

Edinburgh 1824
The World's First
Foot-Ball Club

Andy Mitchell

Old Edinburgh Club, 16 October 2019

Foot-Ball Club founder: John Hope (1807-1893)



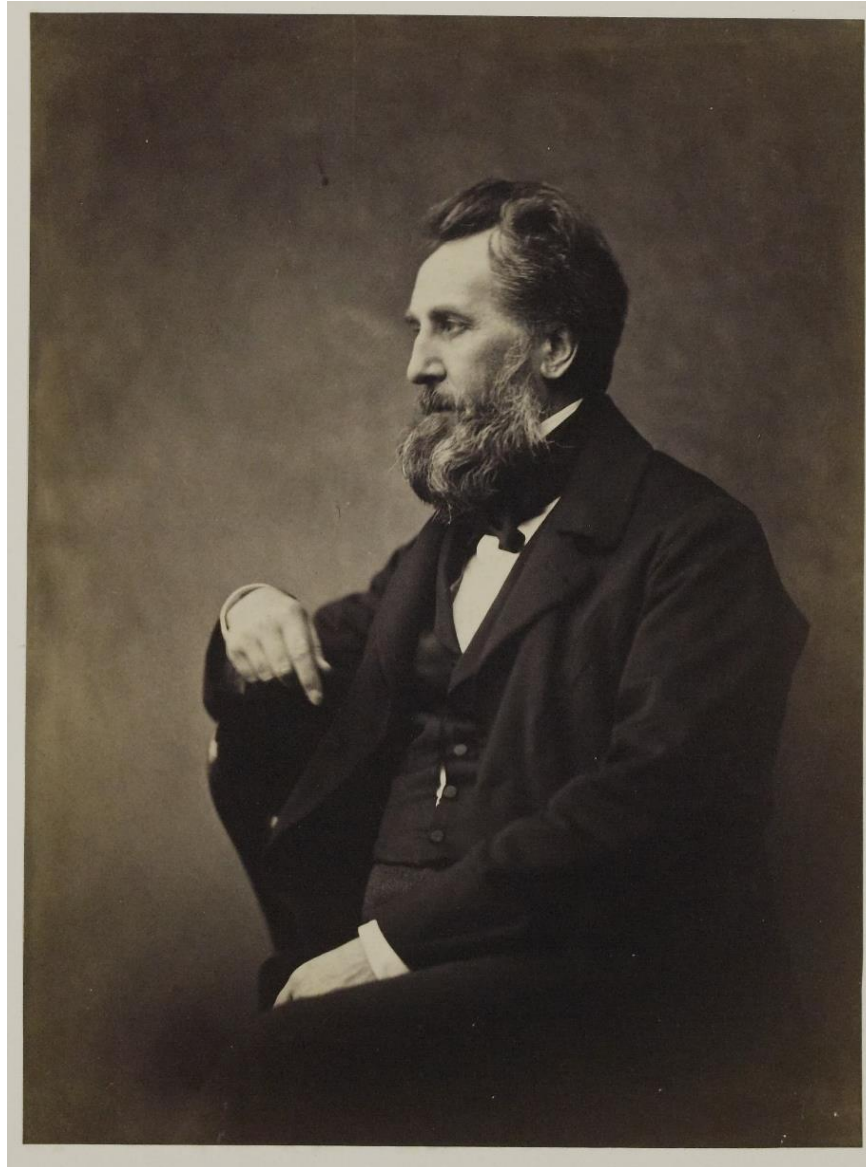
(Old College Library, Edinburgh University)

Who claims to be the world's first football club?



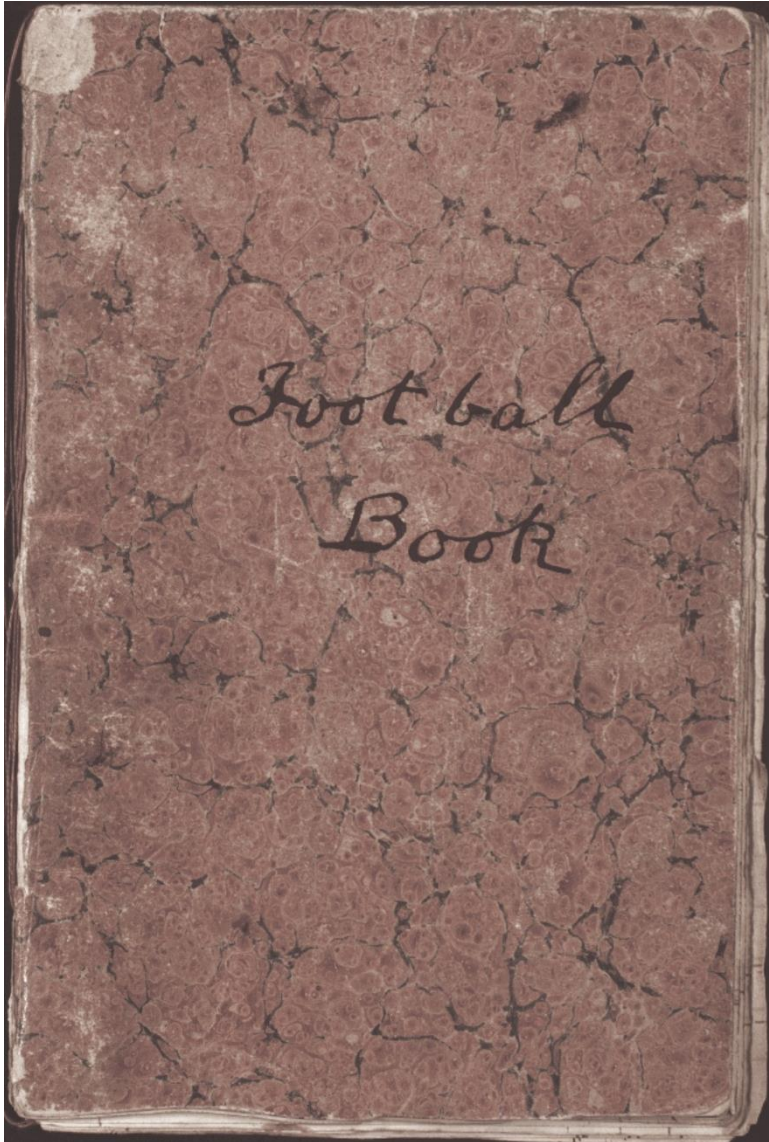
– Actually, no it isn't Sheffield.

Foot-Ball Club founder: John Hope (1807-1893)



(Photo taken c1867; National Records of Scotland)

John Hope's first Foot-Ball Club notebook, 1824



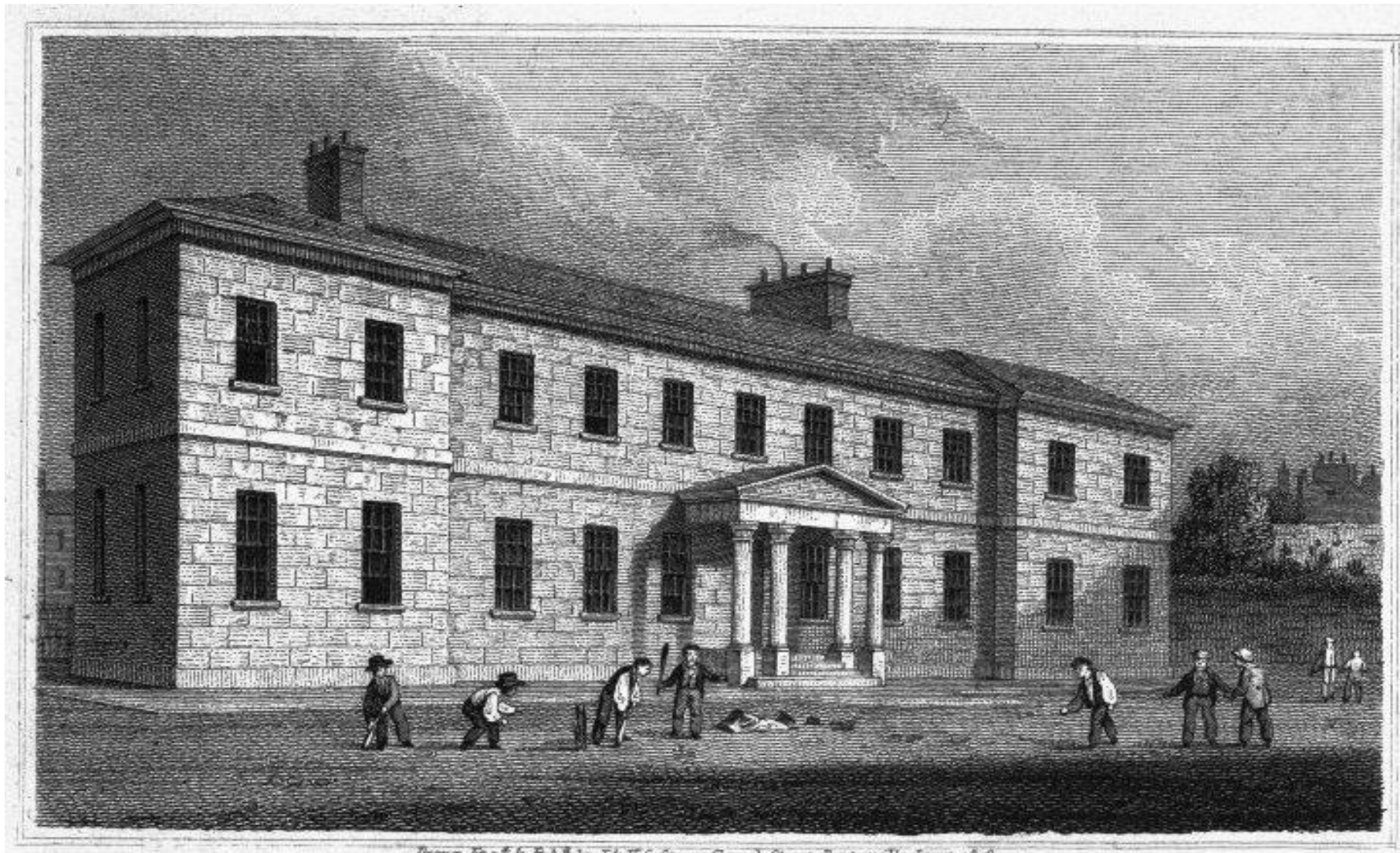
(National Records of Scotland)

Foot-Ball Club membership list, first season: 1824-25

Foot-Ball Club		1824-1825	
	£	s	d
John Hope	1	0	0
William Spens	1	0	0
Nathaniel Spens	1	0	0
Robert Cay	1	0	0
Allan Macnechie	1	0	0
Edmond Logan	1	0	0
Henry Logan	1	0	0
Henry Craigie	1	0	0
Crawford Tait	1	0	0
Thorburn	1	0	0
David Williamson	1	0	0
William Newbigging	1	0	0
Robert Newbigging	1	4	0
Patrick Riech	1	0	0
Thomas Spens	1	0	0
Carry for	1	2	6
	50		
Mr. Ren	1	2	6
Mr. Bruce	1	0	0
Edward Mitland 26	1	0	0
Thomas Palfour	1	0	0
John Newbigging	1	0	0
Lawrence Craigie	1	0	0
Walter McCulloch 5	1	0	0
David McCulloch	1	0	0
McDonald	1	0	0
Robert Allan	1	0	0
Robert Dennistoun 12	1	0	0
Archibald Lockburn 7	1	0	0
Witham 14	1	0	0
James Irvine 36	1	0	0
Webster 13	1	0	0
Carry for	2	5	0

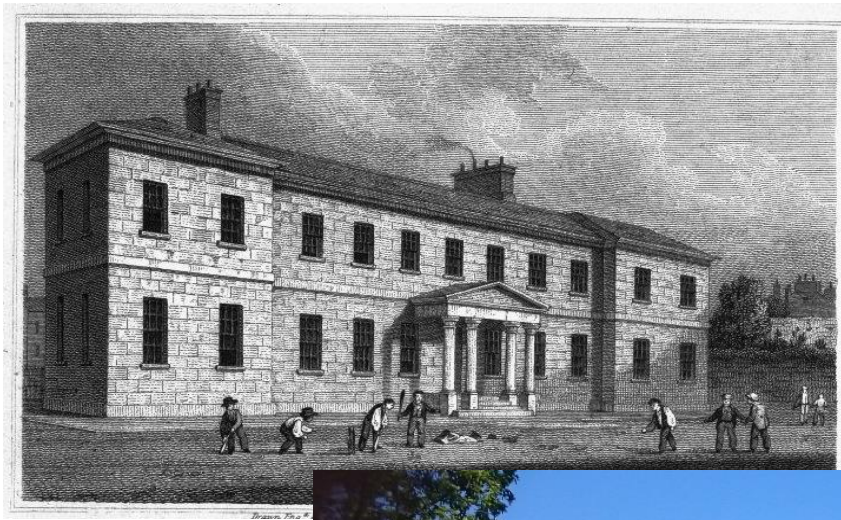
(National Records of Scotland)

The High School of Edinburgh in John Hope's time



Drawn Tho. & Co. Pub. by Tho. H. & Co. Street, Edinburgh. Engr. J. Storer. 1819.

(engraving by James Storer in 1819)



The High School of
Edinburgh in 1819

and as it
is today

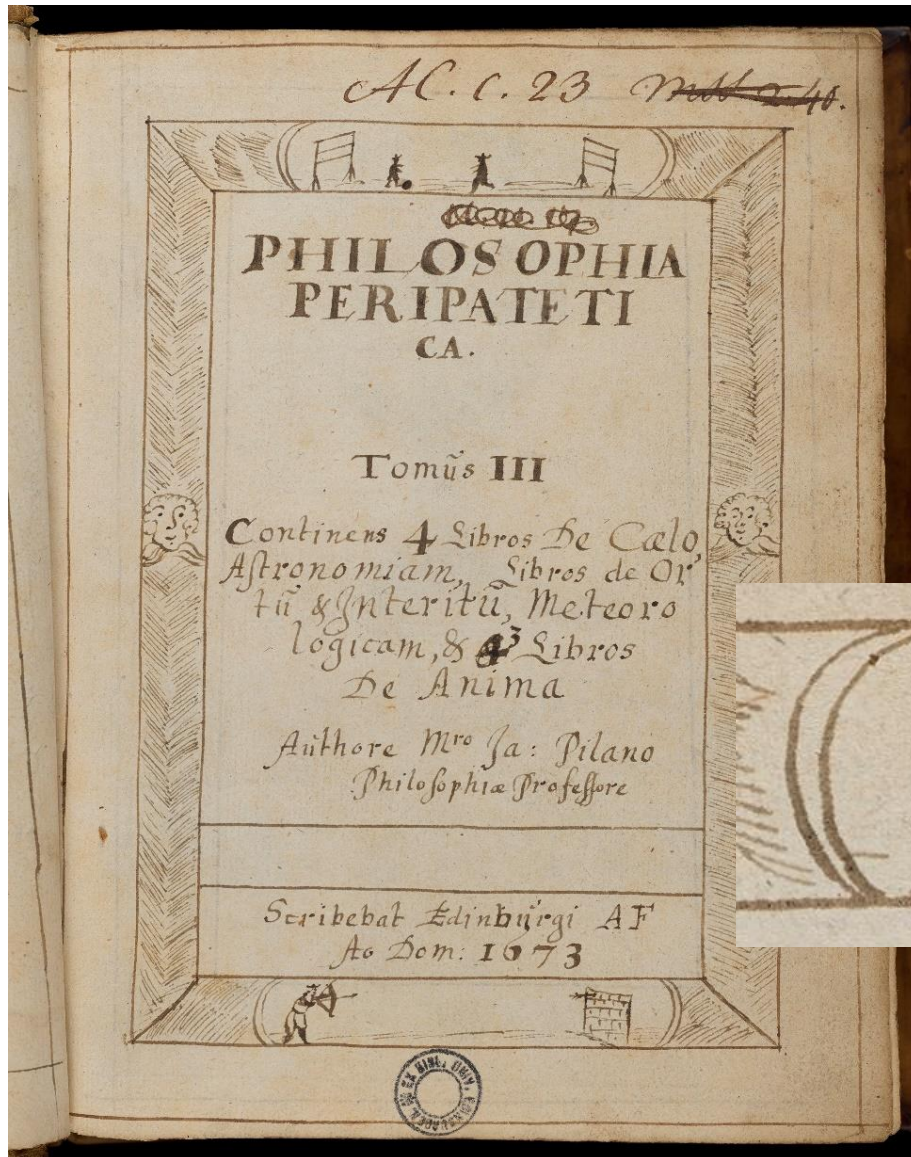


A typical High School boy in early 19th century



(Henry Cockburn, *Memorials of his Time*)

Earliest known illustration of football in Scotland



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



(Centre for Research Collections,
Edinburgh University Library)

Edinburgh's sporting 'world firsts'

Archery:

first club (1676, Royal Company of Archers)

Golf:

first club (1735, Burgess Golfing Society)

first rules (1744, Company of Gentlemen Golfers)

first trophy (1744, Edinburgh Silver Club)

Bowls:

first rules (1769, Edinburgh Society of Bowlers)

first trophy (1771, Edinburgh Silver Jack)

Gymnastics:

first club and trophy (1786, Gymnastic Club)

Curling:

first rules (1811, Duddingston)

first national association of clubs (1838, Caledonian Curling Club)

Edinburgh's football 'world firsts'

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

First rules (1833): written by John Hope

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

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

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

First international match (1871): Scotland v England (rugby rules)

Football on Calton Hill – part of everyday city life

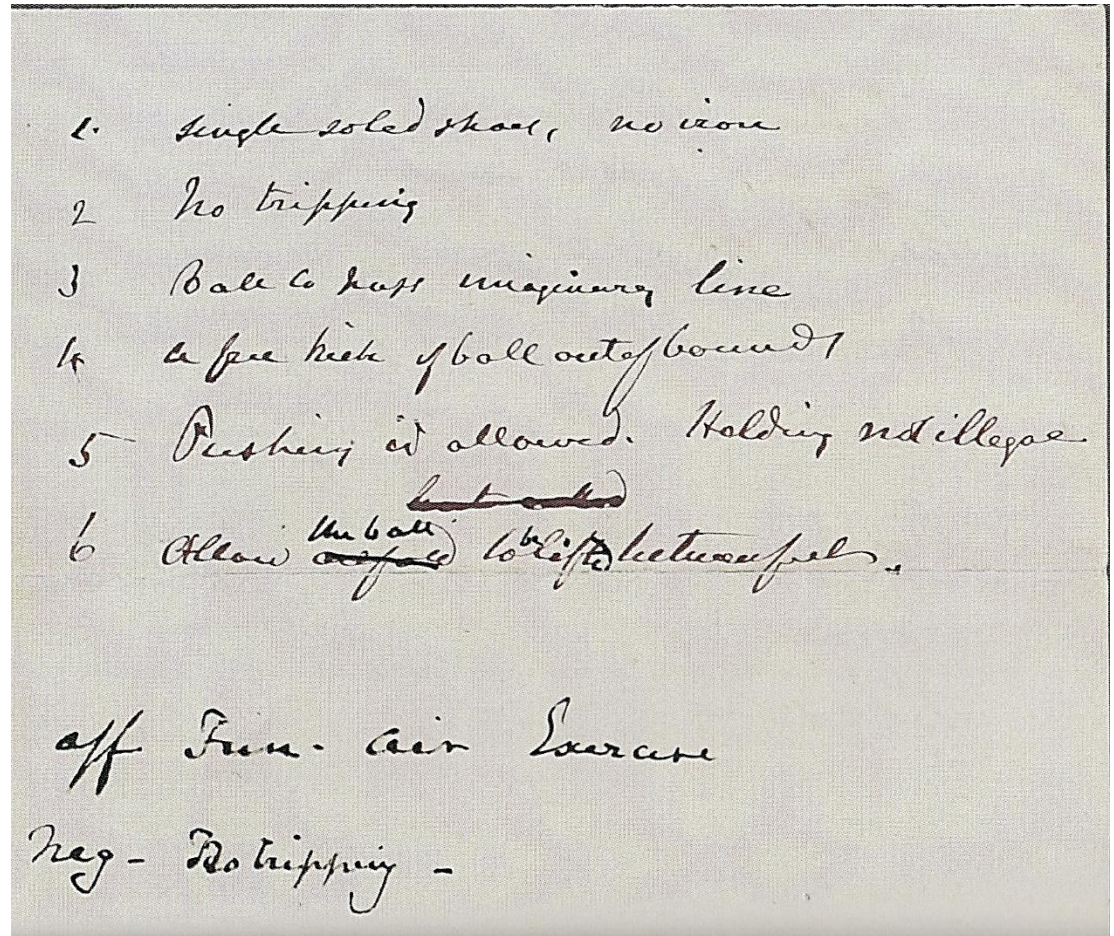


(from Macgill & Schenck's Panorama of Edinburgh, 1841)

John Hope's football rules, written in 1833

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

Aff: Fun - air - exercise
Neg: No tripping



How much did a football cost in 1831?

John Hope Esq

Nearly opposite 16. GEORGE STREET. S^t Andrews Church.

Edinburgh

Bought of J. Christie & Son.
Breeches Makers & Glovers.

1831					
Dec	1	1 Foot Ball	7/6 ^o	1 D ^o rep ^o	1/6
					" 8 6
1832					
Feb	24	1 D ^o D ^o	2/6	1 D ^o rep ^o	4/6 ^o
					" 4 "
Apr	6	1 D ^o rep ^o	6 ^o	9 th May	1 Foot Ball
					2/6
					" 3 "
	29	1 D ^o alt ^o	4/8 th June	1 Foot Ball	3/6
					" 4 6
		Bladder			
					" 1 " 6

20 July 1832
Paid John Christie

Receipt from James Christie & Son, George Street:
purchases and repairs for leather casings and bladders

Foot-Ball Club accounts in 1834:

3 bladders at 3d – 9d

6 laces at 1d – 6d

Tin pipe - 2d

Wire – 1d

8 bladders – 2s 3d

Oil – 3d

Cloth brush - 2s

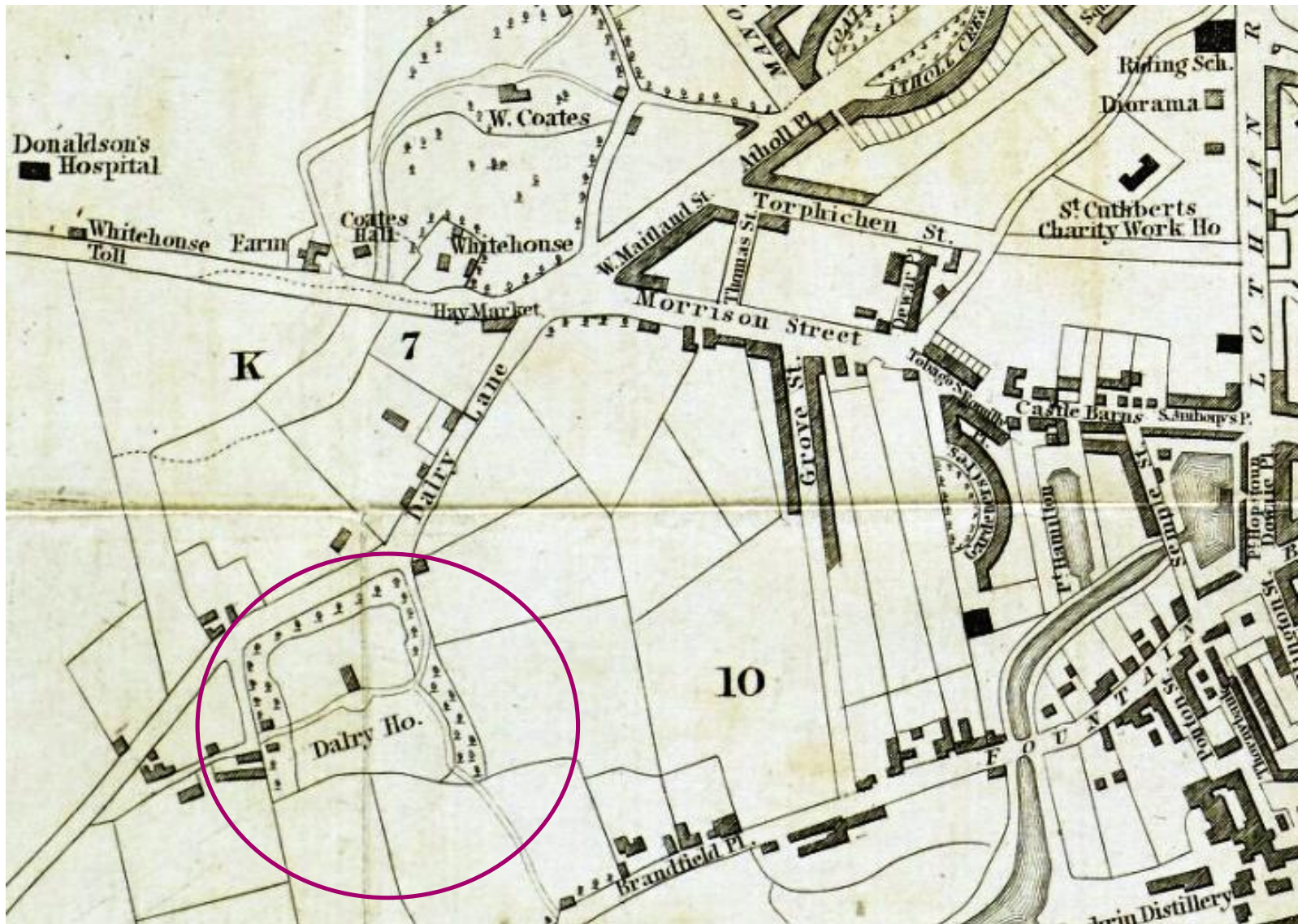
Moreen bag – 4s

...

1 bottle whisky – 1s 6d
(for bladders)

Expences of Foot Ball Club 1834				
1834	March 1	3 Bladders @ 3 ^d –		9
	"	6 laces @ 1 ^d –		6
	"	Tin pipe		2
	"	Wire		1
	8	8 Bladders	2	3
		Oil		3
		Cloth brush	2	
		Moreen bag & smoking ^{3/6}	4	
	26	3 bladders		11
	June 17	Paid Gow his disburse to the date		
		hung bladders 1s 14 ^d - 7/8 - 3/8		
		Moreen		
		1 bottle Whiskey for bladders 1.6	7	2
	"	There are 5 bladders on hand.		
	"	Attendance of Chairman sports		
		1 March to 30 April inclusive		
		hung 16 days at 1/6 per day –	1	4
	"	Gross rent for two months of		
		March and April	1	
		Entered in winter account.	3	2 1

The Foot-Ball Club's first field, near Dalry House



The Foot-Ball Club's first field, near Dalry House

Edinb 20th March 1826

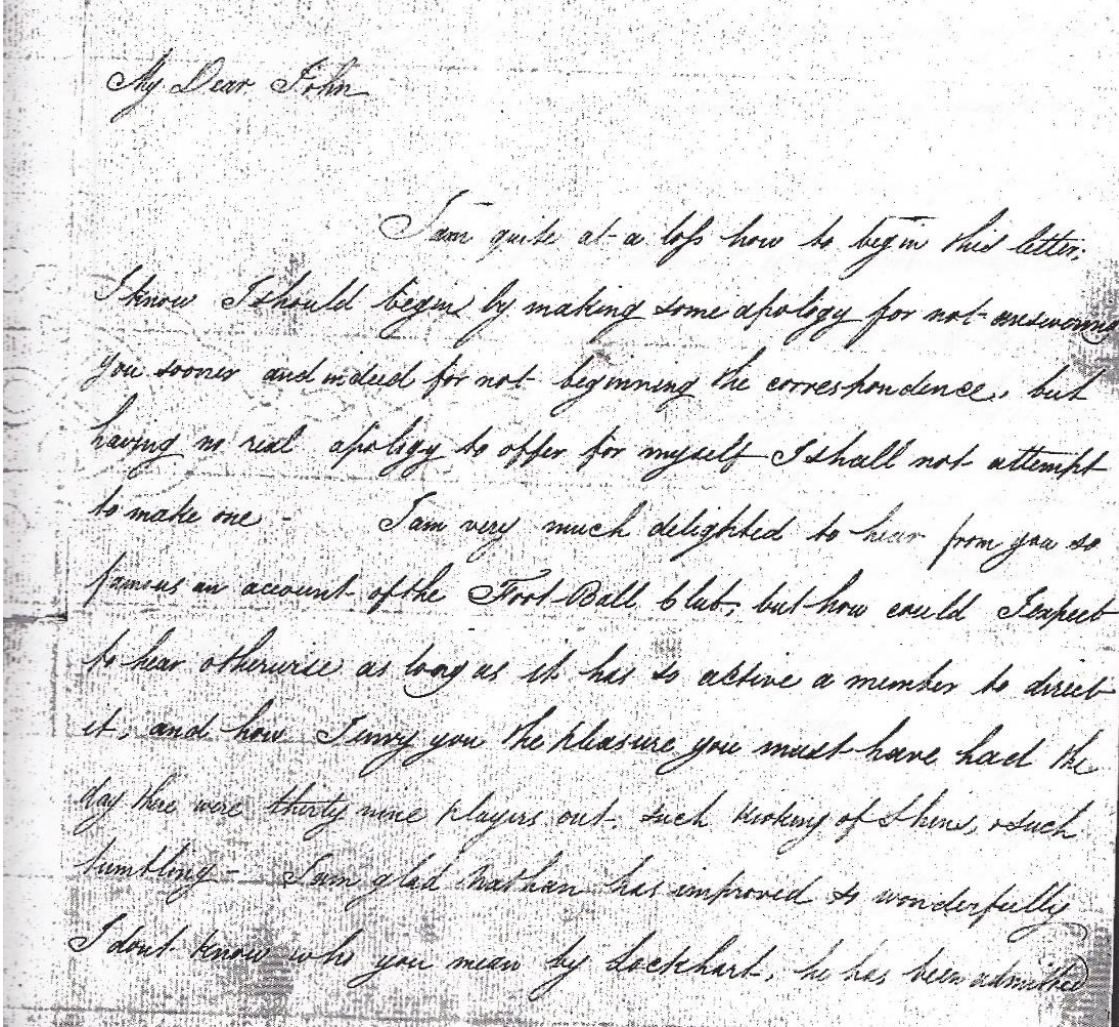
Received from Mr John Hope One pound one shilling & 4
as rent for shooting in Dalry Park last summer with
bow and arrow, and also received one pound one shilling & 4
as rent for playing foot ball in said park from
12th Nov^r 1825 to 12th March 1826

George Grieve

“Received from Mr John Hope, one pound one shilling as rent for shooting in Dalry Park last summer, also ... rent for playing foot ball in said park, Nov 1825 to March 1826.”

Letter to John Hope in 1825, from Henry Logan

“How I envy you the pleasure you must have had the day there were thirty-nine players out. Such kicking of shins & such tumbling.”



My Dear John

I am quite at a loss how to begin this letter. I know I should begin by making some apology for not answering you sooner and indeed for not beginning the correspondence, but having no real apology to offer for myself I shall not attempt to make one. I am very much delighted to hear from you so famous an account of the Foot-Ball club, but how could I expect to hear otherwise as long as it has so active a member to direct it, and how I envy you the pleasure you must have had the day there were thirty-nine players out, such kicking of shins, & such tumbling. I am glad Nathan has improved so wonderfully. I don't know who you mean by Seetchart, he has been admitted

Foot-Ball Club membership numbers

1824/25	61
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1825/26	77
---------	----

1826/27	84
---------	----

1827/28	72
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(no records 1828-31)

1831 summer	70
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1831/32	60
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Decline after 1832:

1832/33	30
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1834	27
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1836	26
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No further records

Club disbanded 1841

Foot-Ball Club membership register 1832-33

Subscription 6d or 3d

Foot Ball Club list		1832 1833	
	Surplus funds of last year	1	12
	John Hope 31 Moray Place	6	2
	Walter McCulloch 139 George St	6	
	James Mackenzie 29 Leith Road	6	
	Wm R Baulie 1 Nelson Street	6	
5	John Campbell 29 Heriot Row	6	
	William Hunt 13 Moray Place	6	
	James Hunt 13 Moray Place	3	
	George Hagarth 9 Manor Place	3	
	Thos Johnstone 37 Albany Street	3	
10	George Irving 27 Heriot Row	3	
	Scopus Macgarratt 3 Royal Circus	3	3
	Alex Ewing 16 Ainslie Place	3	
	Alex Wood Libberton Cottage	3	
	Edward George 5 South College St	3	
15	Wm Lawson, 2 Ellis Royal Terrace	3	
	Carry over	4	15

Membership addresses – solidly in the New Town

(addresses recorded only from 1831-36)

Melville Street (9);

Heriot Row (7);

Moray Place (6);

Albyn Place, Drummond Place, Forres Street,

Great King Street, Royal Terrace (4 each);

Ainslie Place, Albany Street, George Street,

Northumberland Street, Queen Street, Royal

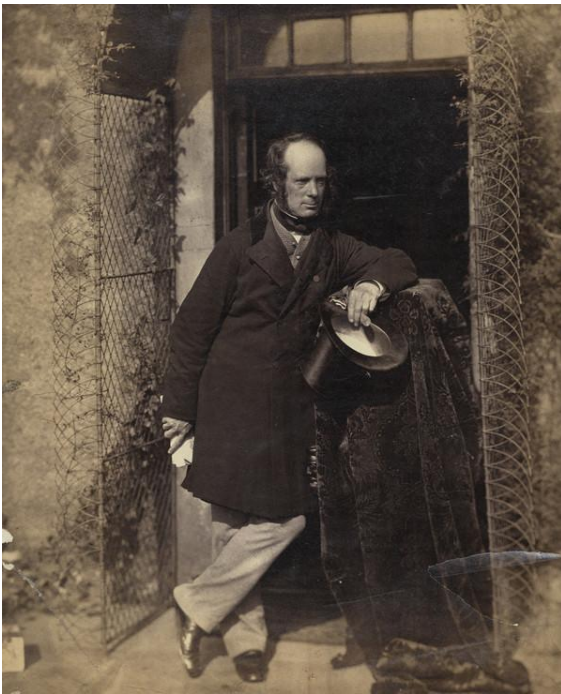
Circus, Walker Street (3 each);

Many more New Town addresses.

Others in Marchmont, Newington, Morningside and Inverleith, but *none* in Old Town.

The first footballers to be photographed?

James Moncreiff, Robert Dundas Cay and James Rannie Swinton



(National Library of Scotland)

James Moncreiff,
Foot-Ball Club
member 1832-33

and below, his son
Francis Moncreiff,
Scotland rugby
captain 1871



	Broughton	4	15	0
	George Ainslie 25 Hutcheson St		3	
	John Cook 25 Drummond Place		3	
	Thos Marjoribanks 4 Carlton Street		3	
	Samuel Mansel Baileys Rowina		0	0 0
20	Wm Campbell 29 West Lane		0	0 0
	James Moncreiff 47 Murray Place		3	
	Thos James Welsh Northumberland St		3	
	James Heron 8 Hope Street		3	
	John Spence 114 Drummond Place		3	
25	Benny Roy 22 Drummond Place (see above list)		0	0 0
	John Connell 54 Cumberland St		3	
	Wm Johnstone 37 Albany Street		3	
	Robert Johnstone 9 Walker Street		3	
	Blackwood Ainslie Place		3	
30	Wm Ross 8 Windmill Street		3	
		£	6	11 -

Charles Sharpe Kirkpatrick,
Foot-Ball Club member
1831-32

and below, his son
James Kirkpatrick,
Scotland captain 1870,
FA Cup winner 1878



Foot Ball Club List					
1831 1832					
	John Hope 31 Moray Place	A	6	20	Ke
	William Hunt 23 Moray Place	B	6		Me
	James Hope 31 Moray Place	A	6		Wm
	John Hunt 13 Moray Place	C	6		John
5	James Hunt 13 Moray Place	B	6		See
	Andrew Murray 34 Kent Road	B	3	25	Wm
	Wm Rob Baillie 1 Nelson Street	D	6		Re
	Robt Wardlaw 9 Albany Place	C	3		Re
	Gerard Wardlaw 9 Albany Place	C	3		Wm
10	James Wardlaw 9 Albany Place	C	3		Wm
	Walter McNeill 10 Jones Street	C	6	30	Re
	James James 26 St. Andrew Street	C	6		Re
	Charles Kirkpatrick Marchmont	C	6		Re
	Wm. McNeill 26 St. Andrew Street	C	6		Wm
15	Reuben MacRae 31 Abernethy Place	C	6		Re
	Robert Hamilton 28 Cumberland Street	C	6	35	Re
Carry over			4	4	

The world's first known
football prize:
the 1851 silver medal



(Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Museum,
Stirling Castle)

John Hope's Stockbridge Playground rules, 1854

RULES OF **THE PUBLIC PLAY-GROUND** AT **STOCKBRIDGE.**

THE ONLY ENTRANCE IS FROM RAEBURN PLACE.

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

1. HOURS WHEN OPEN.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Game of Foot-Ball is strongly recommended, as giving most exercise and fun in a short time. There must be no

kicking of shins, nor tripping—for these are apt to produce quarrels and hurts, and do not form part of the game. The ball is not “halled,” unless it is sent *between* the posts, by one of the side whose duty it is to send it through, and unless it touch the ground. If the ball is sent through by one of the other side, it is not “halled.” The ball should not be kicked out of bounds. When this occurs, it should be lifted up by the hand, and brought within bounds. The party thus lifting it, is entitled to a “free kick,” but the ball must not be lifted *by the hand* from the ground at any other time. The British League Cap, to distinguish sides, cost 2d, is recommended. ~~Beware of kicking the ball over the fences. Mr GRAY, saddler,~~ 18, South Hanover Street, can supply round cases of stout grain dressed shoe leather for 3s. 6d. each. They will be found cheapest in the end, and save bladders.

(National Records of Scotland)

John Hope's football rules of 1854

The Game of Foot-Ball is strongly recommended, as giving most exercise and fun in a short time. There must be no

kicking of shins, nor tripping—for these are apt to produce quarrels and hurts, and do not form part of the game. The ball is not “hailed,” unless it is sent *between* the posts, by one of the side whose duty it is to send it through, and unless it touch the ground. If the ball is sent through by one of the other side, it is not “hailed.” The ball should not be kicked out of bounds. When this occurs, it should be lifted up by the hand, and brought within bounds. The party thus lifting it, is entitled to a “free kick,” but the ball must not be lifted *by the hand* from the ground at any other time. The British League Cap, to distinguish sides, cost 2d, is recommended. Beware of kicking the ball over the fences. Mr GRAY, saddler, 18, South Hanover Street, can supply round cases of stout grain dressed shoe leather for 3s. 6d. each. They will be found cheapest in the end, and save bladders.

(National Records of Scotland)

Rugby football: Edinburgh hosts the first international



INTERNATIONAL FOOT-BALL MATCH AT EDINBURGH

Scotland v England at Raeburn Place, 27 March 1871

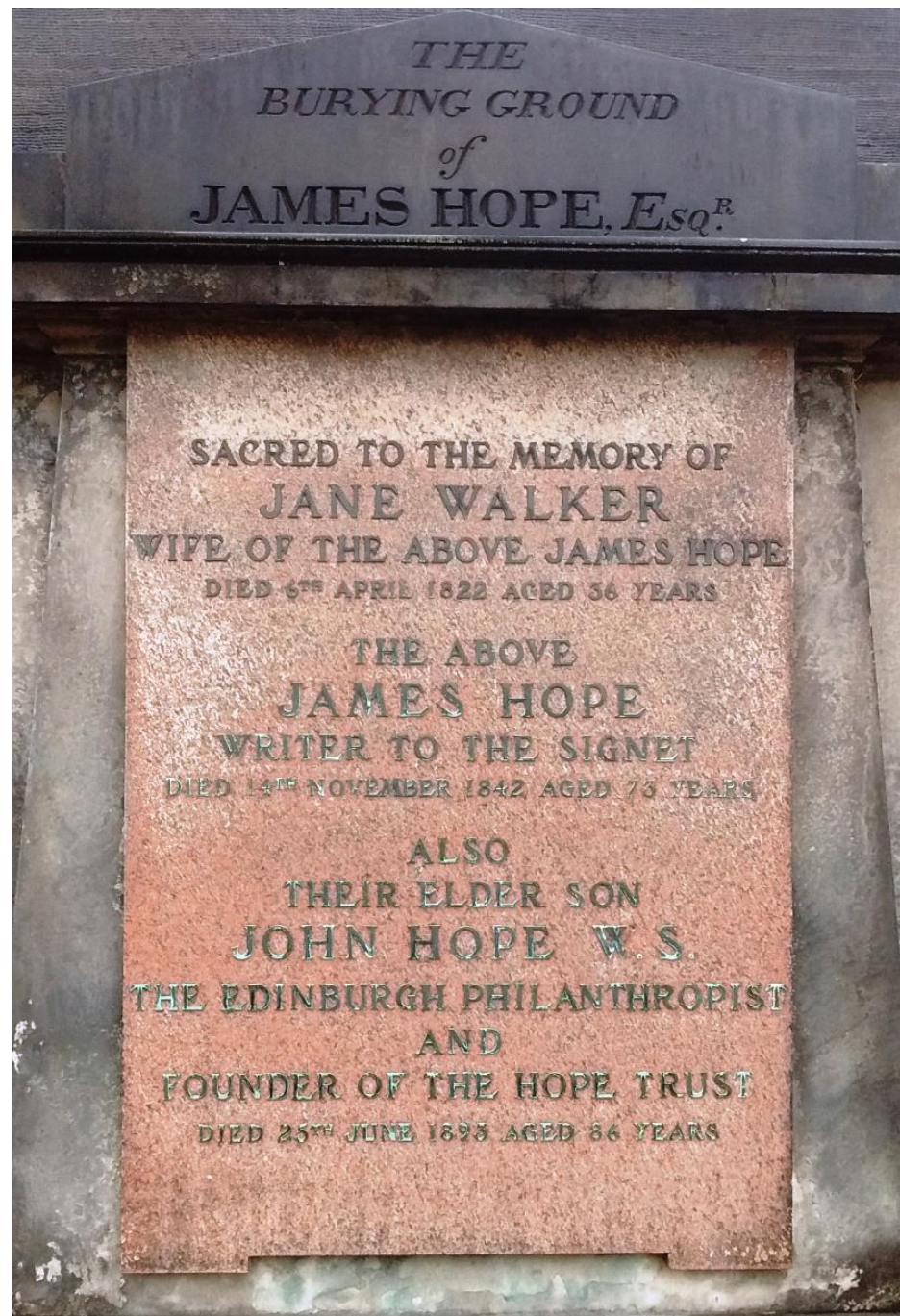
Edinburgh's first association football club: The 3rd Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers



Regiment founded by John Hope in 1860; football club founded in 1874

‘The Edinburgh Philanthropist’

John Hope died in 1893:
his grave is in Greyfriars
Kirkyard, where he is
buried with his parents



1824: The story of the World's First Foot-Ball Club

*by John Hutchinson
and Andy Mitchell*

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scottishsporthistory.com**

Or £10 here tonight!

