

STONEHOUSE HERITAGE GROUP

NEWSLETTER Issue 21

March 2012

They lived in Stonehouse

This Issue is about young men who were either born or were brought up in our Village of Stonehouse.

Some of the following people will be known to some of you, but many will never have been heard off until now.

I started to write this article after coming across footballer Jimmy McLuckie who was born in Stonehouse and went on to become a top class footballer.

James McLuckie:

Born in Stonehouse 2nd April 1908

Died November 1986 Aged 78

Ipswich Town Wing –half 1936-1939

Tranent Juniors:

Jimmy started his career with Tranent Juniors, Jimmy was originally a left-half who eventually operated at inside –right when he went to Hamilton Academicals.

Jimmy was capped as a School boy for Scotland at under -14 Level against England and Wales.

Hamilton Academicals:

He was signed as a 20 year old and critics said that on debut he played as well as could be expected. He spent 5 years at Hamilton and became an outstanding player making 117 league and cup appearances and scoring 18 goals, then helped Hamilton into the semi-final of the Scottish cup in 1931/32 season.

Manchester City:

Jimmy then joined Manchester City in 1933 and played a total of 38 League and cup games for City and scored one goal which was in a home 3-1 victory against Tottenham Hotspur on November 3rd 1934.

His time at City was shorter than anticipated when Aston Villa put a bid

in for him, and on December 1934 Aston Villa paid £6.500 to secure his services.

Aston Villa:

The sum of £6.500 was what Villa paid for Jimmy money well spent described in who's who of Aston Villa as a brilliant ball artist and inspiring Captain.

Ipswich Town:

The first professional to join Ipswich Town after the club joined the Southern League in 1936. Ipswich had players such as Charlie Cowie (later to become reserve team trainer from Barrow) Jack Blackwell from Boston and Bobby Bruce from Sheffield Wednesday.

Then in July, the football world took notice when Jimmy McLuckie who had played for Scotland only two years earlier, was secured from Aston Villa. He was only twenty-eight years old and in the prime so it was little wonder that Ipswich turned down offers for him even before he had kicked a ball for the club.

He led Ipswich out in their first ever professional match against Turnbridge Wells Rangers before a crowd of 14,211, the band of the Scots guards were present to mark the occasion and there had been a luncheon at the Great White Horse Hotel, at which Stanley Rous and Town chairman Captain Ivan Cobbold both spoke.

McLuckie: stayed with the club until the start of the second world war, which marked the end of his career.

He was signed by Irish manager Mick O'Brien who won the Southern League title at his first Attempt, was then dismissed shortly before the

start of the following season because of his relationship with the Landlady of the Cobbold pub (The Mullberry Tree)-as a result the Landlord complained to Captain Cobbold who owned the pub.

Ipswich aimed high as they sought a replacement manager, they tried in vain for Major Frank Buckley who was manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers at that time. Instead they secured Adam Scot Duncan, who was the manager of Manchester United.



James McLuckie
Continued on page 2

**Stonehouse Heritage Group
meet on the first Monday of
the Month at 4/5 the cross. 7.30.
Open to all members of the
public.
stonehouseheritage.co.uk**

It was Duncans influence that helped the Club gain election to the Football League for the 1938/39 season.

Jimmy remained a key man but, ironically, Tom Fillingham a central defender from Birmingham City captained Ipswich in their first ever League match at home to Southend, Fillingham led the team only twice before McLuckie was put back in charge.

When Ipswich were drawn to visit Aston Villa in the 3rd round of the FA Cup he was in his element and gave a marvellous performance against his old club and helped Ipswich to a 1-1 draw and a replay at Portman Road the following Wednesday afternoon.

The replay at Villa will be remembered for a mud-throwing incident. Early in the second half when Ipswich were awarded a penalty Villa full back Callaghan threw mud at the ball and moved it just as Charlie Fletcher was running up to take the spot-kick which hit the post, Ipswich lost the dramatic reply 2-1.

Jimmy McLuckie was the first player to be sent off in Towns professional history, he received his marching orders against Guilford City in 1937 He never the less retained the captaincy.

Scotland: Jimmy had one cap for Scotland against Wales on the 4th October 1933. At Ninian Park Cardiff. Wales won 3-2 in front of 40,000 fans. Evans, Robbins and Astley scored for Wales McFadyen and Jack Duncan for Scotland.

Also in the Scotland team that day were goalkeeper Jack Harkness and the legendary Mat Busby Jimmy's great friend. (Jimmy became player manager of Clacton Town in July 1947.)

[Any information on Jimmy McLuckie would be greatly appreciated contact Jim on 01698792014.](#)

Another great player: Unknown to many was Charlie Johnstone, Charlie was born in Larkhall but lived in Stonehouse nearly all his life. He was born on 6 November 1911 (Main team Glasgow Rangers)

Charlie Johnston's football career began with Larkhall Thistle, later moving to Burnbank and Blantyre Victoria.

He moved into the senior game signing for Motherwell on 26th December 1932 before going south of the border to play for Doncaster Rovers and Mansfield Town.

On the 3rd September 1938 he joined Dunfermline Athletic before joining Rangers on 7th August 1940, he spent six seasons at Ibrox making 132 appearances at outside left for Rangers scoring 48 goals, and in 1942 he was selected to play for Scotland against England at Wembley.

Johnston joined Queen of the South on 6th August 1946 and was an integral part of their 'B' Division Championship winning side of season 1950/51. His career at Palmerston spanned seven years and he was dubbed the Peter Pan of Scottish football" due to

him still playing at the age of 41.

His playing career finished at the end of season 1952/53 and such was his service to Queens that he was granted a benefit match against Rangers which attracted 8,000 to Palmerston in 1953.

Bobby Rankin Bobby played for Larkhall Thistle and the Royal Albert. Bobby later signed for Cumnock Juniors then sold to Queen of the South He was then bought in 1959 by Hearts. Bobby only played for one season with Hearts and at the end of 1959 moved to Third Lanark then ending his career in Scotland with Stenhousemuir due to a leg injury.

Jim Kirkland: Aberdeen.

Jim played for Birkinshaw under 18s and Stonehouse Thistle. He later joined Aberdeen F.C. His stats are 16 apps (0 as sub) - 0 goals He played 1 match in 67/68, away to KR Reykjavik, then nothing in 68/69, before getting 15 more starts in 69/70.

Jim played in Jim Baxter's last ever professional game in Dec 69 in a Gers win at Todders

Alexander Selkirk: Queen Of The South.

Sandy starred in goal for Queens in season 1956/57 when Roy Henderson was side-lined with a bad injury.

Having been seriously injured at the end of his first year at the club, sadly Sandy only played one season at senior level. He went on to be first choice keeper with Glenafton, playing for several more years in a very successful junior side, before retiring from the game.

Although born in Stonehouse, Sandy's family originate from Largo in Fife and he is said to be a descendant of Robinson Crusoe [Alexander Selkirk] who came from the same area.

George McMillan: Born 10-8/1929

Position Goalkeeper Appearances 53

George had his Town debut against Nottingham Forrest (H) Division 2 on the 9th of March 1955.

His last game for Ipswich was against Leyton Orient (A) Division 2 on 12th of April 1958.

George had many a fall out with his manager at that time (Alf Ramsay who later became the England Manager)

McMillan had a spell at Newarthill Hearts and Stirling Albion the played a few games for his Local Stonehouse Violet team.

Community Council Meetings 2012

Mon. 19h March. Mon. 16th April. Mon. 21th May.

Mon. 18th June. Mon. 20th August.

Venue Community Lifestyle. Strathaven Road 7.30.

Community-council.org.uk/stonehousecommunitycouncil

David McNiven: Born Stonehouse 09-09-1955

Leeds United.

A Scottish Schoolboy International, he was a prolific goalscorer in the Leeds United Juniors and turned professional in September 1972. McNiven earned himself the nickname 'Supersub' for scoring vital goals after coming on a substitute for Leeds.

He won three Scottish Under-Twenty-one caps, two as a substitute, while at Leeds. He was a prolific goalscorer in the Juniors and Reserve teams, scoring three hat-tricks in the Central League in 1975-76. With the likes of Allan Clarke, Mick Jones, Peter Lorimer, Joe Jordan, Duncan McKenzie, John O'Hare and Ray Hankin available as strikers there was little wonder he was restricted to a handful of games when others were injured.

A fee £25,000 took him to Bradford City in February 1978 and he enjoyed a productive five year spell before going to Blackpool in February 1983. During his spell at Valley Parade he was always the first choice striker and scored sixty-four goals in two hundred and twelve League appearances which included ten substitute appearances.

He was ever-present with forty-six appearances and nineteen goals as he spearheaded City to promotion in 1982-83. He left Bloomfield Road on a free transfer in May 1984 after scoring eleven goals in forty-nine appearances of which four were as substitute. He had a spell with Portland Timbers and Pittsburgh Spirit in the NASL before joining Halifax Town in March 1985 and netting four goals in a dozen League appearances at the Shay. In the 1985 close season he moved to Morecambe, and then he worked as a milkman in Lytham St Annes before going into the second-

hand car business as a salesman in Preston. He graduated to Commercial Sales Manager.

His uncle Tom, the former Third Lanark player, was Hibernian's physiotherapist and Scotland's physio for the 1974, 1978 and 1982 World Cups. His twin sons both played professional football.

Arthur McMillan: Arthur began his footballing career with Glassford Amateurs, then moved to Larkhall's Royal Albert, before joining Stonehouse Thistle.

He then was to step up to the Senior League when he was sold to Stranraer as a striker in 1967. He was then signed from Stranraer to Hamilton by Tommy Ewing in 1969 and eventually settled as a left-back.

A fans' favourite, Arthur was named Player of the Year in 1971, 73 and 76 – a unique treble.

He remained at Douglas Park until 1977, making 252 appearances over seven seasons, the major-ity as captain, before joining Heidelberg United (then known as Fitzroy Alexander) in Australia.

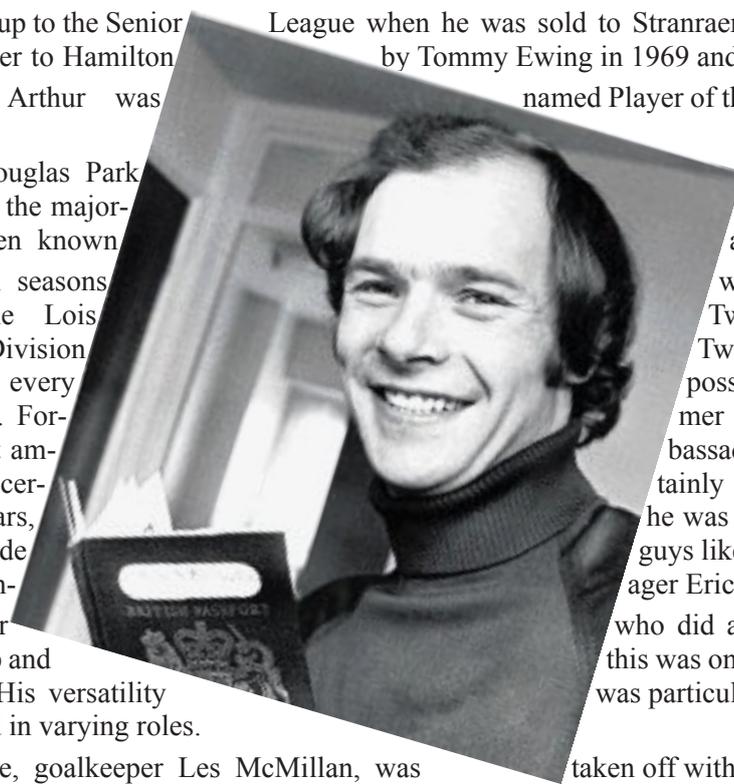
After just over six seasons with Heidelberg, Arthur joined North Dandenong at the Lois Twohig Reserve in the Victorian Metropolitan League Division Two in 1983. Arthur was extremely versatile and played in every possible position – including goalkeeper – during his career. Former Hamilton secretary Alan Dick said: "Arthur was a great ambassador for the club during very difficult times, and he was certainly a very important player at the club for a number of years, he was instrumental in the club's revival in the mid-70s, alongside guys like Paul Hegarty, Neil Hood and Andy Lawless, under manager Eric Smith.

Arthur was a player who did a good job in whatever position he was asked to take up and this was one of the reasons why he was brought to Douglas Park. "His versatility was particularly apparent in his early days at the club, as he was used in varying roles.

When his namesake, goalkeeper Les McMillan, was taken off with a bad injury in a match against East Fife at Methil, Arthur took over the yellow jersey without hesitation. "He was a totally committed and wholehearted player while in Hamilton's colours.

Arthur was a very good friend of mine from our school days, through our teenage years we also served our Apprenticeship together. Arthur did me the honour of being my best man at my wedding along with him doing his duty as best man he also sang in the band that he helped to form.

Arthur married and emigrated to Australia in 1977, where he lived until he died on December 29th. 2009.



Robert Hughes:

Born in Stonehouse October 22nd 1933 to John and Martha Hughes.

John was a miner in one of the local pits, but unlike most sons Robert did not follow his father down the pit. Robert was employed at Birkenshaw Foundry as a Despatch clerk. Robert played with Glassford Amateurs then moved on to Kirkmuirhill Juniors season 1950/51 Most the team went on to play junior or senior football.

Robert then moved to Larkhall's Royal Albert for the next two seasons, part of the second season he joined Stonehouse Violet for the remainder of the season.

After his time at the Violet he then went on to Douglas Water Thistle who had Motherwell as their parent senior club with players like Ian St John, Sammy Reid

And John McPhee in the team.

Robert then moved to in 1955 to English 3rd Division side Watford his first senior team

Who had Neil McBain as manager and had four or five Scots lads in the team.

Robert then took the huge step to immigrate to Montreal Canada with ex Rangers player

Willie Woodburn as his agent he signed for-Montreal Alouettes a Czech run team in Canada

Who were a pro team in the Canadian league standard around our second division?

Robert played here for one Season then in the winter he moved again to America with another Stonehouse player John Davidson his brother-in-law to Castle Shannon in Pittsburgh. They then spent some time in San Francisco in 1960 and played with the Greek American team.

John Davidson:

Born Stonehouse Nov 6th 1931 to Thomas and Jean Davidson

Thomas worked as a miner in the local pits, but young John found work away from the pits by becoming a painter at the Birkenshaw Foundry.

John joined Glenavon Amateurs in Strathaven before joining the army at 18 years old at this time you were drafted to serve your country.

On leaving the army John joined Larkhall Royal Albert Juniors, and was head hunted by Both Partick Thistle and Manchester United. Unfortunately John turned down the great Manchester club down due to his present girlfriend and soon to be wife who refused to move to England.

John went on to play two seasons for Alloa with Webber Lees as manager, from here he went to Walsall who were in the English second division, then, he moved once again to Rhyl in Wales.

John then received an offer from Pittsburgh in America from Castle Shannon, and signed up with them

What happens out in Canada and America is that footballers could play part of the year with two clubs just as David Beckham does now.

His Brother- In-law Robert Hughes invited John to join his team Montreal Alouettes who were in Canada. He played for this team in the summer of 1958 then he had Robert down in the winter to play with Pittsburgh.

Both John and Robert then decided to travel together to San Francisco in August 1960 and joined for the Greek American club as semi-professional for ten years.

Tom Forsyth: Modest by nature, "Big Tam" signed for Rangers in October 1972 for the princely sum of £40,000 – and went on to play 326 times for Rangers, and become of Jock Wallace's best-ever signings.

Every Rangers fan remembers him scoring the winner in the Cup Final in his first season, from about a foot out, but it was the timing of his tackles that have not seen equalled to this day.

So many defenders now only put in half-hearted tackles, and if that doesn't win the ball, they simply foul their opponent! Not so with big Tam!

Tam was raised in Stonehouse, Lanarkshire and was a leading player with Stonehouse Violet, in 1967 he was signed for Motherwell by manager Bobby Howitt and helped the Lanarkshire club win promotion back to the top tier of Scottish football.

Tom was also an integral part of the great Motherwell team that knocked English giants Stoke City and Tottenham Hotspur out of the Texaco Cup in the same season.

In 1972 Tom was bought by legendary Rangers manager Jock Wallace and went on to win nine major trophies with the Ibrox club including two trebles, in 1976 and 1978. Quite amazingly his first goal in light blue was also the winner in the Old Firm Scottish Cup final of 1973 and arguably the most famous ever scored in that august competition. That goal and his commitment to the jersey made him a hero to Rangers fans all over the world. It is little wonder that Tom Forsyth has been inducted into the Ibrox hall of fame

Forced to retire at the age of 33 due to a serious knee injury he moved into coaching and management and enjoyed considerable success in these roles.

Scotland:

Tom was capped on twenty-two occasions by his country, including once as captain. He was part of the great Scotland team of the mid-to-late 1970s, a team that won back-to-back home-international championships and knocked the European champions out in the qualifying rounds of the 1978 World Cup. There was also to be considerable success in football management as assistant to old pal and former Rangers teammate Tommy McLean. As well as winning the 1991 Scottish Cup final with Motherwell,

McLean and Forsyth guided the club to third place in the premier league, a considerable achievement for a provincial club.