

THE HISTORY
OF THE

SCOTTISH CUP

The Story of Every Season
1873-2016

DAVID POTTER AND PHIL H JONES

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THE HISTORY OF THE **SCOTTISH CUP**

A REVIEW OF EACH SEASON
1873/74 to 2015/16

1873/74

1st Final

Queen's Park 1st Final, 1st win

Clydesdale 1st Final

The sixteen clubs that contested the first round of the inaugural competition comprised the eight founder members of the SFA (Clydesdale, Dumbreck, Eastern, Granville, Kilmarnock, Queen's Park, Third Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers and Vale of Leven) and eight other members (Alexandra Athletic, Blythswood, Callander, Dumbarton, Renton, Rovers, Southern and Western). Six of these clubs would become future winners of the cup – Dumbarton, Kilmarnock, Queen's Park, Renton, Third Lanark and Vale of Leven.

The Road to the Final

The number of entrants enabled a straightforward knockout tournament, with no need to award any byes. Two of the eight first-round ties were a 'walkover', with no match being played, and the first three matches to actually be contested took place on Saturday 18 October 1873 (Alexandra Athletic 2 Callander 0, Eastern 4 Rovers 0 and Renton 2 Kilmarnock 0). Some of the other ties took place seven days later, but not all the dates are known for certain. The *Glasgow News* of 20 October records that "The Kilmarnock club met the Renton on the ground of the Queen's Park club at Crosshill, Glasgow. The ball was kicked off at ten minutes to three o'clock."

The newspaper reports that "The Kilmarnock club were at a disadvantage through not being thoroughly conversant with association rules, having formerly played the rugby game" and "The Renton side received several free kicks in succession through some of the 'Auld Killies' men persistently using their hands".

The *Glasgow News* also states that "Alexandra Athletic played the Callander club on the grounds of the A.A.C. on Cumbernauld Road". The time of the kick-off is not recorded. It goes on, "Some splendid play was performed on both sides and the dribbling powers of the A.A.C. called forth applause from the spectators several times". The report on the match between Eastern and Rovers is brief, but it includes "This match was played on the Fleshers' Haugh Green, on the ground of the former" (i.e. Eastern).

Queen's Park played fellow Glaswegians Dumbreck at home on 25 October and their 7–0 first-round victory was the beginning of a long and proud history of success in the competition. But it was a very different story for another Glasgow club – Granville. They lost their first-round tie away to Clydesdale 0–6 in what turned out to be their only participation in the Scottish Cup (they went out of existence before the end of the decade).

In the second round Renton beat Dumbarton 1–0 after a 0–0 draw and Alexandra Athletic lost 0–2 to Blythswood, but Queen's Park's had a relatively straightforward path to the final. They played both their second-round tie and semi-final at Hampden Park, beating Eastern and Renton respectively. Clydesdale's route was a lengthier one; they required two replays before eliminating Third Lanark and then beat Blythswood at their Kinning Park home in the semi-final.

The Final

21 March: Queen's Park 2 (W McKinnon, Leckie) Clydesdale 0

The first ever final was held at a windy First Hampden Park. Clydesdale's captain was Robert Gardner, who had been a founding member of Queen's Park in 1867, and Queen's Park were



Queen's Park 1874. Back: Angus Mackinnon, Dickson, Lawrie, Campbell, Neill. Front: Leckie, Taylor, McNeil, Thomson (captain), Weir, Billy McKinnon. Billy McKinnon scored the first ever goal in a Scottish Cup final

led by James Thomson. The score was 0–0 at half time, but the match is remembered for a controversial first-half incident that might have made the outcome very different.

Clydesdale's Fred Anderson, also a former Queen's Park player, appeared to kick the ball past John Dickson and put his team ahead. But there were no goal nets, and it was said that the ball rebounded off a spectator's knee. At first it seemed that the referee had awarded a goal, but he disallowed it when Queen's Park appealed. If the goal had been allowed to stand the players would have changed ends, as was the practice at the time, and Clydesdale would have then played with the wind behind them. As it was, Queen's Park continued to enjoy the advantage that it provided, and early in the second half Billy McKinnon scored with a powerful shot after a superb individual run. Not long afterwards Robert Leckie finished off a move with a shot that gave Queens a second.

Queen's Park: Dickson, Taylor, Neill, Thomson, Campbell, Weir, Leckie, Billy MacKinnon, Lawrie, McNeil, Angus McKinnon

Clydesdale: Gardner, Wotherspoon, McArly, Henry, Raeburn, Anderson, Gibb, Wilson, Lang, McPherson, Kennedy

Referee: J McIntyre, Eastern

Attendance: 2,500

Notable Events in 1874

- Benjamin Disraeli became prime minister for the second time in February, following the first UK general election after the introduction of the right to vote in secret
- Oxford University won the FA Cup, beating Royal Engineers 2–0 at the Kennington Oval on 14 March
- The standard colour for UK post boxes was changed from green to bright red, so as to make them more visible
- The explorer David Livingstone (born at Blantyre) was buried in Westminster Abbey on 18 April
- Winston Churchill, future prime minister and wartime leader, was born on 30 November

1874/75

2nd Final

Queen's Park 2nd Final, 2nd Win
Renton 1st Final

This was the season when Rangers took part in competitive football for the first time, but it would be another nineteen years before they won the Scottish Cup. Queen's Park were the dominant force in Scottish football.

The Road to the Final

Twenty-five clubs entered the second Scottish Cup competition, and so the first round comprised twelve ties (Glasgow club Standard was given a bye). Rangers beat Glasgow rivals Oxford 2–0 in their first Scottish Cup tie. In the second round there were six matches (Rovers, also from Glasgow, received a bye) and Rangers lost 1–0 to Dumbarton after a replay. Three third-round ties followed, with Clydesdale receiving a bye into the semi-finals.

Queen's Park reached the semi-finals by beating Glasgow clubs Western and West End at home, and then receiving a walkover against Rovers. Renton progressed to the semis by being given a walkover against Blythswood and then beating Helensburgh and Eastern at home. The semi-finals were more protracted affairs; Renton needed a replay to overcome Dumbarton and Queen's Park required two replays before they eliminated old rivals Clydesdale at Kinning Park.

The Final

10 April: Queen's Park 3 (A Mackinnon, Hight, W McKinnon) Renton 0

Hampden Park was bathed in sunshine on 20 April and Queens Park, with a strong wind against them, soaked up Renton pressure in the first half. Renton were playing the long ball and putting in some hard tackles, but were unable to break through the Queen's Park defence. Despite the wind, Jamie Weir, Harry McNeil and Tom Hight created chances for Queen's Park, but when half time arrived the match was goalless.

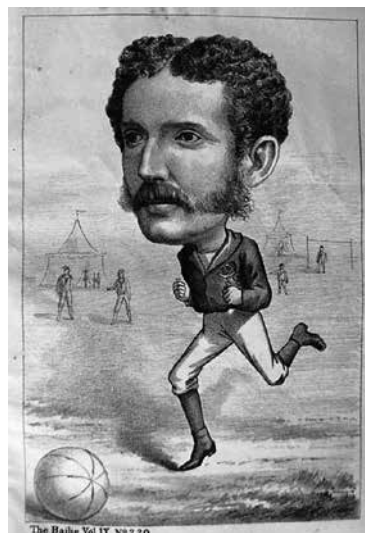
The teams changed ends at the interval, and Queen's Park began to exert pressure on "the strangers" (as visitors were sometimes referred to by the Glasgow press) to an extent that they dominated the second half. They won numerous corner kicks, but the goals didn't come until the final fifteen minutes. Angus Mackinnon scored from a corner taken by Jamie Weir, Tom Hight scored a second after a run by Harry McNeil, and Billy McKinnon added the third not long before the final whistle.

Queen's Park: Neill, Taylor, Phillips, Campbell, Dickson, McNeil, Hight, Billy McKinnon, Angus Mackinnon, Lawrie, Weir

Renton: Turnbull, J Kennedy, McKay, Scallion, McGregor, Melville, Macrae, M Kennedy, J Brown, Glen, L Brown

Referee: A Campbell, Clydesdale

Attendance: 7,000



William Dick, seen here as a caricature in the 'Baillie' magazine, was Secretary of the SFA from 1875 until 1880. He was also editor of the Scottish Football Annual.

Notable Events in 1875

- Royal Engineers won the FA Cup on 16 March, beating Old Etonians 2–0 in a replay at the Kennington Oval after a 1–1 draw
- In June 1875 Alexander Graham Bell, who was born in Edinburgh, made an important scientific breakthrough when he successfully transmitted sound (but not yet the human voice) over a wire by electrical means
- Captain Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel on 25 August
- Willie Park senior, the golfer who won the first Open Championship, won the last of his four Open titles at Prestwick on 10 September
- The first recorded match between Hearts and Hibernian took place on 25 December; Hearts won 1–0 in a friendly at The Meadows

1875/76

3rd Final

*Queen's Park 3rd Final, 3rd Win
Third Lanark 1st Final*

The number of entrants almost doubled to forty-nine in the third season, and there were twenty-four first-round ties (Edinburgh Thistle received a bye). A change in the rules this season meant that the teams only changed ends at half time, and no longer did so after every goal.

The Road to the Final

Seven of these matches were drawn and three of the replays were also drawn, but instead of holding second replays the six clubs went straight into the second round. One of the six was Heart of Midlothian, who had entered the Scottish Cup for the first time. After two draws against 3rd Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers they were paired against Drumpellier of Coatbridge, where they lost 0-2. This was one of a total of fourteen second-round matches; the winners then played seven third-round ties and this was followed by three quarter-finals (Dumbarton received a bye into the semi-finals).

Queen's Park got to the semi-finals with home wins against Alexandra Athletic (from Glasgow), Northern (from Springburn), Clydesdale and Dumbreck. Their 2-1 semi-final victory over Vale of Leven (from Alexandria) was also at Hampden Park. Third Lanark reached the semis with wins against Havelock (from Glasgow) (home), Rangers (away), Levern Hurler (from Renfrewshire) (away) and Western (home). They then needed three matches to reach the final, eventually overcoming Dumbarton 3-0 after two 1-1 draws.

The Final

11 March: Queen's Park 1 (Highet) Third Lanark 1 (Drinnan)

18 March: Queen's Park 2 (Highet 2) Third Lanark 0

This was Queen's Park's third consecutive final, but the first time they had to play at a neutral venue. The sun was shining at the West of Scotland Cricket Ground in Hamilton Crescent on 11 March, but Queen's were caught cold when Thirds attacked from the start and scored from a Drinnan shot in the second minute. The cup-holders were playing below their usual best, although the press did praise Billy McKinnon for his fast runs down the wing and his ability to beat opponents. The dribbling skills of Third Lanark's William Miller were also remarked upon. An equalizer came in the second half when Tom Highet received a pass in front of the Third Lanark goal and put the ball over the line, and then the rest of the game was played out without further scoring.

Queen's Park made changes for the replay at Hamilton Crescent seven days later. Tom Lawrie and Angus Mackinnon had been less than fully fit in the first match and were now replaced by two younger players – Andrew Hillcote and T.F. Smith. The changes had the desired effect and Queen's Park were back on top form. Tom Highet scored a goal in each half and nearly got another when he hit the bar. They eased off towards the end, and almost let Third Lanark back into the game, but held on to win the competition for the third time.

Queen's Park: Dickson, Taylor, Neill, Campbell, Phillips, Lawrie, McGill, Highet, W McKinnon, A Mackinnon, McNeil

Third Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers: Wallace, Hunter, Watson, White, Davidson, Crichton, Drinnan, Scouler, Walker, Miller, McDonald

Referee: A McBride, Vale of Leven

Attendance: 10,000

Replay: The Third Lanark team remained the same; Hillcote and Smith replaced Lawrie and A Mackinnon for Queen's Park.

Attendance: 6,000



Queen's Park captain Joe Taylor played in Scotland's first international match – a 0-0 draw against England in 1872

Notable Events in 1876

- Wanderers won the FA Cup for the third time, beating Old Etonians 3–0 in a replay at the Kennington Oval on 18 March after a 1–1 draw
- Scotland beat Wales 4–0 at Hamilton Crescent on 25 March; it was Scotland's first official international against a country other than England
- Alexander Graham Bell was granted a patent for the telephone on 7 March and made the first successful telephone call three days later
- The Settle and Carlisle railway opened to passengers on 1 May, enabling the Midland Railway to run through trains from London to Scotland in opposition to the east and west coast routes
- On 4 July the United States marked the hundredth anniversary of the declaration of independence and a centennial exhibition was held in Philadelphia

1876/77

4th Final

Vale of Leven 1st Final, 1st Win

Rangers 1st Final

This was the season when Queen's Park lost a Scottish Cup tie for the first time, when Vale of Leven beat them 2–1 at Hampden Park in the fifth round. In the first four rounds they had scored twenty-five goals without reply, beating Sandyford (from Govan) 7–0, Caledonian (from Kelvinbridge) 7–0, Arthurlie 7–0 and Northern 4–0.

The number of clubs entering the competition continued to rise and this brought with it an increased number of long journeys. Many clubs struggled to meet the cost of travel and so in 1876 the first two rounds were drawn on a geographic basis. This still didn't address the matter of matches between two clearly mismatched opponents, but that had to wait until the introduction of a preliminary stage in 1891/92.

The Road to the Final

The forty first-round ties were grouped as follows: Renfrewshire – 5; Lanarkshire – 2; Glasgow & Suburbs – 16; Dumbartonshire – 5; Edinburghshire – 5; Ayrshire & Dumfriesshire – 7 (plus a bye for Kilmarnock)

Renton Thistle and Vale of Leven Rovers drew 0–0 on 30 September and then drew the replay 1–1 seven days later, so both clubs went through to the next round. They were joined by the thirty-nine winners and Kilmarnock, to make a total of forty-two clubs in the second round.

The twenty-one second-round matches were in these groups: Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire – 3; Ayrshire & Dumfriesshire – 4; Dumbartonshire – 3; Glasgow & Suburbs – 8; Edinburghshire – 3. Hamilton (not the Academical club) played in the Edinburghshire group, whereas they had been grouped in Lanarkshire in the first round.

This led to ten ties in the third round (Rangers were given a bye). Once again there was a drawn replay, which resulted in Busby and Hamilton progressing to the fourth round with the nine winners and Rangers. The fourth round reduced the twelve clubs to six, and the fifth round reduced the six to three. This meant that there could only be one semi-final and Rangers progressed to the final with their second bye of the competition.

The single semi-final paired Vale of Leven with Ayr Thistle, a club that later merged with Ayr Academicals to form Ayr FC (Ayr FC later merged with Ayr Parkhouse to form Ayr United). The match was played at Kinning Park, and Vale of Leven won 9–0, to add to their previous victories over Helensburgh, Vale of Leven Rovers, Third Lanark, Busby and Queen's Park. Rangers' route to the final was Queen's Park Juniors, Towerhill, bye, Mauchline, Lennox and another bye.

The Final

17 March: Vale of Leven 1 (Paton) Rangers 1 (McDougall o.g.)

7 April: Vale of Leven 1 (McDougall) Rangers 1 (Dunlop) aet

13 April: Vale of Leven 3 (Watson o.g., Baird, Paton) Rangers 2 (Campbell, W McNeill)

Newspaper reports describe how an almost unbroken line of horse-drawn buses, cabs and other vehicles travelled westward towards Partick, as thousands of people descended upon the West of Scotland Cricket Ground on Saturday 17 March. The crowds were not disappointed, as the reports also describe the final as "one of the best football matches witnessed in this

part of the country for some time past". Vale of Leven were the favourites, and it appears that many onlookers were surprised at how well 'The Young Club' (Rangers) acquitted themselves.

There was no scoring at half time, but early in the second half Bob Paton gave Vale of Leven the lead with a header after a free kick by Sandy McLintock. A few minutes later, Vale's John McDougall headed the ball into his own goal after a Rangers free kick and Rangers now went all out for the winner. Only heroics from Wood in the Vale goal stopped them from getting it and once again a replay was required.

The teams went back to Hamilton Crescent on 7 April, for a match that entered the record books as the first instance of extra time in a Scottish Cup final. Rangers took the lead after seven minutes when Tom Vallance took a free kick towards the Vale of Leven goal; a 'scrimmage' developed and Bill Dunlop sent the ball under the Vale of Leven bar. From then on both goals were in danger, but there was no more scoring before half time.



Vale of Leven FC 1877. Back: Jamieson, Michie, Wood, McIntyre, McLintock. Front: Paton, McGregor, Lindsay, Ferguson, McDougall, Baird

It began to rain at the start of the second half and within two minutes Jackie Baird equalized for Vale of Leven after a neat passing movement. The rain became heavy and both teams came close to scoring, but after ninety minutes there were no more goals. Thirty minutes of extra time began and once again there was pressure from both sides, but in the second period the match erupted in controversy and confusion. A shot from Bill Dunlop came straight out again and the Rangers players claimed that it had crossed the line. The referee and his umpires hesitated and hundreds of spectators broke on to the pitch. Eventually the referee announced that a goal had not been scored and brought the match to an early end.

Following this incident, and its associated damage to the ground, there were no more Scottish Cup finals at Hamilton Crescent; the second replay took place at the first Hampden Park on a Friday evening six days later. A report from the time describes it as "a hard-fought game with much hefty-charging" and the only difference between the teams at the interval was an own goal from Rangers forward James Watson. Rangers equalized early in the second half when the Vale keeper mistimed his attempt to clear a shot from Peter Campbell and ten minutes later they went ahead with a shot from their half back Willie McNeil.

Vale of Leven fought back, and a goal from Jackie Baird made the scores level. The match now became more hard-fought than ever and could have gone either way, but a save from another Baird shot in the last few minutes rebounded to Bob Paton and he put it into the Rangers goal.

Vale of Leven: Wood, McIntyre, Michie, Jamieson, McLintock, Ferguson, Paton, McGregor, McDougall, Baird, Lindsay

Rangers: Watt, Vallance, Gillespie, Ricketts, W. McNeill, M. McNeill, Watson, Dunlop, Campbell, Marshall, Hill

Referee: J Kerr, Hamilton

Attendance: 12,000

1st Replay: Both teams remained the same

Attendance: 15,000

2nd Replay: Both teams remained the same

Attendance: 8,000

Notable Events in 1877

- Celebrations (a 'Durbar') were held in Delhi on 1 January to celebrate Queen Victoria becoming Empress of India
- Wanderers won the FA Cup for the fourth time, beating Oxford University 2–1 at the Kennington Oval on 24 March
- Glasgow's Mitchell Library opened this year at its original location in Ingram Street. It later moved to Miller Street for a time before a new library was constructed at North Street
- The first Wimbledon lawn tennis championship began on 9 July. It was restricted to a men's singles event and the first champion was Spencer Gore, who had been born at Wimbledon
- A methane explosion at Blantyre colliery on 22 October caused Scotland's worst pit disaster. Reports of the number of deaths vary, but at least 207 men and boys lost their lives