Trades House of Glasgow
Connection with Football

By

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MMXXVI

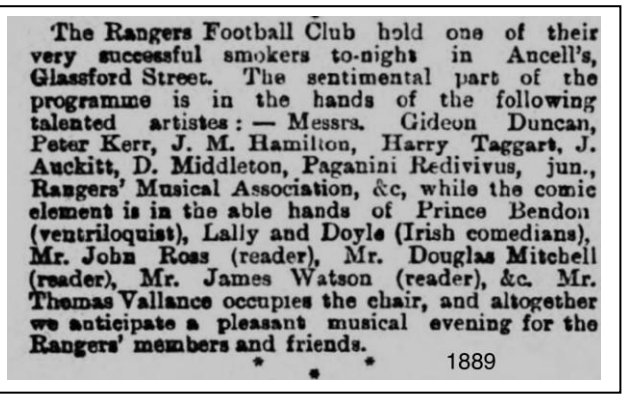
The Trades House and Hall's Connection with Football

The history of the House and Hall's connection to football goes back into history when the city's accounts for 1573-4 show that on 12th February 12s, were paid for "futt balls." In the following year "sax fut-ballis" were again purchased for 12s. The annual supply of six footballs at the expense of the Common Good was continued till the year 1589-90, when a Cordiner named John Neill, in return for remission of fees on his admission as a burgess, undertook to furnish, yearly, during his lifetime, "upon Fastrinis [Shrove Tuesday] even, sex guid and sufficient fut ballis," or else 20s as the price thereof. Under this arrangement the City Treasurer for the time was relieved from the necessity of purchasing footballs at the annual festival, and perhaps his successors did not resume the practice.[1]

Fleshers Haugh was used as the pastureland for the Incorporation of Fleshers animals and it is located on the bend of the river Clyde and is part of Glasgow Green. In 1792 the City Council purchased the land for the price of £4000 and from at least Victorian times, was used as an area for playing football.[2]

Rangers Football Club's first season in 1872 was played in Fleshers Haugh and this was the most favourable playing corner of Glasgow Green which allowed the club to forge its early reputation among the casual observers as one worth watching.[3]

Rangers Football Club used the Trades Hall from its inception, with their first annual meeting in 1873 being held there and monthly meetings were regularly held in the Hall.[4] Ancell's restaurant also hosted the after-match banquet with Preston North End to celebrate the opening of the first Ibrox Park in 1887.[5]



The Rangers Football Club hold one of their very successful smokers to-night in Ancell's, Glassford Street. The sentimental part of the programme is in the hands of the following talented artistes: — Messrs. Gideon Duncan, Peter Kerr, J. M. Hamilton, Harry Taggart, J. Auckitt, D. Middleton, Paganini Redivivus, jun., Rangers' Musical Association, &c, while the comic element is in the able hands of Prince Bendon (ventriloquist), Lally and Doyle (Irish comedians), Mr. John Ross (reader), Mr. Douglas Mitchell (reader), Mr. James Watson (reader), &c. Mr. Thomas Vallance occupies the chair, and altogether we anticipate a pleasant musical evening for the Rangers' members and friends.

1889

The 1892 Annual Meeting took place in the Trades House Lesser Hall [Saloon] the scores reported were:[6]

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals Scored	Goals Lost
1st Team	46	21	9	16	113	91
2nd XI	27	8	6	13	62	76
Ibrox XI	21	8	6	7	59	55

[1] Robert Renwick, Glasgow Memorials, 1908, page 74.
[2] Reid, R (SENEX) 1884; "Glasgow, Past and Present." David Robertson and Co., Glasgow: http://www.glasgowhistory.co.uk/Books/EastGlasgowDictionary/EastGlasgowArticles/FleshersHaugh.htm
[3] The Gallant Pioneers by Gary Ralston, 2013, Page 79.
[4] The Gallant Pioneers by Gary Ralston, 2013, Page 217.
[5] The Gallant Pioneers by Gary Ralston, 2013, Page 217.
[6] Scottish Referee Monday 30th May 1892.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

RANGERS' ANNUAL MEETING.—The annual general meeting of the Rangers F.C. was held in the Lesser Trades' Hall last night—Mr D. M'Kenzie president in the chair. There was a very large attendace of members. Minutes of half-yearly meeting having been read and approved, the treasurer gave his annual statement that the liabilities of the club amounted to £1,300. and assets £3,000. The report was considered highly satisfactory and was passed unanimously. The match secretaries report were given as follows :—

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1st Team.....	46	21	9	16	113	91
2nd XI.....	27	8	6	13	62	76
Ibrox XI.....	21	8	6	7	59	55

While not so satisfactory as last season, the reports were adopted without comment. Mr Lawson reported that the membership had increased to 444, and a motion to the effect that the membership be limited to 500 was withdrawn in favour of an amendment fixing the maximum at 600. Office-bearers for season 1892-93 were elected as under—President, Mr D. Mackenzie (unanimously). Mr John Cameron was re-elected to the vice-chair after a stubborn contest with Mr J. Lawson ; Mr Marr, Mr W. M'Andrew, and Mr Wilton were unanimously elected treasurer, hon. secrtary, and match secretary respectively. Mr James B. Morton was appointed match secretary to the Swift's eleven, and Mr D. Gilchrist was entrusted with the management of the Ibrox XI. Representative to League, Mr Wilton ; to Glasgow Association, Mr Marr : and to Second Eleven Association, Mr James B. Morton Fifteen names were proposed for seven vacancies on committee, the result of a close vote being the election of the following gentlemen :—T. Vallance, J. C. Lawson, D. Mitchell, G. Small, John Muir, D. M'Neil, and R. B. Kerr. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded a very enjoyable and most harmonious meeting.

YACHTING. 1892

ROYAL CLYDE MATCHES.—At the opening matches

RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB.

SMOKING CONCERT

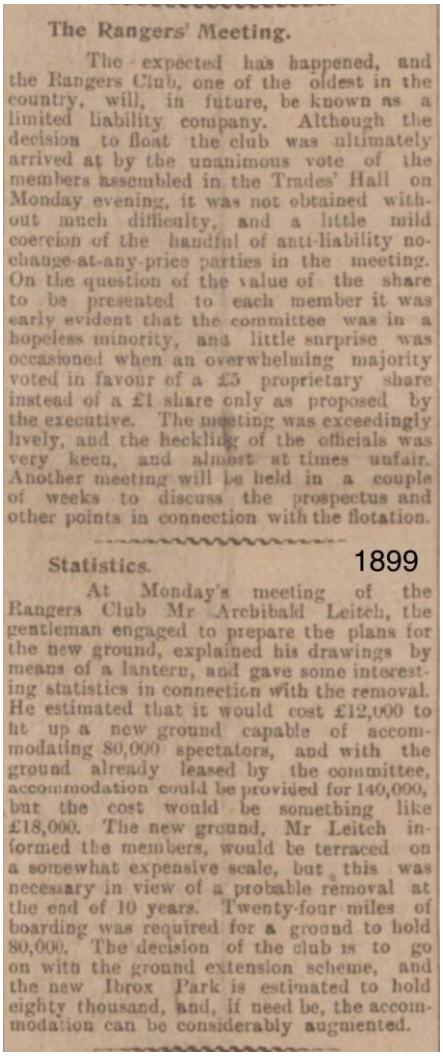
will be held in ANCELL'S RESTAURANT, 89 Glassford Street, TO-NIGHT (Tuesday) at 8 o'clock. A large attendance of Members particularly requested.

D. B. M'CONECHY, Hon. Secy.

1889

Ancell's restaurant was used not only for dinners but also for Smoking Concerts and one was held on Tuesday evening in February 1889 where a large attendance

of members was particularly requested.[7] The Glasgow Evening Post of 22nd March 1889 reported that Rangers Football Club was to hold one of their very successful smokers in Ancell's restaurant, in Glassford Street and giving a list of the artistes who were to perform at the event and concluded with "we anticipate a pleasant musical evening for the Rangers members and friends.[8]



The Rangers' Meeting.

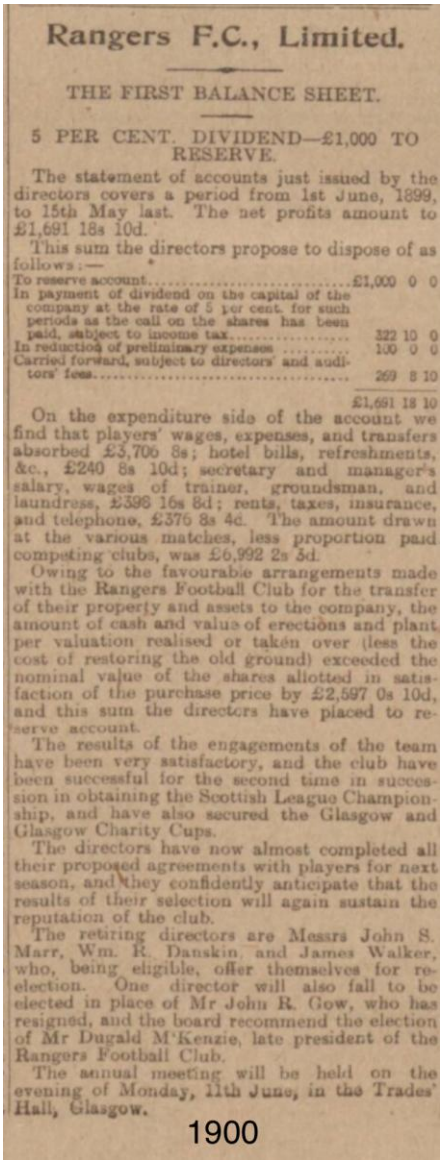
The expected has happened, and the Rangers Club, one of the oldest in the country, will, in future, be known as a limited liability company. Although the decision to float the club was ultimately arrived at by the unanimous vote of the members assembled in the Trades' Hall on Monday evening, it was not obtained without much difficulty, and a little mild coercion of the handful of anti-liability no-change-at-any-price parties in the meeting. On the question of the value of the share to be presented to each member it was early evident that the committee was in a hopeless minority, and little surprise was occasioned when an overwhelming majority voted in favour of a £5 proprietary share instead of a £1 share only as proposed by the executive. The meeting was exceedingly lively, and the heckling of the officials was very keen, and almost at times unfair. Another meeting will be held in a couple of weeks to discuss the prospectus and other points in connection with the flotation.

Statistics. 1899

At Monday's meeting of the Rangers Club Mr Archibald Leitch, the gentleman engaged to prepare the plans for the new ground, explained his drawings by means of a lantern, and gave some interesting statistics in connection with the removal. He estimated that it would cost £12,000 to fit up a new ground capable of accommodating 80,000 spectators, and with the ground already leased by the committee, accommodation could be provided for 140,000, but the cost would be something like £18,000. The new ground, Mr Leitch informed the members, would be terraced on a somewhat expensive scale, but this was necessary in view of a probable removal at the end of 10 years. Twenty-four miles of boarding was required for a ground to hold 80,000. The decision of the club is to go on with the ground extension scheme, and the new Ibrox Park is estimated to hold eighty thousand, and, if need be, the accommodation can be considerably augmented.

Mr. William Wilton was appointed the club's first manager at a meeting in the Trades Hall on Monday 27th March 1899 where the meeting voted for a £5 proprietary share rather than a £1 share as proposed by the executive.[9] The club held its first annual general meeting as a limited company there on the 20th August 1899.[10]

[7] The Scottish Sport 19th February 1889.
[8] Glasgow Evening Post 22nd March 1889
[9] Scottish Referee Friday 31st March 1899.
[10] The Gallant Pioneers by Gary Ralston, 2013, Page 217.



Rangers F.C., Limited.

THE FIRST BALANCE SHEET.

5 PER CENT. DIVIDEND—£1,000 TO RESERVE.

The statement of accounts just issued by the directors covers a period from 1st June, 1899, to 15th May last. The net profits amount to £1,691 18s 10d.

This sum the directors propose to dispose of as follows:—

To reserve account	£1,000	0	0
In payment of dividend on the capital of the company at the rate of 5 per cent. for such periods as the call on the shares has been paid, subject to income tax	322	10	0
In reduction of preliminary expenses	100	0	0
Carried forward, subject to directors' and auditors' fees	269	8	10
	£1,691	18	10

On the expenditure side of the account we find that players' wages, expenses, and transfers absorbed £3,706 8s; hotel bills, refreshments, &c., £240 8s 10d; secretary and manager's salary, wages of trainer, groundsman, and laundress, £398 16s 8d; rents, taxes, insurance, and telephone, £376 8s 4d. The amount drawn at the various matches, less proportion paid competing clubs, was £6,992 2s 3d.

Owing to the favourable arrangements made with the Rangers Football Club for the transfer of their property and assets to the company, the amount of cash and value of erections and plant, per valuation realised or taken over (less the cost of restoring the old ground) exceeded the nominal value of the shares allotted in satisfaction of the purchase price by £2,597 0s 10d, and this sum the directors have placed to reserve account.

The results of the engagements of the team have been very satisfactory, and the club have been successful for the second time in succession in obtaining the Scottish League Championship, and have also secured the Glasgow and Glasgow Charity Cups.

The directors have now almost completed all their proposed agreements with players for next season, and they confidently anticipate that the results of their selection will again sustain the reputation of the club.

The retiring directors are Messrs John S. Marr, Wm. R. Danskin, and James Walker, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. One director will also fall to be elected in place of Mr John R. Gow, who has resigned, and the board recommend the election of Mr Dugald M'Kenzie, late president of the Rangers Football Club.

The annual meeting will be held on the evening of Monday, 11th June, in the Trades' Hall, Glasgow.

1900

Prior to their Annual General Meeting in the Trades Hall, on 11th June 1900, Rangers Football Cub printed their first balance sheet in "The Scottish Referee" where they reported a 5% Dividend and £1000 to Reserve.[11] The meeting on Tuesday 19th June did not go as well when it was reported at a meeting in the Trades Hall that they were in a poor financial position.[12] The 1917 Annual General Meeting in the Trades Hall showed a remarkable turnaround for Ranger Football Club when it was reported that they had made a profit of £2450 19s 6d.[13]

The Scottish Football Authority also used the Trades House in the late part of the1800s to the early 1900s.

[11] Scottish Referee Friday 8th June 1900.

[12] Scottish Referee Monday 18th June 1906.

[13] Scottish Referee Friday 25th May 1917.