

DAVID POTTER

THE
**SCOTTISH
CUP**



CELTIC'S FAVOURITE TROPHY

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CHAPTER ONE

THE 19TH CENTURY

1888/89–1898/99

THE SCOTTISH Cup had been in existence since the 1873/74 season. In the early years it had been more or less the exclusive property of Queen's Park, but Vale of Leven, Renton and Dumbarton had had their moments of glory as well, and, of course, when Hibs won the Scottish Cup in 1887, it galvanised the Glasgow Irishmen into starting a football club on the grounds that whatever the Edinburgh Irishmen could do, the Glasgow Irishmen could also do.

Celtic's first Scottish Cup tie was played at Old Celtic Park against near neighbours Shettleston on 1 September 1888. It was only natural that the first Scottish Cup tie of this new, and already well-supported, team should attract a great deal of attention, and the fact that it was a local derby added to the occasion. The rain had stopped by the time the game began, but there had been an awful lot of it, and the pitch is described as 'greasy' in *The Scotsman*.

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The Courier in Dundee, a newspaper which would in later years become very well disposed to the new Celtic team, is rather offhand when it bemoans the fact that some players can join other teams almost at will and laments the fact that the great Renton side which won the Scottish Cup in 1888 have lost two men, Neil McCallum and James Kelly, to Celtic, 'a club composed of players of the Catholic persuasion'. This rather unflattering introduction (indeed, it is a rather offensive racial or sectarian slur which is not necessarily true in any case) of Celtic to the Dundee readers may well have had the effect of rallying the large and burgeoning Dundee Irish population to the cause of the Celtic, but in any case the new club already had a large support. Today they won 5-1 to progress to the next round.

All goals were scored, apparently, by an otherwise obscure character called John O'Connor, but one must be very careful about this. Newspaper reporting in 1888 was far from an exact science. There were no such things as press boxes or football correspondents, and often a report was composed by asking a spectator 'Who scored that one?' or even by making it up! Possibly, he was not even at the game and found out the goalscorers and other details of the game 'by word of mouth'. But the Celtic team for the first of their many cup ties was Dunning, McKeown and James Coleman; Gallagher, Kelly and McLaren; McCallum, John Coleman, Groves, Dunbar and O'Connor.

So it was onwards and upwards for Celtic as they moved into the next round. This game took place three weeks later, again at Old Celtic Park. Once more it was

against near neighbours, this time Cowlairs, and the score was a spectacular 8-0 – a surprise, because Cowlairs had defeated Celtic in the Glasgow Exhibition Cup Final two weeks earlier. This result energised the 7,000 supporters (a huge crowd for 1888 and a potent indication of just how many followers this new club could command) and gave the new club a huge boost. This time the goals seem to have been scored (although accounts disagree) by Mick Dunbar who had a hat-trick, two from Neil McCallum and one each from Tom Maley, James Kelly and Willie Groves, who had joined Celtic from Hibernian and rejoiced in the nickname ‘darlin’ Willie’.

For the third time in a row, Celtic had a home tie, this time against a team called Albion Rovers from Coatbridge described as a ‘crack Lanarkshire club’. Like Celtic, their supporters tended to be of Irish origin, but today in front of a poor crowd of 600 (even though it was a nice sunny day) Celtic beat them 4-1 – Mick Dunbar, Tom Maley, Willie Groves and Paddy Gallagher (no relation to the famous Patsy Gallacher of the future) scoring the goals for the team variously described as ‘the Irishmen’, ‘the Celts’, ‘the Glasgow Irishmen’ or ‘the green shirts’.

At long last an away tie followed, and this time it was a trip to Edinburgh to play St Bernard’s at Powderhall. ‘Great satisfaction was evinced’ in Edinburgh when the draw was made. By this time, reports of the Celtic had spread. In spite of some terrible weather, some 6,000 (a huge crowd for Edinburgh with many having travelled through on the train along with the team from Glasgow) came to see this team who ‘passed brilliantly’ to each other. Willie Groves and James Kelly were outstanding

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for the 'famous green jerseys' (interesting that the jerseys are 'famous' less than six months after they were first worn!) and this time 'darlin' Willie' scored two and Tom Maley and Mick Dunbar one each. St Bernard's were much commended for scoring once against this mighty side and for restricting them to 4-1.

It is not exactly clear what type of 'green jersey' it was. It may have been green and white vertical, or it may have been pure green, or it may have been white with green trimmings and a green badge, but there seems to have been little doubt that it was famous at the time.

But then on 24 November at Celtic Park in another east of Glasgow derby before 9,000, Celtic lost – or at least they appeared to. Clyde won 1-0, but the game had to be shortened and even so, it finished in darkness for the bizarre reason that Clyde were wearing illegal footwear and were dilatory in changing their boots!

Not unnaturally Celtic protested. Rather destroying the beliefs of the nascent 'everyone hates Celtic' paranoia, the SFA upheld the protest and ordered the game to be played again on 8 December, once more at Celtic Park. Clyde played the game under protest although the edge was taken off their outrage when they saw the huge 9,000 crowd and they contemplated their share of the large gate. This time Celtic simply took control, played sparkling football and won 9-2 – with hat-tricks from Tom Maley and 'darlin' Willie, two from Neil McCallum and one from James McLaren, commonly known as the 'auld giniral'.

And before the year of 1888 was out, the infant club had made further progress in the Scottish Cup, this

time on 15 December at Merchiston near Falkirk, the home of East Stirlingshire. This time it would have to be said that Celtic were rather fortunate and for a long time it looked as if they were going out of the Scottish Cup thanks to a goal scored late in the first half by the 'Shire. But within the last five minutes Neil McCallum equalised, and Celtic then scored the winner to a great feeling of relief from the surprisingly large number of those who had once again followed the team on the train from Glasgow. Some had already departed for an early train, convinced that the team were out of the cup, but those who stayed got their reward.

And this ended 1888. The new team had made astonishing strides to reach the semi-final of the Scottish Cup after little more than six months' existence, but, of course, most of the players had been around for some time – McCallum and Kelly were already cup winners with Renton, for example, and McLaren and Groves with Hibs. But there was also an enthusiasm about the green jersey and it was clear that the word 'Celtic' already meant an awful lot to an awful lot of people. For the Irish in the East End of Glasgow, there was now a rallying point.

They were also all about professionalism. Professionalism had been legal in England from 1886 but Scotland still lagged behind with Queen's Park, the leading club in Scotland and indeed founders of the game, absolutely obdurate on this issue. It did not take a huge amount of thinking, however, to work out that players from Renton and Hibs would not go to this new Glasgow club for reasons of nationality and religion. There was a certain amount of money changing hands as well, it was

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felt, and this new ambitious club had the wherewithal to pay their players, albeit illegally.

The rest of Scotland sat up and took notice as well. It is often said that every action has a reaction. There was a definite reaction to this new team and their success. Other clubs tended to welcome the success of the Celts and their large support (after all, it meant that there was more money about for everyone), but some of the supporters of other clubs were less keen, tapping into the latent xenophobic and sectarian bile that the Orange Lodges, sometimes with subtlety but sometimes not, peddled. Funnily enough, this intolerance did not as yet reach Rangers to any large extent, but it was more obvious at out-of-Glasgow grounds like Airdrie and St Mirren.

At a different level, the lofty, patrician Queen's Park also trembled. There was now a club with the resources to challenge them – and within Glasgow itself! In recent years, there had been a challenge from Edinburgh from Hearts and Hibs in addition to the more established challenges of the Dunbartonshire villages of Renton and Alexandria. But now a new club had arrived, tapping into the support of a huge and already well-established ethnic minority.

The semi-final of the Scottish Cup took place on 12 January at Boghead, Dumbarton before 6,000 spectators, believed to be the biggest crowd up till this time at Boghead with Celtic once again giving a huge boost to the finances of the railway companies. Several trains brought supporters from Glasgow. Those who were there saw just why the new team had taken the country by storm, for they won 4-1 with two goals from

Groves and two from Dunbar. *The Scotsman* says that the 'beautiful passing of the Celts was a matter for general admiration' and that their 'swiftness and general ability' were superior. Dumbarton, who had won the Scottish Cup in 1883, were simply swept aside, and as the Third Lanark Rifle Volunteers had beaten Renton in the other semi-final, it was to be an all-Glasgow Scottish Cup Final, scheduled for Hampden Park, the home of Queen's Park, on 2 February. (This ground was not, of course, the Hampden as we know it today. It was the ground that became known in later years as Cathkin.)

Great was the enthusiasm throughout Glasgow and indeed all of Scotland about this game. Third Lanark had twice before reached the Scottish Cup Final, losing to Queen's Park and Vale of Leven in the 1870s, but they had never won it and their supporters (generally ex-soldiers and those who lived in the south of Glasgow but considered themselves not rich enough to support Queen's Park!) were there in strength. But so too were those of Celtic and the crowd was given as 18,000, by some distance the biggest crowd ever at a Scottish football game, beating even Scotland v England games. But the weather took over.

Snow had fallen intermittently in the morning, but by kick-off time, it intensified and it soon became obvious that play was more or less impossible. Neither team wanted to play, but the referee Charles Campbell of Queen's Park insisted, but then relented a little to say that the game should be played as a friendly and that the fate of the Scottish Cup was not at stake. The crowd, who had paid a massive £920, were not informed, although

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they might have guessed, and in impossible conditions with visibility a major problem Third Lanark won a farcical game 3-0 with many in the crowd losing interest in the game and making snowmen around the ground instead. Snowballs were thrown at opposition players, the referee and the umpires (one from each side who acted as a linesman).

Half-time was a particularly entertaining occasion for the spectators. 'Those in whom the creative urge was uppermost' built a snowman or two, some of them with unnaturally huge appendages; others entertained each other by singing good-naturedly a repertoire of songs from the Victorian music hall like 'My Darling Clementine' and 'Two Lovely Black Eyes' – a salutary reminder of what can happen to a young man if he gets too friendly with another man's wife – or 'A Floppy Scottish Sausage', a reference to the relationship between the late John Brown and Queen Victoria, when the Queen was a little disappointed with John.

But in footballing terms, it didn't matter. Next week did, however. The conditions were 100 per cent better, although it was still cold and the ground was hard, and a crowd of similar size turned up. This time, although Neil McCallum scored for Celtic in the second half, Third Lanark had already scored one in the first half and late in the game Oswald scored the winner. The consensus of opinion in the press was that Thirds were the better team.

The defeat was obviously very disappointing, but it was nevertheless a great achievement for the infant Celtic club to reach the final of the Scottish Cup in their first year of existence. The team on that bittersweet day of 9

February 1889 was John Kelly, Gallagher and McKeown; W. Maley, James Kelly and McLaren; McCallum, Dunbar, Coleman, Groves and T. Maley. There were enough players in that team wise enough to learn a lesson or two. More importantly, they had tasted the 'big time'. They wanted some more.

The new team, 'the Celts', 'the Irishmen', 'the Green and Whites', were less successful in the Scottish Cup of 1889/90. Indeed, they did not survive September. Their home tie against Queen's Park on 7 September highlighted the inadequacy of Old Celtic Park when about 25,000 turned up clamouring for admission at the ten entrances. Not all the crowd were allowed in; some had to be turned away, others climbed the walls to get in, but at least they never turned nasty. However, frequent encroachments on to the field by the panicking crowd who feared being crushed to death meant that the play was seriously disrupted, and at one point in the second half, referee Mr Sneddon called the captains together and said he wanted to abandon the game. Nevertheless, it was decided to play the game out, and it finished a 0-0 friendly.

The SFA (who generally showed a remarkable tendency to decide in favour of Queen's Park in any given dispute) then decided that the game should be played next week at the much larger Hampden Park, and that the admission charges should be doubled from last week's already high one shilling. One did not need to be a genius to work out that all this turned out very much in favour of Queen's Park, whose wealthy supporters were more able to afford the staggering two-shilling entrance fee. Ten

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thousand, still a huge crowd, saw a very even game with Groves equalising for Celtic after Hamilton had put the home side ahead, but then with only minutes left, Berry scored the winner and Celtic were out. Queen's Park went on to win the Scottish Cup (their ninth) in 1890.

Celtic lasted in the Scottish Cup a little longer in 1890/91, but even so exited the tournament some ten days before the new year. It would have to be described nevertheless as one of the more interesting, although not necessarily one of the more pleasant, of campaigns with loads of bad weather, crowd problems and not a little disorder. This was also the first season of the Scottish League – a new concept where every team played each other home and away and were awarded points – but the Scottish Cup was still the number one tournament and would remain so for many decades.

Ironically to a football historian, but coming as no surprise to contemporaries, the best and most peaceful game was the first one, namely Celtic v Rangers at Old Celtic Park where 16,000 (all paying sixpence) were crammed in, and the gates were closed well before the 4pm start time, to see a good, well-fought but thoroughly sporting encounter. These two teams famously got on well together, and there was absolutely no trouble whatsoever as Celtic won 1-0, the only goal of the game coming when once again Celtic's great goalscoring hero 'darlin' Willie' finished off a good move with 'a grand shot', although some sources describe it as a 'miskick'!

Carfin Shamrock were next at Celtic Park. The 2-2 scoreline raised a few eyebrows, and not for the last time, hints appeared in several newspapers to the effect

that the replay on the holiday Monday, 6 October, at Byreknowes Park, Carfin would in no way be financially disadvantageous to both sets of Irishmen! An enormous crowd gathered round the ropes and saw a good 3-1 victory for the Glasgow men with goals coming from Barney Crossan, Peter Dowds and 'darlin' Willie'.

There followed a trip to Wishaw Thistle in mid-October, but on a fine autumnal day the Lanarkshire men had no answer to the 'all-firing Celts' and lost 2-6. Celtic had to travel further afield and in far worse weather conditions to West Craigie Park, Dundee to take on Dundee Our Boys. The game on 8 November was played in torrential rain throughout but nevertheless attracted 4,000 spectators to a ground that was almost entirely exposed to the elements. Celtic scored three goals round about the half-hour mark, after the local side had had the temerity to score first. The second half was a low-key affair with Celtic clearly on top but having no desire to humiliate the Dundonians who were clearly in awe of the Celtic side that had revolutionised Scottish football in two and a half years. Dundee Our Boys, however, intended to protest about the state of the pitch (their own!) and bizarrely the studs on the boots of the Celts, but forgot to send the letter in time! Such incompetence may well explain why that club disappeared soon after!

And then things began to get murky in every sense of the word, for the next round of the draw took Celtic to Raploch Park, Larkhall to play Larkhall Royal Albert. The events that took place over the three weeks at the end of November and beginning of December may well have been an early example of sectarian hatred at football

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matches (1890 was certainly a year when Home Rule for Ireland was in the news, with even a little sexual spice for the prurient added with the divorce case of Charles Stewart Parnell!) but this may be looking at matters through more modern eyes. Yet certainly, Celtic were undeniably Irish, and Larkhall Royal Albert's very name gives an indication of where their sympathies and loyalties lay. This all may well have played a part in what happened.

29 November saw a severe frost. An agreement was reached that the cup tie should be postponed and a friendly played in its place. A civilised 2-2 draw was played out, although it was not impossible that a few things might have happened, possibly things said, which would be carried on next week. The events of the following Saturday, 6 December, were, frankly, a disgrace and although the evidence is scant, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that one prominent Celt was very lucky not to be on the wrong end of serious trouble.

The game was one-sided, and Celtic, 4-0 up with goals from Jimmy McLaren, Johnny Madden and two from the rising star left-winger Johnny Campbell, were coasting. They should have been allowed to coast, but when a Larkhall player called Frame fouled Johnny Madden, Celtic's linesman/umpire Tom Maley not only awarded the foul but entered the field of play, remonstrated with Frame and ended up hitting him with his flag, or punching him depending on what account one reads. This incited the crowd, who invaded the park, were persuaded to go back, but then returned a few minutes later when Jerry Reynolds showed his pugilistic skills by punching someone. *The Scotsman*, in a breathtaking

euphemism, describes this as a 'slight accident'! The referee was compelled to cut the game short some 12 minutes early.

Larkhall then argued for a replay. It was unlikely (even impossible) that they could have scored four goals in 12 minutes and in any case they should have exercised more control over their own supporters. (The two policemen on duty did a marvellous and courageous job and were much praised for their bravery and devotion to duty, but two against 4,000 is impossible odds.) On the other hand, the conduct of Tom Maley could not be excused, and it was he, and only he, who was responsible for the riot. Celtic opposed a replay, suggesting that Larkhall were now sniffing extra money (a reasonable assumption, one feels) but the SFA then came to the incongruous decision that no action should be taken against Tom Maley, but that the game should be replayed next Saturday at, of all places, Ibrox. Those who suspect that the SFA have an innate bias against Celtic might find it difficult to explain away the exoneration of Maley, but those who suspect that the SFA suffer from endogenous insanity possibly have more ammunition in this case!

Be that as it may, the replay at Ibrox on 13 December passed rather uneventfully with a routine and predictable 2-0 win for Celtic with second-half goals from Crossan and Campbell. Everyone seems to have behaved on the field, and 5,000 spectators turned up and left similarly becalmed after last week's events described in some newspapers as 'thrilling'! This one was more routine.

And so to 'fatal' Boghead, Dumbarton for the next round on 20 December. Referee Mr Dunn of Cambuslang

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was of the opinion that the ground was suitable for play, but he was the only one of that persuasion. Nevertheless, the snow had been cleared and to the delight of the huge 14,000 crowd disgorging from the Glasgow trains, the game went ahead. The conditions were certainly less than ideal (both teams emphatically said so) but Dumbarton played better than Celtic did and duly won 3-0. A few crowd disturbances were in evidence and some Celtic fans tried to get the game abandoned by invading the field (after all, Larkhall fans had succeeded in that a few weeks back!), but the ground was cleared and the game finished.

Early in the new year of 1891, Celtic made their protest about the conditions (Dumbarton intended to join them, but withdrew their protest after they had won the game!) but the decision on the casting vote of the chairman of the SFA committee was that the referee's decision should be upheld. There would thus be no Scottish Cup for Celtic in 1891, the trophy this year going eastwards to Heart of Midlothian.

But 1892 changed all that, and was the first great year in the history of our club. The Scottish Cup had been streamlined – a necessity because the Scottish League was now taking up more fixture dates – and Celtic's first game was against St Mirren at Westmarch in Paisley on 28 November 1891, and they won comfortably 4-2, but the scorers of the goals are uncertain. What was certain, however, was that Celtic now had a great forward line with the left-wing pair of Sandy McMahon and Johnny Campbell outstanding.

In the next round Kilmarnock Athletic (not the Kilmarnock team that we now know to play at Rugby

Park) presented few problems on 19 December when Celtic won 3-0. Cowllairs were then similarly dispatched 4-1 on 23 January to put Celtic into the semi-final, where they found themselves up against Rangers again at Old Celtic Park. New Celtic Park was now being built – indeed, it was well advanced – and this would be the last big game at the original ground (if we exclude the Scotland v Ireland international on 28 March). The semi-final was not as big a game attendance-wise as might have been expected, for heavy rain on 6 February 1892 cut the crowd to a slightly disappointing but still respectable 11,000. To put things into the perspective of 1892, however, Hearts were playing Renton at Hampden and attracted a larger crowd! Clearly in 1892, a Celtic v Rangers game did not necessarily make the whole world stop and wait for it.

The crowd at Old Celtic Park saw a great Celtic performance and a 5-3 win over Rangers. Indeed, Celtic were 5-0 up early in the second half with McMahon and Campbell absolutely rampant. They then must have tired a little, for Rangers pulled three back but Celtic were never seriously threatened, and in four years, they had now reached two Scottish Cup Finals – and this time they were to face the team with the best Scottish Cup record of them all – Queen's Park.

In 1892 Queen's Park were the real rivals. The Scottish Cup Final of that year was therefore relished and looked forward to. It was the old v the new, the Scottish establishment v the Irish immigrants, the rich v the poor – it was all these things, and Queen's Park, the founders of the game in Scotland, were now being challenged

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within Glasgow itself by a group of determined 'ethnic' people who were in the throes of building a new stadium big enough to house the Scotland v England international games, and who were supporters of the subversive (as Queen's Park saw it) idea of professionalism – which was still illegal but nevertheless widely practised. This new club also had supporters who made no bones about their political support for Home Rule for Ireland! Yes, there was a lot at stake on 12 March 1892 at Ibrox in the Scottish Cup Final.

But it didn't really happen. It might have been better if the frost and snow had stayed a little longer and prevented the game from taking place at all, but it had begun to thaw, the snow was melting and the pitch was playable in the opinion of the referee Mr Sneddon of Edinburgh University. Seaweed and sand were used to give players a foothold, but even so, not all newspapers or players agreed with Mr Sneddon's decision.

But that was the lesser of the problems. The major problem was the sheer size of the crowd. The game started at 4pm. The gates were opened at 12 and for the next few hours the crowds poured in with the Celtic crowd and their green favours predominant. Rangers had erected a couple of extra temporary stands, but they were quickly filled, and even though the gates were belatedly closed, something like 40,000 were in the ground which was really only built for less than half of that number. Even before the start, the crowd were encroaching on the pitch to avoid being crushed to death – they were pushed back but came on time and time again, so that, early in the first half, it was agreed that, given the size of the crowd and

the state of the pitch, now rapidly deteriorating because of the number of spectator encroachments, the game would be played as a friendly. Celtic actually won 1-0 through a Johnny Campbell goal, but it did not matter.

It did not escape the notice of anyone that all this meant another big gate and more money. To their credit both Celtic and Queen's Park made charitable donations (in Celtic's case, on the suggestion of Michael Davitt, the Irish patriot, to evicted Irish tenants) but what really riled the Celtic support was the doubling of admission prices for the replayed cup final on 9 April. This was 'to deter so many people from attending', but that specious nonsense fooled no one. It was all for money, and there was again the not particularly subtle issue here that Queen's Park supporters, middle class, well-heeled and affluent, would find it easier to find two shillings to get in than would the under-privileged supporters from the East End.

Be that as it may, 23,000 turned up at Ibrox, and Celtic were by no means unrepresented. Not only was that the case, but the streets outside were thronged with Celtic fans who turned up to follow the game by the noise of the crowd. They had little to shout about at half-time when they were 1-0 down, but at the turnaround, this fine Celtic team, with the wind now in their favour, simply took charge and won 5-1. The scorers are given differently in different sources.

It may be that Sandy McMahon scored a hat-trick, Johnny Campbell scored another and there was an own goal. Other sources agree that there was an own goal, but say that McMahon and Campbell scored two each. Certainly one of McMahon's goals was a glorious

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header, and another was an overhead shot. The balance of evidence is in favour of 'two each' and one is inclined to back that view on the grounds that more would have been made of a McMahan hat-trick, if he had scored one. There was certainly no mention of any 'McMahan hat-trick' in the context of Jimmy Quinn's spectacular feat of that nature 12 years later. One curses TV and video for being so late in arriving on the scene! This argument could so easily have been settled!

What is not in the slightest doubt, however, is that this was a great day for the club and for Cullen, Reynolds and Doyle; Maley, Kelly and Gallagher; McCallum, Brady, Dowds, McMahan and Campbell. The Scottish Cup was presented at the banquet in the Alexandra Hotel, Bath Street and in the East End, singing and dancing were the order of the day and night. 'Our Bhoys Have Won the Cup' was the cry, and Scotland would never be the same again. The result was hailed in Irish communities in Edinburgh and Dundee and even in England and throughout the world, except perhaps, funnily enough, Ireland itself which was not yet a great football-playing country. Celtic had taken off, and the impoverished urchins and their emaciated mothers and fathers had something to cheer about. Bands paraded the streets of the East End that night with drums, bugles and flutes (!) very much in evidence.

Celtic had certainly given Scotland something to think about. Much of the reaction was disparaging and it is hard not to feel that there was a certain amount of 'feeling threatened' in some newspaper offices. The usually respected *Scottish Referee*, for example, talks about

a ‘Pyrrhic victory’ for the benefit of those of its readers who had a classical education, for they say ‘Queen’s had a skeleton team’. Both of these statements are utter rubbish, for there was no great injury crisis at Queen’s Park, and in any case, a ‘Pyrrhic victory’ (named after Rome’s enemy King Pyrrhus of Epirus in the third century BC) is one in which many casualties are sustained by the winning side. This was emphatically not the case. It was a great Celtic victory commemorated up to this day.

Clearly the new Celtic club had started something. Little else went right for their supporters in their lives, but now they had something to cheer about. Home Rule for Ireland was now confidently predicted by the illogical, and now there was at least some payback for the landlords, the gombeen men, the British Army, the coffin ships and the potato famine. There was at least one part of the world in the evergrowing Irish diaspora where the wearing of the green would be something associated with pride and achievement.

Willie Maley himself played in the game and would often say that the scenes that he saw that day as the Scottish Cup was brought back in the horse-drawn charabanc from the Alexandra Hotel in Bath Street to the Calton in the East End changed his life and made him decide that from now on he would dedicate himself to the cause of this great club. He saw the destitute, the paupers, the children with no shoes, the beggars – he had seen all this before – but this time they had smiles on their faces, and he had helped to put the smiles there. ‘Our Bhoys Have Won the Cup’ was the cry. They were ‘the risen people’.

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As for the effect that this victory had on Celtic's supporters, we, of course, also have this brilliantly graphic description from the *Scottish Referee* of the celebrations in the streets of the Celtic heartland that night. 'Even the women lent a hand, and helped in no small measure to make the rejoicings hearty. But it was when the boys came marching home from the aristocratic Ibrox that the fun began in earnest ... Bands? You ought to have seen them. They perambulated the whole district until well on in the evening ... Truly the East End was a perfect turmoil until the very early hours of the Sunday, and many of the crowd won't be able to get over the rejoicing racket for days to come.'

Perhaps the only modern parallel to this would be 1967. Those of us who recall the homecoming on Friday, 26 May 1967 when the bus came along London Road, big Jock famously emerged with the big cup, then a lorry (!) took the players round the ground to show off the beautifully ugly trophy to the huge appreciative crowd. This was, once again, 'the risen people', and the euphoric glow lasted for months. Tellingly, so many people now began to say, 'Of course, I have always been a Celtic supporter ...' when the facts of their past life did not really support such a contention. And there was now a slow but significant trickle to the banners of the club of those who were neither Irish nor Catholic but who simply enjoyed good football.

The following year's campaign, with the new Celtic Park now up and running, began in late November with a routine 3-1 win over Linthouse. The week before Christmas saw a 7-0 defeat of inferior opposition in the Fifth King's Royals. Following the turn of the year,

more difficult opposition in Third Lanark came to Celtic Park but Celtic disposed of them 5-1, and even the semi-final in early February brought few problems as Celtic beat St Bernard's 5-0, the overawed Edinburgh side playing their first-ever game at this advanced stage of the competition.

So far, no problem (and cup success was achieved parallel to victories in the Scottish League as well), but it was Queen's Park again in the final at Ibrox. This was one of the first Scottish Cup Finals in which Celtic left the competition with a nasty taste in their mouth – twice! The final was scheduled for Ibrox on 25 February. The weather was fine and dry, but the Ibrox pitch was hard and the decision was taken to play the game but only as a friendly and NOT to tell the large crowd (30,000 according to one report) until after the game! It was a familiar leitmotif. This sort of thing had happened before and really lacked logic, for if the conditions were not suitable for a Scottish Cup Final, it was difficult to understand why they were suitable for a friendly. It was seen, once again, as a way of making extra money.

The game began with only a select few knowing that it was a friendly, but tongues always wag in Glasgow, a place where it is difficult to keep a secret. Rumours spread rapidly round the puzzled crowd that it was only a friendly, a supposition strengthened by the demeanour of the players who did not seem to be exerting themselves too much. Tom Towie scored the only goal of the game for Celtic, but this excellent player's moment of glory was in vain – even though many of the crowd had gone home convinced that Celtic had won the Scottish Cup!

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The Scotsman newspaper pulled no punches, saying that this was 'discreditable to the officials of the Association, inconsiderate to the members of the public and detrimental to the best interests of the game'. It most certainly was, and the wonder was that there was not more protest or even disorder about this, and that 13,329 were persuaded to turn up to the replay on 11 March. Possibly there was some kind of unofficial boycott, for the attendance was disappointing. It would surely have made more sense and been more considerate to the eager public simply to say that the game was off at an earlier stage and not to have taken money from people under false pretences.

Celtic supporters were entitled to feel sore about 25 February, and they were a great deal sorer after the somewhat ludicrous events of 11 March, Queen's Park's tenth Scottish Cup victory and their last. This time the weather was acceptable and the pitch was fine. Before the game, there had been a difference of opinion about goal nets. They had been in use for some time now, but when Celtic suggested that they might be deployed here, Queen's Park vetoed the idea and Celtic, to their cost as it turned out, did not pursue the matter. Maybe goal nets too 'smacked of professionalism'!

The game was a tough one. Willie Maley sustained a bad facial injury and had to retire and one or two other Celtic players were on the wrong end of coarse challenges. Queen's Park, with the wind behind them, scored first through Sellar, but then came the moment that defined this final. Ten-man Celtic were under pressure and Dan Doyle was compelled to concede a corner kick, as he

thought. But the referee thought that the ball might have gone between the posts – and, of course, there were no goal nets! Mr Harrison of Kilmarnock was influenced by Queen’s Park (all honourable middle-class amateurs, of course, as distinct from vulgar Irishmen!) who said ‘It’s a goal, Mr Harrison! It’s a goal!’ The goal was awarded. Doyle and Kelly protested, but a goal it was and Celtic were 0-2 down and it was not yet half-time.

Things improved in the second half. The wind was now behind Celtic, Maley returned and then Jimmy Blessington scored with a header from a corner kick, and for a long time, it looked as if a fightback was going to happen. But the Queen’s Park tackling was robust, and the defence was tight. As a desperate measure Dan Doyle went into the forward line, but the final whistle came with the score still at 2-1. This signalled disappointment for Cullen, Reynolds and Doyle; Maley, Kelly and Dunbar; Towie, Blessington, Madden, McMahan and Campbell, who had probably done well enough to deserve to win. For the supporters, there was the feeling of being cheated. Those of us who recall the Scottish Cup Finals of 1970 and 1984 will have an idea of how our forefathers felt in 1893. Things were hardly helped by the press singing the praises of Queen’s Park, including a statement that they won because ‘of the excellence of their charging’!

There was consolation when Celtic won the league in 1893, a feat repeated in 1894. 1894 also saw another appearance in the Scottish Cup Final. Hurlford and Albion Rovers were more than competently disposed of before the new year, then St Bernard’s came to Celtic Park, were comprehensively hammered 8-1 and blamed it

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all on Celtic's admittedly primitive floodlighting system, with lights strung up all over the park, but only 15 feet in the air. The game itself was played in daylight, of course, but the lights and the wires still got in the way, according to the Edinburgh men. Their appeal was dismissed, on the grounds, presumably, that electric wires and lights, however deplorable, could hardly explain giving away eight goals!

This brought Celtic to the semi-final against Third Lanark at Old Cathkin Park, and the 12,000 crowd on a fine day in early February saw a really good game with loads of goals and Celtic winning 5-3. Sandy McMahan scored a hat-trick and the other two goals were scored by Jimmy Blessington and Joe Cassidy.

Celtic were thus favourites for the Scottish Cup Final on 17 February 1894 against Rangers. Rangers, founded in 1873, had yet to win the Scottish Cup, something that was already becoming a music hall joke in Glasgow, for their history included a refusal in 1879 to turn up for the replay of the final after they had not got their own way in the first game! This is hard to imagine today and it was hard to imagine in 1894 as well, for this was a new, determined Rangers team.

The weather was wet, the pitch was heavy and Willie Maley, pig-headedly, insisted on playing against doctor's advice. The heavy pitch seemed to militate against Celtic's two tall star forwards, McMahan and Campbell, and although the game was goalless at half-time, Rangers came out in the second half and took command, scoring three goals, while Celtic's solitary counter came from the ailing Maley after the game was more or less over. It was

simply one of these occasions where the Celtic historian, however painful an experience it is, must simply hold up his hands and say 'Rangers were the better team'.

There were consolations though. The cosy relationship between the two clubs meant that there was little bitterness (again, hard to imagine today!) and there was not the feeling of having been cheated as there had been the previous year against Queen's Park. In any case, Celtic got their revenge the following week by beating Rangers 3-2 and in so doing, winning the Scottish League. Both clubs congratulated each other on their successes, and as far as we can imagine, the poisonous, toxic element of sectarianism had not yet arrived at Ibrox. It had at a few provincial clubs like St Mirren and Airdrie, but not yet at Rangers.

The next four years of Celtic's Scottish Cup history contained three disappointments and one disaster as the club struggled to find its identity, after its heady early success. The 1897 disaster possibly had to happen in order to bring about changes in the same way as the 2000 disaster with Inverness Caledonian Thistle did in fact bring some good in the long term. But the 1890s were characterised by internal squabbles and did little to dispel the commonly held perception that the problem with the Irish was that they were natural fighters and didn't like each other, let alone the Scots. The 1890s, however, were a learning process, and intelligent men like John Glass, John H. McLaughlin, James Kelly and Willie Maley did the learning. It was also the era of the great Sandy McMahan, Celtic's first real goalscoring hero.

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1894/95 saw a strange campaign. It began with an excellent 4-1 defeat of Queen's Park in late November and this was the week after Celtic had won the Glasgow Cup by beating Rangers. Things looked good in spite of a bad injury to Sandy McMahon. They then travelled to Easter Road on 15 December to play Hibs, a club nursing a massive inferiority complex about Celtic in those days. It all centred on the way that Celtic had 'stolen' (if you lived in Edinburgh) players from Hibs when they were in a bad way in 1890 and 1891. Jealousy of Celtic remains, one feels, a large part of the DNA of Hibernian – once again it is Irish v Irish – but it is a complex relationship.

Celtic played badly this day of 15 December 1894 and Hibs won 2-0, but Celtic protested about the eligibility of two Hibs players, Bobby Neil and Michael Murray. The SFA upheld the protest, a replay was ordered two weeks later on a snowy day and John Divers and Dan Doyle scored the goals as Celtic won 2-0. Hibs protested about the second goal which came from a free kick – and in 1895 all free kicks were indirect and a goal could not be scored from them. They threatened a walk-off, and later protested about the eligibility of Charlie McEleny and added a bizarre rider that Celtic's umpire, Paddy Gallagher, had been coaching the side throughout the game. This time the SFA decided that they had had enough protests and declared in favour of Celtic. The bitterness of Hibs towards Celtic intensified.

This result took Celtic to Carolina Port, Dundee to meet Dundee FC, a new club with fairly spectacular financial problems. The first game was frosted off, but the second on 19 January 1895 was possibly the game

that resurrected football in Dundee. In front of a massive crowd of 12,000 and many more watching from the hill overlooking the park which gave a virtually uninterrupted view of proceedings, Sawers scored early for the home side and Celtic, without the injured Sandy McMahon, were unable to get an equaliser, although there were several close things. The disappointment of the large local Celtic support and those who had travelled through from Glasgow was keen, but Dundee talked about it for years. Not that it did them a great deal of good, for it was St Bernard's of Edinburgh who won the cup that year.

1896 saw Celtic play only one Scottish Cup tie, and it was a sore one – a 4-2 defeat to Queen's Park before 28,000 at Celtic Park. Celtic were already the winners of the Glasgow Cup and the Scottish League (which was finished before the new year) and were expected to beat Queen's Park. But they were without Barney Battles. Barney had been an excellent defender this year, but had got himself ordered off in a friendly (!) match v Rangers on New Year's Day. His hearing was scheduled for 14 January, three days after the Scottish Cup game with Queen's Park.

But fate took a hand. Hard frost postponed the game on 11 January – a decision much criticised as being 'premature', for a thaw had set in and other games were played that day – and the game was rearranged for 18 January. Barney was suspended for a month (a somewhat draconian decision, for the game in which he was sent off was only a friendly, but then again Barney was not without a little 'previous') and this meant he could not now play against Queen's Park. Celtic supporters, as is

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their wont on occasion, detected conspiracies here, but in fact, Queen's Park simply played better than Celtic did and Celtic, without the influential Battles, lost 2-4, in spite of having been 2-1 up at half-time.

And now we come to the game that sent shudders up and down Celtic spines for the next 60 or 70 years. Arthurlie on 9 January 1897! Celtic, frankly, were on the point of collapse. Three players, Battles, Meehan and Divers, were suspended for their part in the strike of November 1896, Maley had retired, McMahan, Madden, Dunbar and McEleny were injured, Doyle and Gilhooly did not turn up for reasons still unexplained and Celtic started the game with only seven men as a result of the malfunctioning of trains and the general incompetence of the committee. Eventually another four were able to take the field, but the damage was already being done.

The pitch at Dunterlie Park, Barrhead had a distinct slope (although it is difficult to go along with *The Celtic Story's* hyperbole that 'a player taking a corner kick had much the same view of the goalmouth as a person leaning from a second storey window would have of the scene below') and Arthurlie won 4-2. This result imperilled the very existence of Celtic, and the only good thing that could be said about this game was that it led to the necessary changes at Celtic Park, which, of course, included, on the playing side, the appointment of Willie Maley as 'secretary' in the first instance but de facto manager, and indeed, according to his enemies, 'dictator'!

In one of these coincidences that no one could quite believe, Celtic were drawn once again at Arthurlie the following year, 1898. In spite of much talk about

conspiracies, lightning striking twice and there being a hex on Celtic in the Scottish Cup, everyone turned up this year and did their job and Celtic won 7-0 to the intense disappointment of all the pressmen who had turned up for another big scoop. But the success was short-lived, for the team went down in the next round to Third Lanark at Cathkin, an honourable defeat but a defeat nevertheless, and Celtic had now gone six years without winning the Scottish Cup. They were doing well enough in the Scottish League and the two Glasgow competitions, but the Scottish Cup was becoming elusive – and it was the most important competition of the lot.

1899, however, saw Celtic achieve their second Scottish Cup success. Celtic, en route to the final, beat Galloway Royal Volunteers at Dalbeattie, and St Bernard's, Queen's Park and Port Glasgow Athletic at Celtic Park. The Queen's Park game was started at Hampden on 18 February but was stopped because of fog and bad light after 67 minutes with Celtic 4-2 up. This did not go down well at all with the Celtic fans who had paid one shilling (double the normal charge) to get in and demanded either the continuation of the game or their money back. In the event, they got neither and had to be dispersed by the constabulary.

Celtic now suggested that only the remaining 23 minutes should be played the next Saturday. The SFA, however, ordered a full replay, but perhaps worried about crowd disorder, decreed illogically that the game should be played at Celtic Park where the admission charge would be the normal 'sicky' (sixpence, half a shilling). There might still have been trouble if the result had gone

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the other way, but before a huge crowd of 35,000, Celtic won 2-1, both goals coming from Sandy McMahan, now called 'the Duke', either because of a French politician called McMahan, or, more likely, because of his slight resemblance to the Duke of Wellington, the hero of Waterloo. Sometimes, he was even called Alexander the Great.

Having defeated Port Glasgow in the semi-final, Celtic now discovered that Rangers were the opponents in the 1899 final. Frankly, they were a better team than Celtic whom they had beaten twice in the Scottish League on their way to winning it with a 100 per cent record. Well organised by William Wilton (a close friend of Willie Maley), Rangers were also the cup winners for the past two years and thus had the opportunity of winning the trophy three years in a row to emulate the achievement of Queen's Park and Vale of Leven. Not only that, but no club had as yet won the Scottish League and the Scottish Cup in the same season. The 'double' had now been done twice in England by Preston North End and Aston Villa, but not yet in Scotland.

The game was played at Hampden on the pleasant, sunny, spring day of 22 April. The gates were closed at 3.30pm, half an hour before kick-off, with 25,000 inside. More might have been crammed in, but the authorities were unwilling to take any sort of risk, for the streets outside were jam-packed with spectators who had all arrived by various kinds of transport including the new craze of a 'horseless carriage'. Horses were still very much in vogue though, and we were now beginning to see the development of a 'supporters' bus' whereby individuals

from any given area would join together to hire a horse-drawn charabanc to take them to and from the game. Dog carts were still used as well, but quite a lot of supporters simply walked on such a lovely day. Paddy Gallagher, one of the heroes of 1892, now suffering from tuberculosis, appeared from the Bridge of Allan Sanatorium to cheer on his old mates, even though he was now looking 'a shadow of his old self'.

Celtic had been to Loch Katrine for a few days before the game. This was very much one of Maley's ideas, and in this respect he was ahead of his time. But he believed that players would benefit from intensive training, good hotel food and fresh air, not to mention each other's company for a few days. He could also keep an eye on any alcoholic overindulgence. The son of a soldier was always likely to approve of such arrangements, and it was also good for these young men to get away from the dirt and filth of Glasgow for a day or two. He also looked upon it as a social occasion, and when staying at a hotel, his players would always be encouraged to join in the dancing and the singing soirees that were held at night, while he himself talked charmingly to rich widows. It was important to Maley that the name 'Celtic' would have good connotations.

The Scottish Cup Final turned out to be one of Celtic's best performances of their early years as they beat Rangers 2-0 with a glorious header from 'the Duke' and then a late goal from John Hodge, after the Celtic half-back line of Battles, Marshall and King had taken a grip of the game. Jack Bell had been badly injured and really should have gone off, but stayed on as nuisance value, and

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thus McArthur, Welford and Storrier; Battles, Marshall and King; Hodge, Campbell, Divers, McMahon and Bell carried off Celtic's second Scottish Cup. It was a sporting game according to contemporary reports with the relationship between Celtic and Rangers still an excellent one.

Both teams started brightly and both goalkeepers were soon in action with Celtic possibly having the edge on pressure. McMahon headed narrowly past, and similarly a shot from the same man was lacking only slightly in accuracy, but then a moment later McMahon was required at the other end to head off his own line when McArthur was beaten.

The game had been very even in the first half as both sides took time to settle. Things took a nasty turn, however, when Celtic's left-winger Jack Bell was badly fouled by Rangers' notorious Nick Smith. Bell wanted to come off, and in truth was of little use to his teammates, but Maley insisted that he stayed on the field to hobble about for nuisance value, if nothing else. But Celtic were now gradually taking the ascendancy and in the 67th minute, halfway through the second half, won a corner on the right. Johnny Hodge took it, swung over a high hanging ball and up rose the Duke to head home a glorious header. It was in the tradition of the goal he had headed home in 1892 and it would become the prototype and template for future Scottish Cup Final headed goals – McGrory in 1925, McNeill in 1965 and 1969, McGarvey in 1985, McAvennie in 1988, van Hooijdonk in 1995.

This event 'created bedlam among the Celtic supporters' as they 'patted each other on the back and

hurled their green favours in the air'. There was, however, more than a little tension and worry in the air over the next 20 minutes. Two things worried the support – one was whether the players would give in to commercial pressures from their directors and concede a goal to allow a replay and another big gate. The other was whether Celtic might simply not believe that they could beat Rangers and would cave in, particularly as with the injury to Jack Bell, they were virtually a man short. Their fears on both accounts were groundless.

Now Celtic took a firm grip of the game with Battles in particular winning every ball that came his way and feeding the forwards with some superb passes. Jack Bell, although badly crippled, still played a vital part in the second goal when a ball spun off a Rangers defender and came to Bell, who immediately kicked it across the field with his one serviceable foot towards Johnny Hodge. Hodge collected the ball and ran through a static Rangers defence, who appealed half-heartedly for some infringement, to score Celtic's second and decisive goal. The game finished amidst intense cheering and singing with the words of 'A Nation Once Again' being converted into 'The Scottish Cup Once Again' even though the words did not quite fit! It was a great Celtic occasion, and McMahan was the hero of the hour.

The Glasgow Herald said 'the better team won definitely', and Celtic returned to their heartlands later that night with the Scottish Cup. The celebrations recalled those of seven years earlier when the cup was last won, but there was an element of relief in the celebrations too. The so-called invincible Rangers had been beaten.

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The cup had been presented once again in the Bath Street Hotel, and Celtic's director John H. McLaughlin spoke magnanimously about Rangers and claimed (somewhat prematurely, one feels!) that 'sectarianism was a dead letter' in Scottish football, and that Celtic would take anyone 'from all quarters, regardless of sect'.

Rangers, although disappointed at not having emulated the feat of Queen's Park and Vale of Leven in winning the Scottish Cup three years in a row, were in attendance and were 'perfect sportsmen'. It was a fine night for Celtic, however, and for Sandy McMahon. He now had two Scottish Cup medals, and he had scored in both, his headed goal in both cases being the talk of the fast-growing Celtic support who raised their hero worship of the Duke to ever higher and higher levels.

The Glasgow Observer the following week goes into overdrive, with 'Man In the Know' stating that it was Celtic's fitness which won the cup. Several players are singled out. James Welford, who now had the distinction of having won a Scottish Cup medal and an English one – the only Englishman to do so – was 'superb' at right-back, and of the forwards, John Divers is quixotically described thus: 'his arms move in windmill fashion and his elbows are always meeting with an opponent's ribs, accidentally of course', whereas McMahon and Campbell were 'quieter but no less effective'.

The seven years without the Scottish Cup would not recur for a long time. McMahon and Campbell had now won two Scottish Cup medals, and Campbell and Welford now each had a Scottish Cup medal to go with the English Cup medals that they had won with Aston

THE 19TH CENTURY

Villa, Campbell in 1897 and Welford in 1895. What would the new century bring?

Season 1888/89: Finalists

01/09/1888	Shettleston	home	5-1	Goalscorers untraced
22/09/1888	Cowlairs	home	8-0	Dunbar 3, McCallum 2, Kelly, T. Maley, Groves
13/10/1888	Albion Rovers	home	4-1	Groves, 3 untraced
03/11/1888	St Bernard's	away	4-1	Groves 2, McCallum, T. Maley
24/11/1888	Clyde	home	0-1	
	<i>Celtic protested</i>			
08/12/1888	Clyde	home	9-2	T. Maley 3, Groves 2, McCallum 2, McLaren, Coleman
15/12/1888	East Stirlingshire	away	2-1	McCallum 2
12/01/1889	Dumbarton	away	4-1	Groves 3, McCallum
02/02/1889	Third Lanark	Hampden	0-3	
	<i>Declared unofficial because of snow</i>			
09/02/1889	Third Lanark	Hampden	1-2	McCallum

Season 1889/90: First Round

07/09/1889	Queen's Park	home	0-0	
	Abandoned because of encroachment			
14/09/1889	Queen's Park	away	1-2	Dowds

Season 1890/91: Quarter-Finals

06/09/1890	Rangers	home	1-0	Groves
27/09/1890	Carfin Shamrock	home	2-2	Madden 2
04/10/1890	Carfin Shamrock	away	3-1	Groves, Dowds, og
18/10/1890	Wishaw Thistle	away	6-2	Madden 2, Dowds, Campbell, 2 untraced
08/11/1890	Dundee OB	away	3-1	Crossan 2, Coleman
29/11/1890	Larkhall Royal Albert	away	2-2	2 untraced
	<i>Game played as friendly because of weather</i>			
06/12/1890	Larkhall Royal Albert	away	4-0	McLaren, Madden, Campbell 2
	<i>Game abandoned after pitch invasion</i>			
13/12/1890	Larkhall Royal Albert	Ibrox	2-0	Crossan, Campbell
20/12/1890	Dumbarton	away	0-3	

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Season 1891/92: Winners

28/11/1891	St Mirren	away	4-2	Madden, McMahon, W. Maley, og
19/12/1891	Kilmarnock Athletic	home	3-0	Brady 2, Dowds
23/01/1892	Cowlairs	home	4-1	Brady 2, Madden, McMahon
06/02/1892	Rangers	home	5-3	Brady 2, Cunningham, McMahon, Campbell
12/03/1892	Queen's Park	Ibrox	1-0	Campbell
09/04/1892	Queen's Park	Ibrox	5-1	Campbell 2, McMahon 2, og

Season 1892/93: Finalists

26/11/1892	Linthouse	home	3-1	McMahon 2, Madden
17/12/1892	Fifth King's Royal Volunteers	home	7-0	Madden 5, Blessington, Campbell
02/01/1893	Third Lanark	home	5-1	McMahon 3, Towie 2
04/02/1893	St Bernard's	home	5-0	Madden 3, Blessington 2
25/02/1893	Queen's Park	Ibrox	1-0	Towie
<i>Game played as friendly because of hard pitch</i>				
11/03/1893	Queen's Park	Ibrox	1-2	Blessington

Season 1893/94: Finalists

25/11/1893	Hurlford	home	6-0	Blessington 2, Campbell 2, McMahon, Cassidy
16/12/1893	Albion Rovers	home	7-0	Cassidy 4, Madden 2, Blessington
13/01/1894	St Bernard's	home	8-1	McMahon 4, Madden 2, Cassidy, W. Maley
03/02/1894	Third Lanark	away	5-3	McMahon 3, Blessington, Cassidy
17/02/1894	Rangers	Hampden	1-3	W. Maley

Season 1894/95: Quarter-Finals

24/11/1894	Queen's Park	home	4-1	Campbell 3, Divers
15/12/1894	Hibs	away	0-2	
<i>Celtic protested about ineligibility of two Hibs players</i>				
29/12/1894	Hibs	away	2-0	Campbell, Divers
19/01/1895	Dundee	away	0-1	

Season 1895/96: First Round

18/01/1896	Queen's Park	home	2-4	Blessington, Doyle
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Season 1896/97: First Round

09/01/1897 Arthurlie away 2-4 Ferguson, McIlvenny

Season 1897/98: Second Round

08/01/1898 Arthurlie away 7-0 McMahon2, Henderson2,
Allan, Goldie, Campbell
22/01/1898 Third Lanark away 2-3 Campbell, King

Season 1898/99: Winners

14/01/1899 Sixth Galloway Royal away 8-1 McMahon 3, Hodge 2,
Volunteers King, Divers, Campbell
04/02/1899 St Bernard's home 3-0 McMahon, Hodge,
Campbell
18/02/1899 Queen's Park away 4-2 McMahon 2, Campbell,
Divers

Game abandoned because of bad light

25/02/1899 Queen's Park home 2-1 McMahon 2
11/03/1899 Port Glasgow home 4-1 Bell 2, McMahon, Divers
22/04/1899 Rangers Hampden 2-0 McMahon, Hodge