he learned, the touches he perfected in solitary practice. It is not given to every player to be a natural juggler like McMahon (Celtic), but by assiduous practice any youngster, provided he be physically sound, can become proficient at the noblest of all outdoor games.

#### Goal-Getting.

Though goal-getting is the be-all and end-all of football, it is surprising how little attention forwards pay to this important department of the game. It is no unusual thing to see a forward execute a brilliant run or a masterly dribble, only to fail lamentably in front of goal. The ball is generally sent over the bar, past the posts, or, worst of all, banged against the keeper. And all this because the player could not, or would not, steady himself for a fraction of a second, take in at a glance the position of the field, and then shoot or pass as his judgment dictates. In nothing is more rashness shown than in shooting for goal. Let an inside right find himself in possession of the ball, and favourably placed for shooting. The average player will simply kick anyhow in the direction of goal, and of course send the ball anywhere but through.

#### The Heady Player.

He who has studied all the moves of the game and practised them unceasingly, will act differently. He will not aim for the near post, for the ball may strike the upright and go out of play. Such a shot, too, suits the goalkeeper since the ball is coming straight to hand, and he will probably clear by throwing himself at full length. Rather will the forward aim for the far post, judging that the ball is now travelling away from the goalkeeper, and therefore almost impossible to be saved. And should the ball strike the far upright, there is the

chance of its being deflected into the net, or, at the worst, of coming back into play, right in front of goal, where a second try is sure to be successful. Again, how many goals are lost through players neglecting to place the ball past the goalkeeper at close range. A simple touch will often net the ball, but partly through nervousness, and partly because of rashness, young forwards send wildly past or over, when a tip would have meant a goal. Many a goal which is reckoned "soft" by the other side is the result of the exercise of restraint and judgment.

An inside forward is much assisted or retarded in proportion to his understanding or want of understanding with the half-back operating behind him. The most hard-working and painstaking forward loses much of his efficiency if not properly supported by his half. There is no need to labour this point: I will only refer to the play of J. T. Robertson (Rangers) as the model of a helping half. He attacks with his forwards and defends with his backs: always close up, he saves the inside man many fruitless journeys down the field, and is even able to exchange places with him near goal, and get in an unexpected and very often a successful shot. But the inside forward should also keep in touch with the centre-half, that player whose judgment means so much to his side. Perhaps the greatest centre-half of his time, James Cowan (Aston Villa), was an ideal backer-up. He almost trod upon the heels of his forwards, and passed to them with the utmost accuracy and judgment. All three inside forwards receive assistance from a centre-half of this class, and, of course, the centre-forward most of all.

#### To Dribble or Not to Dribble.

Next to being able to dribble well is the faculty of knowing when not to dribble. There are times when a forward must stick to the ball and make progress with it. He finds himself the only unmarked forward, and it is now his duty to entice one or more of the other side to attack him. The inside forward is now fulfilling his (football) destiny. He is now making himself the target of attack, drawing upon himself the enemy's fire, and so making light the task of his comrades. And it is just here that the good or bad player shows himself. The former will cast his eye over the field, note which of his forwards is best situated, and then unselfishly send the ball in his direction.

But the duffer, having dribbled clear, and been rewarded with the cheers of his friends, will continue to dribble along in all his glory until he loses the ball and sees

all his handiwork go for nothing. It is this striving after effect, this fondness for dribbling and dodging which has spoiled so many youngsters. Hence I would say to all novices—Never dribble a yard unless circumstances admit of nothing else.

#### The Passing Game.

A timely pass is worth a dozen futile dribbles, and the labour involved so easy that I am surprised that forward play has not developed more into the passing game, without which no attack can hope to suc-

ceed. A forward is only a unit in a combination, and ought to efface himself for the general good. Unselfishness should be his guiding motto, whether in midfield or at goal. He may be an expert dribbler, an exquisite dodger, a deadly shot; but it will avail him nothing if he fails to co-operate with his fellow-forwards. So again, I say to all such players, be manly and unselfish, sink self for Club, avoid all gallery play, and sooner or later you will become a source of strength to your team and higher honour will probably yet be yours.

## The Centre Forward and his Importance.

By R. C. HAMILTON, of Rangers F.C.



From a Photograph by MacLure Macdonald & Co.

For many years it was the custom in Association to play six forwards, but as the game spread throughout the country, their passing became so accurate, their combina-

tion so perfect, that two half-backs could not cope with them, and consequently the game was levelled by taking away one forward and playing three halves. The cen-

the forward has now to do the same work as two centres did in the old days, and at the same time meet a strengthened defence, so that his task is no easy one.

The centre forward is expected to keep the wings in unison by maintaining a prominent position and passing freely to the players on either side, and in turn putting himself into position to receive a return pass. He is the distributor of the play, and much is expected from him in the way of making ground and openings for his side.

#### What Makes a Centre Forward.

It will be easily seen, then, that a centre forward must be possessed of a sound constitution, a sturdy physique, and a cool, calculating brain. No doubt we sometimes see an unskilful forward achieve a partial success because of his height and strength, and at other times a tiny player triumphs over difficulties by pure skill and resource. But, generally speaking, the player must be strong both mentally and physically who hopes to pivot a first-class team.

#### Strength v. Skill.

One of the greatest delights of a forward is the baffling of strength by skill. Strange as it may seem, players as a rule are unconscious of the vast crowds watching their every movement. Indeed, this abandonment of self-consciousness is a part of the game itself.

The ideal forward is he who continually keeps before him the thought that he is only one of eleven players, only a part of a mechanism whose smooth working largely depends upon his unselfishness. Tricking an opponent brings with it a pleasure very difficult to explain; but to a forward the supreme moment is when he sees the ball that has just left his foot find its way beyond the goalkeeper's reach. Like a small boy who aims at a street lamp, he feels intuitively that the missile will do damage, and before the ball is in the net he turns on his heel with apparent nonchalance, but with a heathenish joy in his heart.

#### Hints.

It would be absurd of me to lay down any hard and fast maxims to the young player anxious to shine as a centre. I can only mention my own ideas of how to fill the position, and if any find them suitable they are welcome to them. To begin with, then, I am a firm believer in the good old golfing motto, "Never up, never in." I invariably lie well up the field, just sufficiently inside the backs to keep me onside. By this means I am really doing the work of

two men, for both full backs are kept busy watching me, while the centre-half is forced to dance attendance on me, and so he is of very little assistance to his wing halves.

Assuming that the ball comes across from either wing to me, I have merely to burst between the backs, to outstrip them, if possible, and the rest is easy.

It will probably be urged against this style of play that such a centre forward is of very little use in doing any "spade work." And quite right, too. But are not there three halves and two full backs detailed to do the defensive work? and are not the inside forwards the men to do the "feeding?" If a centre forward is expected to be able to outstrip the backs, he must not be asked to go back and wear himself out in searching and working for the ball. He must reserve his speed and stamina for those raids on goal which frequently crown with success the hard work of his comrades.

I always prefer to have the ball passed slightly ahead of me, since I am thus enabled to get up speed, to gather weigh, as it were, and so storm the citadel much more effectively than if I had to wait and pick up the pass, which would probably entail my being tackled before I got into my running.

#### Shooting.

For, after all, goal-getting is the main thing, and happy is he who proves the successful marksman. I would advise young forwards to learn to shoot with either foot, and to cultivate shooting on the run. What so provoking as to see a forward bring the ball over to his left foot because he cannot let drive with the right? or what so annoying as to see another fellow, splendidly placed for a pop at goal, stop the ball dead and manœuvre for an opening, when he might have scored on the run? By stopping the ball, his opponents have the chance of robbing him and the goalkeeper of steadying himself, whereas if he had shot on the run, he would have found the whole defence wavering and helpless.

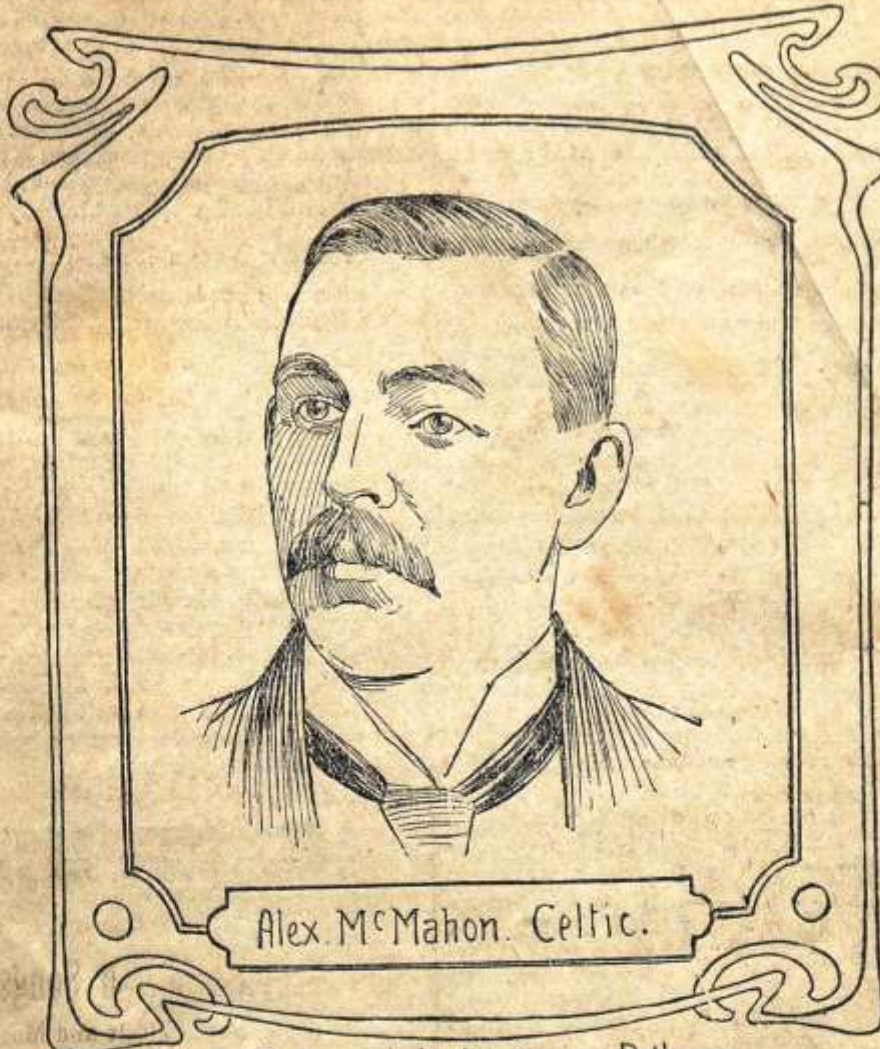
I repeat, then, that a centre forward should always keep ahead of his inside forwards, ready to catch up or give a long, oblique pass. He ought always to keep a cool head and a keen lookout for any weakness in the defence. Above all, he should shoot at every opportunity, angle, and distance, remembering that one successful shot wipes out the memory of twenty unsuccessful tries.

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Buy the Football Handbook at once. It is a greater success than ever. J. K. M'Dowall writes for it; Wm. M'Gregor writes for it.

## Inside Left and how to Play there.

By A. M'MAHON, of Celtic F.C.



From a Photograph by D L Horrie. Rothesay.

Inside left, or outside left support, as more precise writers term the position, is, as the full title ascribes it, the position of one whose duty it is to support and strengthen the extreme wing player. The inside forward is, figuratively speaking, the hewer of wood and drawer of water to his fleetier comrade, whose runs along the touch-line mean so much to his side. It is

### The First Duty

of the inside forward to draw the enemy's fire upon himself; in other words, to draw the rival half-back away from the extreme wing-player, and so pave the way for an attack upon goal. Let him nurse the ball then, either by trapping and dallying with it, or by slowly but carefully dribbling it—

anything, in fact, which will lead the half-back to dash in and attempt to deprive him of it. This is the favourable moment to pass out to the waiting flier on the wing, who, an unmarked man, can now make headway. And here I wish to lay down what I might term

### The Golden Rule of Passing.

Never pass the ball to your comrade's feet, but always aim at sending it about a yard or two in front of him. This seems a trivial matter, but, as all players know, or ought to know, it makes all the difference in the world to a wing player to have the ball accurately placed to him. As a rule, an outside left is chosen principally for his speed; he is rarely a close dribbler, depending mainly on straight rushes rather than tricky

runs to make ground. I may instance Bell (Preston North End), Sellars (Queen's Park), and Hodgetts (Aston Villa) as typical left wing forwards. Now, let any such players as these receive a close pass, and what happens? They have to halt, perhaps turn back, gather up the ball, and then get up speed, all in a couple of seconds, with the probability, nay, the certainty, that the opposing back will step in and nip the ball from his toe before he has travelled a dozen paces.

#### **A Well-Placed Pass.**

But let the ball be placed well in front of him, and what a difference. The ball has scarcely left the foot of the inside man than the extreme man is into his stride, pounces upon the ball as it comes diagonally across his path, and dashes past the back, who possibly never dreamt of his receiving or utilising a forward pass. I have emphasised this point, because it means so much, and at the risk of being thought wearisome I again say to all young forwards, "Never cut too finely your passes to an extreme wing player, but always give him a couple of yards to work on."

#### **Inside Man's Work.**

But the work of the inside man is not finished when he has turned the ball over to his comrade. He must now keep in close attendance and be ready to accept a return pass, should the player in possession be tackled and in danger of losing the ball.

His own judgment will tell him whether it is best to again nurse and slip on the ball to his baulked comrade, or transfer it to the centre or right wing. And it is just here that most forwards make another great mistake. They see the centre-forward well in advance, and without taking time to look whether he is marked by the centre-half or likely to be sandwiched between the full backs, send the ball in his direction.

#### **Tempt the Centre Half.**

What should be done is to draw the centre-half away, and that can only be done by either tempting him yourself, or, better still, by sending across to the inside right, who can repeat these tactics on the other wing.

A centre-forward is made or marred by his inside forwards. If they take the precaution of enticing the centre-half to either wing before passing, they give the pivot a clear run in on goal; but if they neglect this vital point, they spoil all their previous good work, and render their centre useless.

#### **To be Successful**

an inside player must be able to pass accurately, to dribble closely, and to shoot at any range. In a word, he must obtain

supreme control over the ball if he hopes to become a class player. He need not be speedy, for he is seldom called upon to make long runs, but he must be an adept in all those little touches which make the class player. He should, above all things, possess the knack of outwitting his opponents, by doing the unexpected, shooting when they expect him to pass, feint and pass to the left when his opponents move on the centre—in a word, mask his every movement until the defence be bewildered, baffled, and beaten by his trickery and resource.

It is impossible for me to enumerate all the tricky touches—the back-heeling, over-head kicking, slipping and feinting at close quarters, &c.—which go to make up a really great inside player. It is given to very few players to possess all these qualities, but there is one faculty which all forwards should seek to develop—the art of using their head as well as their feet at goal. How frequently do we see accurately placed corner kicks, free kicks, and passes from the wings thrown away upon inside players, who stand like wooden dolls in front of goal. In cricket the batsman who is content to let the ball strike his bat becomes an object of ridicule to the crowd, but scarcely less ridiculous is the forward who is content to let the ball drop on his head without seeking to divert its passage or hasten its velocity by

#### **A Timely Jerk or "Header"**

as it has come to be called. A goalkeeper has no chance whatever with a well-directed "header." The ball obtains "side" by contact with the player's head, and is therefore difficult to hold even if it comes within reach. But the chances are all against it coming near the custodian, who is compelled to stand by and watch the ball pass beyond his outstretched hands into the net. A deadly shot is a valuable acquisition to any team, but the player who can both shoot and head goals is doubly valuable.

To the young player who aspires to an international cap, I say, keep on practising all the little tricks of the inside game until you become proficient. You may not be gifted with great speed nor yet be a giant in stature, but if you master all the intricacies of the game and put brains into your play, there will always be room for you at the top.

#### **Some Great Players I Have Met.**

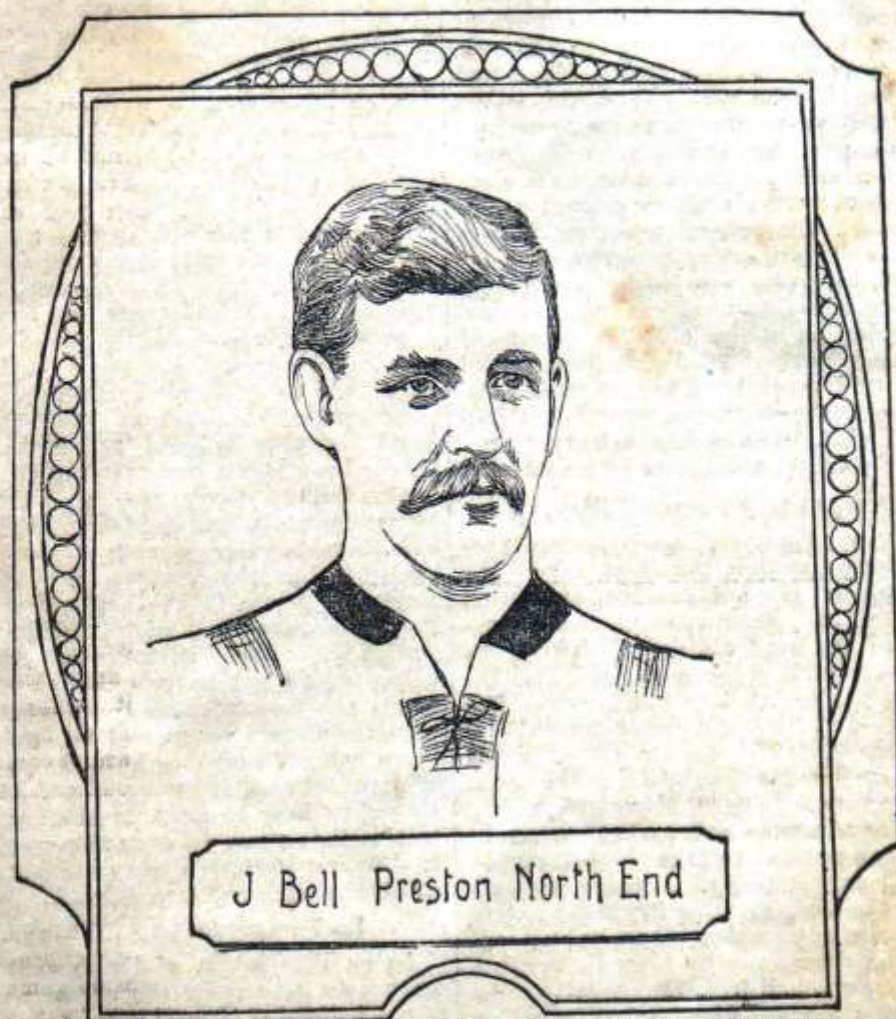
To my mind Edgar Chadwick (Everton) was the finest inside-left forward player I have ever seen. He was full of those masterly touches which so bewilder a half-back, and never repeated himself, so that it

was impossible to divine his next move. Campbell (Celtic) was the finest inside left of my acquaintance—fast, strong, and fearless; an excellent cross, a deadly shot, a master of tactics. Reynolds (Aston Villa) proved the most difficult half-back to beat; and Adams (Hearts) the most formidable full-back. I am speaking of my own experiences, and do not wish to make unfair

comparisons. Arnot was past his prime when I entered first-class football, and N. J. Ross (Preston North End) I saw but seldom, so I cannot speak with authority of either. The greatest exponent of full-back play in my time was Dan Doyle (Celtic), a player whose marvellous judgment, nerve, and resource helped to win for his Club and country so many glorious victories.

## The Outside Left Winger.

By JOHN BELL, of Preston North End F.C.



From a Photograph by MacLure Macdonald & Co

My early impressions of football were formed away back in the days when the old Dumbarton Club was one of the most powerful organisations in the country. I was associated at Boghead then with some of the most brilliant exponents the game has produced, notably James M'Aulay, the goalkeeper whose wonderful exhibitions against English teams are still referred to

with pride by writers on the game; Michael Paton, the strapping schoolmaster, who partnered Walter Arnott in that International which saw George Somerville play against England for the first time; Peter Miller and Leitch Keir, the lion-hearted half-back; "Joe" Lindsay, one of the cleverest dribblers that ever stepped on to a field; "Willie" M'Kinnon, the darling of his townsmen, and a player whose moves

and feinting tricks were as cleverly executed as they were fascinating to the on-looker.

It was among such a school I got my education. A vigorous, manly stock they were; men who played for the keen enjoyment which the pursuit of the recreation afforded them, and the glory of the town of their birth.

### **The Tactics of the Old School.**

Football has undergone many changes in the interval, and individual forward play, which in those days was regarded as the test of a player's merit, has now become almost extinct. The player who attempts to introduce the tactics of the old school is regarded as a hindrance to the forwards on his own side, is classed as "selfish," and sooner or later he passes from the public gaze. Backing-up was in vogue then to a limited extent, but it was more in theory than in practice. The combination game of to-day was only in the process of evolution, but if the process was slow, it was gradually revolutionising forward play. The forward game was harder and more strenuous in my earlier days than it is now. The passing on of the ball—the movement which has perfected combination—saved the forward many hard knocks and dispensed with the continuous ordeal of facing-up to a half-back or back, who had set himself firmly to get the better of his man.

### **Present Day Forward Play.**

The forward game of to-day, when properly carried out, is the ideal game—the game which Goodall, Gordon, Dewhurst, Ross, jun., and Drummond played so brilliantly in the good old days. To ensure proper combination the centre and both inside men should work as much as possible together—and the wing players should cultivate speed. The faster they are the better it will be for the success of the team. The wing forward ought, above everything, to be able to centre well, and to endeavour as much as possible to take the ball on the run, and pass it freely. I would strongly counsel the aspiring wing footballer not to try to score goals unless when he succeeds in getting clear away by himself, or when he receives the ball from the opposite wing.

The wing forward who persists in useless shooting for goal when he gets the ball, and ignores the forwards better placed than himself, discourages the other forwards, and, by giving them much purposeless running, he spoils himself. The measure of a team's success lies largely in the combination the players can develop.

### **The Value of Combination.**

The chief duty, therefore, which every forward owes to his side is to do his best to carry out the principle of combination.

I would hammer that into his head as the first essential qualification. The old saw says, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again." That should be the motto of every player. It is only by trying he can succeed, and good tryers are always respected by Club officials and by those who constitute the great army of critics—the men outside the barrier.

The vexatious stoppages of play arising from "off-side" is another point I should like to impress upon the budding footballer. This is a matter of the utmost importance. The young forward should never ignore trifles, and it is his duty to see as far as possible that he is in play ere he makes for the ball. Nothing disgusts the crowd more than to see a man continually getting "off-side," and once a player gets the reputation of playing the "off-side" game, it is wonderful how sharply the average referee will pull him up, sometimes when it is very questionable if the player is at fault.

### **Read the Rules.**

Every player ought, in my opinion, to be well up in the rules of the game. Experience on the field will teach him much, but a careful study of the little points of play, which are so imperfectly understood by the many, will complete his knowledge.

Of course the secret of the success of good forwards is good half-backs. No forward can play a decent game if the half-backs fail to study placing. For many years the attention paid in England to efficiency in the placing of the ball accounted for the greater excellence of England's teams in the national matches. Forwards were fed with the ball continuously. Rash, wild kicking from the halves would not be tolerated. In some teams the forwards simply refused to extend themselves because of the neglect of those behind them to keep them going. When a forward is hard pressed, he ought always to bear in mind the fact that the half-back is there to receive a pass back. In this way forwards can co-operate most effectively with the men behind.

### **Be Temperate in All Things.**

As an illustration of the benefit which accrues to a team by the superior placing of the half-backs, I need only single out the Rangers as the Club most familiar to Scottish crowds, whose middle division work in complete accord with the forwards and with each other.

Another point I should like to impress on the young footballer is to cultivate at all costs a spirit of harmony on the field. Where differences exist among members of a team, success is impossible. Off the field he should be temperate in all things, and especially cautious where drink is concerned.

## WHEN IS THE FOOTBALLER AT HIS BEST?

### Ages of Famous Players.

"Youth will be served" is a truism that is specially applicable to football. In the great winter pastime the veteran stage is early reached, and it is generally reckoned that when a player has seen his twenty-fifth birthday his skill and usefulness are on the down grade. But is this assumption correct? Let us take a run through the records of the game, and see if we can find the age when a footballer may be said to be at his best.

#### Vigorous Veterans.

"Ned" Doig, of Sunderland fame, may be said to be the doyen of football players. Born in 1868, he is still in the front rank of goalkeepers—a lively veteran of 30 years. But goalkeepers on the wrong side of 30 are not uncommon. Trainer, of Preston North End, was 37 before he gave up the game; Sutcliffe and Reader performed well until they were within five years of 40; while J. W. Robinson, who is in his 35th year, is yet fit to be entrusted with the goal against Scotland.

Bassett, who played for West Bromwich Albion for 16 seasons and for England 16 times, was only 20 when he made his first appearance for England against Scotland; then for eight years in succession he took the field against the Thistle, but he was past his best when he was 27. And his wing partner Bloomer; what of him? The Derby County crack was first "capped" in 1895 when he was 21, and he was one of the English team that visited Scotland at Parkhead last April. He scored a great goal, it is true, but he was not so clever as he used to be, and at 29 he may be put down as being in the veteran stage.

John Goodall played ten seasons for Derby County, and when 33 years of age he scored a magnificent goal for England against Scotland at Parkhead in 1896. But then John was a wonder; an all-round sportsman, ideal dribbler and lightning shot at goal, enthusiastic angler, fine cricketer, capital pigeon shot, and expert cueist. He was also a staunch teetotaler, and played as well when he was 30 as ever he did. And it must not be forgotten that he was with Preston North End when they secured their never-to-be forgotten records.

Ten years ago Nick Smith and John Drummond helped Glasgow Rangers to win

the Scottish Cup, and only last April they appeared in the Scottish final. But although these stalwarts are past their best, they have had a long innings. Drummond got his first cap in 1892, and nine years later he was honoured with his place against Scotland's natural enemy.

#### Still Going Strong.

Then there is Harry Wood, of Wolverhampton Wanderers and Southampton fame. Born in 1868, he seems to be endowed with perennial youth. For sixteen years he has played first-class football, and only three seasons ago he played the game of his life at Bury in an English Cup tie.

Third Lanark—last year's Scottish League champions—have to thank their veterans for their proud position. No one did more for them than versatile Hugh Wilson. Fourteen years ago he was a Scottish internationalist; in the early nineties he was one of the "team of all the talents;" in 1897 he was "capped" against England; and yet last season he was the liveliest and trickiest of the Cathkin brigade. Truly a vigorous veteran. John Campbell and "Sandy" McMahon formed the left wing for Scotland against England in 1893; but eleven years afterwards they were still in harness. Campbell was the star artiste of the Third Lanark forward line last season, and if not quite so active as he was in his palmy days, he still demonstrated that a player is not done at 33.

#### Wonderful Records.

James Miller went to Sunderland in 1890; he helped the Tynesiders to many victories, gained every honour that it was possible to attain, with the exception of an English Cup badge, and it was only the other day that he gave up the game for good. John McPherson, the famous Notts Forest half-back, played first-class football until he was 36, and had nine inter-county caps and 18 medals.

"Bob" Holmes, of Preston North End, was born in 1867, and up to a couple of years ago he was playing as well as ever. John Holt, the little marvel, was 35 before he gave up the game. He appeared regularly in the Everton team for nine seasons, and before that he saw service with Church, Blackpool, Bootle, and afterwards with Reading. Boyle, the famous Everton half-back of half a dozen years ago, who is 33 years of

age, was one of the mainstays of the Dundee team last season. John Darroch, the ex-Bury back, now with Dundee, played as well in season 1902-03 as ever he did; he was then in his thirtieth year, and it may be pointed out that that season Dundee only had 12 goals scored against them in Scottish League matches.

A. T. B. Dunn, the old Etonian, who played first-class football for 20 years, did not give up the game until he was nearing 40. Hillman is 32, and Archie Goodall looks like going on for ever. But the list of veterans could be continued indefinitely. Charles Campbell, who made his first appearance against England in 1874 and his last in 1886; Walter Arnott, with his 10 consecutive English caps; Tom Robertson, the popular referee; Johnnie McPherson, a famous Light Blue forward; John Forbes, the Vale of Leven and Blackburn Rovers crack; William Sellar, Scotland's centre forward in the middle eighties; and "Bob" Kelso, the Renton crack—all great Scottish exponents of the game—kicked the leather until the thirtieth milestone was passed. And so did Edgar Chadwick, N. C. Bailey, C. Wreford Brown, Milward, Jerry Reynolds, and Fred Spikesley; while Wolstenholme, who succeeded Boyle in the Everton half-back line, gained his first cap when he was 32.

#### Youthful Demons.

But if what has been written would go to show that a player is not "too old at 30," it should be easy to prove that the player is generally at his best between the years of 21 and 26. Thus of the English team that defeated Scotland last April the ages of seven of the players ranged from 21 to 25; while on the Scottish side the average age was 26. Then, Celtic won the Scottish Cup with 11 players whose ages averaged 25. Quinn, who played such a wonderful game for Celts in the final, is but 22 years of age, while Adams, their goalkeeper, is only 20. Alec Smith (Rangers) was at his best when he was 25; R. McColl was a year younger when he played the game of his career in the 1900 International; Settle was 24 when he made his mark; Crompton is only 25; Frank Forman, the Notts Forest half-back, gained his triple International cap when he was 24; and Fred Forman was 25 when he was similarly honoured.

Jack Robertson and A. Raisbeck have probably played their best games for Scotland; the former is wearing on to 28, while the Liverpool crack is in his 25th year. Williams, of West Bromwich Albion, was 22 when he secured his triple cap in 1898, but since then his honours have been less plentiful; Aitken got his first cap when he

was 26; Jack Bell played his great game for Scotland at the same age; Neil Gibson may be said to have been at his best when he was 23; and Blessington was three years younger when he made his name as an inside forward.

#### Other Notable Instances.

G. O. Smith, the old Carthusian, went on accumulating caps and other honours until he was 28; the versatile C. B. Fry received his only cap when he was 29; W. J. Oakley was 28 when he played in his 16th and last International; and Needham, greatest of half-backs, had rendered much service to his country before he was 29. Maxwell, the Arbroath player, was only 19 when he went South; he played his greatest games for Stoke before he was 24, and in the interval he was awarded an English cap, but after that his powers were on the wane. Houlker was probably at his best two years ago, when he was 29. Templeton is only 25, S. S. Harris is 24, Burgess (Manchester City) is 22, V. J. Woodward is a year older, and Blackburn is 24—yet these five have already represented their country with credit; but whether they will continue to secure further honours remains to be seen. It all depends if they are or are not "past their best."

From the above readers can judge for themselves the age at which a footballer may be considered to be at the top of his form. Much, of course, depends on the position of the player on the field. A goalkeeper can keep his place long after a forward is done and "on the shelf," and a back as a rule does not have so much taken out of him as a half-back, who is always on the move. Then the age at which a player may be said to be showing his true form varies according to the man. The increase of weight that comes to many with advancing years undoubtedly hurries lots of good players into an early retirement.

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## THE LAWS OF THE GAME.

### Number of Players; Dimensions of Field of Play, and how Marked Out.

1. The game should be played by 11 players on each side. The field of play shall be as shown in the plan at the end of these Laws, subject to the following provisions; the dimensions of the field of play shall be—Maximum length, 130 yards; minimum length, 100 yards; maximum breadth, 100 yards; minimum breadth, 50 yards. The field of play shall be marked by boundary lines. The lines at each end are the goal-lines, and the lines at the sides are the touch-lines. The touch-lines shall be drawn at right angles with the goal-lines. A flag with a staff not less than 5 feet high shall be placed at each corner. A half-way line shall be marked out across the field of play. The centre of the field of play shall be indicated by a suitable mark, and a circle with a 10 yards radius shall be made round it.

### The Goals.

The goals shall be upright posts fixed on the goal-lines, equi-distant from the corner flagstaffs, 8 yards apart, with a bar across them 8 feet from the ground. The maximum width of the goal-posts and the maximum depth of the cross-bar shall be 5 inches.

### The Goal Area.

Lines shall be marked 6 yards from each goal-post at right angles to the goal-lines for a distance of 6 yards, and these shall be connected with each other by a line parallel to the goal-lines; the space within these lines shall be the goal area.

### The Penalty Area.

Lines shall be marked 18 yards from each goal-post at right angles to the goal-lines for a distance of 18 yards, and these shall be connected with each other by a line parallel to the goal-lines; the space within these lines shall be the penalty area. A suitable mark shall be made opposite the centre of each goal, 12 yards from the goal-line; this shall be the penalty-kick mark.

### The Ball.

The circumference of the ball shall not be less than 27 inches, nor more than 28 inches.

### Dimensions of Field of Play, and Weight of Ball in International Matches.

In International matches, the dimensions of the field of play shall be—Maximum

length, 120 yards; minimum length, 110 yards; maximum breadth, 80 yards; minimum breadth, 70 yards; and at the commencement of the game the weight of the ball shall be from 13 to 15 ounces. [Decision of International Board:—Touch and goal-lines must not be marked by a V-shaped rut.]

### Duration of Game.

2. The duration of the game shall be 90 minutes, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

### Choice of Goals.

The winners of the toss shall have the option of a kick-off or choice of goals.

### The Kick-Off.

The game shall be commenced by a place-kick from the centre of the field of play in the direction of the opponents' goal-line; the opponents shall not approach within 10 yards of the ball until it is kicked off, nor shall any player on either side pass from the centre of the ground in the direction of his opponents' goal until the ball is kicked off. [Decision of International Board:—If this Law is not complied with, the kick-off must be taken over again.]

### Ends to be Changed at Half-Time: The Interval.

3. Ends shall only be changed at half-time. The interval at half-time shall not exceed five minutes, except by consent of the Referee.

### Restarting the Game.

After a goal is scored the losing side shall kick off, and after the change of ends at half-time the ball shall be kicked off by the opposite side from that which originally did so; and always as provided in Law 2.

### How a Goal is Scored.

4. Except as otherwise provided by these Laws, a goal shall be scored when the ball has passed between the goal-posts under the bar, not being thrown, knocked on, nor carried by any player of the attacking side.

### If Bar Displaced.

If from any cause during the progress of the game the bar is displaced, the Referee shall have power to award a goal if in his opinion the ball would have passed under the bar if it had not been displaced.

The ball is in play if it rebounds from a goal-post, crossbar, or a corner flagstaff into the field of play. The ball is in play

if it touches the Referee or a Linesman when in the field of play.

**If Ball Rebounds from Goalposts, &c.; Ball Crossing Lines, Out of Play.**

The ball is out of play when it has crossed the goal-line or touch-line, either on the ground or in the air.

The whole of the ball must have passed over the goal-line or touch-lines before it is out of play.

**The Throw-In.**

5.—When the ball is in touch, a player of the opposite side to that which played it out shall throw it in from the point on the touch-line where it left the field of play. The player throwing the ball must stand on the touch-line facing the field of play, and shall throw the ball in over his head with both hands in any direction, and it shall be in play when thrown in. A goal shall not be scored from a throw-in, and the thrower shall not again play until the ball has been played by another player. (Note.—This Law is complied with if the player has any part of both feet on the line when he throws the ball in.)

**"Off-Side"**

6. When a player plays the ball, or throws it in from touch, any player of the same side who at such moment of playing or throwing-in is nearer to his opponents' goal-line is out of play, and may not touch the ball himself, nor in any way whatever interfere with an opponent or with the play, until the ball has been again played, unless there are at such moment of playing or throwing-in at least three of his opponents nearer their own goal-line. A player is not out of play in the case of a corner-kick, or when the ball is kicked off from goal, or when it has been last played by an opponent.

**Goal-Kick.**

7. When the ball is played behind the goal-line by a player of the opposite side, it shall be kicked off by any one of the players behind whose goal-line it went, within that half of the goal area nearest the point where the ball left the field of play;

**Corner-Flag Kick.**

But, if played behind by any one of the side whose goal-line it is, a player of the opposite side shall kick it from within 1 yard of the nearest corner flag-staff. In either case an opponent shall not be allowed within 6 yards of the ball until it is kicked off. The corner flag must not be removed when a corner kick is being taken.

**Goalkeeper Handling.**

8. The goalkeeper may, within his own half

of the field of play use his hands, but shall not carry the ball.

**Charging Goalkeeper.**

The goalkeeper shall not be charged, except when he is holding the ball or obstructing an opponent, or when he has passed outside the goal area.

**Changing Goalkeeper.**

The goalkeeper may be changed during the game, but notice of such change must first be given to the Referee. [Decision of International Board:—If a goalkeeper has been changed without the Referee being notified, and the new goalkeeper handles the ball within the penalty area, a penalty kick must be awarded.]

**Kicking, Jumping.**

9. Neither tripping, kicking, nor jumping at a player shall be allowed.

**Handling.**

A player (the goalkeeper excepted) shall not intentionally handle the ball under any pretence whatever.

**Holding or Pushing.**

A player shall not use his hands to hold or push an opponent.

A player shall not be charged from behind unless he is facing his own goal and is also intentionally impeding an opponent.

**Charging Behind.**

(Decision of International Board:—Cases of handling the ball, and tripping, pushing, kicking, or holding an opponent, and charging an opponent from behind, may so happen as to be considered unintentional, and when this is so, no penalty must be awarded.)

**Goal not to be Scored from a Free-Kick, &c.**

10.—A goal may be scored from a free kick which is awarded because of any infringement of Law 9, but not from any other free kick. When a free kick has been taken, the ball shall not be again played by the kicker until it has been played by another player. The kick-off, corner kick, and goal kick shall be free kicks within the meaning of this Law.

**Bars, Studs, &c.**

11. A player shall not wear any nails, except such as have their heads driven in flush with the leather, or metal plates or projections, or gutta percha, on his boots, or on his shinguards. If bars or studs on the soles or heels of the boots are used, they shall not project more than half an inch, and shall have all their fastenings driven in flush with the leather. Bars shall be transverse and flat, not less than half an inch in width,

and shall extend from side to side of the boot. Studs shall be round in plan, not less than half an inch in diameter, and in no case conical or pointed. Any player discovered infringing this Law shall be prohibited from taking further part in the match. The Referee shall, if required, examine the players' boots before the commencement of a match. Wearing soft india-rubber on the soles of boots is not a violation of the Law.

#### **Duties and Powers of the Referee.**

12. A Referee shall be appointed, whose duties shall be to enforce the Laws and decide all disputed points; and his decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final. He shall also keep a record of the game, and act as timekeeper. In the event of any ungentlemanly behaviour on the part of any of the players, the offender or offenders shall be cautioned, and if the offence is repeated, or in case of violent conduct without any previous caution, the Referee shall have power to order the offending player or players off the field of play, and shall transmit the name or names of such player or players to his or their (National) Association, who shall deal with the matter. The referee shall have power to allow for time wasted, to suspend the game when he thinks fit, and to terminate the game whenever, by reason of darkness, interference by spectators, or other cause, he may deem necessary; but in all cases in which a game is so terminated he shall report the same to the Association under whose jurisdiction the game was played, who shall have full powers to deal with the matter. The Referee shall have power to award a free kick in any case in which he thinks the conduct of a player dangerous, or likely to prove dangerous, but not sufficiently so as to justify him in putting in force the greater powers vested in him. The power of the Referee extends to offences committed when the play has been temporarily suspended, or the ball is out of play. [Decision of International Board:—All reports by Referees to be made within three days after the occurrence.]

#### **Duties and Powers of the Linesmen.**

13. Two Linesmen shall be appointed, whose duty (subject to the decision of the Referee) shall be to decide when the ball is out of play, and which side is entitled to the corner-kick, goal-kick, or throw-in; and to assist the Referee in carrying out the Laws. In the event of any undue interference or improper conduct by a Linesman, the Referee shall have power to order him off the field of play and appoint a substitute,

and report the circumstances to the National Association having jurisdiction over him, who shall deal with the matter. Linesmen, when neutral, should call the attention of the Referee to rough play or ungentlemanly conduct, and generally assist him to carry out the game in a proper manner.

#### **Ball in Play until Decision is given.**

14. In the event of a supposed infringement of the Laws, the ball shall be in play until a decision has been given.

#### **Restarting the Game after Temporary Suspension.**

15. In the event of any temporary suspension of play from any cause, the ball not having gone into touch or behind the goal-line, the Referee shall throw the ball up where it was when play was suspended, and the ball shall be in play when it has touched the ground. If the ball goes into touch or behind the goal-line before it is played by a player, the Referee shall again throw it up. The players on either side shall not play the ball until it has touched the ground.

#### **Free-Kicks are Awarded for.**

16. In the event of any infringement of Laws 5, 6, 8, 10, or 15, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposite side from the place where the infringement occurred. In the event of any intentional infringement of Law 9 outside the penalty area, or by the attacking side within the penalty area, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposite side from the place where the infringement occurred.

#### **The Penalty Kick.**

In the event of any intentional infringement of Law 9 by the defending side within the penalty area, the Referee shall award the opponents a penalty kick, which shall be taken from the penalty kick mark under the following conditions:—All players, with the exception of the player taking the penalty kick and the opponents' goalkeeper shall be outside the penalty area. The opponents' goalkeeper shall be within the goal area. The ball must be kicked forward. The ball shall be in play when the kick is taken, and a goal may be scored from a penalty kick; but the ball shall not be again played by the kicker until it has been played by another player. If necessary, time of play shall be extended to admit of the penalty kick being taken. A free kick shall also be awarded to the opposite side if the ball is not kicked forward, or is played a second time by the player who takes the penalty kick, until it has been played by another player. The Referee may refrain

from putting the provisions of this Law into effect in cases where he is satisfied that by enforcing them he would be giving an advantage to the offending side. [Decision of International Board:—A penalty kick can be awarded irrespective of the position of the ball at the time the offence is committed. In the event of the ball touching the goalkeeper before passing between the posts when a penalty kick is being taken at the expiry of time, a goal is scored.]

## DEFINITION OF TERMS.

### Place Kick.

A place kick is a kick at the ball while it is on the ground in the centre of the field of play.

### Free Kick.

A free kick is a kick at the ball in any direction the player pleases, when it is lying on the ground, none of the kicker's opponents being allowed within 6 yards of the ball, unless they be standing on their own goal-line. The ball must at least be rolled over before it shall be considered played—

i.e., it must make a complete circuit or travel the distance of its circumference. A place kick or a free kick must not be taken until the Referee has given a signal for the same.

### Carrying.

Carrying by the goalkeeper is taking more than two steps while holding the ball, or bouncing it on the hand.

### Knocking-On.

Knocking-on is when a player strikes or propels the ball with his hands or arms.

### Handling and Tripping.

Handling is intentionally playing the ball with the hand or arm, and Tripping is intentionally throwing, or attempting to throw, an opponent by the use of the legs, or by stooping in front of or behind him.

### Holding.

Holding includes the obstruction of a player by the hand or any part of the arm extended from the body.

### Touch.

Touch is that part of the ground on either side of the field of play.

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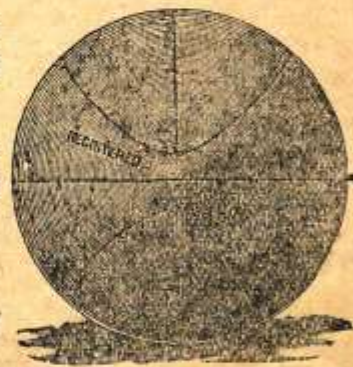
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## REFEREE STORIES.

### AMUSING AND ENTERTAINING.

The following yarns include some of the most remarkable cases which have occurred for the decision of the presiding official at "socket" matches in recent years. It is hardly necessary to recall the corner kick rightly awarded against Stoke when Rowley's goal-kick was blown behind the line, but on another occasion the "ref." actually gave a goal from a kick similarly blown back between the posts.

The decisions of the referee in a Junior Cup tie were giving considerable dissatisfaction, and the Captain of the "malcontents" at length asked, "Wasn't that off-side?" when a goal had been awarded. "Yes, it was, but it was your men that played him off-side!"

#### A Ticklish Point.

The following is an Irish incident. It occurred in a Leinster League match between Tritonville and Freebooters. Just before half-time a penalty was awarded to Freebooters. The ball was kicked against the goalkeeper and netted on the rebound by the original kicker. The referee pointed to the centre, then changed his mind, and gave a free kick to the defenders. During the interval the Freebooters' Captain interviewed the official, and on the teams lining up again the referee intimated that he had now decided that the goal must count. The case is really quite simple: the goal was a good one, the referee's grant of a free kick a bad decision, and his attempt to alter his decision after play had been resumed quite an impossible one. The referee is quite right to change his decision before play is resumed if he becomes convinced that he was wrong at first, and there is considerable difference of opinion as to whether it is creditable to a referee to stick to his original decision after fresh evidence has been provided against it. For example, a goal is given, and the ball is then discovered behind the net. What course would you adopt?

Extra time was being played in a Herefordshire Cup final between Knighton and Leominster. "Time" was again at hand when one of the former teams fisted within the penalty area, and the usual penalty was awarded. The referee blew his whistle, and the Leominster "kicker" stood looking at the ball while the goalkeeper rushed out and kicked the ball away. The referee ordered play to proceed, and, his decision being final, Leominster never got their

penalty, and the match ending in a draw, the teams held the cup jointly for the next twelve months.

#### Dealing with the Referee.

A case similar to the Irish one quoted above occurred in a Northamptonshire League match between Irthlingborough and Kettering Reserves. A shot having struck the back of the net and rebounded into play, a goal was given, but some time later the game was stopped and the players informed that the referee had made a mistake. Irthlingborough refused to proceed with the game; Kettering refused to abandon the match, and walked through another goal before leaving the field, and claiming the points. The decision of the Committee on this report was—Replay the match, strike the referee off the League list, and report him to the Association.

It is a very rare thing for a referee to assist in the scoring of a goal directly, though, of course, he may do so indirectly in the same fashion as one may be "umpired out" at cricket. However, Mr C. D. Crisp, one of the best of Southern referees, once headed through in a local match, and though he apologised, he had, of course, to let the point stand.

It would also appear from the case of Mr Howcroft, of Bolton, that referees are not free from the accidents that attend the more actively engaged players. This gentleman was officiating in a Lancashire tie between Everton and Manchester City, when, in a collision with one of the players, he had his shoulder dislocated. While it is not uncommon for the referee to get "winded," this is perhaps the most serious of referee accidents though another referee on one occasion fainted owing to stress of weather.

#### Bluff that Didn't Come Off.

In cricket perhaps more than in football it is possible to "bluff the umpire," but attempts have been made—and by an international goalkeeper—to get the better of the football referee. The ball passed right through the back of the net. The goalkeeper walked round, secured the ball, and had it placed for a goal kick. The referee, however, happened to be Tom Robertson, and so the little game didn't "come off." The referee kicked the ball towards the centre, and addressed a few words of advice to the goalkeeper.

Referees often enough have trouble with players, but when it comes to having to deal with linesmen as well it makes their work anything but a sinecure. When neutral linesmen were introduced into Scottish League matches some years ago (1900), Mr Walker, of Kilmarnock, had an unpleasant

experience, and so, by the way, had the neutral linesman. Twice within a few minutes did the Rangers break through and score, twice did the linesman rush on to the field and semaphore wildly to convict the referee of a wrong decision, twice had a consultation with the other linesman to take place, and once the decision was reversed. The neutral linesman didn't enjoy the attentions of the crowd after this point. But the referee has now power to order a linesman off the field, and, moreover, this power has been exercised at least once—at Southport.

#### The Linesmen Left the Field.

One of the most obvious mistakes ever made by a referee was when a dumb man was ordered off the field for abusive language. Of course, that decision was reversed owing to the hilarity with which it was received. A referee in Lanarkshire once had the extraordinary duty forced upon him of ordering two players of the same side off the field for fighting each other. Another referee so offended the linesmen by his decisions in a combination match at Paisley that both left the field, and substitutes had to be found.

A decision which caused a temporary sensation was that of Mr F. H. King, who stopped a match between Woolwich Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur on account of the bad language of the crowd. When one remembers that this "language" in Southern England was sufficient to provoke goal-keepers Williams and Robinson to punch the heads of offending spectators, one fancies that the lesson was well merited, and should have been a salutary one.

Another referee who distinguished himself was the man who sent a substitute to officiate, but signed the report himself without a word of explanation. It was his last report!

#### The Drummer was Chucked Out.

Another referee found himself getting unpopular with the home crowd, but stood it very well till the drummer of a band in attendance began to thump his big drum, while the spectators "barracked." 'Twas the last straw, and the drummer was ordered to be taken out of the ground.

One of the cleverest expressions of difference of opinion from the decisions of a referee occurred in a provincial paper. One of the features of this paper was a disquisition on local affairs as observed by the weathercock of the church steeple. This precocious bird naturally discussed the football match, and it ended each brief paragraph with the refrain, "Where did that referee learn his football?" emphasising

ing a different word on each occasion, thus—

"Where *did* that referee learn his football?"

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#### Precepts for Referees.

A list of "Precepts for Referees and their Duties," published some time ago, contained some very good things, of which the following may be extracted:—

"Definition: The referee is a man who is paid to blow a whistle when a player tells him to. N.B.—All the really good referees are insured.

"1. When every one is ready the referee stands in the middle of the field and blows his whistle. After this he runs away, and the game starts.

"2. If a big man strikes a little one, take no notice; but if a small man hits a big man, order the little man off the field. Thus shall bones be saved.

"3. When it is dark, stop the game; and when in doubt, blow the whistle."

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