

FIFTY YEARS  
OF THE  
Kilmarnock Football Club.

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1869-1919.

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Kilmarnock :  
"Standard" Printing Works.  
1919.



# Fifty Years

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BY AN OLD PLAYER.

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FIFTY years is a long time to look back upon, and the Kilmarnock Football Club, having withstood the vicissitudes of life for that period, the thought suggested itself to the writer that the history of the club ought to be chronicled in some shape or form. Naturally, a task of that nature involves the raking up of old manuscript. In another respect I have been indebted to some of the early founders of the club for much of the pioneer work that is recorded here. In sketching the history of the club one may say with almost perfect certainty that the narrative is the story of the rise and development of sport, not only in Kilmarnock but in Ayrshire. Old-time veterans tell of the glorious times they had when the Fastene'en races used to be held in "Killie," and run in this self-same Rugby Park, known then as Wards Park, and such names as Dunn of Alton, Brown of Gargieston, the Sawyer, Wee Whitehead from Mearns, etc., etc., are handed down as past giants of the



turf; but there is really nothing in touch with the present times till somewhere in the sixties we find young Kilmarnock playing cricket on a pitch (now entirely built upon) in the vicinity of the St. Andrew's Parish Church. An outlet had to be made for the superabundance of energy which oppressed these sturdy cricketers when their favourite pastime was over for the season, and this outlet they contrived to find in the year 1869 in the institution of our old friend, the Kilmarnock Football Club. This brings us down to our noble selves, or rather our noble predecessors, and both fact and inclination go together in establishing the truth that in these days they were a gay lot and no mistake. Their modesty and the simplicity of management have lost to the world a record which, to say the least, would have been amusing. This much is recorded, that if they had only one Secretary they had plenty of Treasurers, as every man paid his own expenses, and the smoking members were looked to as covering standing charges. The first ground was the one presently occupied—Rugby Park—playing then at right angles to the present pitch, with the present South Hamilton Street, trees and all, in the centre of the ground. The club started under Rugby rules, and to that fact the ground owes its name. Some of the old members used to speak in glowing terms of the celerity with which they could disrobe an opponent, and the further imperiments which they carried out on said opponents' passion were, they say, all carried out in the most humane principles. There was much difficulty at this time in getting fixtures, the almost entire absence of opposition compelling them to go towards Paisley or Glasgow, there being no club within playing distance south of Kilmarnock.



The drawing popularity of the Association game, and the strong representations of the Queen's Park, induced the Kilmarnock boys to take to the new game. As a fitting sequence the opening match was with the Queen's Park, the result of which is not recorded, but we may take it that Kilmarnock did not win or even draw their initial encounter, and that the auspicious event was celebrated afterwards in smoke and pewter. That match took place on Grange Park, where the club had shifted owing to the unsuitability of Rugby Park for Association football, and the late ex-captain Bob Rankin used to tell with great gusto the story of negotiating for that field. When the deputation approached the old farmer to get playing thereon, he at once said, "Hoot aye, lads, play awa'. I think the grass is a' the better of being trampit a bit." The present of a bag of meal as compensation for any damage done extorted from the old man that "thae fitba' players were fine laddies." At a later period the club returned to the same field, but the farmer had altered his opinion of them as grass mowers, as he charged them eight pounds for rent and no meal. Talking of introductory football, a story is told of a recognised football team visiting another place where the game had recently been inaugurated, and by way of keeping down expense the secretary of the club visited refereed the game. The contest had barely run ten minutes' course when one of the visiting team was attracted by the unusual number of the opposition. Approaching the referee he enlightened him of the fact that there were twelve players on the other side. The answer was quick and true. "Well, what can I do? They are all members." I do not suggest that



this story has any reference to the opening of Grange Park, which was practically the introduction of Association Football into Kilmarnock. Meanwhile the cricketers had got located in the Holm Quarry, now the seat of the Kilmarnock Corporation, which would be about the year 1876, and the football lot joined them, playing both games in rotation with the greatest harmony till an unfortunate dispute about the allocation of the rent led to a rupture between the two sections. The cricketing lot, viewing the growing popularity of football as an asset of theirs, wanted to put on as much rent on it as would let them practically sit rent free. The footballers could not see it, and the lease being in the hands of the cricketers the Kilmarnock Football Club returned to the Grange field before mentioned. The other party, determined to have a goose with the golden egg, got together a number of players, whom they launched before the public as the Kilmarnock Cricket and Football Club. The Association thought this title too similar to that of their allies, and then it was named the Kilmarnock Athletic. Under this title it achieved great fame and distinction for several seasons, but, like Poor Paddy, the "rint" killed them, and it died a natural death somewhere about 1886. The old ashes were rekindled some years later by a club bearing the same name and housed on the same Holm Quarry, but by this time the Kilmarnock club had established itself in the hearts of the people, and although the second edition of the Athletic weathered the storms for some time they were forced to give up the ghost many years ago.

The Scottish Football Association was formed about 1873, and it is worthy of note that Kilmarnock took part in the first cup



competition, and have since regularly competed year after year. During the Kilmarnock's tenure of the Grange their fortunes were chequered indeed. As a band of noble warriors they were second to none, but as footballers they were second to almost anything that could be induced to meet them. To have seen them coming from a match it would have taken a very funny man to have told whether they had won or lost. They had a superstition about hospitality, and exercised the various rites connected therewith with due fulness if not solemnity. As to funds there was none. If train fares were required, those who had gave to those who had not. As to property, the dressing room was the canopy of heaven and the pavilion the nearest hedge, and it is said emphatically that they were happy. About this time quite a number of the old members were either on or ready for the shelf. Messrs. James and Tom Ferguson, Peter and Dan Brown, Bob Hamilton, David Sturrock, George Paxton, Frank Reid, J. M. Lipscombe, James Dickie, J. Railton, etc., etc., being all reduced to smoking members. The most conspicuous of the old lot remaining at this time were Bob Rankin, J. B. Wilson, and Dan Gilmour, who had also wrought himself into the first eleven. The latter used to tell a story of his playing days, when it was no unusual thing during the course of a game at Rugby Park for the players to stop for a few minutes, mount the barricade, and have a peep at the play on Hamilton Park, the ground of the Portland Club, which adjoined Rugby Park, and where all interest seemed to be centred. That only goes to illustrate what a struggle the Kilmarnock Club had to overcome, but later their perseverance was to be rewarded. To fill up the vacancies the St.



Andrews joined in a body, the best known members being Bob and Bailie Miller, Bill Andrews, Bob Cumming, and the Danie man. Later the Hawthorn came to the rescue with some excellent recruits, amongst whom were Sanny Hamilton, Allan Burnett, Jebb Wark, etc., and we are also introduced to Robert Russell (the "Cutler") at this period. He had been prominent in second eleven circles, having captained a successful Athletic team, and some dispute having arisen at the Holm Quarry Mr. Gilmour was not slow to recognise that such an organiser would be a valuable asset in running a reserve team at Rugby Park. And Mr. Russell came, saw, and conquered, for he may claim the credit of being the only remaining link of the past with the present still retaining an interest in the daily deliberations of the Club as a member of the Board of Directors. Rugby Park was again requisitioned, and to be abreast of the times a brand new clubhouse, designed by R. S. Ingram, architect, was erected, the field roped and staked, and by sundry arrangements at gate suggested to the public that they should pay for the privilege of witnessing the really friendly struggles inside. The pitch was then east of South Hamilton Street, somewhere in Charles Street there. About 1877 Messrs. Rankin, Wilson, and Wallace had all retired from the field, Wilson dropping the game after having had his arm broken, the other two being now President and Chancellor of the Exchequer respectively. Old Bob, as Rankin was familiarly called, by his many friends, was in his day a prince of goalkeepers, and the most genial and warm-hearted comrade the Kilmarnock Club ever had. One of his jokes at goal is worth repeating. During the course of a match



darkness had set in, and as the referee in those days would have thought it sacrilege to stop a match for a mere matter of light, it was of course fought out to a finish. The Kilmarnock were pressing, when their opponents made a break through the backs, and Rankin, realising that it meant a certain goal for them, dropped out to between the goalpost and the corner flag, and shouted so lustily to his backs that the opposing forwards made straight for him and shot harmlessly past. When the trick was discovered there was a mixture of laughter and bad language. Poor Bob kept in close touch with the club till 1881, when he left for Australia, where he is now gathered to his fathers. Before leaving this genuine and whole-hearted personality let me say that the Rugby Park club owes much to Bob Rankin, for he was one of a few who, by their zeal and enthusiasm, kept the club together when adversity was more pronounced than success.

John Wallace, a clever forward, and possibly the founder of the club, was another who did much to bring about the success of the club and the game in Ayrshire. He it was, with the assistance of the late Mr. Dick, the then Secretary of the Scottish Football Association, organised the first great match with electric light in Ayrshire, making a record gate at the time. The Portland were Kilmarnock's opponents, and the game took place on Rugby Park, Portland winning by 3 goals to 1. The late "Bailie" Miller finished his career in this game, being permanently disabled as far as football was concerned. It was about this time that the athletic sports were started, Messrs. Wallace and Gilmour laying off the present Rugby Park track. Perhaps, how-



ever, the biggest job was the floating of the Ayrshire Association in 1876, the last-named pair of gentlemen taking the contract practically single-handed, getting in direct subscriptions, benefit matches, etc., until they were able to hand over to Ayrshire footballers the most handsome trophy of its kind in existence, the cost of which is reputed to be close on £100. In 1880 we find Mr. Wallace the recipient of a presentation gold watch on the occasion of his retiral from his club duties and a purse of sovereigns from the Ayrshire Association.

Four years later he followed his clubmate, Bob Rankin, to Australia, where he was located in Sydney for many years. He twice revisited the scenes of his former triumphs, and was testimonialised by the Ayrshire Association on one of these visits. It was singular that he should see the consummation of his arduous duties by the Kilmarnock Club winning the Ayrshire Cup for the first time just on the eve of his departure for foreign shores. John Wallace died in Sydney in 1917, and to the older generation will be best remembered for the part he played not only in the Kilmarnock club circles, but in Ayrshire generally. And with the departure of John Wallace, Dan Gilmour may be credited with the distinction of being the last of the original stock who had laboured ungrudgingly amid much discouragement yet with much pleasure.

Talking of bygone days, I can recall an incident in one of Kilmarnock's away matches. It was a boisterous day, with snow and sleet falling intermittently, and some of the players, assuming that the game was likely to be off, failed to put in an appearance, and the party only numbering eleven all told, umpire included (linesmen



had not materialised at this date), there was nothing for it but that the official would have to turn out. Enshrined in a jersey for the first time, and although possessed of a good knowledge of the game theoretically, the eleventh hour substitute found it a different matter when it came to practicability, and needless to say he floundered about heedless of man or ball that he kicked, and with the atmospheric conditions still bad the position of the debutant was no sinecure. The attention of the referee had been called by some of the opposing players to his dangerous tackets. Approaching him the referee said in a stern attitude, "Look here, young man, if you persist in that rough work, I will order you off the field," which brought the prompt and ready reply of the player, "I wish to God you would."

Patience and long-suffering had at last been rewarded by Kilmarnock winning the Ayrshire Cup for the first time in 1884, and their local rivals, Athletic and Portland, had found out the difficulty of carrying a full purse, for with Kilmarnock's success they practically put up the shutters a year or two later and in a manner literally died together. Robert Norval succeeded John Wallace as Club Secretary, to be followed by John Dunlop.

In 1882 that well known humorist, William Munro, filled the post for the first time, and for many years afterwards he occupied a prominent position in the affairs of the club. He shared with Mr. Gilmour the philanthropic spirit, these two gentlemen often coming to the help of the club in the more impecunious days. He also acted as President for two seasons, and retired from active management in 1892, after having seen the fruits of his labours marked by a run of successes by the



club. Having once tasted the sweets of victory the club created a record by annexing the Ayrshire Cup three years in succession, and at the same time establishing a claim for a high and honourable position in Scottish football, which they have worthily maintained. Having also won the Kilmarnock Charity Cup for the first time in 1884, several of the old lights retired from the game, amongst whom may be mentioned Wark, Burnett, Allan, and George Black, the latter of whom was destined to take an important part afterwards in the management of the club, acting as Match Secretary for many years. The retiral of several of the older lights meant the securing of fresh blood, but with the help of Bobby Russell's reserve stock in the second eleven and from other sources a new team was practically launched on the field, and one that the older generation can recall with pardonable pride. It was captained by none other than that well known townsman, Sanny Dunn, or as some of his football friends used to call him, viz., "Dandy Son," and such names as Richmond, Porteous, Mitchell, Taylor, Smith, Higgins, M'Ginnis, and M'Pherson will give one an idea of the stuff that represented Rugby Park between the years of 1885 and 1888. Kilbirnie accounted for Kilmarnock in the Ayrshire Cup in 1888, but they won the Ayr Charity Cup by defeating Ayr in the Auld Toon by 5 goals to 1, and a dispute with the Kilmarnock Charity Cup trustees denied them the pleasure of contesting the final with Hurlford, as rather than submit to the committee's ruling they refused to play, and the trophy was presented to Hurlford.

It was a great season for the club had achieved fame in their dealings with Edinburgh Hibernian, Renton, and Preston North



End. The latter, then in the zenith of their fame, visited Rugby Park with such stars as Ross, Russell, Graham, Goodall, Dewhurst, etc., and after a delightful exhibition of football were defeated by 4 goals to 1. The record for that season is worth recording, viz., won 27, lost 6, drawn 7, goals scored 159, goals lost 53. The following season—1888-1889—a new team had to be rebuilt, for a wholesale migration took place about this period, Smith, Higgins, M'Pherson, M'Ginnis, and Mitchell having all left for other quarters, while later Porteous also crossed the Border. This proved a barren season, and little wonder. Kilbirnie were a sore thorn in the flesh that season, defeating them in the Scottish and Ayr and Kilmarnock Charity Cup competitions, while Hurlford accounted for them in the Ayrshire Cup after two drawn games. About this time the playing stock was replenished at the expense of the junior clubs—Thistle, Rangers, and Victoria—with such well-known exponents as Bummer Campbell, Andrew Campbell, Tommy Lyle, John Brodie, John Johnstone, James Gray, John Porter, etc.; but nothing of note is recorded till 1891, when they again won the Ayrshire Cup by rather unexpectedly defeating Hurlford by 7 goals to 1. This may be fittingly labelled Kelvin's final, for the fleet-footed left winger scored five of the goals. Other notables in that game were Hunter, Orr, Campbell, Johnstone, M'Pherson, and Tannahill. The following season—1891-1892—a good team represented the club, as witness their three games with Rangers in the Scottish Cup, the Glasgow side ultimately winning at Paisley by 4-3. Annbank unexpectedly accounted for them in the Ayrshire Cup played at Rugby Park in a snowstorm, but they defeated Hurlford



in the Kilmarnock Charity final and took second place in the Alliance competition which had just been inaugurated that season. William Guthrie was then looking after the secretarial duties, George Black still retaining the Match Secretaryship, and we are also introduced to Charles Smith at this period, he having come from the ranks of the Shawbank F.C. to undertake the Secretaryship of the second eleven, a post which entitled him to a seat in the committee.

The least said about the next season the better, for it ranks as one of the worst in the history of the club. Robert Russell resigned the Treasurership, a position he had held successfully for many seasons, and a too big importation of new faces into the committee did not make for success. The fate of the new executive, however, was made difficult by the loss of several players—M'Pherson, Paterson, Brodie, Paterson, Orr, Kirkwood, Smith, and Tannahill—and the season ended with 12 games won, 23 lost, 7 drawn, goals scored 91, goals lost 119. It was in this season that Robert H. Thomson first made his bow as a football legislator, and, like some of his predecessors, he seems destined for a long and honourable record. The next two seasons there was nothing of outstanding importance, Kilmarnock defeating Annbank in the Kilmarnock Charity final, Annbank having previously accounted for them in the Ayrshire competition. That season marks the advent of professionalism into Scottish football, the powers that be at Carlton Place having decided to put themselves on a level with England by openly paying the players. Ayrshire was also favoured for the first time with the Welsh International, the game taking place on Rugby Park in March, 1894, John John-



stone being the sole Ayrshire representative on the Scottish side.

Season 1895 was noteworthy for an Ayrshire cupless final. Kilmarnock and Annbank, having reached the final stage and being dissatisfied with the Association's verdict as to the venue, decided to play off for the championship on Rugby Park, which Annbank won by 4 goals to 1 after a drawn game. Kilmarnock finished up season 1896 in glorious fashion, having defeated Galston in the Ayrshire Cup final by the record score of 7 goals to 2, and also the Kilmarnock Charity Cup with a 1 goal to 0 victory over Parkhouse. They were also competitors in the Second League competition for the first time, and finished third on the table. It was in that season that James Taylor and Charles Smith were courted from the ranks of the Kilmarnock Athletic to take up the positions of Secretary and Match Secretary respectively, and it marks the era of a big turn of events in the history of the club. The latter used to tell a story of his junior days. Visited many years after his playing days were over by an old clubmate who had come down in his luck, and after the benevolent hand had been duly bestowed the conversation turned on bygone days. "What about the football photo.?" queried Mr. Smith. "Oh, it's gone also." "What! You don't mean to say it's there also?" "Yes. You are all in at eightpence. But what's the use of grumbling; you'll be redeemed."

The first achievement during season 1896-1897 was the capture of the Scottish Qualifying Cup by the defeat of Motherwell by 4 goals to 1 at Hampden Park. That same season they worked themselves into the Scottish Cup semi-final, going down to



Dumbarton by 4-3 at Boghead, and their overthrow in the Ayrshire Cup final by their townsmen Athletic, while thoroughly merited, could be partially attributed to the big strain on the players who had been very much overwrought in the various competitions. Next year — 1897-1898 — makes interesting reading, and probably ranks as the best season the club ever had. The introduction of such promising players as George Anderson, Bobby Muir, David Maitland, William Reid, and Bobby Findlay, with such experienced players as Robert Brown, David M'Pherson, Bummer Campbell, and John Johnstone, all went to produce an eleven of exceptional merit as these records show:—Won the Second League championship, the Ayrshire and Kilmarnock Charity Cups, also played the Scottish Cup final, Rangers beating them by 2 goals to 0. The record that season is worth recording. Won 34, lost 7, drawn 2, goals scored 170, goals lost 74. The players underwent a little special training at a hydro that season, which I believe was an inauguration so far as a Scottish club was concerned. 1898-1899 found the team again taking a prominent position in Scottish football, as the Second League championship was again annexed without the loss of a game, and the Ayrshire and Kilmarnock Charity Cups were also won. St. Mirren accounted for them in the Scottish Cup, a game that will be memorable for the introduction of "Daddler" Aitken, Newcastle United, a player who was afterwards to take a prominent position in International football. James Howie also figured in that game, that being his first season with Kilmarnock. Promotion came at the end of that season by the inclusion of Kilmarnock in the Scottish League (First Division), and they were able to finish in a



very respectable position, and for the third year in succession they were able to retain their hold on the Ayrshire and Kilmarnock Charity Cups.

To meet the requirements of the increasing attendances at matches Rugby Park was made thoroughly up to date, with a large covered stand and the playing pitch slightly enlarged. An old and faithful servant in the person of Bummer Campbell was honoured with a splendid benefit match (amongst the first in Scotland). Celtic provided the opposition, and the recipient benefited to the extent of close on £120. It was during the early part of this season that Bobby Findlay sustained a knee injury against St. Bernards, and although he played for some years afterwards, he never seemed the same, for Findlay in his day was one of the strongest shots I ever saw. Talking of Findlay reminds me of a story he used to tell against himself. It concerned a juvenile friendly game on Howard Park. Proceeding towards Rugby Park one evening he was attracted by two teams emerging from the pavilion, and lessening his step he was asked to referee the contest. Reluctant at first he latterly consented. Play had proceeded for half an hour, and during that brief period Bobby had more than realised that refereeing was not all milk and honey. At this stage the ball had been kicked into the river, and during the time they were endeavouring to get it out the Internationalist saw his opportunity for a hasty retreat, of which he availed himself, leaving the contestants to find another referee with the return of the ball.

Season 1900-1901 marks a change in the personnel of the team, the passing of such well known and long service men as Bummer Campbell, Jocky Johnstone, Robert Brown,



William Reid, Tom Busby, and Robert Findlay representing a breach that was difficult to replace. However, Hugh Morton, John Wyllie, William Agnew, and James Mitchell came along about this period, and in the case of the latter I think he may fairly claim with his 19 years' service a record for the club, if not for Scottish football.

The double games in the Ayrshire Cup, which had been recently introduced, practically put Kilmarnock out of the running for that trophy, for the League competition would not permit of any interference with their authorised fixtures. The sequence was the playing of a reserve eleven for the county cup, and although they twice managed to reach the final they have never since won the trophy. The Kilmarnock Charity Cup was again won that season, with fifth place on the League table. Celtic accounted for us at Parkhead in the Scottish Cup.

1901-1902 found Kilmarnock occupying a good place in the League campaign, but beyond the loss of James Howie, who shifted his quarters to Bristol, and the resignation of Charles Smith from the Match Secretaryship, who was at that time promoted to the Vice-Presidentship, there is nothing of note to mention. It would be useless going into details of the doings of the club from then up to the present, for these must be fresh in the memories of present followers. Suffice to say many good players have come and gone in the interval, a few of the more prominent as they occur to me are:—David Howie, George Halley, Willie Banks, Tom Findlay, James Maxwell, Andrew Cunningham, etc., etc.

In the League competition it has been an up and down fight, and more than once the good influences of some of the older officials



have stood them in good stead when it came to a vote for retention. Fortunately that has not obtained often, and Kilmarnock are enjoying their nineteenth season as First Division members without a break. Much might be written in another light, notably the severance of old connections. Business reasons took James Taylor to Preston in 1903, and he was the recipient of a splendid testimonial from his many football friends before leaving.

In 1902 Daniel Gilmour, after a long and honourable run, resigned from the Presidency, but was added at that time to the list of Honorary Presidents, and continued to be officially connected till 1906, when the flotation of the club altered the constitution. Dan, as he was familiarly known by his football friends, could tell some great tales of his long connection with the club, and although in later years he was unable to take the same interest, he nevertheless could congratulate himself on having sown the seeds of what has turned out a healthy and vigorous plant. He first played for the club, and even then he was doing much in an unostentatious way for these were pecuniary days, and someone had to see to the "carry on" principles. The record President saw the club through its bad days, and it must be a source of gratification to him to see it so comfortably housed and situated. He still takes more than a passing interest at Rugby Park, as was evidenced at the recent jubilee celebrations held in October, 1918, when a tablet, erected in the Board Room at Rugby Park, bearing the past Presidents' names, was unveiled by Mr. Gilmour, who in return was presented with a tangible memento to mark the interesting occasion, and as Mr. Smith remarked in handing over the gift, so



long as there is a Kilmarnock club, the name of Daniel Gilmour will be associated with it.

Season 1905 marked the resignation of Robert L. Thomson, President, and James Munn, Treasurer, a couple of gentlemen who had given a lot of valuable service to the club in more than one capacity, while another notable, in the person of George Black, Vice-President, who had played for the club, acted as Match Secretary and Vice-President, quietly retired from active participation after an honourable connection of over twenty years' standing.

In 1906 the club, in common with prevailing practise in Scottish League circles, was floated under the Limited Companies Act, with the following seven directors:— Charles Smith, Robert Russell, Alexander Gibson, John Greenway, George Bell, Robert Dunlop, and John King.

In 1910 the club was again favoured with the Welsh International, a tribute to the influence of Alexander Gibson, who was then representing the club in the Scottish Council, and who bids fair to create a record for long service at Carlton Place, for although the fields of Flanders has engaged his attention these past three years he is still the accredited Kilmarnock representative in the S.F.A. The match was won by Scotland by 1-0, and was noteworthy for the total eclipse of Meredith by the Kilmarnock representative, Mitchell. Kilmarnock continued to maintain a respectable position in the intervening years without setting the heather on fire, till 1914, when a scheme involving the outlay of close on £1600 was engaged upon. It consisted of a big addition to each end of the stand, new dressing and bathrooms underneath, and other necessary offices. The improvements were just commenced



when the sound of war started, but the job was gone through, the contracts having all been previously arranged, and now completed Rugby Park comes into line with the more pretentious city rivals, and it can certainly claim to rank as the most modern and up to date provincial enclosure.

In this undertaking a word of praise is due Mr. R. D. Tannahill (Rugby Park, Ltd., Secretary), who, always keen to the improvements on Rugby Park, was heart and soul with the club directors in their efforts to make the ground a thing of beauty as well as of adaptability.

The present directors, who were responsible for the undertaking, and who had ample encouragement and help from Mr. R. D. Tannahill, of Rugby Park, Ltd., and the Club Secretary, James Macdonald, have just cause to feel "unco prood" of their picturesque enclosure. The war brought many changes, the loss of players, cancellation of cup tie football, and Internationals. Notwithstanding, it is gratifying to find Kilmarnock occupying an excellent position in the League competition during these years of stress and strain.

War ravages have dealt severely with the club, amongst others two very promising lads in the person of Alexander M'Curdie and David Slimmon (Military Medalist) having made the supreme sacrifice. At home a well-known and respected player, Alexander Goldie, was cut off by pneumonia in 1918, just at the commencement of a promising career, and regret is also expressed for Walter Rutherford who met with a serious accident against Dumbarton, which threatens to preclude his activities as a footballer again. Illness and other causes have been contributory to misfortune



in the season just drawing to a close (1919), but withal the club are likely to finish in a respectable position. With a splendidly adapted enclosure and practically financially sound, the outlook for future years looks uncommonly well. The return of absent directors and players should also add to the future prosperity. There may have been one or two names omitted who have served the club well in the past, a fact that recalls the late Andrew Alexander, who acted as Treasurer in a prosperous era of the club. Thomas Rodger, who occupied a similar position. John Clark, James Andrews, William Chalmers, Andrew Milroy, Robert Stewart, Robert Gibson, and Archibald Loudoun, ex-committee members; while Frank Frew, John Thomson, and Barrie Grieve will be remembered for their work as Club Secretaries. John Walker, an old player, who later was better known through his connection as referee.

This work would be incomplete without reference to the long connection of Peter Carrick, the assistant trainer and groundsman, who has been connected with Rugby Park for over 30 years, and no club had ever a more conscientious worker. The club have also been very fortunate in their choice of trainers, first in J. Q. M'Pherson, who laboured long and faithfully at Rugby Park, and who had the unique distinction conferred on him of having been appointed trainer for both the Scottish and English International teams. He flourishes conspicuously now at Newcastle as trainer to the United Club. That brings us down to the gentleman who presently looks after the ground and the condition of the players. In John M'Whinnie the Kilmarnock management have a trainer second to none, and



apart from his duties at Rugby Park many a wounded Tommy has reason to bless the day that they were sent to recuperate at Dunlop House or Kilmarnock Dick Institute, where the genial John has given much of his time and experience gratuitously for the benefit of those wounded and maimed heroes.

The present Board of Directors, namely, Charles Smith (Chairman), Robert Russell, Robert Thomson, Alexander Gibson, John Greenway, William Cunningham, Hugh Wilson, John M'Adam, and John Morison, have been in office for several years, and have much credit for the way the affairs of the club have been conducted, especially during these past  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years of warfare, when their numbers were depleted by the absence of Alexander Gibson, John Greenway, and John Morison, who nobly answered the call of King and Country.

A word of praise is due the Secretary, James Macdonald, who seems destined for a record run in that capacity and furthermore for the able way he has always performed his duties. In the matter of interviewing players Mac is a master. He has combined the necessary business tact with that suavity which generally commands success. His courteous manner and obliging disposition has endeared him to officials and players, and to many folks outside the officialdom of the club.

Amongst the names that occur to me as players who started their career on Rugby Park to flourish afterwards in other quarters, are Sandy Higgins (Notts Forest), John Smith (Sunderland), Francis M'Ginnis (Burslem), John M'Pherson and David Mitchell (Rangers), James M'Pherson (Cowlairs), Tom Porteous (Sunderland), Archie Goodall (Derby County), Alex. Dunn (Athletic), John



Auld (Sunderland), Allan Stewart (Queen's Park), William Reid, William Bulloch, William Whittle (Partick), Hugh Morton (Morton), John Wyllie (Aberdeen), James Cassidy and Robert Tannahill (Bolton Wanderers), Hugh Smith (Third Lanark), John Brodie (Notts Forest), Jas. Kirkwood (Abercorn), David Fulton, O.B.E. (Bohemians), Jas. Young, Robt. Muir, John Graham, and Robert Findlay (Celtic), Thomas Ghee and George Adams (Newcastle), Robert Templeton (Aston Villa), William Banks (Manchester City), James Howie (Newcastle), James Blair (Woolwich), James Maxwell (Sheffield), David Howie (Bradford), George Halley (Burnley), William Agnew (Sunderland), John Young (Notts County), Andrew Cunningham (Rangers), and Andrew Armour (Huddersfield); while the names of Bummer Campbell, John Johnstone, David M'Pherson, George Anderson, Alexander Craig, and James Mitchell will always be remembered for their lifelong association with the club of their adoption.

In concluding this article one is also reminded of Barney Battles (Celtic), Hugh Wilson (3rd Lanark), Harry Rennie (Rangers), and Andrew Aitken (Newcastle), who finished excellent careers in the service of the Kilmarnock club at Rugby Park, while the following players gained International honours while on service at Rugby Park, viz. :—Alexander Higgins, John M'Pherson, James Campbell, John Johnstone, David M'Pherson, Robert Findlay, George Anderson, James Howie, James Maxwell, James Mitchell, William Agnew, George Halley, Andrew Armour, Andrew Cunningham, Robt. Templeton, John Graham, and James Orr.



## Honours Won

By the Kilmarnock Football Club  
since its institution.

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Ayrshire Cup—1884, 1885, 1886, 1891, 1896,  
1898, 1899, 1900.

Kilmarnock Charity Cup—1884, 1886, 1892,  
1894, 1896, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1914.

Ayr Charity Cup—1888.

Scottish Qualifying Cup—1897.

Second League Championship—1898, 1899.

Western League Championship—1900.

Reserve League Championship—1914.

Second Eleven Ayrshire Cup—1890, 1893.

Ayrshire Qualifying Cup—1907.



## Past Presidents.

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John Wallace—1869.  
Robert Rankin—1870.  
Peter Anderson—1871.  
James Dickie—1872, 1873.  
Peter Brown—1874.  
David Sturrock—1874.  
John Railton—1876.  
William Thomson—1877.  
Daniel Gilmour—1878.  
Robert Rankin—1879, 1880.  
Daniel Gilmour—1881, 1882, 1883, 1884,  
1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890.  
William Munro—1891, 1892.  
Daniel Gilmour—1893, 1894, 1895, 1896,  
1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902.  
Robert L. Thomson—1903, 1904, 1905.  
Charles Smith—1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910.  
Robert B. Russell—1911, 1912.  
Alexander Gibson—1913, 1914.  
Robert H. Thomson—1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.  
Charles Smith—1919.



## Roll of Honour.

1914-1919.

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### DIRECTORS.

John Greenway.  
Alexander Gibson.  
John L. Morison.

### PLAYERS.

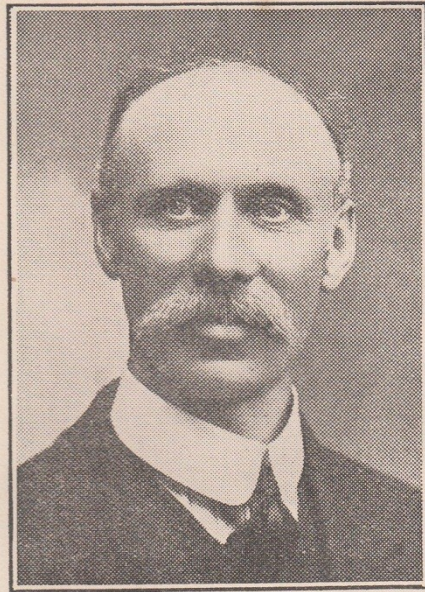
David Slimmon (killed).  
Alex. M'Curdie (killed).  
Charles Vickers (killed).  
John Rollo (killed).  
Alexander Barrie (killed).  
James Maxwell (killed).  
Daniel M'Kellar (missing).

Andrew Armour.	Robert Henderson.
William Cummingham.	William P. M'Leod.
William Dickie.	William M'Leod
Andrew Neil.	David Wilson.
James Morton.	John Shankland.
John Goldie.	George Anderson.
Matthew Smith.	Hugh Morton.

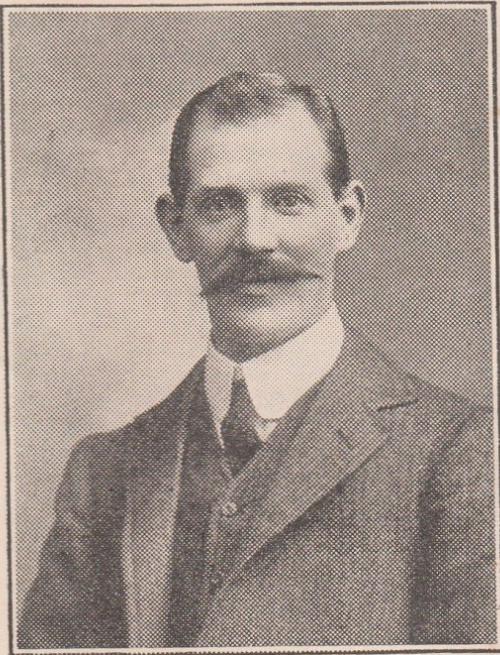




JAMES MACDONALD, Secretary.  
1907-1919.



ROBERT B. RUSSELL, Record Official.  
1879-1919.



CHARLES SMITH, Chairman.  
1891-1919.



DANIEL GILMOUR, J.P., Record President.  
1874-1906.



