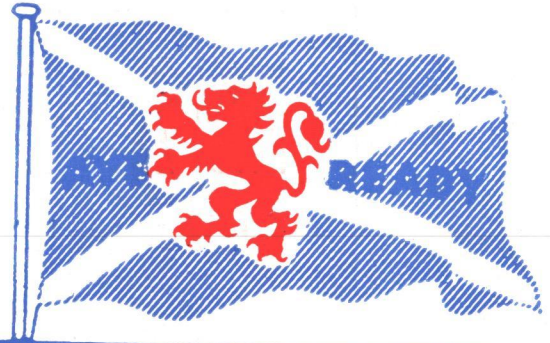


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1969 - 70
ANNUAL



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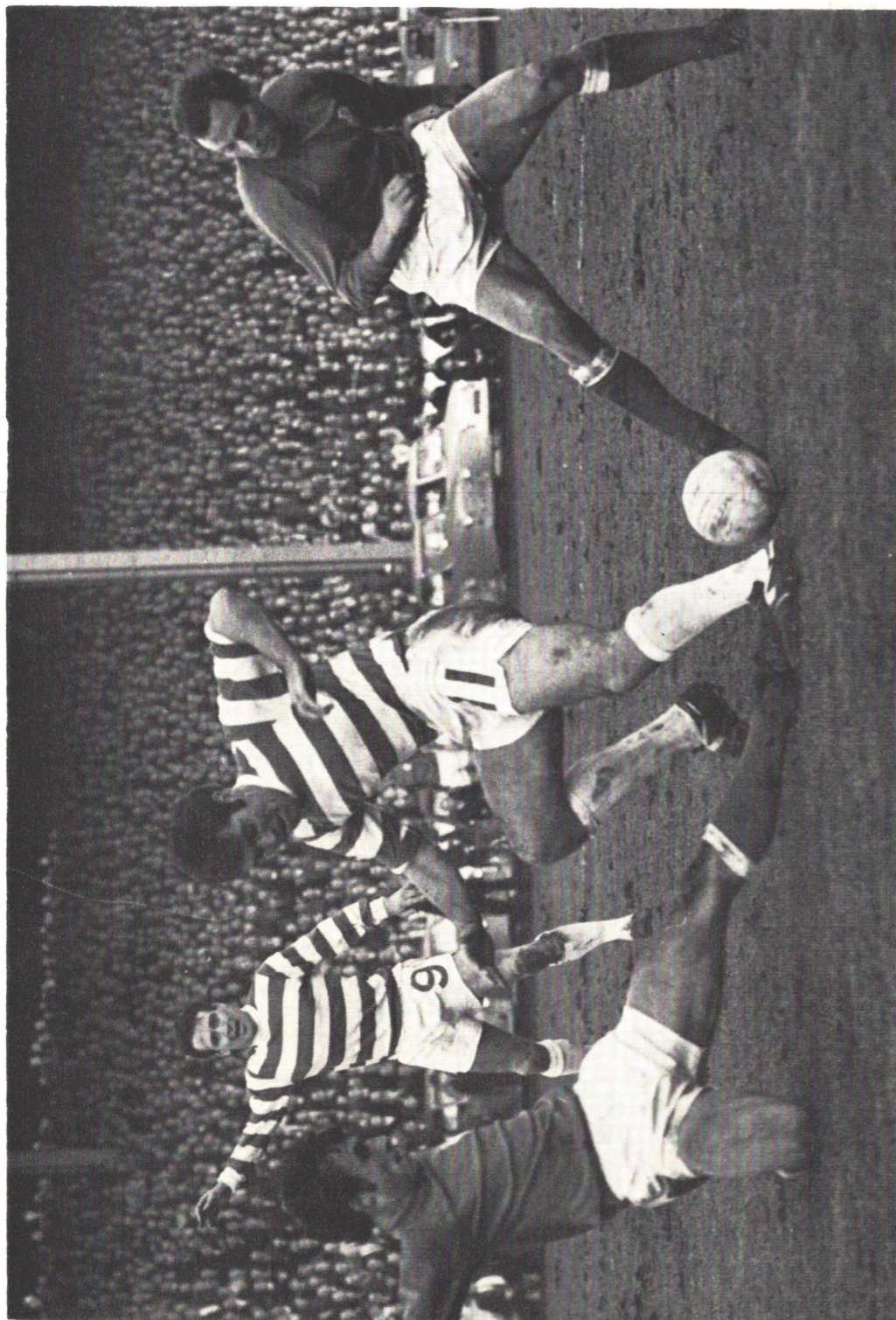
1969-70 ANNUAL

**RANGERS F.C.
SUPPORTERS'
ASSOCIATION**

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A Daily Express Photo
Ron McKinnon makes a determined tackle on John Hughes with Kai Johansen and Willie Wallace of Celtic looking on.

RANGERS

FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

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A Daily Express Photo

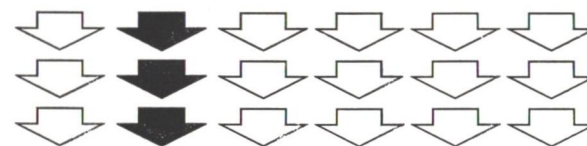
Andy Penman, watched by Dave Smith, opens the scoring at Ibrox against Raith Rovers.



A Daily Mail Photo

Alex. (Fergie) Ferguson heads opening goal in Rangers 3-0 victory over Morton at Ibrox.

FOREWORD



WITH so much written in condemnation of the minority group who have tarnished the club's good name, it is indeed a pleasure to pay tribute, in this Foreword, to the vast majority of true Rangers supporters. The Rangers Supporters' Association have proved, by word and example, that they are a great credit to our club. I have, of course, always maintained that the trouble created at some of our games was the work of a few evil individuals, unwanted by any club, and that thousands of decent-thinking, upright followers of the club who could take a set-back in the real spirit of sportsmanship (no matter how it hurt) suffered by the misconduct of the very few.

I would congratulate the Rangers Supporters' Association in their determination to help in every way possible the erasing of the hooligan element, and the knowledge that the Association ranks are free of such a scourge. I would let the committee know that my Board of Directors appreciate to the full the splendid effort and enthusiasm of the Association as they strive to bring a dignity and loyalty to their support of which we can be proud. I have no doubt in my mind but that the drive by all proved Rangers supporters will, in time, bring success to our crusade to end the singing of provocative songs and the use of irreligious words by, as I have said, the very small but loud-mouthed, group.

Our supporters have had to wait longer than anyone at the Stadium would wish to see a major trophy brought back. I have never made promises without tempering them with extreme caution, but I say this, that no sacrifice, no effort and certainly no lack of the will to serve can be found wanting within the Stadium. Rangers cannot be second best. Rangers WILL NOT BE SECOND BEST, no matter now long it takes us to bring that point home by our performances on the field. Down the years, apart from spells of non-success which come to every club throughout global football—it is, indeed, inevitable in football—we have held our place among the most distinguished clubs in world football, winning most of the honours and giving a record number of players to Scotland's International teams. We are still among the most wanted teams by European clubs, and even farther afield, even if, in recent years, outright victory in the final phases of the tournaments has been denied to us.

And so I say to our followers that we are fully conscious of what they seek, and trust the day is not far distant when their staunch support will bring full and exciting reward.

JOHN LAWRENCE

Chairman, Rangers F.C.



Port Glasgow Branch 21st Anniversary Dinner Dance—Presentation to Founder Members, April 1969—
(Left to right) Mr. W. Gavin, Mr. W. McIntyre, Mr. N. McEachran (President), Mr. J. Shanks, Mr. M. Hopkins,
and Mr. J. Kay, Deputising for his Father.



Annual Bowling Final, 21st September, 1968—Camlachie v. Drumchapel—President S. Lind presents the
Trophy to the Drumchapel Skip. With thanks to the Bellahouston Private Bowling Club, for use of their Green.

The Rangers Football Club Ltd

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DAVID HOPE

Manager

DAVID WHITE

Assistant Manager—WILLIAM THORNTON

Trainer—D. KINNEAR, M.S.R.G.

Assistant Trainer—J. CRAVEN

Physiotherapist—L. SMITH, M.C.S.P., S.R.F.

P.R.O.—W. ALLISON

Groundsman—D. McLENNAN

PLAYERS FOR THE SEASON 1969-70

Name	Position	Former Club	Signed
G. NEEF	G.	Dortmund	1968
N. MARTIN	G.	Dalry Thistle	1958
E. SORENSEN	G.	Morton	1967
D. STEVENSON	G.	Wishaw Juniors	1968
K. JOHANSEN	R.B.	Morton	1965
C. JACKSON	R.B.	Banks o' Dee	1963
W. MATHIESON	L.B.	St. Andrews United	1963
D. PROVAN	L.B.	Bonnyvale Star	1958
K. WATSON	R.H.	Salvesen B.C.	1967
J. GREIG	R.H.	Whitburn	1960
S. JARDINE	R.H.	Edinburgh Athletic	1965
R. WATSON	R.H.	Airdrie Academy	1963
R. McKINNON	C.H.	Dunipace	1958
D. SMITH	L.H.	Aberdeen	1966
J. BAXTER	L.H.	Notts Forest	1969
D. CAIRNS	L.H.	Bowhill Y.C.	1968
W. HENDERSON	O.R.	Caldercruix School	1960
A. MILLER	I.R.	Clydebank Juniors	1968
A. PENMAN	I.R.	Dundee	1967
W. McPHEE	I.F.	Bowhill Y.C.	1966
D. SETTERINGTON	I.R.	Bo'ness Academy	1962
W. WHITE	I.R.	Alloway B.C.	1968
A. FLETCHER	I.F.	Bellfield B.C.	1968
A. CONN	I.R.	Jeanfield Swifts	1968
G. FYFFE	I.F.	Ashfield	1968
T. MATCHETT	I.F.	Sauchie	1969
C. STEIN	C.F.	Hibs	1968
A. FERGUSON	C.F.	Dunfermline Athletic	1967
A. MacDONALD	I.L.	St. Johnstone	1968
W. LAING	C.F.	United Crossroads	1968
O. PERSSON	O.L.	Dundee United	1967
W. SEMPLE	O.L.	Edinburgh Athletic	1964
B. HERON	O.L.	Baillieston	1968
W. JOHNSTON	O.L.	Lochore Welfare	1964

Alex. Ferguson, Denis Setterington, Billy Semple and Erik Sorensen are available for transfer.



A Daily Express Photo

Alex. (Fergie) Ferguson scores Rangers 2nd goal against St. Johnstone. Alex. McDonald is on his left.



A Daily Mail Photo

Captain John Greig scores from penalty spot in Rangers 1-0 victory over Celtic at Ibrox on 2nd January, 1969.

.....

A Message
from
THE EDITOR



Dear Friends,

Very proudly I present to the many Rangers Supporters, both at Home and Overseas, their own Annual.

For me this, my fifth Annual as Editor, has been made easy by all the help I have had from the Directors, Manager, Players, and the supporters themselves.

Every year we in the Association try to make the Annual better than the last one, and with your help I'm sure we can succeed, so drop us a letter anytime.

To the *Evening Times*, *Daily Express* and *Daily Mail* Art Editors, many thanks for the action photos.

In closing, let me thank our Printers, George Outram & Co. Ltd., our Advertising Agent, and all the many others who made Editing such a pleasure in the 1969-70 Annual.

Yours in Sport,

BILL McNAUGHTON



Castle Douglas Branch have donated £1,180 to the following charities—Laurieston Hall Hospital, Guide Dogs, Spastic Children, Handicapped Children, Dr. Barnardo's, Cancer Research, Spina Bifado, Local Scouts and Guides, Old Men's Club, Local Hospital, Local Welfare, Save the Children, from 6th May, 1962 to 18th May, 1969.



Wishaw Branch Annual Dance—Guests include Ian McColl, ex-Rangers, Peter Hendry, Mr. and Mrs. G. Winning, Association Treasurer.

GENERAL SECRETARY REPORTS



ANOTHER season is now under way and it is time once again for me to take advantage of the opportunity to speak to all of you at once through the medium of the Annual. I would like nothing better at this time than to be able to recount glories of last season but, alas, as we all know, anything remotely resembling glory was sadly missing and, indeed, with this season's League Cup qualifying stages over we cannot claim that the team which means so much to us all has shown much sign of improvement. It is indeed a trying time for Rangers supporters, but I feel that the only constructive action we can take is to let the players on the field know, by our continued vocal support, that we are one hundred per cent behind them and are willing them on to the success that has been absent over the past few years. At the same time I must defend the right of the spectator to voice whatever criticism he may feel as loudly as he is able, but let us all bear in mind that the players are in all probability doing their best and might well become completely disheartened by constant barracking from the terracings. Having been uplifted so many times in the past by the team's successes, let us be generous enough to encourage them during this lean spell.

It is pleasing, on the other hand, to be able to report that within our Association the organisation seems to continue to be to the satisfaction of all, or almost all, of our members. Our Rally was once again a huge success in the presence of many of the officials and players of the Club and the only regret we have in connection with this annual event is that there is no hall large enough to accommodate everyone who would like to see the show. An increasing number of our Branches hold their own highly successful dances and outings and the bowling tournament is once again popular among many Branches. A new innovation this year was our Summer Cup football tournament with an entry of thirty-six Branches, including two from Ireland, and a most interesting and exciting competition ended the other week with Larbert Branch from Stirlingshire taking the handsome trophy with a 4-3 victory over a gallant eleven from New Cumnock Branch in Ayrshire. When one considers the beaten semi-finalists, Kilsyth and High Blantyre, one wonders what happened to the "Big City" branches.

Our negotiations still continue with regard to the building of a first class Social Club for our members and although after all these years we tend to be wary of being too optimistic, we hope to commence building very shortly in Edmiston Drive. If this does come to pass one man more than any other will deserve the thanks of all of us, namely, Mr. Frank McElhone, the ex-Senior Magistrate of the City of Glasgow, who gave us every assistance possible in our search for a suitable piece of ground, and even now continues to help us despite the daily pressures of politics.

Before I close I must, as always, thank all of you who have once again given me so much help in the past twelve months—Area Secretaries, Branch Secretaries, and, of course, most of all my assistant, Duncan Perratt. This help, I can assure you, continues to be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes to all of you,

ROBERT GRUBB

Once a Ranger Always a Ranger

By JIMMY DUNBAR

Mr. WILLIE THORNTON, assistant manager of Rangers, is still on the right side of 50, which is apt to obscure the fact that he must not only be one of Scotland's most respected officials, but one of the most experienced.

It is over 30 years ago since he began his association with Rangers. That was in 1936 when he was signed as an amateur at the ripe old age of 16.

Naturally Willie was not so well developed physically as he is now and his first games for the Light Blues were at outside right. But his talents were obvious and after eight appearances he was signed as a professional in 1937.

He was in august company all right with such as Davie Meiklejohn, Jimmy Simpson, George Brown and Bob McPhail all part and parcel of the Ibrox scene.

However, as these great players—and others—will tell you, the young man from Winchburgh in Midlothian was quick to learn and listen. The result?—Willie Thornton was to become one of the most distinguished centre forwards ever to play for Rangers.

He was neat and precise in everything he did and clean as a whistle. And who of the older generation of Ibrox followers will forget the way he could pound the ball to the back of the net with his head. Over would come an outswinger from Willie Waddell and there was Thornton handy at the far post to head the ball hard, fast and true past the goalkeeper.

The Ibrox attack of those days—the late 1940's—read—Waddell and Gillick: Thornton: Duncanson and Johnstone or Caskie. For my money it was one of the most skilled and deadly I ever saw and, on their day, every bit as good as the famous Hibernian



Willie Thornton pictured in the uniform of the Scottish Horse Regiment with which he won the Military Medal in 1943.

five of Smith and Johnstone: Reilly: Turnbull and Ormond.

Willie Thornton had to leave Ibrox when he was called to the colours in the course of the last war. Here again he had a distinguished career, winning the Military Medal in Sicily in 1943.

On his demob he returned to Ibrox and retired as a player in 1954 having been a one-club man all his days.

Next he began his successful managerial career with Dundee, succeeding the flamboyant Mr. George Anderson. Here his record as a spotter of talent spoke for itself. He discovered such as Ian Ure, Alan Gilzean, Alex Hamilton, Bobby Cox, Jimmy Gabriel, Alan Cousin and Hugh Robertson, all to become big stars. And when he succeeded another former Rangers player in Davie Meiklejohn as manager of Partick Thistle, he unearthed other young men of undoubted ability, among them Tommy Gibb, Donnie McKinnon and Arthur Duncan.

Exactly a year ago this month he came back to Ibrox as manager Davie Whites' right hand man. At the time Willie said—"It's just like returning back home".

His principal job is the signing and development of the Rangers players of the future. Willie is responsible for recruiting likely lads from the schools and other minor grades, all, of course, in close co-operation and consultation with Mr. White. "We really do work harmoniously as one unit," said Mr. Thornton.

He adds that it's a job after his own heart in spite of the time and travel involved, for as well as being at Ibrox most days, Willie Thornton is also present Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

That adds up to about an eight-day week!

Can You Do More?

By Rev. JAMES CURRIE, B.D.

YEARS ago there was a ward maid in the Western Infirmary called Cathie who professed a keenness for horses. When I got to know her better, she used to say with a laugh, "I'll pick them, Mr. Currie, and you pray for them".

I have never been quite sure in my own mind to what extent it is permissible to pray for personal success. I must admit, however, that when I leave Ibrox on Saturdays at half-time to officiate at a wedding with Rangers a goal down, I feel like praying in the marriage service "For those in adversity".

Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind—I don't care what team wins, as long as the Rangers don't lose!!

That's why I appreciate this opportunity of writing again in the Supporters' Magazine. It gives me a chance to say publicly once more a warm word of thanks for last year's handsome donation to the Mission Work of the Church of Scotland. Every penny is needed. The National Kirk has set itself the task of putting a new Church building in every new housing area in the land. Since 1948, they have opened one new Kirk every month—which is a good score!!! At the present the Church Extension Committee

have an overdraft of over half a million pounds. So thank you, Supporters' Club, for your help.

Last year quite a number of hospital patients sent me their magazine and asked me to autograph it. It makes me realise just how important the magazine is to such folk in hospital. Perhaps the Committee could consider doing even more for those who loyally support the 'gers from their bed without a chance of ever seeing them except on T.V.

In Belvidere Hospital a Rangers loyalist fan has the walls of his room covered with team pictures and Light Blue souvenirs. A visit by a few members of the Supporters' Club would go far towards brightening a long day.

Our own Youth Fellowship had a wonderful visit one Sunday night from Bill McNaughton, who spoke of the aim and purpose of the Club. The discussion was free and hot and Bill escaped for home nearly at midnight. I'm sure many other Youth Fellowships would be glad of a speaker from the Supporters' Club. What about it?

My wife and I fairly enjoyed the Rally in the Odeon and we thought our good friend Davie Provan spoke very well. Of course, Davie and I have judged Beauty Contests together and he inspected our Boys' Brigade once. (I wish the players would do more of that.)

One Sunday night, shortly after the Rally, we had a Praise Service in the Kirk led by Billy McPhee and the Caledonian Accordion Band. It was really wonderful and the large congregation have asked for a return visit.

The point I am trying to make is that Rangers Supporters' Club should try to "break-out" and meet the public face to face, in Kirks, Clubs, Fellowships, Hospitals. They are doing a wonderful job at present dealing with their own domestic affairs,

but their great strength could be used to help build up the new communities of our land. What about Easterhouse? Anything Frankie Vaughan can do, Rangers Supporters can do better!!! (By the way, a fan wrote to me recently from Peterhead and asked for a picture of the "boys in blue" to hang on the prison wall. He was lonely in his cell!!! I was glad to send him a calendar as requested.)

We have heard too much recently about vandalism, swearing and obscenity at Ibrox. It is only a small minority who bring disgrace on the Club. It is time for the great majority of decent supporters to let their voice be heard. Beer cans should have no place on the Ibrox terracing.

As you may know, I officiate at 200 weddings per year. A groom said the other day, "How much do I owe you? Says I, "How much is she worth?" He gave me a shilling . . . I looked at the bride and gave him a sixpence change!

How much are Rangers worth to the ordinary supporter? It is a personal question which demands a personal answer. To me, Rangers are the greatest. Decent folk are sick of these supporters who sell them short and tarnish the name of a great team.

Long live the Supporters' Club and may they go from strength to strength. That is one prayer I offer with no hesitation.

UP THE 'GERS!!!



A Daily Mail Photo

Alex. (Fergie) Ferguson heads opening goal in Glasgow Cup Semi-Final against Celtic at Parkhead.

1954—The start of the Tele Radio from Ibrox to the Southern General Hospital—the Western Infirmary came later. For 15 years the system has now been operating, uplifting the spirits of the not so well, helping them to look forward to getting out of hospital soon—many of them back to Ibrox. I wonder who will be "in the box" on the 21st Anniversary of the Tele Radio from Ibrox.

During that 15 years many names have assisted in some way to promote the broadcasting system—Dick Caskie, Alec Fraser, Kenny McKechnie, Joe Murphy, David Buist and others too numerous to mention. Let us not forget the present Duncan Perratt, Robert Grubb and Bill McNaughton. They have helped make the hospital broadcasting an established fact, something that should remain with us for all time. And Matron Wares of the Southern General who has been with us since the inception and who has used the system to "talk" to her patients from Ibrox and who, if time permits, still enjoys a quick "listen-in" to a game.

An interesting experiment took place at the Rangers v. Newcastle game at Ibrox. A party of Newcastle Supporters' Association Tele Radio Committee arranged for a "link-up" from Ibrox to the Newcastle hospitals and a return invitation was given for the Rangers party to visit Newcastle. Unfortunately, I was unable to be present at any of the engagements—I was in Bristol at the time. But according to Duncan it was quite a success.

Another event I missed was the Annual Social Evening at Carnwath. Unfortunately, I had a "very previous" engagement (six months) and was unable just to know the date of the Carnwath "night out". However, there's next year, Mrs. Ballantine.

Some time ago I wrote in the Annual of a strange meeting in the Southern, of two

TELE-RADIO IBROX

By Jimmy Cuthbert



people who knew each other and had not met for years until they both arrived in Ward 23. I refer to Dougie McBrayne, the conductor of (among many bands) the Govan Burgh and Davie McLeod the popular groundsman at Ibrox. Well, speaking to Dougie a short time ago—why is it that all the men who retire from the firm I slave for begin to look younger—he offered to supply tapes of well-known music (not jazz or pop) if we had a recorder. These tapes are of the Govan Burgh Band, the Gas Board Band, and others, and I'm sure they would cheer many a ward; maybe create a few tears, too. In any case, this is something else for the committee to think about.

As usual, we will have our European opponents again this year.

Again many thanks to Duncan Perritt and Bobby Grubb for their "soft drink interval" talk and general help in the box.

To all members—bring your "get-well" messages to the "box" for the friends you have in the Southern and Western. We will relay your good wishes and, if you care, we'll let you talk to them at half-time.



A Daily Mail Photo

Dave Smith opens scoring when Rangers beat D.W.S. Amsterdam 2-1 at Ibrox in Fair Cities Cup.



A Daily Express Photo.

W. (Sandy) Jardine watches Andy Penman's header open the scoring v. St. Johnstone at Ibrox.

The Return of **JIM**

By **RODGER BAILLIE**

Sunday Mirror

MEIKLEJOHN and Morton, Waddell and Thornton! It depends on what era you remember most fondly—the thirties or the forties—but these are only four of the magic names from Rangers proud past.

So much of football is interlaced with nostalgia. What fan has not boasted to his mates over a pint . . . “Do you remember when”, and then happily capped the story with “I was there”.

Sadly no footballer, not even the once apparently ageless Sir Stanley Matthews, can defy time, the clock cannot be turned back.

So who will survive from the stormy sixties, who will be the player remembered in the fans' look back along memory lane?

I am convinced that in Scotland one name will rise above all the others—indeed he has done so already, Jim Baxter.

The exploits of the match-stick thin left-half with the massive soccer talent has won his way into football's folklore.

If anyone wants to query the proof that Baxter is already a legend he must have missed the amazing scenes when he returned to Ibrox to sign again for Rangers last June, and the traffic outside the stadium slowly ground to a halt because of the size of the welcoming crowd.

What was your perfect memory? In the dark blue of Scotland nonchalantly rolling home a penalty kick on sunlit Wembley to defeat England in 1963 . . . to add to the first goal he had already scored.

Mine goes back to a freezing December afternoon a year later in the massive Prater Stadium in Vienna, when we had to clear the snow off the desks in the open-air press box, and the cognac in the coffee was the most welcome I have ever tasted.

And out on the solid pitch Rangers, master-minded by Baxter, neatly ran soccer circles around the Austrian champions, Rapid Vienna, to win 2-0.

It was one of the most memorable individual displays I have ever seen in the competition rated the hardest club competition of them all, the European Cup.

Then came that dreadful last minute of the game. The tackle right in front of us, the crack of the broken leg, the sad sight of ambulancemen on the park.

Jim's come-back was successful, but the relationship with Rangers was strained, and at the end of the season he went off to Sunderland.

Two and a half years and a £100,000 transfer later, he moved to Nottingham Forest.

The transfer fee had increased, but the success for the newest club he had joined was as elusive as at Sunderland.

Then came a drastic cut in the price when he was put on the open-to-transfer list, and finally a free transfer.

At the same time his old club, Rangers, had completed yet another season without a

major honour, a season when they seemed poised on the springboard to trophies . . . but never got any farther.

It was as natural as the script of a TV serial that they should get together again.

The obstacles to his rejoining them, the bitterness of the previous parting, were forgiven and forgotten.

Baxter was associated with the champagne days of success, when Rangers marched as the lords of Scottish soccer.

"When I was here the last time you could have stuck anybody out in blue jerseys, and it would have been enough to scare off half the teams in the league", he told me.

The fans welcomed him as the club's saviour, but some wondered if he was defying an unwritten law of sport . . . "They never come back".

To many it seemed his return was as incredible as if Joe Louis had suddenly put on boxing gloves again, or Sir Gordon

Richards was guiding a favourite past the winning post.

Yet it must have escaped them that the Baxter of 1969—admittedly bulkier than the player of ten years ago—was, on age grounds alone, not too old to make a second career at Ibrox.

Baxter's attitude to his return was as direct as it always is when he talks about football.

"It's quite simple. I've been signed to do a job, I think I can do it. It's as straightforward as that," he said.

As I write this the early matches show promise that he can achieve a unique double, and carve out a second successful career at Ibrox.

Few stars are given the chance to successfully return to the scene of their former triumphs . . . the soccer world watches to see if Jim Baxter, as so often, will be the exception to the rule.



A Daily Mail Photo

Dave Smith jumps for joy at scoring goal when St. Mirren were beaten 6-0 at Ibrox.

Commonwealth Games 1970

By
Don Macquarrie

Daily Mail

AS football fans look ahead through the winter and spring months at a season due to end in late April, a dedicated band of sports officials throughout Scotland have set their sights on the date July 16th, 1970.

That day marks the opening ceremony of the ninth British Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, which will be the greatest sporting festival ever staged in Scotland.

And the organisers are counting on the enthusiasm and encouragement of our legions of soccer fans rallying behind Scotland's representatives in the chase for gold medals.

Because the sad fact is that athletics, the showpiece sport of the games, has been very poorly supported by the public in Scotland in recent years.

This summer, when the top competitors of England, Wales and Northern Ireland came to the ultra-modern Grangemouth Stadium to oppose Scotland for the British Isles Cup, only around 3,000 spectators bothered to turn up.

And there is the fear among many leading athletics officials that the Games could be given a similar brush-off, with the top athletes of the Commonwealth appearing at a half-empty Meadowbank Stadium.

Some organisers of sports meetings feel that you must offer the public five-a-side football to draw in a crowd, but many diehards are against this, believing that this tends to give a serious competition a carnival atmosphere.

Certainly it has been proved in Scotland over the last few years that the fans will watch athletics, if they can be lured in by the colour and spectacle of pipe bands and processions.

This, then, is where the Commonwealth Games should score. It will be packed with glamour and old-time pageantry, brought up-to-date by the latest technical communications system, which will flash results and information to the Press and public.

So, next July, if you feel like sharpening up for the football season, head for Edinburgh and cheer on Scotland.



Press Conference before Burrani-McGowan contest in Rome.



Largs Branch Annual Dinner Dance, 1968—Guests and Members of the Committee accompanied by their wives.

From Pallazzo Dello Sport to Hampden Park

By ALEX CAMERON
Daily Record and Scotsport

IT had already been a hectic night at the great, tiered Palazzo Dello Sport in Rome when Walter McGowan stepped into the ring to box Salvatore Burruni for the European fly-weight championship.

Oranges and tomatoes had been lobbed into the ring from 100 ft. above as 5,000 frenzied Italians said in their own matey way that they didn't agree with the previous referee's decision.

McGowan was well aware, as he peered through the smoke-filled night at the dusky Sardinian Burruni in the other corner that he needed a knock-out to be sure of victory.

He was almost equally conscious that he was bidding for the first leg of what he hoped would be a double victory.

The next day, April 25, 1964, at Hampden, Rangers were playing Dundee in the Scottish Cup final and the little Scot was anxious for an Ibrox win.

The fight was a great one. But, sadly, the brilliant little Burnbank battler lost very narrowly on points despite a memorable finish in which he had blood streaming from a cut above Burruni's eye.

In the dressing-room afterwards McGowan changed quickly and then prepared for a taxi dash to the airport with his father-manager, Joe Gans, and myself—so that we could see the Cup final.

But first of all Joe had to conduct an important transaction. He demanded that Walter's purse be paid **in cash** on the spot.

The promoter, tall, handsome, tennis-playing Rino Tomassi, tried to stall. But Joe was determined as only he can be.

Finally, the money was produced—a huge, untidy bundle of assorted lire notes which would have papered the Ibrox stand.

Off we went at high speed through the darkened streets of cosmopolitan Rome and arrived just in time to catch the flight to connect with an early morning London-Glasgow plane—the only one which would allow us to see the final.

Like a good manager Joe had checked and re-checked the cash by the time we reached London. And he hot-footed it for the airport bank immediately we touched down.

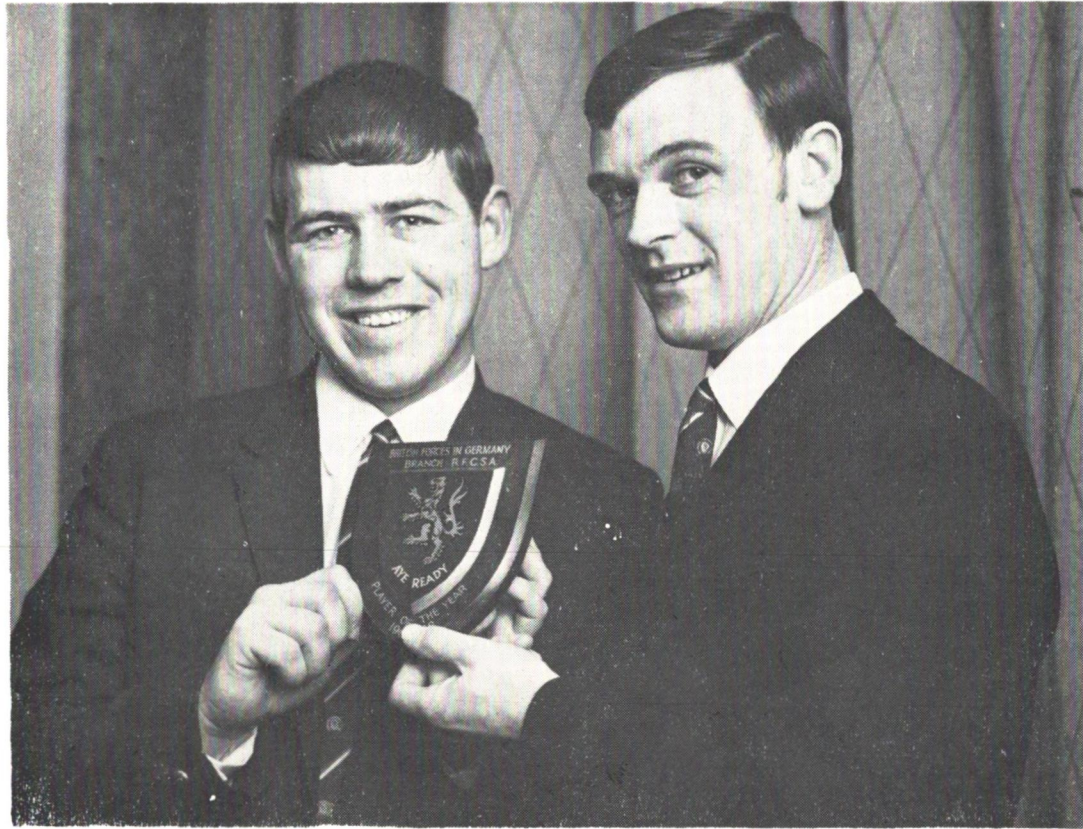
This was excellent business except that we had only 20 minutes to catch our Glasgow connection.

When the plane was called I dashed to the bank counter to find Joe, bunnet pushed back, helping the teller to wade through piles of Italian notes.

It was a fantastic dash to catch the plane with Joe carefully carrying the moneybag which now contained crisp English notes. The London teller had created a world record for note-counting!

A few hours after stepping off the plane we were sitting at Hampden. Little Walter was given a great cheer by the crowd.

For a long spell in the match it looked as though Rangers might be as unlucky as Walter had been the night before in Rome.



Lance-Corporal Ron Mansfield, R.A.O.C., Secretary of British Forces in Germany Branch, presents a Plaque to Billy Mathieson, their "Player of the Year, 1968" in the "Blue Room," St. Enoch Hotel, Glasgow.



John G.eig, seated 3rd from left, "Player of the Year" of No. 16 Area, accompanied by Association and Area Officials, Guests and their wives.

And then, almost at the end, with the score 1-1, Willie Henderson, who is a friend and admirer of McGowan, crossed to the left wing unnoticed by the Dundee defence.

When the ball came over to Henderson he made a forward dash and a super cross. Jimmy Millar leaped and headed as spectacular a goal as Hampden has seen.

And a minute later Ralph Brand, now back with manager Jimmy as a player at Stark's Park, made the score 3-1 for Rangers.

So McGowan and Gans were happy despite their own disappointment. For Rangers had helped them by allowing Walter to do some of his training with the Ibrox players.

Two years later McGowan avenged his Rome defeat—he has always been very popular there, by the way—by winning the world fly-weight title from Burrini over 15 rounds at Wembley.

Sadly, however, the great nights of big-time boxing in Scotland are over. It no longer has sufficient appeal to give the promoter a profit.

I have always been a fan of boxing, which makes it even harder to say the sport is dying—painlessly but surely.

The mechanics of the sport can be difficult to defend. But, since doctors do not dis-

agree with it in sufficient numbers to prevent contests taking place—a doctor must be at the ringside—then I leave this aspect open to debate.

I blame most of all the administrators. There have been too many bad matches with easily forecastable results and the public no longer feel certain they will get value for money.

The dinner-suited boxing nights are really a final effort to keep the game going. They are having the reverse result.

It is surely senseless to put on a title fight before a private audience for whom boxing is secondary, anyway, to the cigars and champagne.

Ken Buchanan, of Edinburgh, fought most of his contests on such occasions. This included a Scottish light-weight championship victory at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. He has not been asked to defend the title which was vacant when he won it.

The Scottish Amateur Boxing Association are making vigorous attempts to stimulate the sport.

But, despite the presence of the dedicated McGowan, the great days in Scotland of Lynch, Paterson and Keenan are gone for good.

It is sad, but true.



Mr. Alex Ferguson, holding Table Lighter, and Mrs. Ferguson, with bouquet, presented, for services rendered, by Largs Branch President.



Kilmarnock Branch Annual Dance—Mr. and Mrs. Dave Smith (centre of photo), No. 9 Area Secretary Mr. and Mrs. C. Gibson, Branch President Mr. and Mrs. J. Henderson, Branch Vice-President Mr. and Mrs. W. Denim, Branch Secretary Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Wood.



Grangemouth Dance—Taking a breather are Mr. and Mrs. J. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvie and Mr. and Mrs. Bill McNaughton, Assoc. Social Organiser.

For the Record

PLAYERS USED IN 1968/69 SEASON

	League Cup	Scottish League	Scottish Cup	Fairs Cup	Cities Cup	Friendlies
N. MARTIN	6	31	5	8	2	
K. JOHANSEN	—	26	5	8	3	
D. PROVAN	—	8	—	1†	—	
C. JACKSON	6	9	—	1	3	
W. MATHIESON	6	26	5	9	5	
J. GREIG	6	32	5	9	5	
R. McKINNON	6	27	4	9	5	
D. SMITH	4	20	3	7†	5	
A. SMITH	3	—	—	—	—	
R. WATSON	—	10	3	2	1	
W. HENDERSON	5	32	5	10	5	
A. WILLOUGHBY	1	3	—	—	—	
A. PENMAN	5†	26	5	9	5	
W. (SANDY) JARDINE	1†	14	1†	3	2	
W. JOHNSTON	3	29	5	9	5	
O. PERSSON	6	29	5	7	4	
W. McPHEE	2	—	—	—	—	
A. FERGUSON	4	7	1	3	—	
D. CAIRNS	—	2	—	1†	—	
A. MacDONALD	—	7	—	1	—	
G. NEEF	—	3	—	2	3	
C. STEIN	—	18	4	7	3	
R. HYND	2	10	—	3	—	

†Includes one substitute

HOME LEAGUE RESULTS

Teams	Rangers' score first
Partick Thistle	2—0
Celtic	1—0
Kilmarnock	3—3
Hearts	2—0
Falkirk	2—1
St. Johnstone	3—0
Dunfermline	3—0
Aberdeen	2—3
Arbroath	2—0
Hibernian	6—1
St. Mirren	6—0
Clyde	6—0
Airdrie	1—1
Raith Rovers	2—1
Dundee United	2—1
Dundee	1—1
Morton	3—0

AWAY LEAGUE RESULTS

Teams	Rangers' score first
Partick Thistle	2—0
Celtic	4—2
Kilmarnock	3—3
Hearts	1—1
Falkirk	3—0
St. Johnstone	0—2
Dunfermline	3—0
Aberdeen	0—0
Arbroath	5—1
Hibernian	2—1
St. Mirren	0—1
Clyde	1—1
Airdrie	2—3
Raith Rovers	3—0
Dundee United	1—2
Dundee	2—3
Morton	2—0



Parkhead Branch—Members of the Committee, 1968/69 Season.



Maddiston Branch, No. 10 Area—Football Cup Winners

FRIENDLIES

- 3rd July, 1968—**Tottenham Hotspur** at White Hart Lane. *Score*—2-1 for Tottenham Hotspur.
Scorer—A. Penman.
- 3rd August, 1968—**Arsenal** at Ibrox. *Score*—2-2.
Scorers—J. Greig (penalty), A. Penman.

LEAGUE CUP

- 10th August, 1968—**Celtic** at Ibrox. *Score*—2-0 for Celtic.
- 14th August, 1968—**Partick Thistle** at Firhill. *Score*—5-1 for Rangers.
Scorers—A. Smith 2, A. Ferguson 2, O. Persson.
- 17th August, 1968—**Morton** at Ibrox. *Score*—2-0 for Rangers.
Scorers—C. Jackson 2 (right-back).
- 24th August, 1968—**Celtic** at Parkhead. *Score*—1-0 for Celtic.
- 28th August, 1968—**Partick Thistle** at Ibrox. *Score*—2-1 for Rangers.
Scorers—W. Henderson, Sandy Jardine (12th man).
- 31st August, 1968—**Morton** at Cappielow. *Score*—5-0 for Rangers.
Scorers—Sandy Jardine 2, W. Henderson 2, A. Penman (12th man).
Rangers failed to qualify.

SCOTTISH CUP

- 25th January, 1969—**Hibernian** at Ibrox. 1st Round. *Score*—1-0 for Rangers.
Scorer—C. Stein.
- 24th February, 1969—**Hearts** at Ibrox. 2nd Round. *Score*—2-0 for Rangers.
Scorers—W. Johnston, O. Persson.
- 1st March, 1969—**Airdrie** at Ibrox. Quarter-Final. *Score*—1-0 for Rangers.
Scorer—J. Greig (penalty).
- 22nd March, 1969—**Aberdeen** at Parkhead. Semi-Final. *Score*—6-1 for Rangers.
Scorers—W. Johnston 3, A. Penman 2, W. Henderson.
- 26th April, 1969—**Celtic** at Hampden. Final. *Score*—4-0 for Celtic.

- Rangers Scottish Cup Winners 19 times
- Rangers Scottish League Winners—34 times
- Rangers League Cup Winners—6 times
- Glasgow Cup Winners—35 times
- Glasgow Charity Cup Winners—32 times

GLASGOW CUP

- 11th April, 1969—**Celtic** at Parkhead. Semi-Final. *Score*—4-3 for Rangers.
Scorers—W. Johnston 3, A. Penman.
- 15th April, 1969—**Partick Thistle** at Ibrox. Final. *Score*—2-2.
Scorers—W. Johnston, O. Persson.
Re-play—Season 1969-70

FAIR CITIES CUP

- 18th September, 1968—**Voyidina** at Ibrox. 1st Round, 1st Leg. *Score*—2-0 for Rangers.
Scorers—J. Greig (penalty), Sandy Jardine.
- 2nd October, 1968—**Voyodina** in Yugoslavia. 1st Round, 2nd Leg. *Score*—1-0 for Voyidina (Aggregate—2-1 for Rangers).
- 30th October, 1968—**Dundalk (Eire)** at Ibrox. 2nd Round, 1st Leg. *Score*—2-0 for Rangers.
Scorer—W. Henderson 2, A. Ferguson 2, J. Greig, Brennan (own goal).
1969—**Dundalk** in Eire. 2nd Round, 2nd Leg. *Score*—3-0 for Rangers (Aggregate—9-1 for Rangers).
Scorers—W. Mathieson, C. Stein 2.
- 15th January, 1969—**D.W.S.** in Amsterdam. 3rd Round, 1st Leg. *Score*—2-0 for Rangers.
Scorers—W. Henderson, W. Johnston.
- 22nd January, 1969—**D.W.S.** at Ibrox. 3rd Round, 2nd Leg. *Score*—2-1 for Rangers (Aggregate—3-1 for Rangers).
Scorers—D. Smith, C. Stein.
- 19th March, 1969—**Bilboa** at Ibrox. Quarter-Final, 1st Leg. *Score*—4-1 for Rangers.
Scorers—A. Ferguson, A. Penman, O. Persson, C. Stein.
1969—**Bilbao** in Spain. Quarter-Final, 2nd Leg. 2-0 for Bilbao. (Aggregate 4-3 for Rangers).
- 14th May, 1969—**Newcastle United** at Ibrox. Semi-Final, 1st Leg.—*Score*—0-0.
- 21st May, 1969—**Newcastle United** at St. James's Park. *Score*—2-0 for Newcastle United.



Larbert players lift their captain, Alex Wilson, shoulder high after winning the Association Summer Cup at Albion Training Ground.



New Cumnock Team and Officials—Finalists in Association Football "Summer Cup," 1969.

SUMMER CUP STORY

By **BILL McNAUGHTON**,
Assoc. Social Organiser

SINCE becoming Social Organiser 5 years ago I have often been asked, "Why don't you run a football tourney for the Branches during the close season?"

After giving it a lot of thought I put my ideas to the Executive Council, where they were passed on to the Representative Council, and it was agreed that I could go ahead.

In all 36 Branches took part—including two from Ulster—namely, Kells and Conner and the Larne Branch, which really pleased everyone. Naturally, this being the first year, everything did not go smoothly, but I am glad to report that harmony was created between the Branches.

The Executive Council and myself wish to thank all who entered, Wishaw Juniors F.C., and, of course, the Board and Management of Rangers F.C. for the use of their facilities.

The Winners receive a Cup which they keep for a year, also personal medals to both teams and their substitutes.

So why not enter your Branch next year?

SUMMER CUP FINAL

Saturday, August 23rd, at Albion Training Ground
LARBERT (No. 10 Area) v. NEW CUMNOCK
(No. 9 Area)

Referee—G. BROWN, Coatbridge

Linesmen—(1) S. OLIVER, (2) F. HARESHAPE

How They Reached The Final LARBERT

1st Round Bye
2nd Round Away to Grangemouth Branch
3rd Round Away to Wishaw Branch
Quarter-finals Home to Bonnybridge Branch
Semi-final Versus Kilsyth Branch
Played at Wishaw Juniors Park

NEW CUMNOCK

1st Round Away to Kilmarnock Branch
2nd Round Home to Auchinleck Branch
3rd Round Home to Gourrock Branch
Quarter-finals Home to Drumchapel St. Andrews Branch
Semi-final Versus High Blantyre Branch
Played at Wishaw Juniors' Park

Result of Final

LARBERT 4, NEW CUMNOCK 3
Cup presented by Mr. G. C. P. BROWN, Hon. President

LAST-MINUTE GOAL WINS CUP FOR LARBERT

This the first Final of the Association "Summer Cup", kicked off at 10.30 a.m., and among the 150 or so in attendance, the V.I.P. list was very impressive. They included Vice-Chairman M. C. Taylor, Director G. C. P. Brown, M.A., Manager D. White, Asst. Manager W. Thornton, President S. Lind and General Secretary R. Grubb.

It was a nice sunny morning when the game started at a cracking pace, and before half-time, New Cumnock were leading by 3 goals to nil.

Positional changes were made by Larbert at the start of the second-half, and this led to their goals being scored.

Turning point in the game came when New Cumnock, leading 3-2, were awarded a penalty and missed from the spot. Larbert took fresh heart from this miss, and went on to score their other two goals.

Summing up, I can honestly say the game was very entertaining, and both teams are to be congratulated on their sporting behaviour. Mr. George Brown, M.A., Honorary President of the Association, presented the Cup and Medals, and both teams were then taken for lunch.

Larbert Team—1, A. Wilson (Captain); 2, J. Howie; 3, J. Kerr; 4, D. Graham; 5, R. Kerr; 6, T. Rutherford; 7, J. Graham; 8, R. Sneddon; 9, B. Smith; 10, P. Sneddon; 11, D. Horne; Substitute, R. Mitchell.

Team Manager—J. Rutherford, President; Team Trainer—R. Walker, Secretary.

New Cumnock Team—1, Rae; 2, Andrews; 3, G. Telfer; 4, W. Paton; 5, J. Telfer (Captain); 6, Galbraith; 7, McEwan; 8, Allan; 9, H. Telfer; 10, Wells; 11, Pollock; Substitute, G. Paton.

Team Managers—J. McEwan, A. Penman; Team Trainer—D. Seerie.



Wishaw Branch 21st Anniversary Dance—Founder Members and Friends.



Greenock Branch Social Club Opening Night—Guests include Mr. D. Hope, Director, Andy Penman, Mr and Mrs. R. Grubb, Mr. and Mrs. T. Laird, with representatives from No. 16 Area and their wives.

JUNIOR RANGERS

By TOMMY WORKMAN, Evening Citizen

AS soccer strides towards the 70's and £100,000 transfers become as commonplace as parking tickets one cannot help wondering about the future of the Juniors.

Is there still a place in Scottish football for the 10-bob-a-game boys in these days of high finance?

Best answer to that one, I suppose, is this: Last season more than 1,000 players were recruited by senior clubs from the Junior ranks.

It's plain for all to see then that the "wee men" are still very big in the business of rearing the stars of tomorrow.

Part of last season's "crop" of kids with class found its way to Ibrox. I refer to Graham Fyfe (Ashfield), Danny Stevenson (Wishaw) and Tom Matchett (Sauchie).

Fyfe, especially, was an outstanding Junior. Big and strong, he played either centre or inside left with Ashfield and scored 35 goals.

Mind you, I doubt if Graham will ever be able to lay claim to the title of being the most famous ex-Ashfield player at Ibrox.

That distinction must belong to director Davie Hope—despite the fact that he never actually played for Rangers. In the hey-days of Junior football, Davie was a bit of a goalie. So good, in fact, that he was Ashfield's regular keeper for 15 years (surely a service record). Davie's popularity with the Possilpark public was clearly shown when the club arranged a benefit game for him. More than 12,000 tickets were sold!

Over the years Rangers have always had a close link with the Juniors. Take, for

instance, the team which represented them in their first European tie, against Nice at Ibrox in 1956.

Seven ex-Juniors were in that side: Niven (Coupar Angus); Shearer (Burnbank Athletic), Caldwell (Muirkirk); McColl, Young (Rob Roy), Logie (Cambuslang Rangers); Scott (Bo'ness United), Simpson, Murray, Baird (Rutherglen Glencairn), Hubbard.

Of course, Rangers had been signing Junior players long before that, many of whom are now Ibrox legends.

Names like Willie Waddell (Forth Wanderers), Torry Gillock and Willie Rae (both Petershill), Jock Shaw (Benburb), Sam English (Yoker Athletic) and Scot Symon (Dundee Violet) come to mind.

Incidentally, at the moment Petershill have another Willie Rae in their team. He is also a wing half, a good player, and needless to say is son of the old Ranger.

The present-day Ibrox staff has a strong Junior flavour. Norrie Martin played in Ayrshire with Dalry Thistle; Ron McKinnon in the Central League with Dunipace; and Colin Stein in the East with Armadale Thistle.

The Fife League produced Jim Baxter, from the now-defunct Crossgates Primrose; Willie Johnston, from Lochore Welfare; and Willie Mathieson, from St. Andrews United.

Final thought on the merits of the Juniors—Can there be much wrong with a game which offers players like Colin Stein and Jim Baxter for £200?



Mr. D. Hope, Director Rangers F.C., accompanied by Andy Penman and Kai Johansen at the Official Opening of the Greenock Social Club, 1969.



7th Annual Dance of Gourock Branch—John Greig accepts table lighter from Provost Williamson, for Willie Johnston, Branch "Player of the Year". Also in picture, members of committee and their guests and wives.

THERE'S a story about Alex. MacDonald that crops up in soccer circles whenever there's any discussion on how keen players are about their particular clubs.

I don't know for sure if the tale is true, and Alex. can't verify it. But it's in keeping with how very much a Ranger Alex. is at heart.

According to the way the yarn goes, the first sound Alex. is credited with hearing as a baby was the roar of the crowd at Ibrox.

He was born within earshot of The Stadium on St. Patrick's Day 21 years ago. And during that particular era the Rangers fans certainly had plenty to shout about.

What there is no question about is that Alex. MacDonald has been "Rangers daft" for as long as he can remember.

As a youngster he was lifted over the turnstiles to see his favourites play. At "three-and-in" knock-about he was either Jim Baxter or Ian McMillan, depending on which position he was playing at the time for Glasgow United.

He recalls being bitterly disappointed when Rangers transferred Baxter to Sunderland. Then Alex. himself proceeded to hit the long round-about trail which was to lead eventually to Ibrox.

As a 15-year-old he was taken south to Leeds United by Don Revie, stuck it for a fortnight and returned home. He had a couple of weeks training with Partick Thistle then Morton before St. Johnstone signed him.

Ibrox Born Alex

● ● By DAVID ALLISTER,
Scottish Daily Express

All the time he kept hoping Rangers would take an interest, but even when they did sign him for around £50,000 he could hardly believe his luck.

Perhaps his background of being a dyed-in-the-wool Rangers man since boyhood, coupled with that sizeable transfer fee, put the brakes on his being an immediate success.

Only now, in fact, is Alex. losing the awe of being a Ranger. He admits he's still scared stiff to make a mistake.

Manager Davie White is convinced he bought a player who will make his mark for Rangers. Players like Jim Baxter and Colin Stein have taken Alex. aside and told him to forget the transfer fee.

I think this season will see the lad, who was born with the roar of the Ibrox crowd on his doorstep, emerge as a regular Ranger.



Dalmarnock Branch—Big Tommy Laird and his “Team”—“Always Smiling.”



Colin Stein (seated fourth from left), Honorary President of Sauchie Branch, accompanied by the Committee and Branch Members at one of their Social Functions.

BEHIND THE SCENES

WHEN the Editor of the Annual approached me with the request: “We would like you to write an article for us, giving your background, football participation, etc..” I frankly felt just a little taken aback. As the Rangers physiotherapist I prefer to work away attending the players’ injuries without any limelight, because, in all modesty, I am rather a retiring sort of individual—as far as publicity goes anyway.

Having agreed, however, to the request I will tell you something of myself but I can never adequately express the thrill and pride of becoming a member of the Rangers staff. I can, for instance, never forget my first day at the Stadium or my emotions in the thought that I was now an integral part of this great professional set-up. This was now to be my working habitat.

I was born in Gourdon, Kincardineshire, in 1933 which, without troubling you to subtract, makes me 36 years of age and I can tell you I have packed many an absorbing experience into those years since I left Gourdon Primary School, then Inverbervie Junior Secondary and graduated to Mackie Academy, Stonehaven.

Like any youngster who loves the game I played schools’ football with Mackie Academy and for the local junior team. Those were the days of high adventure and burning enthusiasm. The carefree days of school passed and, looking to the future, I decided upon a career of physiotherapy. My student days were spent in Glasgow and despite the fact that shillings were worth a fortune enough was “saved” to visit Ibrox

as a supporter on a Saturday—part of my relaxation from my studies!

My physiotherapy ambition achieved after 3½ years study, interspersed by two years national service in the Air Force, I broadened my horizon working in Bedford, London, Stirling and Arbroath Hospitals. Over and above this I still found the call of soccer insistent and persuading.

Appointed physiotherapist to Dundee F.C. in Season 1959 saw the start of my “football career”. I was to remain with them until 1965-66. Fate found me returning to Glasgow and joining Clyde as assistant trainer

By **LAWRIE SMITH,**
Physiotherapist, Rangers F.C.

and later as trainer. My association with Mr. David White at Shawfield was, as it is now, harmonious and built on mutual trust. When invited to renew our link when he became Manager of Rangers, I need hardly tell you, I readily agreed.

Often I have been asked, “How do you relax. What do you do to get away from it all?” That is easy to answer. The reading of a good book, a chess board or an hour in the garden are enough for me to unwind.

Since my appointment in December, 1967, to Rangers F.C. I have met many loyal supporters who have expressed to me their good wishes and congratulations. I now take this opportunity, in print, to say to them a sincere “thank you”.

CORBY BRANCH MESSAGE . . .

IT is indeed a pleasure to have the opportunity of writing a short article from Corby in the Annual. We in Corby have been very ambitious and although we are very far from home I can assure you that we have not lost touch with the "Gers". We have recently ventured into a new world by opening a brand new Club in Rockingham Road, Corby, which we think is the largest Rangers Supporters' Club in existence and which is the pride of Corby. Every evening we have social functions and at the end of the

evening one can hear the famous chant of "Follow, Follow". We do have many "Gers" supporters visiting us while on holiday and they have been very impressed with our Club. A warm welcome is given to everyone, so if you are coming this way give us a look up and see for yourself what we have achieved in "exile".

"UP THE 'GERS".

A. CRAWFORD, *Branch Secretary*



Corby Branch Hall Bar showing Secretary A. Crawford and Club Steward W. Simpson.

ANOTHER GERRY?



By BOBBY MAITLAND, *Evening Citizen* ● ● ●

ONE of Rangers best ever performances in Europe was the night in West Germany in 1967 when, with only 10 men, they held Borussia Dortmund to a goalless draw—and marched forward magnificently to the next round of the European Cup Winners Cup.

And the Ibrox hero that night was goalkeeper Norrie Martin who knew that if he lost just one goal Rangers were out having only a 2-1 lead from the first leg at Ibrox and the West German "away" goal counting double.

It was a display that even the Dortmund fans applauded including a young West German policeman on duty at the European Cup tie.

Little did he imagine that three years later he would be displacing Norrie Martin as the Rangers No. 1 goalkeeper.!

Of course, even yet 23-year-old Gerhardt Neef finds it hard to believe that he is playing for the famous Glasgow Rangers.

Gerry—as he is known to everyone at Ibrox—came to Scotland a year ago for a trial with Aberdeen. He was ready to go home to West Germany and abandon his idea of becoming a professional footballer when he received Rangers offer.

"It all happened so quickly it took me weeks to realise that I had actually signed for

Rangers," says the 23-year-old West German who became a goalkeeper purely by chance.

"I was an outfield player and was asked by my amateur club to take over in goal as no one wanted the position. I agreed—and proceeded to let in many goals. Most of them were lost through fisting the ball clear. So the team coach made me practice clutching instead of punching the ball. Now I do this automatically," Gerry told me in his house which is only 10 minutes away from Ibrox.

And it is this clean and confident clutching of the ball in the air that has made Ibrox fans compare Gerry with another Rangers keeper . . . the immortal Jerry Dawson.

"Ever heard of him?" I asked the ex-policeman from Dortmund.

"Sure" came the reply as quick as some of these aerial acrobats of Gerry's. "He must have been some goalkeeper for even yet people still talk about him. Now if only that could happen to me . . ."

In his short spell with Rangers Gerry has crammed in European ties, a trip to Canada and America and taken part in his first Old Firm match.

"Boy, that was something I'll never forget. It is a game that you cannot describe, the build-up, the tension before the start and then these exciting 90 minutes."

Yet Gerry did not feel the slightest bit nervous in that first match against Celtic before or during the match. But after, now that's a different story. "I tell you, when the game is finished and the nervous reaction sets in I actually sweat under the shower. No kidding."

Since he came to Scotland Gerry has written home regularly telling the folks back home all about Rangers.

"I try to explain the fantastic fans but it's hard for me to put it in writing" confesses Gerry.

The boy from West Germany suddenly realised what it meant to be a Ranger when he

stepped off the plane this summer in Toronto to be greeted by hundreds of fans in blue and white scarves.

"Imagine a welcome like that on the other side of the world. I tell you, the Rangers fans are the greatest."

Gerry's ambition is to settle in Scotland, stay with Rangers and help win the Ibrox club as many honours as possible.

"I'm proud to play for Rangers and I want them to be proud of me," says the ex-policeman from West Germany whose beat is now along the Ibrox goal-lines.



A Daily Mail Photo

Colin Stein being congratulated by Andy Penman on scoring his first goal of his hat-trick against Hibernian, his former team mates when Rangers won 6-1 at Ibrox. Willie Johnston and Dave Smith are also in picture.

TWO of the greatest players to wear the Rangers colours were Willie Waddell and Willie Thornton. Their names have been written in a prominent place in the history of the Ibrox club.

Both were signed by the late William Struth, one of the giants in the managerial world, and their famous partnership in the Ibrox attack won many honours for the club.

Thornton collected a hat-trick of Scottish Cup medals, when the Ibrox club won it in 1948-49-50, while Waddell played in the 1949 team and in the 1953 Scottish Cup winning side.

In addition they helped Rangers to win the league championship in 1939, 50 and 53. Both came to Rangers in 1938, and Waddell had a sensational first team debut against Arsenal, when he scored the winner, in a match when Arsenal had just paid a record fee for their right-winger, Bryn Jones of Wolves.

Thornton played his first league game at outside-right for Rangers against Partick Thistle at Firhill, when he was a young player on the Ibrox staff.

Both players went on to have distinguished careers with Rangers, and in present day football it would be impossible to place a fee on their value.

After leaving Ibrox both players took up a career in journalism, but it wasn't long until they were back in the game as managers.

Thornton joined Dundee and built a promising Dens Park side, which won the Scottish League championship after he had gone to Partick Thistle in succession to another former Rangers player, David Meiklejohn.

Now Willie Thornton is back at Ibrox as assistant manager to David White.

The Days of the Famous Willies' WADDELL and THORNTON

By JIM RODGER, *Scottish Daily Express*

Waddell, as manager of Kilmarnock, guided his club to win the Scottish League championship. Now Willie Waddell is back in journalism, and writes in the *Scottish Daily Express*.

The days of the famous Willies . . . Waddell and Thornton were great . . . but they are the first to admit that it is all a part of history . . . and it is today that counts.

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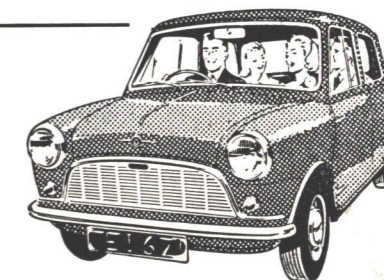
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RANGERS F.C.—Season 1969-70

BACK ROW (*left to right*)—PROVAN, McCALLUM, JACKSON, KEDDIE, SORENSEN, MARTIN, NEEF, D. STEVENSON, SETTERINGTON, BAXTER, N. STEVENSON, FERGUSON, I. McDONALD

MIDDLE—L. SMITH (Physiotherapist), R. WATSON, K. WATSON, MATHIESON, MATCHETT, McKINNON, MILLAR, PERSSON, CAIRNS, SMITH, FYFE, JOHANSEN, SEMPLE, JARDINE, J. CRAVEN (Assistant Trainer)

FRONT—DAVIE WHITE (Manager), HENDERSON, LAING, A. MacDONALD, CONN, STEIN, WHITE, GREIG, McPHEE, PENMAN, HERRON, JOHNSTON, WILLIE THORNTON (Assistant Manager), DAVIE KINNEAR (Trainer).