The Hawthorns Series

The story of three association football matches played between teams representing the Birmingham and District Football Association and the Scottish Junior Football Association at the Hawthorns, home of West Bromwich Albion Football Club, These games were commonly referred to as "*Junior Internationals*" and billed as "*England versus Scotland*".

1908	England 4	Scotland 0
1925	England 4	Scotland 1
1935	England 3	Scotland 1

by

Robert Bradley and Douglas Gorman

PREFACE

After giving some help to a football historian compiling line-ups and match details for the Scottish Junior Internationals we decided to take this research a stage further. On 7 July 2013 a plan was hatched and the correspondence went like this:

"I think we should take this in bite-sized chunks and start with the three games at the Hawthorns and then over time look to some of the other Scotland v Birmingham & District FA matches. I think we could add the England line-ups as we collect them as well.

So the details on the three Hawthorns games would look like this:

- *Line-ups – both teams and referee*
- *Score and scorers*
- *Attendance and gate receipts – when we can find them*
- *Short match report*
- *Future careers of some of the players*

How does that sound as a plan?"

As it happens it was quite a good plan and just over a year later it reached a conclusion.

If there are mistakes then they are our own so please let us know. Similarly if you have further information on the matches or the players we would be interested to hear from you.

We want to thank and acknowledge the help from:

The contributors to the ScottishLeague.Net forum who can be guaranteed to come up with an answer to the most obscure question on Scottish football.
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glesgakeelie website
St. Bernard's Football Club: or When the Well Ran Dry! By George Park
Julian Pugh – Worcester City FC historian
Craig Pake – Broxburn Athletic supporter
Andy Mitchell
Roger Barker
Henry Myatt
Robert Burns
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Tom McGouran

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Douglas Gorman
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INTRODUCTION

John Campbell Orr, the Scots-born Secretary of the Birmingham and District Football Association, oversaw the growth of clubs playing the game at all different levels. It is clear that he saw the development of the grass roots game as important as the rapid strides made by the major clubs like Aston Villa. His interest in the development of the junior game led him to have discussions with William Reid, the Secretary of the Scottish Junior Football Association (SJFA), to establish matches between representative sides drawn from the clubs in each association.

The Birmingham Association had already played a series of matches against a Scottish Counties team. The first match on 18 January 1879 resulted in a 7-1 win for the Scots at Hampden Park, Glasgow watched by 400 spectators. Birmingham hosted the Scottish Counties at the Lower Grounds, Aston on 17 January 1880 and narrowly lost 3-2 in front of a crowd of 8,000. The fixture returned to Glasgow on 19 February 1881 at Cathkin Park, Glasgow with the Scots victorious in a 6-0 win watched by 3,000. On 25 February 1882 Birmingham won their first match in a 3-1 win again at Aston Lower Grounds with Vaughton, Holden and Woodcock scoring the goals in front of a crowd of around 10-15,000.

The final match against the Scottish Counties was played at Powderhall, Edinburgh on 27 January 1883 where honours were even at 2-2.

The Scottish Junior Football Association (SJFA) was also eager to test their skills against other sides and Birmingham was seen to be drawing from a similar-sized player and club base as the SJFA. Campbell Orr's organisational and administrative skills ensured that this series of matches, that replaced the Scottish Counties games and started in 1894 in Leamington, continued to the start of the Second World War.

The first match was planned to be played at Coventry - "*the centre of association football*" according to a newspaper report. However, Leamington was chosen due to a clash of fixtures at Coventry.

The Windmill Ground, Tachbrook Road, Leamington – venue of the first match

John Campbell Orr quickly realised that they had to ensure competitive matches. The Birmingham FA club membership embraced all clubs in the area of all standards. The SJFA comprised clubs that were not affiliated to the Scottish Football Association. Initially the Birmingham team was drawn from players of clubs outside the Football League. This gave the Scots an advantage that showed in the results. Selection rules were changed so that players from Football League clubs could be selected provided that they had not played in League or FA Cup games for their club. Campbell quickly grasped that the next generation of top players would be playing in the reserve teams of his Birmingham FA Football League member clubs while in Scotland the top Junior clubs provided a conveyor belt of talent to the top Scottish clubs. This understanding of the different arrangements north and south of the Border meant the annual fixture was compulsory viewing for Football and Scottish League clubs looking for new talent.

West Bromwich Albion Football Club hosted the annual fixture between the Birmingham and District Football Association and the Scottish Junior Football Association on three occasions. This is the story of those three matches. Of the 66 players who played 34 went on to play League football both north and south of the border. In all these players made 4,456 league appearances (521 goals) and six went on to be capped at full international level. Two captained their country.

THE PLAYERS WHO WENT ON TO PLAY LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Name	Team	Year
Alex Stewart	Scotland	1908
Jimmy Lawson	Scotland	1908
Peter Nellies	Scotland	1908
Alex Finlayson	Scotland	1908
Harry Graham	Scotland	1908
Andy Cunningham	Scotland	1908
George Moore	England	1908
Horace Henshall	England	1908
Peter McSevich	Scotland	1925
Dougie Gray	Scotland	1925
Stephen Mitchell	Scotland	1925
James Maxell	Scotland	1925
William Creighton	Scotland	1925
James Scott	Scotland	1925
Harold Corrance	Scotland	1925
David McLean	Scotland	1925
Bert Chamberlain	England	1925
Archie Campbell	England	1925
Joe Evans	England	1925
Billy Turner	England	1925
Fred Castle	England	1925
Joe Tate	England	1925
Les Crump	England	1925
Jock Brown	Scotland	1935
James Clarke	Scotland	1935
Andrew Young	Scotland	1935
Andrew Farr	Scotland	1935
Norman Male	England	1935
Joe Loughran	England	1935
Bert Blackham	England	1935
Arthur Hickman	England	1935
Ellis Lager	England	1935
Jack Driscoll	England	1935
Len Astill	England	1935

1908 MATCH

The Scotland team assembled in Glasgow and departed on the 2:10 pm train to Birmingham on the day before the match on 4 April 1908. While their individual Birmingham opponents would be unknown they knew they would face a tough match and their last victory in the annual fixture was in 1903. The Scotland team had played Ireland in a 3-3 draw the month before to mixed reviews. The newspaper reports, while reporting on a magnificent game, suggested Scotland should have won but on the other hand it would have been an injustice if Ireland had lost! Scotland were 2-0 up at half-time but some of their forwards were "*mis-firing*" and were met by an excellent Irish defence.

So on the platform that Friday afternoon in Glasgow some of the successes against Ireland were there - Harry Graham (Granton Oakvale) *"...had two goals to his credit and is sure of his place against England*" and Jimmy Lawson (Neilston Victoria) "*his tackling and kicking were alike clever and he covered up many mistakes made by the half-back in front of him and the left back."* The Scots were pleased to welcome back 'Cully' Robertson (Dundee Harp) at centre forward. He had to pull out of the Irish game the day before the match due to a work injury to his hand. Cully had scored more than 50 goals that season and was the intended target of the many Scottish and English clubs who had representatives in the Celtic Park stand for the Irish game.

The outcome meant that the team heading for Birmingham only had three survivors from the Irish game with Nellies (Douglas Water Thistle) joining Graham and Lawson.

The Birmingham selectors were able to select players from their member clubs providing they had not played matches in the Football League or the FA Cup. At that time the Football League consisted of two divisions with Aston Villa, Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers all in the Football League and members of the Birmingham and District FA. There were two well established local leagues – the Birmingham League and the Birmingham Junior League – from which the selectors could draw players. The selection criteria both north and south of the border led to well-balanced, competitive matches. At this time the Birmingham FA were also playing games against Irish representative sides.

The Birmingham selectors selected one player from match hosts, Albion, and one each from Villa and Wolves in a team captained by left-back Smith of Bournville FC.

The 1908 match was the first to be played at the Hawthorns, the home of West Bromwich Albion FC. At this time matches were hosted at league club grounds. In Birmingham the local Football League clubs would have reserve teams in the Birmingham League. West Bromwich Albion as a club were strong supporters of local non-league football. Indeed in 1904/05 Albion Chairman Harry Keys recognised the dominance of the reserve teams of the Football League clubs in the Birmingham League and put up the Keys Cup to be awarded to the top non-league club.

Mr Sharpe, a well-respected Birmingham League referee, was due to officiate but was appointed to referee the Sheffield Wednesday versus Blackburn Rovers match on the same day. We have not found who refereed the match.

A crowd of 1,000 assembled at the Hawthorns to see a strong Birmingham team beat the Scots 4-0. Unfortunately there is little press coverage of the game. However, it is clear that Alex Stewart (Perth Roselea) had a great game in goal and kept the score down with some great saves. The Hawthorns crowd cheered him off the park to be met by a number of representatives of Scottish and Football

League clubs wanting to sign him there and then! Of the 22 players that day 8 went on to play at League level between them making 2,107 league appearances (377 goals). Four played for the Football or Scottish League representative team and two of those went on to become full Scotland caps and captain the team. Two of the eight had League football management careers. Careers as a dentist and a professional golfer were to await two others!

Date	4th April 1908					
	Result	**Half-time**		**Goal scorers**		
England	4	2	Not known	Not known	Not known	Not known
Scotland	0	0				
Venue	The Hawthorns, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Albion FC)					
Attendance	1,000					
Receipts	Not known					
Teams		**Referee**	Mr Brodie	(Wolverhampton)		

SCOTLAND (Scottish Junior Football Association)

1 **Stewart** *Perth Roselea*

2 **Lawson** *Neilston Victoria*

3 **Nellies** *Douglas Water Thistle*

4 **McCulloch** *Ardeer Thistle*

5 **Tait** *Glenbuck Cherrypickers*

6 **Clarkson** *St Ninians Thistle*

7 **Finlayson** *Queen's Park Hampden XI*

8 **Graham** *Granton Oakvale*

9 **Robertson** *Dundee Harp*

10 **Cunningham** *Newmilns*

11 **Graham** *Dundee Arnot*

11 **Henshall** *Aston Villa*

10 **Corbett** *Bilston United*

9 **Atkins** *Dudley*

8 **Moore** *Nuneaton Town*

7 **Bayne** *Wolverhampt-on Wanderers*

6 **Timmins** *West Browmwich Albion*

5 **Bollington** *Wednesbury Old Athletic*

4 **Read** *Bournbrook*

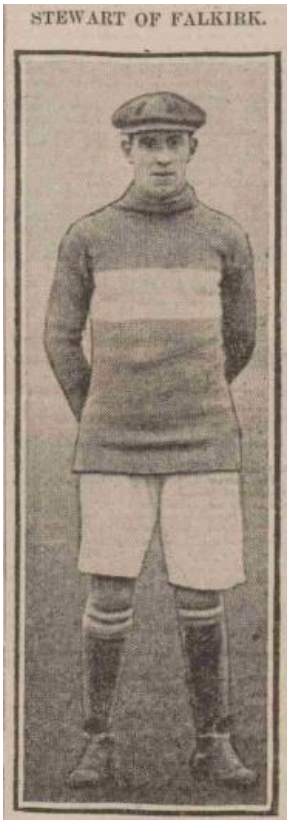
3 **Smith (Capt)** *Bournville*

2 **Shorter** *Cradley Heath St Luke's*

1 **Smallwood** *Willenhall Swifts*

ENGLAND (Birmingham and District Football Association)

Alex Stewart



Despite the scoreline Alex Stewart (Perth Roselea) had a great game in goal. A newspaper reported that "*some of his saves were of the remarkable order*" and went on to say that he got a special cheer from the Hawthorns crowd for his efforts in keeping the score down. The Courier reported that he "*was besieged by representatives of English League clubs.....but refused to sign a professional form.*"

Alexander Stewart was born and raised in Perth.

Falkirk won the race for his signature as a Senior. He signed for Falkirk on 4 May 1908 and went on to play for nine seasons (1908-09 to 1916-17), playing 278 league games. The highlight was winning the Scottish Cup in 1912-13 by beating Raith Rovers 2-0 in the Celtic Park final. Alex played in all six cup ties achieving clean sheets in the last three games including the final.

1913 Scottish Cup Final - Alex Stewart saves on the line with Raith's Martin closing in.

On 19 April 1916 he signed on loan for Heart of Midlothian and played in both their end of season Rosebery Charity Cup matches on 6 and 13 May 1916.

He played for Cowdenbeath in 1917-18 in the Eastern League.

He moved west in 1918 signing for Partick Thistle on 15 August 1918. He played 32 league games before an injury led to a lengthy lay-off. However, he was capped for the Scottish League against the Football League in a Victory International at St Andrews, Birmingham on 22 February 1919. Although a 3-1 defeat for the Scottish League Alex repeated his form of his previous visit to the West Midlands with The Courier reporting that "*Stewart was the saviour of the side on many occasions*" and "*the stout defence of Stewart*". Playing alongside him was one of his Hawthorns team mates – Peter Nellies now with Heart of Midlothian.

On recovering from injury he joined Vale of Atholl in Pitlochry on 4 May 1920 before signing for his home town club, St Johnstone, on 8 October 1920. He did not play any first teams games and joined Falkirk for a short loan spell at the end of the 1920-21 season but again there were no first team appearances. He re-gained his fitness on his return to Perth for the start of season 1921-22. He played for three full seasons at Perth in Division 2 and in his last season – 1923-24 – he was part of the team that won promotion to the First Division. He was given a free transfer by St Johnstone at the end of their promotion season and signed for Arbroath on 6 November 1924 where he played for three more seasons. He made his debut against Bo'ness United two days later at Gayfield in a 2-0 win. In all he played 65 league games making his final appearance on 18 September 1926 in a 3-1 defeat away to Ayr United. He clearly enjoyed his time with the Red Lichties saying "*I may tell you that my connection with Arbroath F.C. has been one of the happiest experiences of my football career, but we must all bow to the inevitable.*"

Alex started his working life in the printing trade as a compositor and linotype operator. He gave up his trade when he enjoyed success as a footballer. He became the owner of a billiards saloon in Perth. He was a good billiards player but snooker was his favourite game. On retiring from football he kept fit by playing golf and rowing on the Tay. However, his interest in motorcycles came to an end in 1927 when he was involved in an accident. In 1929 he became mine host in the Gayfield Bar in Arbroath. In 1938 he was involved in the introduction of indoor bowling in Auchterarder when the Old Templar Hall in the town was adapted to provide three public rinks floored with green baize, while upstairs a new floor provided two private rinks.

Alex had two sons. Alex junior joined Queen's Park in Glasgow as an amateur in 1928 after playing for St Johnstone YMCA. He was capped for Scotland Amateurs in 1929. He then moved to St Mirren a year later before moving to England to play for Sheffield United. Alex Stewart was described as a strong outside left and he returned to Scotland and signed for St Johnstone in 1933. In 1935, he turned down St Johnstone's terms and went to Wales where he set up in business as a builder. He also joined Rhyl Athletic. Alex Stewart scored 33 goals by early December 1935 for Rhyl. He played in the Welsh Cup final for Rhyl v Wrexham. In 1936/37, Alex joined Motherwell where he played at centre forward. Again, like his father, he was capped for the Scottish League in 1937. He then had spells with Falkirk (his father's old club) and Dumbarton. After serving in the Armed forces, he was playing with Dundee United in 1945/46.

His other son, Jimmy, played for Arbroath Ardenlea watched by his father. When the family moved back to Perth from Arbroath, he played for his father's Junior side, Perth Roselea. In 1933, he joined Dundee Violet. Playing at centre forward versus Broughty Ex-Service, Jimmy scored five goals and was given a trial run out with Hearts reserves. He was a big strapping centre. Later, he played with Perth Craigie and had trials with Clyde and Partick Thistle.

Jimmy Lawson

James Samson Lawson was born on 26 March 1886 in Panbride, a village half a mile from Carnoustie. It is therefore not surprising that he was an accomplished golfer winning the Scottish Professional Footballers Golf Championship on two occasions. In October 1911, as a Dundee FC player, he played James Galt of Rangers FC in the final match at Carnoustie for a medal put up by the Weekly News. Lawson won 6 and 5 under the watchful eye of match referee John May of Greenock Morton FC and his caddy David Brown also of Greenock Morton.

Jimmy Lawson started playing in local football for Panmure and was playing there until at least February 1906 coming to prominence as a Junior footballer with Neilston Victoria in Renfrewshire. Just a week after the 1908 International he played as "*Dalrymple*" against Falkirk in a trial for Dundee FC before signing for the Dens Park club. He made one appearance in what was left of the 1907/08 season. He had five further seasons with the Dens Park club. He was described as a "*plucky defender...his daring tactics, tinged at times with carelessness, have made him a favourite with the Dens Park following*".

In early 1913 English clubs Chelsea and Huddersfield Town had expressed an interest in signing the young full back. However, his form then appeared to take a dip leading to an unsettling spell in the reserves when he would have considered his footballing future.

It is not surprising that he was on the golf course at Carnoustie on 24 May 1913 when he received a telegram from a Mr Close of Linfield FC of Belfast. Lawson travelled through to Glasgow to meet him and that evening he was in Belfast and a Linfield player. Lawson had played for the Scottish League v the Irish League on 6 November 1912 at Linfield's Windsor Park home and may have caught the eye of the Linfield officials. However, he had cleverly negotiated an arrangement whereby he could rejoin Dundee before August and the start of the new season. The Dens Park officials were loath to lose him to a club from which they would not receive a transfer fee. On the other hand Lawson wanted better close season wages and to be given a benefit match - and a guaranteed "gate" - at the beginning of the new season. In the end Lawson re-signed securing all his demands except the guaranteed "gate". He was assured that his popularity would mean his benefit game would have no difficulty in exceeding his minimum demand.

He quickly returned to Dundee but in October 1913 not content with reserve team football he signed for Airdrieonians. In June 1914 there was a rumour that Glentoran were keen to sign him.

On 11 July 1914 he set sail for the United States of America on the Aquitania to start a new career as a professional golfer. However, he first signed to play for New Bedford FC soon after arriving in America and ready for the start of the 1914/15 and first season of the semi-professional Southern New England Soccer League. The five teams were scheduled to play each other four times and New Bedford were the first league champions. They also got to the final of the Southern New England Times Cup but were defeated by the Young Men's Christian Total Abstinence Society ("*The New Bedford Temps*"). In 1916 it was reported that he was doing well in his new occupation and was connected to the Lake Shore Country Club near Chicago. He joined the Canadian forces in September 1918 and at the time was a golf professional at the Lakewood Country Club in Texas. He became a US citizen on 18 February 1925. He was still reported as a golf professional in December 1935. In 1942 even at the age of 56 he was in the US Army and was living in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana working for the

Country Club of Indianapolis. He died on 2 September 1962 in Nassau, Bahamas – presumably on holiday – and his remains were shipped back to Dunedin, Florida where he had lived with his wife.

Peter Nellies

Peter Nellies was born in Kingseat, near Dunfermline, Fife on 24 April 1886 but came to a notice as a footballer in Lanarkshire where he had moved to as an eleven year old. He played for Douglas Water Thistle, was a Hearts supporter and a miner at Douglas Colliery. He was selected as left back for the 1908 match. Only three weeks later on 25 April 1908 he was signed by Heart of Midlothian although Rangers were interested in signing him. He made one first team appearance in what was left of the 1907/08 season. He went on to play for 13 seasons with the Tynecastle club making 339 appearances (11 goals).

At the start of the Great War Peter Nellies tried to voluntarily enlist on several occasions. It is highly likely that he tried to enlist alongside his Hearts team mates in "*McCrae's Battalion*" - 16th (Service) Battalion Royal Scots. However, he was repeatedly turned down due to medical reasons. The reasons and whether they were related to his occupation as a miner are unknown. By the time conscription was introduced Nellies had returned to work in the pits and played for Hearts as a part-timer. In the absence of Robert Mercer he captained Hearts throughout the War.

After his time as a Hearts player he signed for King's Park (Stirling) on 27 August 1921 making 17 appearances (0 goals) during 1921/22 in the newly formed Second Division. In 1922/23 he was appointed player/manager of Berwick Rangers playing in the Border League – the forerunner of today's East of Scotland League. In 1923/24 he joined Carlisle United playing in the North Eastern League against the reserve teams of the North East league clubs, which is where he finished his playing career.

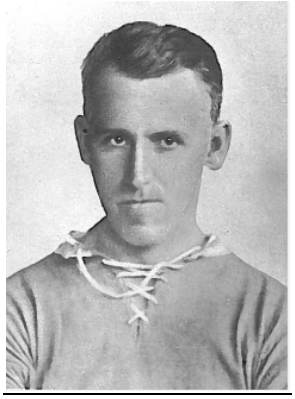
His two Junior Scotland caps, he had been capped against Ireland in March 1908, were followed by eight caps for the Scottish League and two full caps won over a period from 1913 to 1919. The highlight of his representative career was to captain the full Scotland team on 26 February 1914 in a 0-0 draw with Wales at Celtic Park.

Peter Nellies died from injuries sustained in a motor cycle accident in Dumfries on 12 July 1930. He was a pillion passenger and with the rider was thrown off the machine when it collided with a car. The rider died at the scene of the accident and Nellies a few days later in Glasgow Infirmary.

Alex Finlayson

Alex Finlayson's selection for the 1908 International was probably due to his part in Queen's Park FC's Hampden XI successful progress in that season's Scottish Junior Cup. He was in the losing side in the 1908 Scottish Junior Cup Final on 23 May 1908 when a goal by outside left Nisbet gave Larkhall Thistle a 1-0 win in the final played at Meadowside, Glasgow in front of 7,000. A final contested by teams from Scotland's oldest Senior club (Queen's Park founded 9 July 1867) and oldest Junior club (Larkhall Thistle founded 17 April 1878) played at a former ground of Partick Thistle FC.

Harry Graham



Harry Nicol Graham was born in Edinburgh on 16 December 1886. He won his cap in the 1908 match while playing for Granton Oakvale. His club got to the Quarter Final of the Scottish Junior Cup that year and in the fourth round beat Alex Stewart's Perth Roselea 4-1. Harry suffered from chronic asthma and Hearts – the team he supported – had overlooked him due to his medical condition. However, despite that he was signed by St Bernard's on 16 November 1908. He had two seasons with the Edinburgh club before spells in England with Bradford City and Birmingham City. He returned to Scotland to sign for Raith Rovers on 21 August 1912. While at Kirkcaldy he earned a runner's up medal in the Scottish Cup Final of 1912/13 facing his Hawthorns teammate Alex Stewart in the Falkirk goal. Harry was a dental student at this time and Hearts did not overlook him again signing him on 13 June 1913 to complete their talented forward line of the day. Jack Alexander in his book McCrae's Battalion describes Harry Graham as "*Quick, mobile and deceptive, he packed a powerful shot in both feet*".

On 25 November 1914 sixteen Hearts players volunteered for enlistment in McCrae's Battalion. Eleven were accepted and five – including Harry Graham - were rejected on medical grounds. Volunteers with a history of respiratory illness could not be enlisted under any circumstances. On the introduction of conscription Harry Graham was called before several tribunals and eventually it was determined that he was fit to serve. He was initially enlisted in an infantry regiment – the Gloucestershire Regiment - but was soon transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps where he worked as a dental mechanic for the remainder of the war. He served in Salonika where it was probably considered that his asthma would be less likely to trouble him.

Although he played football until he was nearly 40 years of age he died of chronic bronchial asthma at the early age of 52 while in dentistry practice in Edinburgh.

Andy Cunningham

Of the six Scots who progressed into the Senior game Andy Cunningham went on to make the biggest impact. During a long career he made 546 league appearances in Scotland and England scoring 239 goals – a ratio of almost a goal every other game over 22 years! In Douglas Lamming's seminal book on Scottish Internationalists Andy Cunningham is described as "*a master attacker: tall, authoritative, a goal scorer and a specialist in the sweeping through-pass*".

Andrew Cunningham was born in Galston, Ayrshire on 31st January 1891 and was therefore only 17 years of age when he played for Junior Scotland. He started his career with his home club Galston Riverside Rangers in 1906 before moving to Newmilns the following year. Kilmarnock waited until after he had turned 18 before signing him from Newmilns on 22 June 1909. He played six seasons at Kilmarnock (184 games 75 goals) before signing for Rangers on 3 April 1915. In the 1920's he captained Rangers to seven League championships, one Scottish Cup success and two losing final appearances. At Ibrox, Andy played 350 league games (162 goals).

He was capped 12 times for Scotland scoring 5 goals and captaining the side on one occasion. He played in 10 matches for the Scottish League (1 goal). He also played for a Scotland XI in a tour of North America in 1927. In the Scottish League match versus the Irish League on 5 November 1913, while a Kilmarnock player, he played alongside Peter Nellies from the 1908 Hawthorns team.

A day after his 38th birthday he was transferred to Newcastle United for a fee of £2,300 and at 38 years 2 days made his Newcastle debut becoming the oldest First Division debutant at the time. He made 12 league appearances (2 goals) on Tyneside. He was then appointed Newcastle United's second-ever manager, winning the FA Cup in 1931/32 and achieving a fifth place First Division finish in 1932/33. However, relegation in 1933/34 and only a sixth place finish in the Second Division in 1934/35 led to him leaving Newcastle. After a two-year break he moved to Dens Park, Dundee. In his book "*Gaffers*" David Ross recalls a roller coaster 1937/38 season on Tayside that led to relegation after 45 years in the top flight. David says Dundee "*had led the league for a month, conceded only four goals more than they scored and never been in a relegation position until the final day*". Dundee's first season in the Second Division was curtailed by the start of the Second World War and Andy left football management in May 1940 to become a sports journalist with the Scottish Daily Express.

Andy played his last full international for Scotland on 2 April 1927 in a 2-1 defeat at the hands of England at Hampden Park. At 36 years of age he may have thought that was his international career finished. However, he was selected to play for the Scottish League versus the Football League on 10 March 1928 – three weeks before the Scotland v England international at Wembley and the team was destined to go down in history as the "*Wembley Wizards*". Andy was clearly in the National selectors' view. The Courier and Advertiser of 1 March 1928 said "*To what extent the League selectors pick their teams with an eye to aiding the Association in the "big" games can hardly be estimated, but the Association should be grateful to the League for the inclusion of Cunningham and McGrory. There has been a disposition to ignore the Ranger for internationals now that he is in the veteran stage, but it is doubtful if Scotland can afford to leave him out, and his play will be watched closely*." The Scottish Football Association had also set up a trial at Firhill on 13 March with Home Scots playing Anglo-Scots. Unfortunately a 6-0 reverse to the Football League at Ibrox probably put paid to Andy's chances of making one final full international appearance. The Evening Telegraph, reporting on the match, said "*Stevenson [Motherwell] was the pick of the [Scottish] forwards and Cunningham a good second.....All over Scotland's display was very disappointing. It is extremely unlikely that many members of the Scottish League team will be invited to take a trip to Wembley*". However, in the same edition it was noted that Alec Jackson was the only forward who was guaranteed a place in the Scots Wembley line-up and "*Cunningham is his natural partner but Lochhead, Leicester, will run him close*". However, even after the trial match in which Andy did not play the Wembley inside right berth was still giving some trouble. Good trial displays by Lochhead ("*a tricky player who can also shoot*") and Chalmers of

Queen's Park ("*perhaps our cleverest inside right*") were balanced against the known qualities of Andy Cunningham and his team play with Alec Jackson. In the end a surprise selection was made - Jimmy Dunn (Hibernian).

Andy Cunningham passed away on 8 May 1973.

George Moore

George Sinclair Moore was born in Stockingford, near Nuneaton on 12 August 1884 and played for his home town club, Nuneaton Town, in the Birmingham Junior League who were champions in season 1906/07. He signed for Birmingham City at some time in the 1907/08 season but was listed as a Nuneaton Town player in the international. He played a single game at the end of the 1907/08 season but Birmingham City were relegated to the Second Division. He made 2 league appearances (1 goal) in the 1908/09 season before moving on to Leamington Town. Leamington Town played at Tachbrook Road, the venue of the very first Junior Scotland v Birmingham and District FA match in 1894.

Horace Henshall

Horace Vincent Henshall was born on 14 June 1889 in Hednesford. He was an outside left who started playing for his home town amateur club Hednesford Victoria. The he joined Bridgetown Amateurs, a Walsall team, before moving to Crewe Alexandra. Crewe at this time were in the Birmingham League. He signed as an amateur for Aston Villa in May 1905 and then professional forms a year later. He did not make any first team appearances until 1910/11 and therefore was available for selection for the 1908 international. He made 45 league appearances (7 goals) for Villa in 1910/11 and 1911/12. This was an achievement breaking into a very strong team at the time. He made both his Villa debut and his last appearance against the club he would soon join – Notts County. He did well enough to earn another go at the Scots as he was selected to represent the Football League against the Scottish League on 4 March 1911 at Ibrox Park. He scored a goal in the 1-1 draw. In November 1912 he moved to Notts County and in a career interrupted by the Great War he made 164 appearances (27 goals). In October 1916 he joined the Royal Navy. For 12 months prior to that had worked as an inspector for the Pearl Assurance Company. In June 1922 he moved to Sheffield Wednesday as player/coach (14 games 1 goal) before moving on to Chesterfield for the 1923/24 season. This was his last season as a player and a career of 256 league appearances (38 goals). He continued in the game first as secretary/manager of Lincoln City for three years and in 1927 moved to the same job with his former club, Notts County, which he held for seven years. Unfortunately County were relegated in 1929/30 but Horace brought the club, as Division Three (South) title winners, straight back up the following season. He spent a further year as just secretary before moving down the road to become landlord of the Navigation Inn. His retirement from Notts County was marked with the presentation of a grandmother clock in oak inscribed "*Presented to Mr H Henshall by the players and staff of the Notts. County Football Club May 3rd 1935*".

Horace Henshall passed away in Nottingham on 7 December 1951.

1925 MATCH

England were comfortable winners in this game. They got off to an excellent start with a goal by Fred Castle (Smethwick Highfield) after just six minutes. Two minutes later a shot from the tall Joe Tate (Cradley Heath) glanced off the upright into the net. Despite neat work by the Scottish forwards, particularly down the left side, the English defence held firm. The Duntocher Hibs combination of David McLean and Harold Corrance proved particularly effective for the Scots and opening up two good goal scoring chances for James Scott (Wemyss Athletic). The England side maintained their advantage into the start of the second half when the Scots drew the score back to 2-1 with a converted penalty just three minutes into the second half. Different newspaper reports credit the penalty to both William Creighton and Stephen Mitchell. However, Fred Castle added two further goals to put the result beyond doubt. Peter McSevich was having a good game in goal and had plenty to do! Centre half Cameron (Dundee Violet) was also playing well in the middle of the Scots defence. The Scottish defence was fairly slow in dealing with the fleet footed English forwards led by Fred Castle.

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA v SCOTTISH JUNIOR FA at WEST BROMWICH ALBION, 1925. Won 4—1

Back Row: *B. Pearson, E. A. Eden, E. Smith, R. E. Eden, P. Mulcahy (Reserve), C. Illsley, G. O. Holland, S. D. Jones (Linesman).*

Third Row: *J. I. Round, J. C. Tillotson, J.P., J. S. Round, J.P., H. V. Stott (Referee), W. W. Hart, S. Allen, L. Johnson, E. H. Spiers, P. Hunt (Trainer), E. H. Ward.*

Second Row: *A. Campbell, F. Ballantyne, F. C. Castle, J. Evans, H. G. Chamberlain, J. T. Tate, L. F. Cooling, L. Crump.*

Front Row: *J. Sheppard (Reserve), T. Evans, J. Martin, W. Turner, C. Houldey (Reserve).*

Photograph courtesy of The Centenary Book of the Birmingham County Football Association by SW Clives

Date	18th April 1925			
	Result	**Half-time**	**Goal scorers**	
England	4	2	Castle (3)	Tate
Scotland	1	0	Creighton (pen) - although one press report says Mitchell	
Venue	The Hawthorns, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Albion FC)			
Attendance	5,000			
Receipts	Not known			
Teams				

SCOTLAND (Scottish Junior Football Association)

1 **McSevich** *Shieldmuir Celtic*

2 **Gray** *Mugiemoss*

3 **Mitchell** *St Rochs*

4 **Moffat** *Dunipace*

5 **Cameron** *Dundee Violet*

6 **Maxwell** *Neilston Victoria*

7 **Muir** *Dalry Thistle*

8 **Creighton** *Bridgeton Waverley*

9 **Scott** *Wemyss Athletic*

10 **Corrance** *Duntocher Hibernian*

11 **McLean** *Duntocher Hibernian*

ENGLAND (Birmingham and District Football Association)

11 **Crump** *Sunbeam*

10 **Tate** *Cradley Heath*

9 **Castle** *Smethwick Highfield*

8 **Turner** *Bromsgrove Rovers*

7 **Cooling** *Birmingham University*

6 **Ballantyne** *Coventry City*

5 **Evans** *West Bromwich Albion*

4 **Campbell** *Aston Villa*

3 **Chamberlain (Capt.)** *West Bromwich Albion*

2 **Evans** *Cradley Heath*

1 **Martin** *Walsall Wood*

Peter McSevich

Peter McSevich was born in New Stevenston on 14 May 1902. He played Junior football first of all with Newmains Juniors and then Shieldmuir Celtic. It was at Shieldmuir that he rose to prominence and

reputation as a penalty saver! He attracted the attention of Clyde but it was Celtic that secured his signature in August 1924 but was probably farmed back out to Shieldmuir. It was there that he attracted the attention of the Scottish Junior selectors. He moved on to Aberdeen in July 1925 making 34 appearances. In the 1928 close season he moved to England with Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic in Division 3 South making 142 league appearances (1 goal – yes! – read on!) He played the 1932/33 season with Coventry City (34 games) and followed that up with three seasons at Walsall (102 games). He had a short time in the Birmingham League with Wellington Town before returning to Walsall to spend many years as part of the backroom staff.

Peter was one of the smaller goalkeepers but made up for his lack of inches with his bravery. In a cup match at Methil in 1927 he bravely dived at the feet of an East Fife forward and refused to come off despite being very badly dazed. He continued to get treatment throughout the game and had to be carried off at the end. It is reported that it was an hour after the game that he knew the result and that his bravery had helped Aberdeen to earn a replay back at Pittodrie.

When in England playing for Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic away at Brighton and Hove Albion on 4 October 1931 he collided with a goalpost and was carried off the field. Later on he returned – as outside left! – and scored his team's only goal in a 4-1 defeat.

Despite the result at the Hawthorns Peter acquitted himself well. The Sunday Post said "*the custodian, Sevicke [sic], was well up to his work, it being no easy matter to keep the clever Birmingham forwards at bay*".

Peter McSevich passed away in Walsall in 1979.

Dougie Gray

Dougie Gray on the ball at the 1936 Scottish Cup Final with Davie Meiklejohn and Alex Kinnaird (Third Lanark)

The full back in the side was Douglas Herbert Gray born in Alford, Aberdeenshire on 4 April 1905 and playing for Mugiemoss at the time. Dougie initially played for Mugiemoss as an outside right with his elder brother but Ernest had left for Montrose - and eventually Everton - by the time of Dougie's Scotland selection. Dougie had made his Junior Scotland debut the week before in the 4-0 win against Wales at Colwyn Bay. Dougie had already attracted interest from Hull City but his Scotland

appearances generated new interest from Arsenal, Cowdenbeath, St Mirren, Heart of Midlothian and Raith Rovers. However, it was Bill Struth, Rangers manager, and James Bowie that approached Dougie after the Hawthorns game and gave him a day to think over an offer to join the Light Blues. Struth and the Rangers Chairman travelled to Aberdeen to sign him on 1 May 1925. That was the first step in a career that rightly deserves the accolade of "*Rangers legend*". He was a Rangers player for 22 years, 480 League appearances and 940 first team games in total winning 10 League championships and 6 Scottish Cups. He represented Scotland at Junior (2) and full level (10) as well as making 6 appearances for the Scottish League. However, he only scored one more career goal than 'keeper Peter McSevich and unlike Peter none in open play as Dougie's were both penalties. In August 1930 the Scottish Football Association gave permission for benefit matches to be played for Dougie and his Rangers colleague, Davie Meiklejohn.

Boating incidents involving footballers were not restricted to the 1974 Scotland World Cup squad. In 1933 Dougie and Archie Gardiner of Hearts were in a rowing boat at Rothesay and were posing for a friend to take a photograph from the shore. However, the wash from a passing steamer upset the boat depositing the footballers and two accompanying children into the sea. Thankfully they were very close to shore and nobody was hurt.

In late 1945 Dougie was Chairman of the players' committee that met the League Management Committee in an attempt to improve wages and conditions. Dougie resigned when the mood of the players changed and there was a proposal for a players' strike for New Year's Day 1946.

Dougie was known to build great understandings with his goalkeeper and the 'keeper had the confidence to come out of his goal if necessary knowing that Dougie would be covering him. Bill Struth once said that Dougie followed the ball more intently than any other player he knew.

In June 1949 the Sunday Post said "*every Rangers fan remembers one thing about Dougie Gray – his amazing habit of popping up on the goalline to clear balls that looked certain scorers*". Indeed "*doing a Dougie Gray*" was a well-used phrase of the time to describe a goalline clearance by an outfield player. Football fans often joked that 'Gers had two 'keepers - Jerry Dawson and Dougie Gray!

Rangers' history recalls the one game Dougie played for another team – King's Park. They had turned up a man short for a Stirling Charity Cup and asked if they could borrow Dougie. They won and Dougie had a cup winners' medal against the 'Gers!

On retiring from playing he turned his hand to scouting and some coaching for Queen of the South and Third Lanark. In 1948 he was reported to be on the short list for the manager's job at Linfield in Belfast on £800 pa. He joined Clyde as coach when the Shawfield club decided to start developing their own talent. Dougie had responsibility for Rutherglen Amateurs A and Rutherglen Amateurs B who would play in Clyde colours, be financed by the club and feed talent to the two senior teams managed by Pat Travers.

Dougie Gray passed away in 1972.

Stephen Mitchell

Stephen Mitchell was capped while playing for St Rochs in Glasgow. On 30 May 1925, around a month after the Hawthorns match, he was signed by Edinburgh Second Division club, St Bernard's. He was an almost an ever-present in the team over the three seasons 1925-26, 1926-27 and 1927-28 making 112 league appearances and even managed two goals from his full back position. At that time St Bernard's played at the wonderfully named Royal Gymnasium in the north of the city. As a player he was described as "*although somewhat on the small side, Mitchell is a clever defender*". Indeed many clubs were interested in signing him from St Rochs but thought him too small for a defender.

However, although still a St Bernard's player he did not play any games in 1928/29 and 1929/30 before moving to Coleraine in Northern Ireland. It appears that he was put on the Open to Transfer List held by the Scottish Football League. This meant that he could not play for his registered club (St Bernard's) nor any other Scottish or Football League club but could register with a club outside these two leagues. So a move to Coleraine may have been triggered by the restrictions placed on him by the retain-and-transfer powers of the clubs in these days.

He signed for Coleraine on 24 September 1929 and became the seventh Scot in the side of that time. He played for them for four seasons up to and including 1932/33. He created a successful Scottish full back partnership with Billy McGinnigle (ex-Hibernian). There was interest from Football League clubs while he was playing in Northern Ireland with Bradford City reportedly keen to secure his signature in February 1930. The irony of his situation under the Open to Transfer rules would not have been lost on Stephen when he was selected on four occasions to represent the Irish League in games against the Scottish and Football Leagues. Indeed in 1931 he was in the Irish League team that inflicted the first defeat on the Scottish League for 28 years. A year later he captained the Irish League in the same fixture. In the match against the Football League in 1931 he came up against one of his Hawthorns rivals – Joe Tate (Aston Villa).

James Maxwell

Left half James Maxwell was reported to be a signing target of Cowdenbeath and so it was a surprise when the Sunday Post of 14 June 1925 reported that he had signed for Stoke City and that "*His terms are £5 10s per week in the playing season and £4 10s in the close season."* Early in the new season the Derby Daily Telegraph of 3 October 1925 said *"Stoke City appear to have found a rising star in young John[sic] Maxwell, who may lack inches, but who is blessed with more than the average allowance of football talent and ball control. This Glasgow midget was discovered playing with the Neilson Victoria Club towards the close of last season, and has had his early chance through the injury to S. Johnson. He is now regarded as a regular player in the side."* James played 10 league games in the 1925/26 season but Stoke City finished in 21st position in the Second Division and were relegated. James moved on to Watford in the Third Division (South) and played 4 league games (1 goal) and all at outside left.

He played his last game for the club in December 1926 and Watford went on to finish in second-last place in the Third Division (South). James Fraser Maxwell was born in Glasgow on 26 June 1900 and passed away in Neilston on 19 May 1964.

William Creighton

Willie Creighton played for Bridgeton Waverley as a Juvenile club and also when it moved up to the Junior grade in the 1924/25 season. He had worked for the Glasgow Corporation Lighting Department and had played for the department's team in the 1921/22 season and that got him into hot water five years later.

Willie quickly made a name for himself in the Junior grade and was selected to play for the Scottish Junior League in the annual match against the Glasgow Junior League on 18 October 1924. He would have come under the eye of the Junior Scotland selectors and he became Bridgeton Waverley's first Junior Internationalist when he won his first cap, and scoring a goal, against Wales a week before the Hawthorns match. In a report on a Bridgeton Waverley v Rutherglen Glencairn Glasgow Consolation Cup tie after the Hawthorns match it said "*W Crichton [sic] was [illegible] in order of effectiveness, and this lad is [illegible] expected to go up next season*". However, he remained in Junior football and was selected to play for the Scottish Junior League against the Glasgow Junior League in October 1925 and in a 1926 New Year tour to the North of England featuring games with Huddersfield Town, Bradford City (scoring a goal) and Manchester United.

In January 1926 Dalry Thistle lodged a protest over their Fourth Round Junior Cup tie against Bridgeton Waverley. The Ayrshire club claimed Willie Creighton had played Juvenile football after he had played Junior football. At the time the SJFA had a rule that a player moving down from Junior to Juvenile football should have an automatic twelve-month ban imposed. The aim was to protect the status of Juvenile football and prevent good Junior players moving down into the grade leaving space for young players to develop and a maintain a distinction between the two grades. The SJFA found in favour of Dalry Thistle, ordered the match to be replayed and gave Willie a twelve-month ban.

Willie's ban was because he had played in yet another grade of football - Welfare football. Welfare football was founded after the First World War to help raise the morale of factory workers. Willie played for the Lighting Department in the Corporation Cup. Welfare football had divided itself into two classes, Junior and Juvenile, and the former was affiliated to the SJFA. The Corporation Cup was classed as a Welfare Junior competition and it was the word Junior that led to Willie's troubles. Someone had alerted Dalry Thistle to Willie's previous playing career pointing out that he had moved from Welfare Junior football (Lighting Department) to Juvenile football (Bridgeton Waverley). Dalry officials could not have been confident that such a literal definition of Junior football was intended to stop players moving between Welfare and Juvenile football. However, their protest was successful. Willie appealed his ban and in March 1926 the Emergency Committee of the SJFA lifted the suspension interpreting the rule as it was intended rather than how it was written.

Bridgeton Waverley went on to defeat Dalry Thistle in their replayed Fourth Round tie and with Willie back playing were losing finalists in a replayed final against Strathclyde. There is an interesting postscript to events. On Monday 18 January 1926, after Bridgeton Waverley had won the replayed Fourth Round tie, Dalry officials received another approach claiming that Andrew Main of Waverley had played in an unauthorised competition earlier in the season and was ineligible for the Junior Cup tie. The informer produced some evidence with the promise of more that would be sufficient for a protest. He wanted £10 for the information but eventually settled for £3 and a further £2 when the match was replayed. The club officials investigated a little further and found they were victims of an elaborate fraud. In April 1926 a case for fraud against the informer was heard in Kilmarnock Sheriff

Court and the informer was given a £5 fine or thirty days' imprisonment. It is likely that the information on Willie Creighton came from a similar source.

Willie's ban was lifted in time for him to be considered for selection for the two remaining Junior Internationals of the season. He played in a trial match for Glasgow and then for the SJFA against Perthshire. It was in this last match he dislocated his arm just after half-time and that injury probably put paid to him playing in the matches against England and Wales. Now as a Strathclyde player he was back playing in international trials in the 1926/27 season but was not selected. In June 1927 he signed for Albion Rovers and played 35 league games (10 goals) in the 1927/28 season.

Here is a photograph of Bridgeton Waverley in their highly successful Juvenile days. The photograph was taken at Celtic Park. It is possible that Willie Creighton in is the line-up.

Photograph by courtesy of glesgakeelie website

James Scott

Standing: Duke, Dickson, McKnight, Raeburn, Boyne, Drummond, Corrigan and Swanson.
Seated: Scott, McCaig, Mitchell, Brown, Walker and Boyle.

James Scott was born in Edinburgh and capped out of Wemyss Athletic. At that time there were two Junior clubs with the same name! One came from Wemyss in Fife and the other from Cockenzie on the other side of the Firth of Forth in East Lothian.

After his three Scotland caps in April 1925 James was quickly signed by Raith Rovers on 1 June 1925. He played 9 league games (3 goals) in the early part of the 1925/26 season before being loaned to Arbroath on 16 October 1925 where he made 12 league appearances (3 goals) for the Red Lichties. He was signed by Arbroath the day before a league match against Kings Park at Stirling on 17 October 1925. Scott broke a bone in his arm after 30minutes and had to leave the field. The Lichties were 1-0 down at the time but despite being down to 10 men, they went on to win3-2. Scott didn't play again until the same sides met at Gayfield on 9 January 1926, Kings Park winning 1-0.He appears to have been left out of the team until 24 February 1926 (Wednesday afternoon game) against Albion Rovers. Scott scored twice as the Lichties won 4-2 with the other goals coming from Newman and Junior.

He returned to Kirkcaldy for the 1926/27 season but made no league appearances and went to Kettering Town in England. He returned to Edinburgh to sign for St Bernard's on 15 September 1927 making 6 league appearances (2 goals) before a trial period with Bathgate started on 23 December 1927 where he made two league appearances. He made some appearances for Corinthians, a midweek amateur side, before returning to St Bernard's on 21 March 1928 and making the final five league appearances (0 goals) of his career.

Harold Corrance

Inside left Harold Corrance's senior career got off to a terrible start with a suspension imposed by the Scottish Football League that ran from 15 August 1925 to 31 December 1925. Why? In the week before the Junior International he was being chased by both Partick Thistle and Cowdenbeath to sign professional forms.

Harold's father did not want him to move far from Glasgow and had said to Thistle officials that his son would sign for them. However, Jimmy Richardson, the Cowdenbeath manager, had called at Harold's home on the Thursday lunchtime before the Junior International in an attempt to sign him for the Fife club. Corrance refused the offer and signed for Partick Thistle that evening.

However, the Cowdenbeath manager was on the station platform when the Junior Scotland party set off for Birmingham and stayed at the same hotel as the party. At 07:15 on the morning of the match Richardson got a hotel maid to call Corrance to his room and then made another attempt to sign him. Fearing that revealing that he had already signed for a Senior club would lead to him being disqualified and dropped from that afternoon's match, he kept quiet and signed forms for Cowdenbeath there and then. A telegram was sent to Harold's father in Glasgow on Saturday afternoon "*Signed for Cowdenbeath – Harold*". Back came a telegram "*Previous agreement binding. Can't sign for Richardson- Father.*" At the beginning of the next week the League secretary received the registration forms from Cowdenbeath having already received forms from Thistle. An enquiry exonerated Cowdenbeath but landed Harold with a lengthy suspension. Harold's father summed it up by saying "*I do not think Cowdenbeath quite played the game. They played up to Harold's ignorance of the rules*."

Harold duly joined Partick Thistle but did not make any first team appearances although he remained on Thistle's books until 1929/30. He signed for Alloa Athletic on 26 November 1932 and made 18 league appearances (1 goal) in his only season with the club.

Jimmy Richardson resigned as Cowdenbeath manager on 25April 1925 –only a week after the Junior International and only one year into a two-year agreement. The resignation took the football world by surprise and the only possible indication of a reason was that Richardson and the club's directors were known not always to see eye-to-eye. Did the Corrance affair play a part? We will never know.

David McLean

In the defeat David McLean was described, along with Muir and Corrance, as "*the pick of the forwards*" by the Sunday Post. Little is known of David McLean although he was capped while playing for Duntocher Hibs. He had received his first cap versus Wales two weeks before where with his club inside right Harold Corrance had played a part in the first goal and had a good second half that would have secured his selection for the England game. David signed for Partick Thistle on 1 May 1925 but did not make any first team appearances in his first season 1925/26 and went on loan to Second Division King's Park in Stirling. He made his King's Park debut on 3 October 1925 in a tame 0-0 draw with Stenhousemuir at Forthbank. In the team lines he was described as "*M'Lean (Partick Thistle)*". A 5-2 win in the Scottish Cup at home to Peterhead lined up a Second Round tie away to Partick Thistle with the Jags running out 4-1 winners. King's Park finished 13th out of the 20 clubs in the Second Division in 1925/26 and David had played 30 league games (8 goals). He returned to the Jags for the 1926/27 season but made no first team appearances.

Bert Chamberlain

On 5 January 1924 the Derby Daily Telegraph reported "*The name Chamberlain is highly popular and respected in Birmingham, though it isn't very well known in football, West Bromwich Albion had a Chamberlain at left back last week.*" So did Bert Chamberlain play for Albion's league team BEFORE meeting Junior Scotland in 1925 and thus breaking the unofficial selection rules for the fixture? Bert's match was against Manchester City on 29 December 1923 – a 3-3 draw at Maine Road. Indeed he had made his debut over a year earlier on 21st October 1922 against Tottenham Hotspur. Unfortunately his football career was not as notable as his namesakes' political and industrial careers. Herbert George Chamberlain was born on 10 November 1899 and played for Langley St Michael in his birthplace and then Cradley Heath from where he signed for Albion for a fee of £100 in April 1922. He spent the next five seasons at the Hawthorns making 4 First Division appearances. However, he was a member of the Albion Reserves that won the Central League Championship in consecutive seasons – 1922/23 and 1923/24. He then moved to the South Coast in August 1926 to play for another Albion – this time Brighton and Hove Albion. He spent the 1926/27, 1927/28 and 1928/29 seasons at the Division 3 South club making nine appearances. Short spells followed at Dartford and Shoreham before injury at the latter club forced his retirement from the game in May 1930.

Bert died in 1972 at the age of 72.

Archie Campbell

The Birmingham right-half had a very Scottish name – Archie Campbell. However, he was born in Crook in the North East of England on 15 August 1904 but of Scottish stock. His uncle was Scottish International John Campbell who played for Celtic, Aston Villa and Third Lanark (1890-1906). John Campbell won the respective League Championship with all three clubs he played for and had many cup winners medals. He was a member of the Aston Villa team that won "The Double" in 1896/97. John Campbell also scored the first-ever league goal for the home club at two of Britain's most famous football grounds - Celtic Park (1892) and Villa Park (1897).

Archie's own playing career start in his native North East with spells at Leadgate Park, Craighead United and Spennymoor United before he attracted the attention of Aston Villa who signed him in December 1922. He had three seasons at Villa as a fringe player making 4 league appearances (0 goals). However, like Bert Chamberlain, he made his Football League debut at home versus Tottenham Hotspur on 15 March 1924 - a year before facing the Scottish Juniors.

He moved to Lincoln City in the Third Division (North) in June 1925 where he made 54 appearances (4 goals) over two seasons before returning to one of his former clubs, Craghead United in July 1927. In the 1927/28 season he played for Craghead United and Washington Colliery before signing for Dundee on 9 May 1928. At Dundee he was seen as a very dependable reserve. One report of a Dundee v Clyde game at Shawfield said the Bully Wee supporters were incensed with Archie's robust tackling! He had a two-year stay at Dens Park before returning to Washington Colliery in May 1930. In January 1931 he moved south to play for Birmingham City Transport where he remained until he retired from the game.

Archie Campbell passed away in 1980.

Joe Evans

Joseph Thomas Evans was born on 6 February 1906. Joe's football career was cut short at the early age of 25 through a serious knee injury but not before playing league football with West Bromwich Albion. He joined the Albion as an amateur in October 1922 from his home town club, Darlaston. The match at the Hawthorns was his second game against Scotland having represented England Schoolboys in 1921 against the Scots. In that same season he captained the England team against Wales.

His debut for Albion was almost a year after the Junior International in a First Division match away to West Ham United on 6 March 1926. He was a regular in the Albion reserves making 110 appearances. In 1926/27 he made five first team appearances but was also a member of the Albion Reserve team that won the Central League Championship. He made the bulk of his first team appearances in seasons 1927/28 to 1929/30 with Albion in the Second Division. He played his last game against Tottenham Hotspur in a home match on 21 April 1930. In all, he played 88 league games (8 goals). Joe died in 1971.

Billy Turner

The England inside right was Billy Turner who was capped from Bromsgrove Rovers – the club with which he started and finished his football career but with an eleven-year spell with Crystal Palace in between.

William ("Billy") Turner was born on 16 November 1901 in Tipton. Bromsgrove Rovers played in the Birmingham Combination at the time of Billy's selection. He signed for Crystal Palace for the 1925/26 season and made his debut in a home Division 3(South) match against Millwall on 29 August 1925. He made 282 league appearances (36 goals) and is 13th in the list of the greatest number of appearances in all games for the club. His last game for Palace was another London derby – this time away to Clapton Orient - on 26 February 1936. Billy signed for Birmingham League club Worcester City for the 1936/37 season. Due to an administrative blunder the club forgot to enter the FA Cup that season but got a late entry into the Welsh Cup to supplement the fixture list! The Official History of Worcester City FC records "*Billy Turner, formerly a Bromsgrove player, returned to local football after eleven successful years at Crystal Palace in which he had made 302 appearances*". A mid-table finish was considered disappointing after the success of the previous seasons. The management team left the club together with several players including Billy Turner, who returned to Bromsgrove Rovers. Billy played out the remainder of his career at Rovers. Billy Turner died in 1989.

Fred Castle

Frederick Charles Castle was born on 29 January 1899 in Kings Norton, Birmingham. He was a centre forward although at 5ft 7ins he was on the short side. He played for Smethwick Highfield when he was selected for the Hawthorns match. Fred scored a hat trick against the Scots! He opened the scoring after just six minutes and added two more in the second half. The Sunday Post was full of praise for the Birmingham forwards led by Fred, it reported "*Castle and the other English forwards were off the mark with wonderful celebrity*". The watching Birmingham City officials must have been impressed as he was signed by the Blues within a week! Fred was mostly a reserve player at St Andrews although he made his League debut at home against West Ham United on 24 April 1926. He played one more League game that season and another – his last – on 30 August 1926 away to Leicester City. In August

1927 he moved to Shrewsbury Town in the Birmingham and District League who finished 4th in the league in 1927/28. They scored 110 league goals with Fred scoring just over a quarter with a tally of 28 goals and adding a further 4 goals in the FA Cup for good measure! Fred Castle died in 1974 in Smethwick.

Joe Tate

Joseph Thomas Tate was born in Old Hill on 4 August 1904. He started playing for several local teams in the area before signing for Cradley Heath FC in the Birmingham League in April 1923. Cradley Heath FC were challenging for the Birmingham League title – eventually finishing fourth – when Joe was selected to play in the match against the Scots. Joe was a tall (6ft 1in) inside left. However, he was signed soon after the match by Aston Villa. He did not make his Villa debut until 26 December 1927 away to Derby County and it was not until 1928/29 that he established himself as a Villa first team regular but as a left half. However, once established he was part of a legendary Villa half back line with Jimmy Gibson and Alec Talbot known as "*wind, sleet and rain*" by the Villa supporters. Centre half Alec Talbot was already an established first team player. Jimmy Gibson joined Villa from Partick Thistle for a big fee and after a battle with other clubs for his signature following impressive performances for Scotland in the Home internationals. After the chase for his signature and finally putting pen to paper Jimmy is reputed to have asked which club he had signed for?

Joe was virtually an ever-present up to and including season 1932/33. In all, he made 180 league appearances (2 goals). Although Joe had a meagre goal return one of his two goals was in a 4-0 away win against city rivals Birmingham City on 21st February 1931. His form earned him three England caps against France (1931), Belgium (1931) and Wales (1932). He also made one appearance for the Football League in a 4-0 win against the Irish League at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool on 23 September 1931. In the Irish League side was one of his Scottish opponents – Stephen Mitchell – from the Junior International.

After the 1932/33 season he only made one further first team appearance at home to Newcastle United on 25 November 1933. In May 1935 he returned to the Birmingham League as player/manager of Brierley Hill Alliance where he remained until 1937 signing off by captaining the team that won the Birmingham Senior Cup in a 5-2 win against Tamworth in the final at Dudley in March 1937. Joe passed away on 18 May 1973.

Les Crump

Leslie Victor Crump was born in Wolverhampton on 10 October 1902. He was great nephew of Charles Crump who was President of the Birmingham and District FA and became Senior Vice President of the Football Association. Les Crump played for Sunbeam (Wolverhampton) FC.

The Sunday Post of 24 May 1925 reported that Kilmarnock had representatives in England at the time of the Junior International apparently on the search for an outside left. They spotted Crump and the Sunday Post said "*He has played in all the representative matches of the Birmingham and District Association this season. A speedy type of a player, he outsprinted the Scottish right back [Dougie Gray,Mugiemoss] in the recent international, and was one of the outstanding successes on the English side."*He signed for Kilmarnock on 16 May 1925. He played 24 league games (4 goals) for Killie over two seasons before signing for Bournemouth and Boscombe Athletic in July 1927. He only played four games (no goals) for the South Coast club in Division 3 (South). His last game was at home to Crystal Palace on 24 September 1927 before his contract was cancelled in November 1927. Les Crump died age 80 in Newcastle in 1983.

1935 MATCH

The term "*Junior football*" was as misunderstood in 1935 as it is today with the Tamworth Herald on the morning of the match remarking on "*the choice of Len Latham for the Junior International (why it is called this I don't know) against Scotland, at the Hawthorns on Saturday....*"

The Scottish selectors had with the exception of goalkeeper, Jock Brown, completely changed the team from the side that had beaten Ireland 1-0 just a month before at Firhill.

The Scottish Junior International team and officials snapped before the game at Firhill. Left to right (back row)—MR G. BARCLAY, W. IRVINE, J. COWAN, G. WALLS, J. M'ARTHUR, A. EWING, and J. HUGHES. (Middle row)—J. LAWSON, D. WEIR, NAYLOR, BROWN, WEIR, LOGAN, M'CAFFREY, and QUEEN (reserve). (Front row)—J. MURRAY, ROSS, CONNOR, CLARK, FARMER, ADAMSON, and MR M'PHEE.

The team was announced on 4 April 1935 and no reason was given for the wholesale changes. However, the Sunday Post's report of a lacklustre performance by the Scots against the Irish may give a hint of the reason behind the changes as it concluded "*Scotland won because they scored, and the visitors did not. That was all there was in it.*"

On paper, and with the benefit of hindsight, the England team looked stronger with seven players progressing to league football compared with only four of the Scots. Even Len Latham who did not move on to league football had played for Aston Villa reserves in a 5-2 win against Blackpool reserves the previous Saturday. Hosts West Bromwich Albion provided three players and Shawfield provided three of the Scottish team. Shawfield minus their three players were fighting out a 1:1 draw with Blantyre Victoria at the same time.

The Albion News – matchday magazine of West Bromwich Albion – gives some excellent reports on the preparation and the match itself. The Scots were well entertained by their hosts. This included a Friday night visit to the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre followed by a visit on the next morning to Cadbury's works at Bournville. After the match they were hosted at a dinner in the Blue Gates Hotel in Smethwick. In the match itself the Scots were the smaller team and played "*typical Scottish football*". Birmingham's tough tacking half backs and directness towards goal countered a tendency

of the Scots to over-elaborate on the ball of which Dale (Kilwinning Rangers) was the main culprit. The Scots took the lead after just 11 minutes through Young (Shawfield) from a cross by Breslin (Petershill). However, a wonderful individual goal by Lager (Coventry City) made the scores level. Astill (Wolverhampton Wanderers) put Birmingham ahead just before half time. He followed up later on with a fine shot to make the final score 3:1. Birmingham captain Driscoll with his ball supply to his forwards, Hickman and Astill with their attacking play and the latter's goals were the pick of the Birmingham players. Blackham (Cradley Heath) suffered an injury that restricted the Birmingham attack. However, Jock Brown in the Scotland goal "*got through a great deal of work with distinction and but for his brilliance the Birmingham margin of victory must have been heavier*".

The Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 May 1935 for the Birmingham County FA shows the match generated income of £127 19s 9d and incurred expenditure of £64 0s 0d.

Date	11th April 1935			
	Result	**Half-time**		**Goal scorers**
England	3	2	Lager	Astill(2)
Scotland	1	1	Young	
Venue	The Hawthorns, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Albion FC)			
Attendance				
Receipts	£127 9s 9d			
Teams		**Referee**	Mr G Dutton	(Warwick)

SCOTLAND (Scottish Junior Football Association)

1
Brown
Shawfield

2
Stewart
Dunipoce

3
Duffy
Rosslyn Juniors

4
Clarke
Tranent Juniors

5
Miller (Capt)
Shawfield

6
Kirkwood
Parkhead

7
Young
Shawfield

8
Farr
Yoker Athletic

9
Dale
Kilwinning Rangers

10
McFarlane
Tranent Juniors

11
Breslin
Petershill

11
Astill
Wolverhamp-ton Wanderers

10
Driscoll (Capt)
West Bromwich Albion

9
Lager
Coventry City

8
Hickman
West Bromwich Albion

7
Blackham
Cradley Heath

6
Loughran
Birmingham City

5
Saunders
Darlaston

4
Derbyshire
Birmingham City

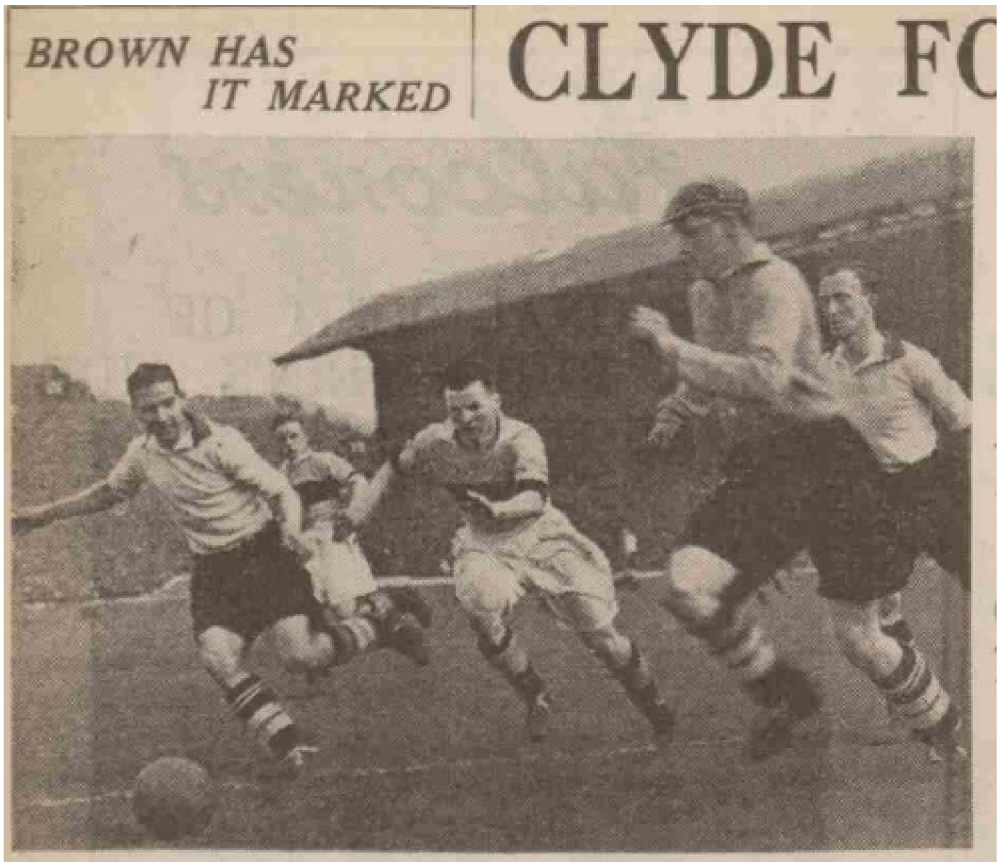
3
Latham
Aston Villa

2
Male
West Browmwich Albion

1
Clewlow
Birmingham Trams

ENGLAND (Birmingham and District Football Association)

Jock Brown



Shots from the Cup final.—Converging from all points on the ball are (left to right) Hickie (Clyde), Ogilvie (Motherwell), Brown and Weir (Clyde).

John Bell Brown was born in Troon on 21 February 1915 and came to prominence as a young goalkeeper with Glenburn Rovers in Prestwick before signing for Shawfield in Glasgow. At Glenburn Rovers - and at just 19 - he earned selection for Junior Scotland in the match versus Wales on 21 April 1934. At Rosebery Park he added two further Junior caps. He moved into Senior football with Clyde and won a Scottish Cup medal in 1939. He would remind anyone that would listen that the only reason he conceded a goal in the Third Round 4-1 win against Rangers was that it was a penalty. Bob McPhail,

Rangers regular penalty taker, placed the ball on the spot – but Jock knew where McPhail placed his penalties – however it was Albert Lyness that stepped up and converted it. Jock was selected and made one appearance for both the Scottish League XI and the full Scotland side in 1938-39. His international cap came in a 3-2 win against Wales at Tynecastle Park, Edinburgh on 9 November 1938.

War time service in the Royal Navy from 1943 disrupted his career but he had a guest spell during the war with Hamilton Academical before joining Hibernian. He had a loan spell with Gillingham in the Kent League. He returned to Hibernian and was one of two 'keepers in the Hibs team that won the Scottish League Championship in 1947/48. Short spells followed at Dundee and Kilmarnock before retiring in 1950. On retirement he trained as a physiotherapist initially working for Kilmarnock before moving into Rugby Union. He acted as physio for the visiting All Blacks while in Troon and then became the first physio to the Scotland Rugby team.

He was blessed with wonderful hand/eye co-ordination, was a leading Scottish badminton player and - as befits a man from Troon - was a scratch golfer for over 20 years. He was part of a great sporting family. Sons Peter ("*PC*") and Gordon ("*Broon frae Troon*") were both Scottish Rugby internationals and Gordon was a British Lion. Gordon had a short spell following his father's footsteps as a goalkeeper for his local team, Troon Juniors. An eventful local derby versus Irvine Meadow XI led to him joining the local Rugby club! Third son John was also a sportsman.

Two of Jock's own brothers Tom and Jim were both professional footballers. Jim was selected to play for the United States in the 1930 World Cup. Jock and his three brothers were riveters in the local shipyard at the start of the Second World War – a reserved occupation. However, Jim was an outspoken trade union official. One thing led to another and their exemption from military service was withdrawn. However, Jock joined the Royal Navy, Andrew signed up with the Merchant Marine and Tom became a commando. Tom found a perforated ear drum exempted him from service.
Jock died at the age of 90 on 27 August 2005.

James Clarke

Photograph taken Edinburgh Evening Dispatch on 18 February 1933 with thanks to East Lothian's Football History

1934/35 was the pinnacle of James Clarke's Junior career – a Scottish Junior Cup winners medal with Tranent Juniors and two Junior Scotland caps. Indeed, it is likely it would have been three caps if he had not had to withdraw from the team for the opening International of the 1934/35 season against Ireland.

James played in the Tranent Juniors team that defeated Petershill 6-1 in the Scottish Junior Cup Final on 18 May 1935 at Ibrox Park. Petershill had eliminated Shawfield 5-1 in the semi-final with Jock Brown, the Junior Scotland goalkeeper and soon to be James' teammate at Clyde, in goal.

The Sunday Post reported that "*the Tranent backs and halves were hefty fellows who didn't stand on ceremony*" and "*Tranent were a strong lusty lot*". James, playing at right half, got a mention "*Clark [sic] the provisionally signed Clyde player, revealed a great deal of cleverness in his attempts to link up*

with his forwards". The Sunday Post reporter, while not disputing Tranent's superiority, thought that the Petershill defence could have prevented three of the six goals. Newspaper reports in the following week show that Peterhill officials were sifting evidence to make a possible protest against the bona fides of Tranent's inside right George Reid who went on to sign for Celtic. No protest was made.

James was provisional signed by Clyde on 2 May 1935. He made his debut against Airdrie on Saturday 10 August 1935 at Shawfield in a 1-1 draw. He scored his only goal in his debut game. In total he made 24 appearances (1 goal) for the Bully Wee. His final appearance for the club was at Ibrox against Rangers on 9 April 1938.

Andrew Young

Outside Right Andrew Young was one of three Shawfield players selected for the game. He was from Motherwell and after the Junior International had a short time with Birmingham City before signing for Alloa Athletic on 25 June 1936. However, he was at Recreation Park for less than six months. His contract was cancelled on 1 June 1936 after making 5 league appearances (1 goal).

Andrew Farr

Andy Farr as a Margate player in 1935/36
Photograph reproduced with the kind permission of Jeff Trice MargateFChistory website

Andrew Martin Farr was born in Larkhall on 7 August 1911 and developed into a 5 foot 5 inches 9 stones 9 pounds inside forward.

Andy started his football career in the Juniors and for his home town club – Larkhall Thistle. He quickly attracted the attention of Clyde who took him to Shawfield on 28 July 1931. He played 20 league games (3 goals). He appears to have reinstated as a Junior at age 21 when he signed for Yoker Athletic on 18th August 1932.

Andy was in the Yoker Athletic side that won the Scottish Junior Cup in 1933 after a replayed final with Tranent Juniors. Andy scored late in the first half of the replay to counter Tranent's opening goal. The newspaper report records both goals were fluky. In the second half Yoker moved into a commanding 4:1 lead but a late rally by Tranent and another goal was not enough to prevent Yoker winning the Cup. The first game – a 0:0 draw - was played at Tynecastle, Edinburgh on 20 May 1933 with the replay at Hampden Park, Glasgow on 31 May 1933. Andrew played four seasons at Yoker.

Andy won two Scottish Junior Caps in 1935,with the second in a 1-1 draw with Wales (North Wales Coast FA) at Portmadoc on 4 May 1935.

In August 1936 he signed for Margate in the English Southern League. Margate was a nursery club for Arsenal at that time and were managed by former Arsenal centre forward Jack Lambert. Bobby McFarlane, inside left for Junior Scotland at the Hawthorns was also a Margate player in 1935/36.

In his first season Margate got to the Third Round of the FA Cup for the first time. Victories against Queen's Park Rangers and Crystal Palace set up a Third Round away tie at Blackpool. Andy was to come up against his former Yoker teammate Bobby Finan. Finan scored one of Blackpool's goals in a 3:1 win. Andy Farr made either 108 or 109 appearances (20 goals) for Margate between 1935/36 and 1937/38 inclusive.

In December 1937 Andy made the step up and signed for the Gunners. In Arsenal's Southern League team (one step down from reserves) he made 28 appearances (7 goals) in 1938/39. He made 2 league appearances for Arsenal in the last two games of the 1938/39 season. He scored a goal in his debut on 29 April 1939 away to Derby County and his second and final match was at home to Blackburn Rovers. The outbreak of war brought a cessation of league football. Andy returned to Scotland to work in ammunition factories and played some war-time football for Airdrieonians, Dumbarton and Dunfermline Athletic. After the war he signed for Hearts for the 1946/47 and 1947/48 seasons but in his mid-thirties perhaps his best days were behind him and he did not make any league appearances.

Andy Farr passed away in 1985.

Norman Male

Norman Alfred Male was born in West Bromwich on 27 May 1917. Norman was a left back and he played locally for Bush Rangers before being signed as a 17 year old for West Bromwich Albion on 5 October 1934. He was selected to play for the Birmingham and District FA team in a Junior International against the Irish Free State in Dublin on 11 May 1935 – a 2-1 win for the Irish – just a month after the match against the Scots. On 16 March 1935 the Scots had played an International against a representative side from Northern Ireland winning 1-0. Scots 'keeper Jock Brown was the only Scot to play in both games.

He made his Albion Football League debut almost three years later on 25 September 1937 in an away First Division match versus Grimsby Town. However, he only played a total of 3 league games (1 goal) for the Albion before signing on 27 May 1938 for near neighbours Walsall playing in the Third Division (South). He played 34 league games in season 1938/39 but like all players of his generation his football

career was curtailed by the Second World War. He returned to Walsall after the War and played one league match in 1946/47. He played two further seasons with Walsall making a total of 70 league appearances (2 goals). His last match was on 13 November 1948 at home to Millwall. Unfortunately he was injured in the match that led to his retirement from the game. However, despite his injury he was moved up from left back to outside left and scored two goals in a narrow 6-5 defeat for the Fellows Park club. After retirement he worked on the ground staff of the club. He may well have been at the club at the same time as Peter McSevich, Scottish goalkeeper from the 1925 Junior International with whom he shared the distinction of being an "*emergency*" goal-scoring outside left!
Norman Male passed away in 1992.

Joe Loughran

Joseph ("Joe") Loughran was born on 12 August 1915 in Consett in the North East of England. He started to play with local club Medomsley Juniors. As a physical education student he moved to the West Midlands and played for Dudley College, where he was presumably a student. As a left half he was signed by Birmingham City in August 1933 but did not make his debut until 5 October 1935 in a First Division home match versus Chelsea. He made 31 league appearances (2 goals) for the Blues before signing for Luton Town in May 1937 for a two-year stay. He made 25 league appearances (0 goals) for Second Division Luton. In July 1939 he signed for Burnley but with cessation of league football during the Second World War he did not make his debut for the Clarets until 1946/47. That season saw Burnley promoted to the First Division and Joe had three more seasons at the club making 65 league appearances (1 goal). His time at Burnley saw him convert from a left half to a right back. At the age of 34 he signed for Southend United in the Third Division (South) where he had four seasons playing 147 league games (1 goal). He played his last league game on 1May 1953 for Southend United against Shrewsbury Town. He joined non-league Newhaven shortly afterwards. He worked as a schools' physical education adviser in East Sussex.

Joe passed away on 23 August 1994.

Bert Blackham

Outside Right Robert Bert T. Blackham was born on 2 November 1912 in Wolverhampton. Bert was playing for Cradley Heath at the time of the match. Around this period Cradley Heath were one of the top sides in the Birmingham and District League having won the league championship in 1930/31 and 1931/32. However, in 1934/35 they were a mid-table team. He signed for Walsall for the 1935/36 season playing as an outside left! He had a short career at Fellows Park making his debut on 1 February 1936 in a home Division 3 (North) match in a 6-0 victory versus Hartlepool United. The last of his ten league appearances was at home just three months later on 2 May 1936 against Halifax Town in a 2-1 win. He scored four goals that included two on his debut and one in final appearance.

Bert passed away in 1989.

Arthur Hickman

John Edward Arthur W Hickman was born in West Bromwich on 25 March 1916. He signed for his local club, West Bromwich Albion, as a sixteen year old inside right in 1932. Unfortunately Arthur was unable to make the first team in his four seasons at the Hawthorns. However, a move to South Wales in 1936 to play for Newport County in the Third Division (South) was more successful. He made his debut – and scored a goal - in a match against Watford on 29 August 1936. He was a leading member of the team that won the title in 1938/39 and scored one of the goals in a 3-0 home win against Southend United which secured the title. As with all players of his generation the outbreak of the Second World War put an end to his football career at just 23 years of age and the match against Southend was his last league game. In all, he made 71 league appearances (21 goals).

Alongside the game against Scotland he also played against the Irish Free State in Dublin on 11 May 1935 in a 2-1 win for the Irish, alongside his fellow Albion player Norman Male.

Arthur Hickman passed away in 1985.

Ellis Lager

Centre forward Ellis Walter Lager was born in Mansfield on 14 January 1918. After playing for Mansfield Rovers and Sutton Junction he signed for Coventry City at just sixteen years of age in August 1934. In his first season, although not breaking into the first team, he was selected to play against Junior Scotland. At the end of the 1935/36 season he made his Coventry City debut at home to Bournemouth on 18 April 1936 and scored a goal. That season marked Coventry's promotion to the Second Division. He played in the three seasons in the Second Division up to the outbreak of the Second World War and in all making 50 league appearances (25 goals). With a record of a goal in every other game the outbreak of War was at the time Ellis was reaching his peak. During the War he guested with Watford, Notts County and Nottingham Forest before retiring in 1943.

Ellis Lager passed away in 1995.

Jack Driscoll

At approaching 26 years of age inside left Jack Driscoll was one of the oldest players on the park. John Henry Driscoll was born in Grays, Essex on 27 July 1909 but played his first football in Shropshire with Rodington. He moved into the Birmingham League with first Oakengates Town before signing for Oswestry Town in May 1932 and then Shrewsbury Town in October 1933. Jack signed for West Bromwich Albion in November 1934 but in three seasons – 1934/35 to 1936/37 – failed to make the first team. He moved to Second Division Sheffield Wednesday on 28 May 1937. He made his debut away to Manchester United on 23 October 1937. The last of his 5 league appearances (2 goals) was away at Burnley, just two months later on 18 December 1937. He returned to Shropshire and the Birmingham League to sign for Wellington Town in June 1938. During the War and made a "*guest appearance*" for Wrexham on 20 February 1943 in a 3-0 defeat at Chester.

Jack Driscoll passed away in Wellington on 7 October 1997.

Len Astill

Shortly after the match against Junior Scotland Len Astill made his first team debut for Wolverhampton Wanderers in a First Division home 2-1 home win against Stoke City. Leonard Victor Astill was born in Wolverhampton on 30 December 1916. He played for Heath Town before signing for Wolves in May 1934 as a reserve left winger. However, he only played two first team games for Wolves with the second – a 5-0 away defeat to Manchester City – coming a week after his debut.

In January 1936 he was transferred for £1,000 to Blackburn Rovers and made a goal-scoring start in a 4-2 defeat at the hands of Birmingham City at St Andrews. Len played his last game at Ewood Park on 21 March 1936 against Middlesbrough. Rovers were relegated to the Second Division for the 1936/37 season. In June 1937 Len moved into Southern League football with Ipswich Town making 27 appearances (12 goals). Ipswich were elected to the Football League in the summer of 1938. However, Len decided against a return to full-time football and moved to Colchester United for one final season of non-league football before the outbreak of the Second World War.

Len Astill passed away in 1990.