



Raith Rovers Internationalists



Our guest writer this month sees the welcome return of a man who is simply the embodiment of Kirkcaldy's senior football club. John Litster was born in Kirkcaldy, leaving as an infant when his father was transferred to Glasgow by Michael Nairn & Co. John returned to the Lang Toun in 1984, initially to work for Alma Confectionery.

John is a fourth generation Raith Rover's supporter but he is far more than that. John has written five books on the club and his publication *Always Next Season remains* the magnum opus and bible on the Club's history. John has edited and published "Scottish Football Historian" magazine since 1982 and maintains a statistical database of everyone who has ever played in Scottish football. The scope and magnitude of that database is exceptional and do not be fooled into thinking it only relates to senior football.

Following the publication of Object 8, where John charted the history of the club, it was always the intention to follow up with an article on the players who had not only worn the club's shirt but that of their Country!

If ever the time was right – it seems that time is now. There are new owners, there are substantial alterations taking place to the ground, there are planning applications in place for further building works, a new league season is in the offing with no little optimism and the men's Scottish International

team is on a successful run. Even as we write the omens are good – the club has now fought its way into the last 16 of the ViaPlay League Cup - excitement gathers apace.

While we can look to the future, let us take a little time to look into the past at the list of those who can be termed Raith Rovers' internationals, courtesy of a man who has been a supporter, programme editor, director and club historian.

Raith Rovers footballers “capped” by their country fall into three broad categories; those who were selected for their full international teams after they left Stark’s Park, those who signed for the club some time after making their last appearance for their country, and the seven players awarded full international caps while they were in the service of the Kirkcaldy club.



The first of that select band was Harry Anderson, left half in the only Rovers team to reach a Scottish Cup Final, which they lost 2-0 to Falkirk in 1913. Ten months later he played for Scotland against Wales in a 0-0 draw at Celtic Park. Seven months after that, the outbreak of the First World War ensured he would win no further caps, although he returned to Stark’s Park in 1919 and ended his career at St Mirren and

HARRY ANDERSON CAPPED.
Harry Anderson, Raith Rovers' clever left half, has been honoured by the Scottish Association with an international cap against Wales at Celtic Park on Saturday. The honour, which has been hailed with the greatest satisfaction in Kirkcaldy, is not unexpected, and is certainly richly deserved. The team to represent Scotland is—
Goal—Brownie (Third Lanark).
Right back—Kelso (Dundee).
Left back—Dodds (Celtic).
Right half—Nellies (Hearts).
Centre half—Purcell (Queen's Park).
Left half—Anderson (Raith Rovers).
Right wing—Donaldson (Burnley) and M'Menemy (Celtic).
Centre—Reid (Rangers).
Left wing—Croall (Falkirk) and Browning (Celtic).

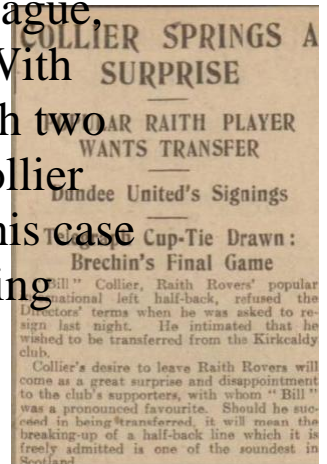
then Clydebank. Rovers had signed him from Hibs in May 1912 and he lived in Allison Street.



Only ten international matches – but eight war-torn years - separated Rovers’ first two capped players as Kirkcaldy-born Bill Collier, also at left half, won his only cap in a 2-1 defeat by Wales in Wrexham in February 1922. He moved from Anderson Street to a house closer to Stark’s Park; indeed none could be nearer than his at the end of the terrace on Pratt Street, the side wall overlooking the pitch over the

Beveridge Park-end turnstiles.

His selection was recognition of the club’s excellent form in 1921/22 season when they finished third in the League, behind the Old Firm, a height never since attained. With Alex James added to the team, Rovers finished fourth two seasons later, but with a new grandstand to build, Collier was one of several players sold to English clubs, in his case Sheffield Wednesday. He went on to manage Kettering Town and Dartford in English non-league football.



Bill Inglis, David Moyes, and Internationalists Bill Collier and Dave Morris pictured at the "top gate" at Stark's Park. Note the wooden fence onto Pratt Street, the un-terraced banking and the wooden fence round the playing field.

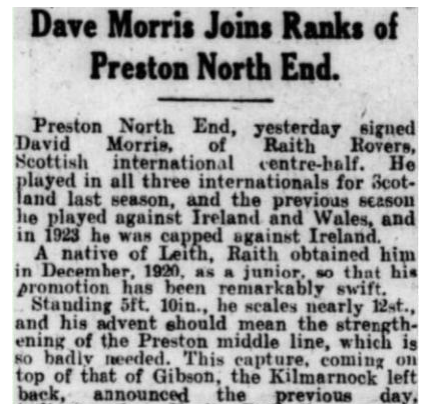
Rovers’ third internationalist was not long in arriving, a year later, when Collier’s half back colleague and captain Dave Morris won the first of his six Scotland caps. He remains the club’s most-capped Scot. He made his debut in March 1923 in a 1-0 victory over Ireland in Belfast, but Celtic’s Willie Cringan was brought back at centre half and captain for the next two

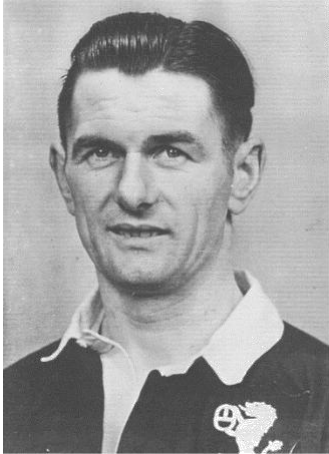
internationals. Everton's Neil McBain played in Wales in February 1924, but Morris was restored for the 2-0 victory over Ireland at Celtic Park the following month, and the 1-1 draw in Scotland's first ever match at Wembley in April. In October 1923 he played for the Scottish League against the Irish League.

Morris retained his place for all three internationals in 1925 and captained the Home International Champions Scotland in each of the three victories. Wales were beaten 3-1 at Tynecastle, Ireland were defeated 3-0 in Belfast and England were overcome 2-0 at Hampden Park. Morris was in illustrious company, which included Hughie Gallagher, Alan Morton and two players who would later manage at Stark's Park, Ranger's Sandy Archibald, and Airdrie's Bob Bennie.

Four different centre halves were fielded in the internationals which followed and in December 1925 he was re-united with Alex James at Preston North End. The International Selectors favoured home-based Scots, so his transfer ended any prospect of a recall to the national team.

Born in Leith, he was signed from Newtongrange Star in December 1920 and was a mainstay in the great Rovers team of the early 1920s. After six successful years at Preston, he returned to the Scottish League and played a handful of matches for Dundee United.





The break-up of the great team of the early 1920s, and the financial millstone of a new (but durable) grandstand, led to two decades of underachievement at Stark's Park and the club was not represented at international level until October 1950, when Willie McNaught won the first of his five caps. That came in 3-1 victory over Wales in Cardiff, and was followed by a 6-

1 defeat of Ireland at Hampden a fortnight later, Dundee's Billy Steel scoring four of the goals.

Scotland met their match in mid December when the Austrian "Wunderteam" won 1-0 at Hampden and Rangers' left half Sammy Cox was restored to the international team – at left back – for the next seven matches! McNaught was the

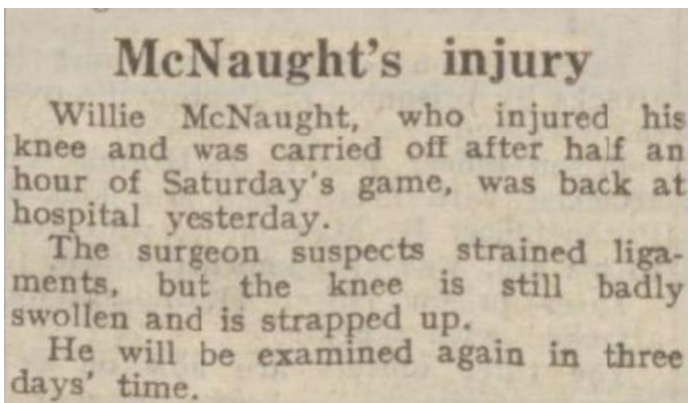
"reserve in attendance" (effectively the twelfth man) for all of those games, indicative of some semblance of a conscience amongst the selectors.

McNaught captained a Scotland XI against the British Army in March 1952 and was restored to the full international team for the visit of England in April 1952 when 133,991 saw a 2-1 defeat as the Rovers' left back strove to contain the genius of Tom Finney. Cox was restored to the team for the three end-of-season friendlies, and Willie was once again 12th man.

Left back Willie McNaught, who deputises for the injured Sammy Cox at Cardiff this afternoon, is the first Raith Rovers' player to be chosen for international honours since 1923.

In that year the Kirkcaldy pivot, Davie Morris, was chosen for the Scottish team which met Ireland at Belfast.

For the next two seasons he was ignored by the Scotland selectors, although he added four more Scottish League appearances to his debut against the Football League in November 1950, and was named as a reserve for three more Inter-League games. He came back into the full international fold as a reserve for the Wales game in October 1954, and won his fifth and final cap in a 2-2 draw with Northern Ireland at Hampden in November 1954.



Shortly after that he had three months on the sidelines with an injury and on his return to the first team at Stark's Park, he started a second career at centre half. A year after that, the versatile Andy Young settled in at right half and the legendary

Young, McNaught and Leigh half back line was established.

Slightly built, the Dumfries-born defender was quick off the mark, even quicker in anticipation, and possessed a wand of a left foot. Even the selectors were (eventually) impressed by his superb displays in his new position, and after three years he was selected for the annual match against the Football League, followed by a reserve selection for the Wembley international.

He left Stark's Park after twenty-one years of wonderful service in the summer of 1962 and retired after a handful of matches with Brechin City. His younger son, Kenny, was centre half in Aston Villa's European Cup winning team in 1982, but despite a sterling career south of the border, did not follow his father into the Scotland team.



As with the 1920s, so the breaking up of the great Rovers team of the late 1950s precipitated a long period of under-achievement at Stark's Park, so much so that it took nearly 41 years before a Raith Rovers player next donned a Scotland jersey.



Stevie Crawford, scorer of the opening goal in the 1994 Scottish League Cup Final, was in possession of a winner's medal from that, and the First Division Championship, when he was selected for the Kirin Cup tournament in Japan at the end of the 1994/95 season. He replaced Darren Jackson after 62 minutes against Ecuador in the second game, to become the fifth – and latest – Raith Rovers player to play for Scotland.

A former Dunfermline Athletic Schoolboy signing, Crawford was signed from Castlebridge Juniors in July 1991 and after a spell in Junior football with Rosyth Recreation was one of the youngsters who helped Rovers to the First Division championship in 1992/93. He played 16 times for Scotland's Under 21s and was sold to Millwall –

along with Jason Dair and David Sinclair – in July 1996. A year later he returned to Scottish football with Hibs, then re-signed for Dunfermline Athletic followed by short spells at Plymouth Argyle, Dundee United and Aberdeen before returning to East End Park. He played a further 24 times for Scotland while at Dunfermline and Plymouth.

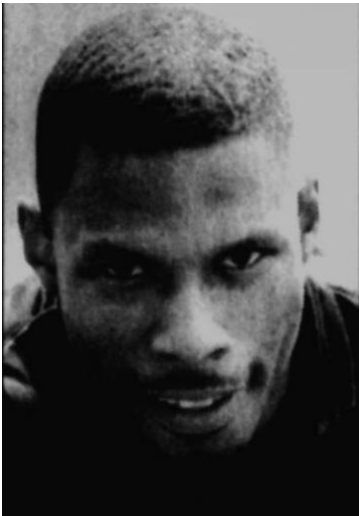
Crawford signed for East Fife in July 2008 and was player-manager the following April. He completed the quartette of Fife clubs with a few months at Cowdenbeath before finishing his playing career at Forfar Athletic then coached Falkirk, Hearts and MK Dons before returning to Dunfermline Athletic where he became manager, then East Fife and latterly as a coach at Dundee United until late in 2022/23.

Relegated after two seasons in the topflight, and with cup-winning manager Jimmy Nicholl back in charge, Raith Rovers were favourites for promotion in 1997/98 but finished third. Centre half Marvin Andrews was brought to the club late that season and became a fan's favourite with his robust performances in central defence. He left in October 2000, controversially sold to Livingston in a cost-cutting exercise along with top scorer Alex Burns and midfielder Steven



Tosh, the trio helping their new club to the First Division championship at the end of that season. Andrews joined Rangers in July 2004 and won a Premiership championship

medal. He returned to Raith Rovers, by then in the third tier, in October 2006 and had brief spells with Hamilton Accies, Queen of the South, Wrexham, Kirkintilloch Rob Roy, Albion Rovers, Forfar Athletic, Elgin City, Montrose and Clyde. Along the way, he won 103 caps for Trinidad and Tobago, 22 of them while at Stark's Park.



That surpassed the 19 caps won by his fellow countryman Tony Rougier, who arrived at Raith Rovers in March 1995. The strong, skilful midfielder was the star man of the team over the next two seasons in the Premier Division before leaving for Hibs in July 1997. He spent five years in the English League before playing in China, USA before returning to play in his homeland, where he won 67 caps.

An eighth internationalist was added during 2021/22 season when Frankie Musonda played for Zambia in friendly matches against Congo Brazzaville and Guinea. Born in Bedford, the defender arrived at Stark's Park in August 2020 after two years with Luton Town, mostly spent on loan at non-league clubs.

Two of Scotland's all-time greatest players started their senior careers at Raith Rovers, before going on to star for top clubs, and the Scottish international team.

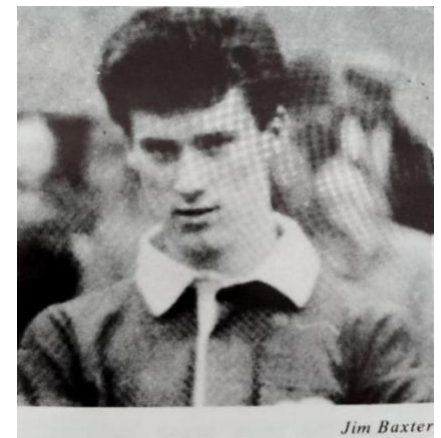
The waif-like figure of Alex James was plucked from Ashfield Juniors in May 1922 and propelled straight into Rovers' First Division side. He won four caps with Preston North End, who he joined in 1925, including the Wembley Wizard's match when Scotland won 5-1. Herbert Chapman signed him



for Arsenal in June 1929 and he was their star man in winning four League championships in five years, and also two FA Cups. James was capped four more times while at Highbury, where many rated him the best player in the world.



Rangers' fans thought that accolade applied to Jim Baxter in his first four years at Ibrox. Born in Forth Park, he was signed by Rovers from Crossgates Primrose in July 1957. His Under 23 appearance against Wales in February 1958 was the club's only contribution to that age group. He commanded the second highest transfer fee between Scots



clubs when he moved to Rangers in 1960, where he won three League Championships, Four League Cups and three Scottish Cups.

Rangers will have to go to great lengths to secure the transfer of left half Jim Baxter from Raith Rovers. Several months ago the Ibrox club offered £12,000 for him and more recently they offered left winger Andy Matthew plus cash. Now the Kirkcaldy management have indicated that they would be willing to part with Baxter if Rangers increase the fee and include inside forward John Queen as well as Matthew in the deal.

Meantime, Baxter is included in the Raith team to meet Hibs at Easter Road on Saturday.
RAITH ROVERS — Thornburn; Stevenson, Mochan; Poland, McGregor. Baxter; Wallace. French, Lawson, Spence.

The first of his 34 Scotland appearances was in November 1960, just over four months after leaving Raith Rovers. He finished his career aged 30 back at Rangers after spell with Sunderland and Nottingham Forest.

In 1963, he and Denis Law played for the FIFA World Select against England at Wembley in the match to commemorate the Football Association's Centenary.

Willie Wallace joined Rovers from Stenhousemuir in October 1959 and left for Hearts 18 months later as the make-weight in the transfer of Willie Polland. A winger-turned-striker, he won three caps for Scotland while at Tynecastle, and another four at Celtic, who he joined in



December 1966 to make a telling contribution to their all-conquering season when they won every competition they entered, including the European Cup. Towards the end of that season Wallace, and Jim Baxter, played in the 3-2 victory over World Champions England at Wembley.

He left Celtic for Crystal Palace in October 1971 having won a League championship every season and one or both of the domestic cups – and he played in the 1970 European Cup Final which Celtic lost to Feyenoord. He wound down his career at Dumbarton, in Australia and in the Highland League with Ross County before coaching at Dundee and also in Australia.

Colin Cameron was the local boy made good, brought up in the Links and signed by Frank Connor from Raith Rovers Boys Club in 1989. A goal-scoring midfielder, he was a



League and League Cup winner in 1994/95 and played three times for Scotland B before joining Hearts in March 1996, with whom he won the Scottish Cup in 1998. He was capped 28 times for Scotland while with Hearts and Wolves, who he joined in August 2001, later playing for Millwall, Coventry City, MK

Dons, Dundee, Arbroath, Cowdenbeath and Berwick Rangers, with spells as manager of the last two clubs. He is now back at Stark's Park as Assistant Manager.

Rovers were the early developers of several more future Scotland internationalists.

A BIG TRANSFER FEE FOR RAI TH ROVERS—The Rangers have given a fee of £50 to Raith Rovers for the transfer of John Walker, a left back, whose papers were held by the Kirkcaldy club. It is likely that a game at Stark's Park will also be thrown in along with the cheque.

John Walker, born in Beith, arrived in Kirkcaldy from Maryhill Juniors in October 1903.

He signed for Rangers two years

later, but refused the terms offered by the Ibrox club in 1907 and followed the example of scores of other disgruntled professional footballers by moving to Swindon Town, then of the Southern League and therefore beyond the retention agreement between the English and Scottish Leagues. The cultured left back helped them win their Championship in 1911 by which time he had won the first three of his nine Scotland caps. Middlesbrough signed him for the huge fee of £1,375 in April 1921 but the First World War all but ended his football career, although he did join Reading in the summer of 1921.

Outside right Sandy Archibald, born in Crossgates, signed for Rovers from Dunfermline Juniors in March 1916. Despite the club's struggles at the foot of the war-time single-division Scottish League, his accurate crossing ability attracted the attention of Rangers, who signed him in August 1917. In 17 glorious years at Ibrox he won 13 League Championships and three Scottish Cups, along with eight



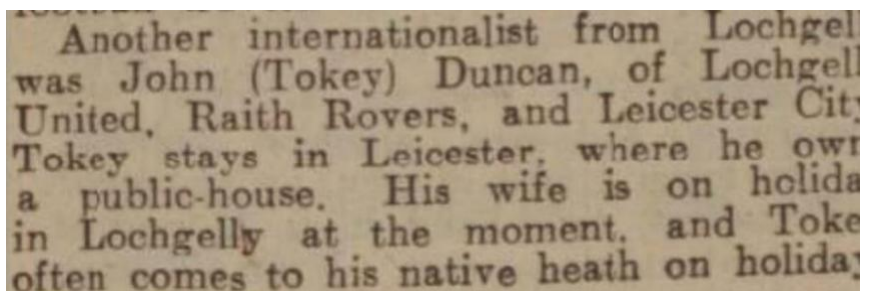
Archibald Deal Completed

There were two big football sensations in Kirkcaldy to-day.

One was the resignation of Manager Bob Bennie, of Raith Rovers, and the other the signing on for the Kirkcaldy club of Sandy Archibald, the Rangers' international right-winger.

Scotland caps and twelve appearances for the Scottish League. He returned to Stark's Park in November 1934 and was appointed manager three days later, leading them to the Second Division Championship in 1937/38, when their 142 goals in 34 games set a British League goal scoring record which stands to this day. He resigned to manage Dunfermline Athletic in October 1939 and died in November 1946. aged just 48.

John "Tokey" Duncan was a skillful, goal-scoring inside right who played for Lochgelly United during the First World War and joined Rovers in August 1919, starring in the team that finished third in the top division two seasons later. He joined Leicester City in July 1922 and was a key player in their 1924/25 Second Division championship team. The



Another internationalist from Lochgelly was John (Tokey) Duncan, of Lochgelly United, Raith Rovers, and Leicester City. Tokey stays in Leicester, where he owns a public-house. His wife is on holiday in Lochgelly at the moment, and Tokey often comes to his native heath on holiday.

following season he won his only Scotland cap. He retired from playing in March 1930 and ran a pub in Leicester, but returned to Filbert Street as manager in March 1946, leading them to the FA Cup Final in 1949. He signed Don Revie, who married his niece Elsie, daughter of Tommy Duncan, who left Rovers in 1922 to join his brother at Leicester City.

David Kinnear, born in Kidd Street, joined Rovers from Burntisland United in July 1933 and his 14 goals from 21 matches on the left wing in the

Second Division had the scouts flocking to Stark's Park. He joined Rangers in April 1934 with whom he won two League Championships and one Scotland cap in December 1937. He played for Third Lanark and Dunfermline Athletic after the Second World War and returned to Rangers as their trainer in 1955, where he remained for fourteen

years. He was the oldest surviving Scottish internationalist when he died in Newton Mearns in February 2008, aged 90.



Davie Duncan from Milton of Balgonie joined Rovers from Lochgelly Albert four months before the outbreak of the Second World War. His skillful play at outside left was admired by Celtic, who signed him in January 1943, but in November 1944 he moved closer to his Windygates home when he joined East Fife. He scored 24 goals in 30

League matches as the Methil club won the Second Division Championship – and the Scottish League Cup – in 1947/48 and he played three times for Scotland as a Second Division player in the end-of-season friendly matches against Belgium, France, and Switzerland. He won another League Cup winner's medal and lost in the Scottish Cup Final in 1949/50 as East Fife established themselves as one of the best teams in Scotland over a six year spell. Davie Duncan rejoined Rovers in January 1954.

Keith Wright had a baptism of fire in his first season at Rovers, relegated to the basement division in their centenary year, but in two seasons in the Second Division he scored 43 goals and earned a move to the Premier Division with Dundee in December 1986. He thrived in the top division and moved to Hibs in August 1991, won his solitary Scotland cap the following February, and also won a League Cup winners' medal. After six successful seasons at Easter Road he rejoined Rovers and finished his playing career at Morton, Stenhousemuir and Cowdenbeath, whom he managed to promotion in 2001.

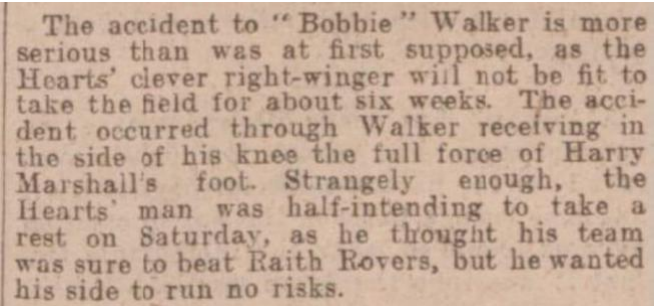
Paul Hartley is Raith Rovers' record signing, a notional fee of £150,000 having been offset in August 1997 against the money owed by the London club for the signatures of Crawford, Dair and Sinclair a year earlier. Millwall had signed him for £380,000 from Hamilton Accies, and Rovers didn't quite recoup their more modest outlay when he was sold in financial desperation to Hibs in December 1998. He moved on to St Johnstone for £200,000 and signed for Hearts under Freedom of Contract in 2003, where he won the first

of 25 Scotland caps and he was a Scottish Cup winner in 2006. Celtic signed him for £1.1 million in January 2007 and he helped them to the League and Cup double that year, plus another League title in 2008 and then the League Cup the following season. He had a season at Bristol City and then Aberdeen before embarking on a successful managerial career with Alloa Athletic, Dundee, a forgettable spell at Falkirk and then Cove Rangers interrupted with another unmemorable spell at Hartlepool United.

Kirkcaldy-born David Bates joined his local club as a sixteen-year-old but had to wait two years for a first team place, following spells on loan at East Stirling and Brechin City. After just 15 first team appearances the centre back signed for Rangers in August 2016 and played just 28 times for them before moving to Germany in 2018. He won four Scotland caps in his first season with Hamburg SV, but spent the next two seasons on loan at Sheffield Wednesday and Cercle Bruges before returning to Scottish football with Aberdeen. He joined Mechelen in Belgium in September 2022

Inevitably, as successful careers draw to a close, clubs such as Raith Rovers are willing to make use of the experience, guile, and surviving skills of former internationalists.

The first former Scotland player at the club was Harry Marshall, previously with St Bernards, Blackburn Rovers and Hearts who won two Scotland caps (and

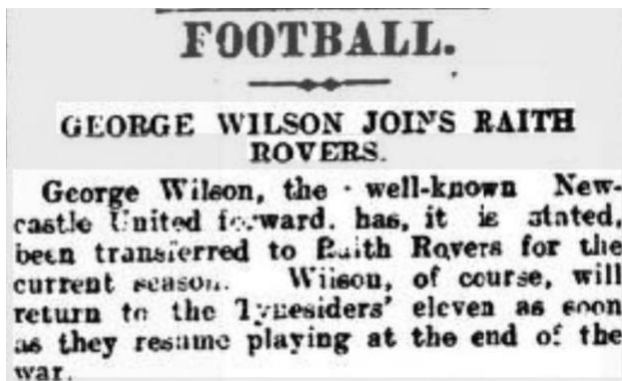


The accident to "Bobbie" Walker is more serious than was at first supposed, as the Hearts' clever right-winger will not be fit to take the field for about six weeks. The accident occurred through Walker receiving in the side of his knee the full force of Harry Marshall's foot. Strangely enough, the Hearts' man was half-intending to take a rest on Saturday, as he thought his team was sure to beat Raith Rovers, but he wanted his side to run no risks.

twice won the Scottish Cup) during a four year spell at Celtic. The commanding centre half played for the Rovers on loan during 1900/01, winning three local cup competitions a year before they won the Northern League and thence to the Scottish League.

Ronnie Orr was an inside left of considerable renown when he joined Rovers from Liverpool in January 1912. He played for Kilwinning Eglinton, Glossop North End and St Mirren before joining Newcastle United in 1901, where he won two League Championships and reached the 1906 FA Cup Final. He won two Scotland caps, both against England, in 1902 and 1904. Living in Ava Street, he played just seven matches for Rovers before refusing terms and decamping to non-league South Shields. The First World War ended his playing career.

Tom Niblo ended a long playing career at Stark's Park during 1909/10, helping them to second place in the Second Division and election to the top division. He had played in attack for Linthouse, Newcastle United, Middlesbrough, Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest, Watford and Aberdeen, and was capped by Scotland against England in 1904 whilst at Villa.



Lochgelly-born George Wilson was one of the great stars of Scottish football in the early years of the 20th century, with three years at Hearts and nine in English football with Everton and Newcastle United. He

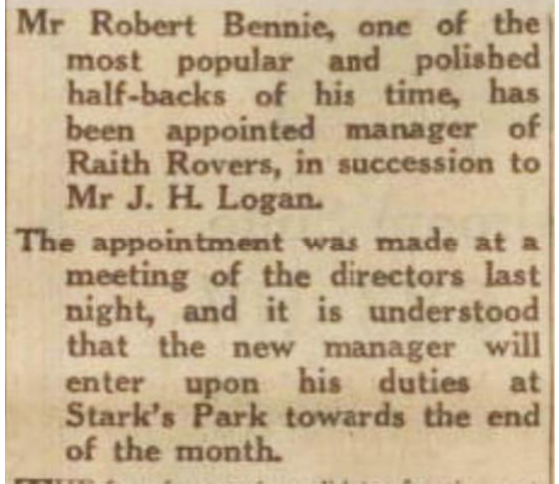
won six Scotland caps at outside left between 1904 and 1909 and joined Rovers in 1915, playing in their last two seasons of wartime football, and in 1919/20 as the Scottish League re-formed. He spent the following season with East Fife in the Central League and returned to Stark's Park as manager in June 1926, leading them to promotion and safety in the top division before emigrating to Canada in December 1927 where he remained until his death in 1960.

Archie Devine was signed by Hearts from Lochgelly United in 1905 but failed to make an impression on their first team. He was loaned to Rovers for 1907/08 and the inside left was central to their Second Division championship success. After a brief spell back at Tynecastle he was signed by Falkirk in November 1908 and was capped by Scotland in March 1910 before moving to Bradford City then Woolwich Arsenal and back to Scotland with Dunfermline Athletic and Lochgelly United.

Inside forward Tommy Miller played for Hamilton Accies before signing for Liverpool and played for them in the 1914 FA Cup Final. He scored twice in the Victory International against England in 1920 before joining Manchester United, with whom he won two full Scotland caps in 1921. He returned to the Scottish League with Hearts and Hamilton Accies before joining Rovers in December 1926, where he was player/coach for the reserves before joining Dunfermline Athletic as trainer.

The aforementioned Bob Bennie started with Third Lanark but made his name in the great Airdrieonians team of the

early 1920s, runners up in the League for four seasons and Scottish Cup winners in 1924. The left half won four Scotland caps in 1925 and 1926. He enjoyed four more successful seasons at Hearts before joining Rovers as manager in October 1933 and was pressed into action as a player two months later. Mired in mid-table in the Second Division, he resigned in November 1934.



Mr Robert Bennie, one of the most popular and polished half-backs of his time, has been appointed manager of Raith Rovers, in succession to Mr J. H. Logan.

The appointment was made at a meeting of the directors last night, and it is understood that the new manager will enter upon his duties at Stark's Park towards the end of the month.

Methil-born Willie Imrie was signed by East Fife from Dunnikier Juniors in April 1926 and after one League match was transferred to St Johnstone. He played twice for Scotland in their first-ever continental tour in 1929 then joined Blackburn Rovers for a huge transfer fee, before Newcastle United paid even more for him in 1934. After spells at Swansea Town, East Fife, and Swindon Town the right half made one appearance for Raith Rovers as a war-time guest, on New Year's Day 1943 against East Fife.

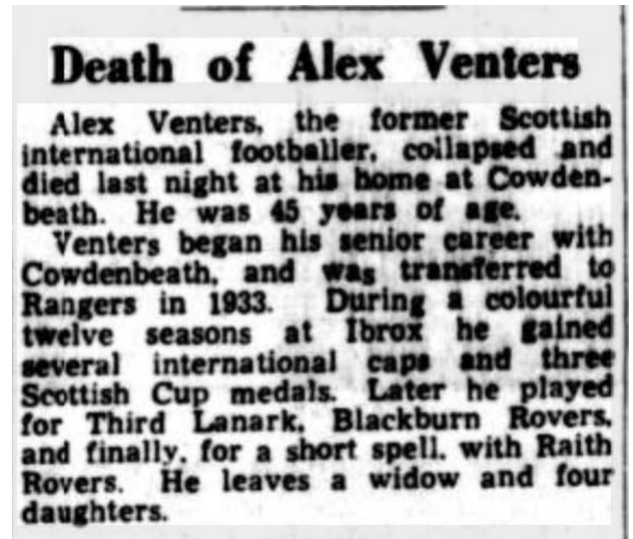
Bob McAuley was Rangers' left back when he played twice for Scotland in 1931. He moved to Chelsea, then Cardiff City, Sligo Rovers and Workington before joining Rovers before the start of 1939/40, whereupon League football was suspended after four matches and ended his decade as a footballer.

Alex Low was Falkirk's centre half for six seasons from 1929, and Scotland's against Ireland in September 1933. He



joined Rovers in July 1938 but the record-breaking Second Division champions were immediately relegated. He played on throughout the Second World War but retired before normal League football resumed in 1946.

Alex Venters was an early post-war signing for Rovers. Prior to hostilities he was inside left in the Rangers team which won four League Championships and two Scottish Cups. The Cowdenbeath-born footballer, who started his career with his home town club, won three Scotland caps between 1933 and 1939 and played five times for the Scottish League. He won several more medals when Rangers were dominant in war-time football and after short spells at Blackburn Rovers and Third Lanark ended his career with half-a-dozen matches for Raith Rovers in the second half of 1947/48.



Born in Denbeath, Frank O'Donnell joined Celtic from Wellesley Juniors and his goal scoring attracted Preston North End, whom he joined in May 1935. He was an FA Cup finalist in 1937 and won six Scotland caps in 1937 and 1938 before joining Blackpool and then Aston Villa. He played twice for Rovers at the tail-end of 1946/47 before his appointment as player/manager of Buxton.

HEARTS transferred Eddie Rutherford to Raith Rovers in time for the winger to play against Partick Thistle today.

Eddie Rutherford was outside right in the great Rangers team of the immediate post-war era, the renowned 'Iron Curtain' defence vying for honours against the Hibs

team of the 'Famous Five' forward line. He won three League Championships, two Scottish Cups, three League Cups and a Scotland cap against France in May 1948. He joined Hearts in November 1951 and played five times for Rovers in the second half of 1954/55 before ending his career with a season at Hamilton Accies.

Neil Mochan started his senior career with Morton in 1944 and moved to Middlesbrough in 1951 after scoring 24 goals as Morton won the B Division championship. He returned to Scotland with Celtic in May 1953 and helped his new club to the League and Cup double, winning three Scotland caps in his first season at Parkhead. He completed the domestic honours with two League Cup winners' medals and left for Dundee United in 1960, finishing his playing career with Raith Rovers in 1963/64. He left in mid season to return to Celtic as trainer, in which position he remained throughout the phenomenally successful Jock Stein era. His brother Denis was a very accomplished left back with Rovers between 1959 and 1962.

Alfie Conn was a star player for Hearts for 14 years from 1944, forming an iconic inside forward trio with Willie Bauld and Jimmy Wardhaugh. He was a Scottish Cup and League Cup

An attraction for Kirkcaldy supporters will be the first appearance of Alfie Conn in the Raith Rovers team to entertain Partick Thistle. The visitors hope that Davie Mathers will be fit in time, but Andy Kerr and Dave M'Parland are definite non-starters. My fancy is for Raith.

winner, and was capped by Scotland in May 1956. He joined Raith Rovers in September 1958 for two seasons and ended his playing career at Gala Fairydean and in South Africa. One of his sons, Bobby, had a brief period with Raith Rovers in 1974/75.

Ian Gardiner was a prominent goalscorer in the great East Fife team of the early 1950s and was a Scottish League internationalist by the time he joined Motherwell in October 1955. He played once for Scotland in November 1957 and had a brief spell at Stark's Park in the second half of 1958/59 before extending his career at East Fife, St Johnstone, and Montrose.

Jimmy Murray spent his first six years at Tynecastle in Hearts' reserve team and burst to prominence by scoring 27 times as they won the League Championship in 1957/58. He made his debut for Scotland against England in April 1958 and played in four more internationals over the next two months, including twice in the World Cup Finals in Sweden. He joined Falkirk in 1961, Clyde a year later and in 1964/65 ended his career at Stark's Park.



John Grant also had a long apprenticeship in Edinburgh reserve football but by the time the centre half played twice for Scotland in 1958, he was an established first team player for Hibs. Released after 15 years' service at Easter Road, he finished his career with a season in the Second Division with Rovers in 1964/65.

When Bobby Evans joined Raith Rovers in August 1965 he was the second most capped player for Scotland with 48 appearances, surpassed only by George Young's 53. A fixture in Celtic's first team for 16 years, twice winner of Scottish Cups and League Cups and once a League champion, he played in the Football League with Chelsea and Newport County before returning north to play for Morton and Third Lanark, where he was player/manager for a season. He was ever-present in the Rovers team for two seasons, winning promotion to the First Division in 1967, and retired after a handful of games back in the top League.



Ralph Brand was signed for the Rovers in August 1969 by his former Rangers striking partner Jimmy Miller. He spent five years in Rangers' reserves until establishing himself in the first team in 1957/58 and went on to win four League Championship medals, four League Cups and three Scottish Cup. He played eight times for Scotland before leaving for Manchester City in 1965 followed by two years at Sunderland. Released at the end of his season at Stark's Park following relegation, he had a season out of the game before a brief spell at Hamilton Accies, and later managed Darlington and Albion Rovers.

Johnny MacLeod was a crowd-pleasing outside right with Hibs in the late 1950s and won four Scotland caps in 1960/61. He was an expensive signing for Arsenal at the end of that

season then played for Aston Villa and Mechelen in Belgium. He ended his senior career at Stark's Park in 1971/72, although he spent the following season in Junior football with Newtongrange Star.



Bobby Robinson.

Former Scotland player dead

FORMER SCOTLAND footballer Bobby Robinson died at home in Forfar on Tuesday following a long illness. He was 46.

Midfielder Bobby Robinson spent three years at Falkirk before joining Dundee in 1971, where he shone in the very good team built by Davie White. He won four caps for Scotland in 1974 and 1975 and after two seasons at both Dundee United and Hearts he was signed for Rovers by his former Dundee team-mate Gordon Wallace in July 1981, spending two years at Stark's Park before finishing his playing career in Tayside Junior football. He died tragically young in 1996, aged 46.

In a senior career which spanned 22 years, David Narey achieved legendary status with two clubs. He was the first Dundee United player to be capped by Scotland in April 1977, and went on to play 35 times for his country, scoring a memorable goal against Brazil in the 1982 World Cup finals. After two League Cup winners' medals he won the League Championship with United in 1983 and helped them to the semi final of the European Cup the following season. He was tempted out of retirement by Jimmy Nicholl following Rovers' stuttering started to the 1994/95 season and he played in 21 League matches and three League Cup ties as his new club won both

Narey spent 22 years with United as a player and made a record 866 first-team appearances, winning two League Cup medals and a championship title.

He was freed by United in 1994 and joined Raith Rovers. He was there only a matter of months when he won the man-of-the-match award as the Kirkcaldy club beat Celtic in the Coca-Cola Cup final at Ibrox.

competitions. He was named Man of the Match in the League Cup Final on 27th November 1994 and retired, again, before the end of the season.

Signed by Rovers for their return to the top division in July 1995, Jim McNally played more often on loan to Dundee than with his parent club Celtic during his four years at Parkhead. After short spells at Nottingham Forest (under Brian Clough) and Coventry City, he returned to Scotland for nine years with Dundee United, during which he played ten times for the full international team. After 15 months at Stark's Park he returned to Dundee United, and then captained Dundee to the First Division Championship in 1997/8 before managing Morton, East Stirling, and Peterhead.

Derek Ferguson was a young star with Rangers when Graeme Souness arrived as manager and he played twice for Scotland in 1988 having won two League Cup winners' medals and a League Championship. He joined Hearts in 1990, followed by Sunderland, Falkirk, Dunfermline Athletic, Partick Thistle, Ross County, Clydebank (where he was player/manager), Alloa Athletic, and Hamilton Accies before ending his 22-year-long playing career by making a handful of appearances for Raith Rovers in the first half of 2005/6. After managing Stranraer and Glenafton Athletic, he became a pundit on Radio Scotland.

Andy Walker started his senior career with Motherwell in 1983 and signed for Celtic four years later, winning a League and Cup double – and his first Scotland cap - in his first

season. He moved to Bolton Wanderers in 1992 and returned to Celtic a year-and-a-half later, winning two more caps. He was transferred to Sheffield United in 1996 and spent the last six weeks of the 1997/98 season on loan at Stark's Park as Rovers faltered in the chase for promotion. He finished his playing career with a season at Ayr United and short spells at Alloa Athletic and Partick Thistle.

David Bowman signed for Hearts – who his father Andy also played for – in 1980 and after a year-and-a-half at Coventry City, he moved to Dundee United where he spent 12 years, winning the Scottish Cup in 1994 and making six appearances for Scotland. He helped Raith Rovers escape relegation from the First Division in 1998/9 and finished his playing career with two seasons at Forfar Athletic.

Scott Robertson played for both Dundee teams and made two appearances for Scotland while at Tannadice before moving south to Blackpool in 2012. He returned to Scotland with Hibs and joined Rovers in October 2015 from Romanian club Botosani. He spent four years at Stark's Park, although missed almost an entire season through injury, and was player/coach when they won promotion from the third tier in 2017/18. He returned to Tannadice as player/coach for six months and played for Brechin City and then Forfar Athletic.

David Goodwillie came to prominence at Dundee United and spent most of 2007/2008 on loan at Stark's Park in the third tier. He was capped by Scotland in 2010 before moving to Blackburn Rovers, where he won two more caps. He

returned to Scotland with Aberdeen in 2014 and after half-a-season at Plymouth Argyle in 2016, he joined Clyde from Doune Castle Amateurs towards the end of 2016/17. He scored an impressive number of goals for Clyde in the lower two divisions for four and a half seasons before his brief - and much-publicized - return to Stark's Park during the January 2022 transfer window.

Another Dundee United loanee at Rovers was Jonnie Russell, in 2009/10. He signed for Derby County in 2013 and won the first four of his Scotland caps before making another 10 appearances for his country after he moved to Sporting Kansas City.

Also on loan at the Rovers was Barrie McKay, from Rangers, during 2014/15. He won his only Scotland cap in 2016 and a year later signed for Nottingham Forest for £500,000. A year after that he signed for Swansea City and spent a season-and-a-half on loan to Fleetwood Town before returned to Scotland, with Hearts, in September 2021.

Kevin Nisbet had shown no sign of what was to come in his early career with Partick Thistle, but he flourished in the Raith Rovers team of 2018/19, scoring 31 goals as they once again failed to win promotion through the play-offs. He moved to Dunfermline Athletic, and then Hibs, with whom he has won 10 Scotland caps.

Christophe Berra won the first two of his 41 Scotland caps while with Hearts, who he joined in 2002. He moved to Wolverhampton Wanderers in February 2009 and Ipswich

Town in July 2013 before returning to Scotland, and Hearts, in May 2017. He joined Rovers before the start of the 2021/22 season.

The Raith Rovers international connection is not confined to appearances for Scotland. Jimmy Nicholl won 73 caps for Northern Ireland, and George O'Boyle played 13 times for them. A mention too for Danny Lennon, the captain who missed the 1994 League Cup Final through injury, who was a Northern Irish B internationalist.

RAITH ROVERS last night appointed former Manchester United, Rangers and Northern Ireland full-back Jimmy Nicholl as their new player/manager.

In a shock move, the 33-year-old Dunfermline player put pen to paper at Stark's Park and thus fills the chair vacated by Frank Connor, who moved to Hearts as Joe Jordan's assistant earlier this month.

Nicholl, capped 73 times for Northern Ireland, was never quoted for the Rovers job.

The Stark's Park board had wanted Ayr United coach Willie McLean, who was in charge of Raith during the late 1970s, back again, but it is believed the two sides could not agree on terms.

The other two names in the frame were former Dunfermline manager Jim Leishman and present club skipper Cammy Fraser.

Nicholl was an FA Cup winner during his eight years at Manchester United before shorter spells at Sunderland, Rangers, Toronto Blizzard, and West Bromwich Albion. He won a League Championship medal and two League Cups during a second spell with Rangers before sixteen months at Dunfermline Athletic prior to his appointment as player/manager of Raith Rovers in November 1990. In six years

at Stark's Park he won two First Division championships and the Scottish League Cup in 1994 – to date the club's only major trophy – before leaving to manage Millwall. He had two spells as manager of Cowdenbeath, but has spent most of the last two decades as an assistant manager at seven more Scots clubs, and his country.

George O'Boyle started his playing career in the Irish League and played for Bordeaux in France, Dunfermline

Athletic and St Johnstone before a brief spell at Stark's Park at the start of 2001/2.

Danny Lennon spent almost a decade at Hibs before joining Rovers on transfer deadline day in March 1994. After five full seasons at Stark's Park the industrious midfielder joined Ayr United, then Partick Thistle, Ross County, Gretna, Workington and Cowdenbeath, who he led to

promotion as manager in 2009. He has subsequently enjoyed a long career in management with St Mirren, Alloa Athletic, Airdrieonians and Clyde.

HIBS reject Danny Lennon blazed Raith Rovers into their first cup semi-final for more than 30 years with a classy late strike.

The midfielder burst through on a pinpoint pass from Colin Cameron to coolly bury St Johnstone's hopes of another dramatic Coca-Cola come back.

Rudi Skacel won seven full caps for the Czech Republic and played nine times for their Under 21s. He played in his home country, then France and Greece before joining Hearts in 2005, winning the Scottish Cup at the end of the season. He moved to Southampton then Greece and the Czech Republic before returning to Hearts for two years in 2010. After a short spell with Dundee United and Slavia Prague he joined Rovers for 2016/17

Willie Furtado made one appearance for Cape Verde in October 2020. The French-born midfielder arrived in Scotland to join Stenhousemuir in September 2016 and played for Airdrieonians and then Raith Rovers the following season before moving on to Egypt and Norway.

In October 2022, Rovers signed John Johannesen Frederiksen, a 6ft 8 inch tall Faroe Islander. Nine games, and no goals, later he left the club for Norway.

Joe Baker signs for Raith

Joe Baker, who was freed by Hibs at the end of last season, has joined Raith Rovers. He travelled from his home in Coltness at the weekend to complete the signing formalities.

Joe began his career with Coltness United and Armadale before moving to Hibs then to Torino, Arsenal, Nottingham Forest, Sunderland and latterly back to Easter Road.

He has nine international caps and 15 under-23 caps. An injured knee kept him on the sidelines for ten weeks, but he has been keeping fit with road-work during the close season.

Fondly remembered by Rovers fans of a certain age is Joe Baker, who won nine full caps for England, scoring three goals, between 1959 and 1966, and was in the squad of 40 players provisionally selected for the 1966 World Cup finals. He was a goal-scoring sensation for Hibs as a teenager in the late 1950s and moved to Torino in Turin for £75,000, which smashed the Scottish transfer record, in July 1961. He survived a serious car crash in Italy to return to Arsenal for £70,000 a year later, and played for

Nottingham Forest, Sunderland and Hibs before he finished an illustrious playing career with two seasons at Rovers from July 1972.

He spent most the 1980s as a coach or manager of Albion Rovers, but for many Raith Rovers supporters of the post James, Baxter and McNaught generations, he was the most skillful player they ever saw wear a *Raith Rovers jersey*.

* * *

The above brings John's article to its conclusion. We hope that the content was interesting, informative and that the illustrations

added to the enjoyment. The article illustrates the depth of knowledge, research and detail which John brings to his subject and his dedication shines through in every paragraph.

This is much more than simply a list of names – it is the story of good/great players – each having pulled on a Raith Rovers jersey.

The team are extremely grateful for John's contributions to our project and as the 1970s song said – *Nobody Does it Better*.

Acknowledgements

It goes without saying that the principal acknowledgement goes to John Litster for the production of this interesting, informative and fascinating story. John has also been kind enough to supply a number of photographs which are included in the text. The narrative is well able to stand on its own but it is easy to forget that too many of today's fans some, in fact many, names will mean nothing. Therefore with John's permission some photographs and newspaper snippets have been added simply to add some colour to the text. The snippets also demonstrate the number of newspapers which at one time carried reports on Raith Rovers and how the style of sport's journalism has changed over the years.

Unless otherwise specified, photographs are courtesy of John Litster. Newspaper Cuttings - Individual newspapers are credited in the text but the information is obtained from Findmypast

Newspaper Archive Ltd. in partnership with the British Library.

Page 2	The Fife Free Press 28/02/1914
Page 3	Dundee Courier 29/04/1924
Page 4	Newcastle Daily Chronicle 23/12/1925
Page 5	Fifeshire Advertiser 21/10/1950
Page 6	Dundee Courier 07/12/1954
Page 7	Birmingham Daily Post 07/07/1977
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Page 9	Dundee Courier 14/02/1997
Page 10	Edinburgh Evening News 22/09/1925
Page 10	Aberdeen Ev. Express 16/03/1960 - Baxter
Page 11	Edinburgh Evening News 25/04/1961
Page 12	Fife Free Press 30/09/1905
Page 13	Dundee Courier 06/04/1934- Archibald
Page 13	Dundee Courier 26/09/1939 - J.Duncan
Page 14	Fife Free Press 14/04/1934 -Kinnear
Page 14	Dundee Ev. Teleg.05/01/1943 – D.Duncan
Page 16	Dundee Ev. Post 28/11/1900
Page 17	Hartlepool Daily Mail 06/09/1915
Page 19	Dundee Courier 10/10/1933
Page 20	Dundee Ev. Teleg. 25/09/1938
Page 20	The Scotsman 01/05/1959 – Venters.
Page 21	Daily Mail 08/01/1955 – Rutherford
Page 21	Aberdeen Ev. Exp. 10/10/1958 Conn
Page 22	Aberdeen P & J. 11/09/1964
Page 24	Dundee Courier 26/12/1996 – Robinson
Page 24	Aberdeen P & J. 11/02/1998 – Narey
Page 28	Dundee Courier 21/11/1990
Page 29	Aberdeen P & J.21/-0/1994
Page 30	Wishaw Press 30/06/1972