

## Sunderland A.F.C. Formation – The 1887 Sunderland Echo Articles

*The following articles are a direct transcript of the first known attempt at documenting the history of Sunderland A.F.C. They appeared in the Sunderland Echo in December 1887, and were written by the same journalist who regularly wrote the match reports and weekly analysis articles.*

*It is interesting to note that the author had been helped by the “kindness of several members of the team”. At the time of these articles, virtually all of the men who had founded the club were no longer there, either as players or on the administration side. The only people available who could have helped the author with the formation and early years information were James Allan, John Grayston and possibly Edward Woodward.*

*James Allan was still playing though rarely got a game following the influx of Scottish players in the pre-season. He made an appearance in an FA Cup replay at Morpeth on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1887, but then played no further part until January 1888 when he replaced the injured Monaghan against Partick Thistle. His reappearance caused the local reporter to comment “It has been so long since Allan was engaged in active football that his debut raised the greatest curiosity”. He made only 5 more appearances – only because Monaghan, Hastings and Richardson had been suspended by the FA - with his last ever game for the club on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1888. He was also club treasurer. However he was at odds with how the club was being run and increasingly marginalised; he had left and formed Sunderland Albion by March 1888, and was unceremoniously replaced as club treasurer at the AGM of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1888.*

*John Grayston was no longer playing but was joint secretary at the time. He had been away from the club for 2 whole years (1882 and 1883) when he was in London completing his teacher training.*

*Edward Woodward was the other joint secretary. He had played the odd game for the reserves from 1883, but his younger brother Frank had played a game in the 1880-1 season and a few more through to 1884.*

*These 1887 articles cite late 1879 as the formation date. However, they are littered with inaccuracies, to such an extent that it is difficult to trust any particular “fact” that they state. What is pretty obvious in the 1887 articles is the attempt to squeeze in 1879-80 as a playing season – when it wasn’t – to such an extent that a “phantom” season is invented between 1882-83 and 1883-84! It is interesting that this “fuzziness” between 1882 and 1884 lines up with the years John Grayston was in London; perhaps he was the main “helper” with the articles which is not unreasonable given he would, as secretary, be first point of contact into the club. James Allan was a less likely contact given his absence from playing at the time the articles were written.*

*The most blatant inaccuracies are indicated by numbered superscripts and explained in the footnotes.*

*Note the second and third parts of the history are actually just pen pictures of the 1887-88 players, but still make for interesting reading.*

*The original articles can be found at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>.*

*Article 1 - Sunderland Echo, Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 1887*

## FOOTBALL IN SUNDERLAND

(SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY “FOOTBALL”)

### SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION F.C.

I

When on Saturday evening the editor of this paper gave me instructions to produce as early as possible, certainly not later than Tuesday, a short account of the senior association club and its players I thought he had set me a very difficult task, but owing to the kindness of the several members of the team I have not had to claim the full time allowed me, but am able on the very first

publishing day after receiving orders to place before my readers the first instalment of the brief record required – space considerations prevent me giving all the article to-day. Of course, the following account is not so detailed as I should have liked it to have been, but hope it will not be without interest to the readers of the *Echo*.

The club was formed towards the end of 1879, under the name of Sunderland and District Teachers' Association F.C., and commenced its career at Hendon, its first ground being the "Blue House" field. Only some 24 or 25 pedagogues were at that time enrolled as members, and, I believe, of all the clubs they met that season not one is in existence at the present time, such clubs as Sedgefield, Bishop Middleham, Ferryhill, Ovingham, Tyne, Newcastle Rangers, &c., being all numbered with the things that have been.<sup>1</sup> During the first two seasons of the club's history the rent of the field and the travelling expenses were paid by a few prominent members, whose enthusiasm outstripped their finances, or, in other words, who gave the club more support than they could really afford. When this fact became painfully apparent, there were only two courses open, viz., either to disband the club or extend the membership qualification, and the latter alternative was decided upon.<sup>2</sup>

At the time of the formation of the club there was only one Challenge Cup for the two Northern counties, and Sunderland entered the competition during the first year of its existence, but was defeated in the first round by Sedgefield<sup>3</sup>. The game was an awfully rough one, several Sunderland players being injured, some so badly that they never played football again. However in 1880-1 they fared a little better, getting into the third round before being beaten by Newcastle Rangers.<sup>4</sup> After extending the membership, and changing the name to Sunderland Association Football Club, they removed in 1881-2 to a field near the Cedars, and towards the end of the season to the field at Ashbrooke now occupied by the Sunderland Cricket and Football Club.<sup>5</sup> That season they were even more fortunate in the competition for the Challenge Cup, working their way to the semi-final, only to be beaten by "Tyne," who obtained the victory by two goals.<sup>6</sup>

The following season still found them at Ashbrooke and following up their successes of previous years in an even more marked fashion, for after proving themselves the pick of Durham clubs, they

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<sup>1</sup> There is no evidence of any matches being played in 1879-80 season. Ferryhill, Ovingham and Rangers first appeared as opponents in 1880-81, Tyne in 1881-82 and Bishop Middleham as late as March 1883. Ovingham in particular could not have been opponents in 1879-80; they were not formed until 25<sup>th</sup> September 1880 following an exhibition game at their cricket ground (Tyne v Corbridge), a fact well-documented in the Newcastle Journal of the time.

<sup>2</sup> The opening up of the club to non-teachers, and renaming to Sunderland A.F.C. is known to have taken place after a practice at the Blue House Field on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1880, reported in the Sunderland Echo the following Monday. Therefore even if the club were formed in October 1879, this is only a year, not two years, later.

<sup>3</sup> The Northumberland and Durham F.A. was formed at the Turk's Head, Grey Street, Newcastle on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1880. They did not introduce the Challenge Cup until late May 1880. So if the cup was in existence at the time the club was formed, as stated, then June 1880 is the earliest possible formation date. Sunderland did enter the inaugural competition, losing to Newcastle Rangers in the Semi-Final. They were actually knocked out by Sedgefield in the first round of the 1881-82 competition.

<sup>4</sup> This is correct, but this was the first, not second, year of the competition.

<sup>5</sup> They remained at Blue House Field until the end of 1881-82, moving the Ashbrooke at the start of 1882-3; but they had changed their name long before this in 1880.

<sup>6</sup> This was actually the 1882-83 season, and the defeat to Tyne was in the Final, not the Semi-Final.

had once more to give place to Tyne in the final tie, though only 1 goal behind.<sup>7</sup> The season of 1883-4 brought about their "emigration" to the north side of the river, where they took up their quarters on a piece of open ground at the foot of Roker Avenue. It was at this time that a resolution was passed to have a separate Challenge Cup for each county, and after much discussion Northumberland retained the old cup, agreeing to pay Durham a certain sum, but the less said about this matter the better. Sunderland now accomplished the feat for which they had so long striven. The final tie for the Durham cup (which then existed only in imagination) was played on the ground now occupied by the club in Newcastle Road. Sunderland came off victorious, but Darlington entered a protest on the ground of "Intimidation." The county committee ordered the tie to be replayed at Birtley, and again Sunderland won; the cup being presented to the club the following Shrove Tuesday, or only some six weeks before their year as holders.

Once more they moved the scene of the action for home games, renting the Abbs field, Fulwell, now occupied by the North Sands Shipyard Rovers, and it was at this period of their existence that they first embarked upon the energetic policy in catering for their supporters which has been such a notable feature in the management of the club. The first engagement with Port Glasgow Athletics was, as regards play, a most disastrous one, for, after scoring the first goal, Sunderland could do nothing against the Scotchmen, who ran up a total of 11 goals. However, great good resulted from the game, a much better style of playing being introduced. The next visitors were 5<sup>th</sup> K. R. V., who, however, were unable to lower the home team's colours, a hard game resulting in a draw of one goal each, Sunderland equalising just before time was called. This season again found Darlington and Sunderland fighting out their old battle in the final tie for the County Cup, but the tables were turned, Darlington being hailed as victors. Sunderland protested on exactly the same grounds as did their opponents the year before, but the committee did not give them a hearing. It was also during this season that Sunderland first entered the competition for the "Football Association Challenge Cup," or "English Cup," as it is commonly called. They were however, defeated in the first round by Redcar. Owing to the action of the Challenge Cup Committee in regard to their protest, it was unwisely decided not to enter the Durham Cup in season 1885-86. There being no Cup ties to excite the followers of the club, interest to a certain degree died out, causing "gates" to rule less than they would otherwise have done. The only Cup tie in which the team took part was in the first round for the national trophy, when they were again defeated by Redcar, the latter team, I believe, being one of the last eight left that year. Port Glasgow again visited these parts, and were astonished at the rapid improvement that had been made in one year, and were lucky to go away victorious by two goals to one.

One month from the end of the season the Newcastle Road ground was secured, and the club, after having had a seven years' struggle against financial difficulties, was now on the high way to prosperity. The opening of the new ground was signalled by the healing of the old sore between Darlington and Sunderland, and a most pleasant game was witnessed by a large number of spectators, probably not one of whom had the slightest idea that in the course of one year such large crowds would be gathered round the ropes as have been seen when the home team has played such clubs as West End, &c. Most of my readers will remember the performances of last

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<sup>7</sup> None of this happened at all! They were at Ashbrooke only one season, 1882-83, and only ever met Tyne once in the N&DCC, that season's final.

season quite as well as I do – how the club, having secured popularity, the committee used its efforts to increase it.

Few will forget the games with West End, when, after winning the English cup tie, Sunderland were ordered to play over again at Newcastle, and how, owing to an accident to one of the backs, they played one man short, and were only defeated a minute before time was called. Then there was the match in aid of the injured player, which ended once more in favour of our boys by the narrow majority of one goal. Visitors from a distance were numerous, including Notts Mellors, Notts Rangers, Notts Jardines, Sheffield, Linthouse (Glasgow), Glasgow Rangers, &c., but the crowning triumph was the carrying off for the second time of the Durham Cup. Once more Darlington were their opponents. “Paper form” – that puzzling criterion – pointed to an even game, and expectation ran high, partisans of both teams mustering in large numbers. Never up to that time had such crowds witnessed a football match in this district. The Newcastle papers had been crowing about the large “gate” (seventy odd pounds) at the Northumberland final tie, but again Durham asserted itself, over £80 being the receipts. The game was a hard one from beginning to end, for although Sunderland always had the upper hand they could ease down, their opponents playing with desperation. The hard work of the season told a tale, and after this tie the team fell off considerably in their back-end fixtures.

The present season gives promise of being the most successful that either the Sunderland or any other local club has ever had. Up to date only one game has been decided against them, viz., that against the Blackburn Rovers, and even on that occasion the result was a credit to the home team. As matters stand at present they are entitled to play in the fifth round for the English Cup, and third for the Durham Cup, having beaten Durham University by eight to none in the second round. The clubs defeated this season include Mellors, St. Augustine, Darlington, West End (twice), Elswick Rangers, Bishop Auckland, Morpeth Harriers (twice), Shankhouse, Durham University, and Middlesbrough, the latter after a drawn game in the third round for the National trophy. Middlesbrough has, however, entered a protest on the ground of professionalism, and as the matter is still *sub judice* I must refrain from dealing with the case. Representatives have been sent to London for the meeting held to-night, and the decision is eagerly awaited by members and supporters.

The remainder of the article will appear tomorrow, when biographical sketches and critical analyses of the various players will be given.

## FOOTBALL IN SUNDERLAND

(SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY "FOOTBALL")

### SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION F.C.

#### II.

Kirtley, who keeps goal for the Sunderland Association Football Club, is acknowledged as the best custodian in the district, his magnificent "saves" invariably gaining him hearty plaudits. He is now 25 years of age, stands 5ft. 8in. high, and turns the scale a little over 10 stone. He first entered the football arena when 21 years of age, taking his post "'tween t' sticks" for Workmen's Hall F.C., which was broken up when he joined Sunderland in 1885, since then he has played for the senior team in all its principal matches. Talking of his performances, he says he considers his display against "Hearts of Midlothian" at Edinburgh in 1885-6 was his best effort. As I had the pleasure of being present on that and most other occasions I can cordially endorse his opinion, and doubtless there are many in Edinburgh who still remember the way he kept their players at bay during a continual bombardment. He has not yet played for his county, but has been selected to keep goal against Corinthians.

Probably the Sunderland backs are the smallest pair in any club of note, but, although both short in stature, they are, as cricketers' say of Bates, "the best for their inches."

Ford, who is just 21 years of age, is 64 inches high, and weighs 9st 7lbs. He is a native of Glasgow, and commenced to play football with the Roseburn club in his native city, having a place both on the wing and in the centre, as occasion required. Last season he removed to Manchester, and joining the South End club he was placed at half-back. This season he came to work in Sunderland, and joining the senior club played back for the first time against Darlington, and was selected as reserve back for the match Durham v. Corinthians, to be played on the 31<sup>st</sup> inst.

Oliver, or "Dowk," as he is familiarly called, a native of Southwick, is probably the best back Sunderland has ever produced. He is a strong kick, grand charger, and above all sure "tackler." He is an ideal back in all except height. He is only a few weeks over 19 years of age, and stands 5 feet 6 inches, but so compactly is he built that 11st 7½lbs represent his "fighting weight." He commenced his football career as centre forward for "Suddick." During his connection with that club the team won a silver cup put up for competition at Murton, also silver medals in another contest at the same place, but only managed to take second prize in the competition promoted by Ashville F. C. Joining the Sunderland club at the commencement of the current season, he made his *debut* with the crack team in a public practice match at half-back, but his abilities at the back were soon discovered, and he had occupied that position ever since. Notwithstanding this being his first season in a senior team, he has already played in a county match, viz., Durham v. Cleveland, and people are now asking in amazement why he has not also been awarded a place on the team to meet "Pa Jackson's" eleven on the last day of this year.

As captain of the team, Dale demands first attention amongst the half-backs, "Freddie," as the boys delight to call him, is 23 years of age, weighs 10st. 7lbs, and is 5ft. 6in. high. His first efforts, like

those of Kirtley, were, in 1883, put forth on behalf of the Workmen's Hall Club, and along with others he joined the senior club the following year. He was one of the B team which took the second prize in a five-a-side contest at Fulwell. His play is characterised by dogged determination. He is never beaten, and the efforts of many a brilliant player or pair of players have been rendered of no avail by his determination. No "gallery" play is ever shown by him; he goes in for nothing but downright hard work. Unfortunately, at the commencement of the present season he was somewhat out of form, but he has now got into first-class condition, his play on Saturday last being one of his very best performances.

Richardson (age 21, weight 10st. 2lbs, height 5ft. 6½in.) is another hard-working half-back, with splendid heading powers. He is a native of Dumfries, and commenced to play in the ranks of "Rob Roy", one of the best junior combinations in his birthplace. After playing with this club until 1882, he joined the Queen of the South Wanderers, being at once given a place on the first team. They played that season in the Churchill and Scottish Cup ties, and were put out in the second round of both competitions by 5<sup>th</sup> K. R. V. In 1883-4, he took part in the early Scottish Cup ties, and in all the ties for the Churchill Cup, until they were defeated in the semi-final by three goals to nil. The following season, the Southern Counties (Scotland) Charity Cup was offered, and the "Wanderers" entered for that as well as the Scottish and Churchill Cups. This time they reached the fourth round for their national "Pot" where they were defeated by "Annbank." As a sort of consolation for the defeat they "lifted" the Churchill Cup, beating Stranraer in the final tie by six goals to two. Not content with that, they also "laid hands upon" the Charity Cup, for, after a drawn game of one each with 5<sup>th</sup> K. R. V., they defeated the volunteers by five to two. 1885-6 was a repetition of the previous season. Arthurlis beat them in the fourth round for the Scottish Cup, but again they took both the other trophies, beating Moffat by eleven goals to one, after a drawn game for the Charity, and again beat 5<sup>th</sup> K. R. V. by five to two for the Churchill. Last season he did but little, although his club reached a higher stage in the Scottish competition, and for the third time in succession claimed the title of holders of the Charity Cup, This season found him in Sunderland, and his performances are too well known to need recapitulation here. Suffice it to say, he is selected reserve half-back for Durham County in its forthcoming engagement with the Corinthians.

Hastings, unfortunately, I have been unable to ensnare, and cannot give his various "points." He is a good half-back, but those who know him best say he is now playing below his usual form. For some years he has played on the same team as Richardson, and the performances of one are rivalled by those of the other. Since his connection with Sunderland he has represented Durham County in the game against Cleveland.

Davison took his early lessons in football at Gainford School, playing under both codes. After leaving school he joined the Humbledon (Rugby) Club of this town, occupying a post on that team for seven years. In scores of matches I have had the pleasure of playing behind him during my connection with the Humbledon Club in the early years of its existence, and was the first to recommend him to the senior Association club, for which the High Barnes club will probably not thank me. In 1885, without severing his connection with Humbledon, he assisted Fulwell in their Charity Medal ties, and as a result one of the medals found its way into "Arnie's" possession. Joining Sunderland last season, he was given a place as forward on the left wing, which post he occupied until a few weeks ago, when, by way of experiment, he was tried on the "outside right," and has been kept there. He is 23 years of age, scales 10st. 2lb., and stands 5 feet 8 inches "over all."

Stewart, who partners Davison on the right wing, is one of the most popular players on the team. He belongs to Renfrew. He is only 19 years of age, weighs but 9st. 6lbs., and stands 5ft. 5in. Nevertheless, he can upset an 11 or 12-stone man with greatest ease, and the manner in which he gets his head above that of his taller opponent often causes great amusement to the *habitués* of the Newcastle road ground. His football career has only been a short one, for, incredible as it may appear, he only began to play last season, when, upon joining the Renfrew club, he was elected goal keeper for the first team, in which position he played in the three drawn games against Morton for the Renfrewshire Cup, the latter ultimately winning by two goals to nil. In July last he removed with his parents to Sunderland, and his talents were soon discovered by the home club in a practice game, played on the evening of August 25<sup>th</sup>. After the game he was placed centre forward, but was soon removed to the post he now occupies, viz., "inside right." It is rather remarkable that he should be placed on the county team during his first season as a player, but that honour was conferred upon him in the match Renfrewshire v. Stirlingshire. This game he considers found him in his finest trim, his county winning by three goals to two. During his connection with the Sunderland club he has often been of the greatest service where they seemed about to be beaten. His brilliant rushes at Morpeth in the English Cup Tie will long live in the memory of the spectators. He fairly electrified everyone by his speed and command over ball. Middlesbrough, too, has reason to remember his fine attack, and great things are expected of him in the future.

The remainder of this article will appear tomorrow, when sketches of the careers of Monaghan, Gloagg, Halliday, and Smith will be given.

## FOOTBALL IN SUNDERLAND

(SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY "FOOTBALL")

### SUNDERLAND ASSOCIATION F.C.

#### III

Monaghan, who now holds the position so many years occupied by Allan as extreme "left," is perhaps one of the strongest players in the team. Hard as nails, he can stand a deal of knocking about, rough play having little effect on him. He is 25 years old, stands 5ft. 7in., and so compactly built is he that he turns the scale at 11st. 11lbs. A native of Ayr, he cannot be termed as light as the name of his birthplace. His football experience commenced in 1883, when he joined a junior club called "The Seaside." His membership of that club, however, was of short duration, for, being asked to join the senior club of his native town, he did so, and the following season was the first reserve for the first team, and having a place in the second team in the Scottish Second Eleven Cup Ties until it was defeated by the ultimate winners – Kilmarnock Athletic – in the third round, after a drawn game. The whole of the following season he had a place in the first team, assisting in the winning of both Kilmarnock and Ayr Charity cups, also taking part in the Scottish cup ties up to the fourth round, when they were defeated by the Edinburgh Hibernians, the present holders. In the season 1885-6, he only played a few matches in his old place, for after taking part in the first of the three Scottish cup ties against 3<sup>rd</sup> L. R. V., he was, unfortunately, owing to illness, unable to fill his post during the remainder of the season. Last season, after playing only one game for the club of his native place, he secured work at Dumfries and joined the Queen of the South Wanderers, playing for that club the remainder of the season, making his *debut* in a five-a-side contest at the Dumfries annual games, the team winning the first prize of five silver cups. He also took part, together with Halliday and three others, in a five-a-side competition at Dumfries Recreation Grounds, again winning first prize (gilt timepieces), beating Richardson's team by one goal. During his connection with the "Wanderers" he played with them for the Churchill Cup. Mention of this cup has several times cropped up in these sketches; it may, therefore, be as well to state that it is a trophy presented by a gentleman of that name for competition amongst clubs in the southern counties of Scotland. Monaghan also took part in the winning of the Southern Counties Charity Cup, the "Churchill" just eluding their grasp, Lockerbie beating them in the final by 3 to 2. Besides this, the team reached the fifth stage in the Scottish Cup Competition, but was then "put out" by the "Hibs," the ultimate winners, and, as I have already stated, present holders. Further than this, he was selected as one of the representatives of the Southern Counties in the fixture against Ayrshire, but refused to play, owing to an umpire, in the trial game, having made an unfounded charge against him, which he declined to withdraw. At the commencement of the present season he was representing the club of his adoption when they inflicted a seven to two defeat upon Edinburgh Hibernians, and with a weak team scored 4 goals against 3 for their old rivals – 5<sup>th</sup> K. R. V. He then came to Sunderland, having secured work at the New Town Hall buildings, and being an old club-mate of J. Hunter's, who played for Sunderland two years ago, he joined the senior club, proving a tower of strength on the left wing. It is hardly necessary to dwell on his performances here, seeing they are fresh in the memory of most of my readers. He is speedy, a good shot, full of "dodges," and,



above all, cool-headed. Unfortunately he is not well at present, but hopes when the next Cup Tie is decided to be in first-class fettle. He was selected first reserve for Durham County v. Staffordshire, and but for the English Cup Tie would have had to render assistance. A place on the county team v. Cleveland was also offered to him, but again he could not fill it, illness being the cause on that occasion. However, another chance of county honours awaits him on December 31<sup>st</sup>, his name being found in the list of players selected to do duty against the Corinthians.

Gloag, who is now 20 years of age, partners Monaghan on the left wing, and in build is vastly different from the latter player, for whilst both are the same height, "Glo-gie" is 2st. 3lbs. lighter than Monaghan, turning the balance at 9st. 8lbs. His brother-in-law is Drummond, of Preston North End fame. He commenced leather-kicking at the early age of 13, his first attempt being for the Beavers (Edinburgh), which club has produced some of the best players in the kingdom, including such well-known men as Drummond (Preston North End), McKay (Hearts of Midlothian), White (Hearts of Midlothian), Ryan (Edinburgh Hibernians), &c. In 1884 he left the Scottish capital for Glasgow, where he allied himself with "Roseburn," playing on the right wing with Ford. However, he transferred his allegiance to the Towerhill Club, and had a place on the team which won the *Glasgow Evening News* Charity Cup, the North-Eastern Cup, and acted as runners up for the Glasgow Junior Cup, all in one season, the team being undoubtedly the finest junior combination in Glasgow. This season, in search of work, he visited this district, and being successful in Sunderland, he presented himself to some of the members of the Newcastle-road Club, and after being tried with the second team against Morpeth Harriers II., he was placed on the senior team, first as centre forward, then as "inside left." He combines great pace and a neat style of passing. In fact, with a few more weeks' practice with his present partner a wing second to none in this district will result. Before leaving Glasgow he was elected vice-captain of the Roseburn Club, but did not play with the team after his election. He has already secured county honours for Durham, being on the team defeated by Cleveland a fortnight ago, and so well was the committee satisfied with his play that he has been selected for the forthcoming fixture v. Corinthians.

Halliday, or "Lang Tam," is the tallest and most experienced member of the team. I was considerably surprised when he told me he was only 5ft. 10¾in. from head to foot, for I had already put down 6ft., and was awaiting the number of odd inches. He is 25 years of age, and weighs 11st. 10lbs. He commenced to play in 1878 for Queen of the South Wanderers as "goal watcher," his first public performance being in the first round of the Scottish Cup competition, Stranraer being the opposing club. The following season found him competing with the Wanderers in the Scottish, Churchill, and Charity Cup competitions, occupying all posts on the field in turn. Goal-keeper, back, half-back, or forward play were all the same to him; no place came wrong, and the occupation of the various posts has been the means of making him one of the best all round players it is possible to find. In the season 1881-2 he played centre forward, and accomplished a big feat in goal scoring. Out of 68 goals obtained by the team 58 were placed to his credit. The following year he again scored a very large proportion of the goals obtained, but owing to threats of personal violence the club committee deemed it necessary to give him a place as back, his attention being divided between that position and half-back until he came to Sunderland this season. During his career he has played against nearly all the leading clubs in Scotland, including Edinburgh Hibernians, Queen's Park, Paisley St. Mirren's, Arthurlie, Cowlairst, Battlefield, Hearts of Midlothian, Kilmarnock Athletic, Dumbarton 3<sup>rd</sup> L. R. V., Glasgow Rangers, &c. His cup ties have been too numerous to remember, including as they do about thirty for the Scottish Cup, several for the Churchill Cup, which they won twice in succession, and a

large number for the Southern Counties Charity Cup, won by them three consecutive years; besides three English and one Durham Cup tie. The first year they won both cups only six goals were scored against them in the two competitions. His prizes are numerous. He has secured first honours in no less than twenty-three five-a-side competitions, besides winning prizes for kicking, &c., and, of course, medals with challenge cups. It will thus be seen that, from commencing to play until he came to Sunderland (a period of ten years), he continued steadfast to one club, and his loss is severely felt by the "Wanderers." As I have already intimated, he only came to Sunderland this year, his first game being, like that of Gloag, for the Reserve team v. Morpeth Harriers II. His early exhibition did not favourably impress the spectators, and after a couple of matches or so he narrowly escaped being put off the team, and only by the committee proper declining to be dictated to by "secret corner committees," did he retain his position. At that time, as I reported in my weekly "Notes on Athletics," he informed me that playing with strange players, on a strange ground, before strangers, had a powerful effect upon him, but bye-and-bye he would pull a "bit out" and he did so, those who formerly were most anxious to have him displaced now joining in the chorus of praise.

Smith, who is now regarded as "twelfth man," has a strong claim to be included in this record. He is popularly believed to be "a native," but such is not the case. He was born at Tipton, in Staffordshire, some 21 years ago, but when "quite a lad" he came with his parents to Sunderland, and this doubtless accounts for the mistake. He is 5ft. 4in.; scales 10 stone, and commenced to follow the sphere for a now defunct club, called the Monkwearmouth Wanderers, in 1884-5. One of the Sunderland "spotting" committee having got his eye upon him, he was asked to join the senior club, and, like others, feeling that honour was being thrust upon him, did so, being placed on the right wing as partner to Erskine. He is what is termed "a dashing player." Fleet of foot, and fearless, he has often been of great service to the team, one of his best performances this season being that against Blackburn Rovers. He was one of the team which won the first prize in the five-a-side contest promoted by the Sunderland club two years ago.

I was unable to give a sketch of Hastings' career before, but having "caged my bird" last night, I am now able to do so. He is 21 years of age, stands 5ft. 7½in. high, and weighs 10st. 7lb. A native of Dumfries, he began his football career with the Dumfries *Courier and Herald* Club about seven years ago. His only games of note for that club were two cup ties in the "Churchill" contest. Leaving that club he joined Vale of Nith, having a place as inside left on the second team, but, after playing there a little over one season, he was invited to join the Queen of the South Wanderers, being promised a place on the first team. The honour of this invitation may be gathered from the fact that the Wanderers beat the Vale first team by 11 goals to nil, the lift, therefore, from Vale second to Wanderers first was a big one. The performances of the Wanderers are given in the sketches of Richardson and Halliday, but I may say that during the time he played for them he twice had the post of centre half-back in the county matches between Dumfriesshire and Ayrshire. This season he came to Sunderland, and he has already been thrice selected to represent the county of Durham. At the Queen of the South Wanderers' Sports in 1886-7 he was on the team which carried off second honours in the five-a-side contest. He wears three gold medals, signifying his having taken part in the "lifting" of the Southern Counties Charity Cup three years in succession. Also in his possession there are two silver medals presented with the Churchill Cup and other two silver ones won in five-a-side contests.