

Falkland News – September 1923

(As researched by Jack Burgess)

1st September 1923

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Rural Library** – “Fifty new books have been received for the Rural Library. Included in the collection are works by the following authors: -

R.L. Stevenson, Arnold Bennett, Blackmore, Crockett, Dumas, Compton Mackenzie, and Hutchison.

The books will be issued on Thursday evenings between 6.30 and 7 in the Public School.

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football** – “The Victoria will meet Stratheden to-morrow (Saturday) at Strathmiglo with a reconstructed team, in the Cupar and District League.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Cricket** – “Falkland C.C. travel to Cupar to play their last fixture of the season, with the following team: -

Provost Hopkins (captain), C.R. Drysdale, J. Allan, J. Ross, T. Drysdale, J. Muir, J. Venters, R. Battis, J. Shields, P. Lawson, T.C. Schofield, R. Hopkins.”

8th September 1923

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football** – “Falkland Victoria meet Freuchie Rovers to-morrow (Saturday) at Myreside Park in the Cupar and District League with the following team:-

T. Shields; Alf. Burgess and H. Lee; Douglas McGregor, M. Robertson and Andrew Robertson; S. Grierson, T.C. Schofield, W.E. Strudley, H. Birrell and R. Dall. Reserves – J. Abernethy and W. Bett.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **The Queen’s Thanks** – “Provost Hopkins received the following letter on Tuesday from Sir Ralph Anstruther, Lord-Lieutenant of the county:

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‘I beg to append copies of letters received by me relative to the Queen’s visit to Fife on 30th ultimo. They speak for themselves, and I should like to be allowed to add to

them my personal thanks for the great assistance you gave me in making suitable arrangements, on very short notice. It is, I am sure, a matter of great satisfaction to all concerned that all passed off so successfully.'

The copies of the letters enclosed are as follows: -

Letter, Sir Derek Keppel, Master of the Household, Balmoral Castle – 'My dear Anstruther, I am commanded to write you one line to express to you the Queen's thanks for all the trouble you took yesterday to make Her Majesty's visit to Falkland and Melville so very pleasant. It was a most enjoyable day, and all your arrangements were thoroughly appreciated'

Letter from Lord Elphinstone, Carberry Tower, Musselburgh – 'My dear Anstruther, before leaving this morning, Her Majesty the Queen asked me to write you a few lines to express her sincere thanks for all the arrangements made for her comfort and convenience during her visit to Cupar, Falkland, and Melville yesterday. Her Majesty was very much interested in all she saw, as well as much gratified at the warmth of her welcome throughout the entire length of the route.'

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Claim** – "A claim by Thomas Drysdale, High Street, for a Local Government vote was disallowed at a Registration Court held at Cupar on Thursday. Claimant has already a Parliamentary vote, but he secured it as a lodger. The Assessor said the claimant must show the value of his lodging to be £10 a year before he could claim a Local Government vote. The rent of the house in which he lived was £8."

Article in *The Fife News*: **Stratheden v Falkland – Cupar and District League:**

"Played at Strathmiglo. The meeting of Stratheden and the new comers to the League to wit – Falkland, on Saturday revealed to the officials of the respective Clubs, two facts of vital importance. To the homesters, the need for a 'stiffening up' in certain positions, and to the visitors the fact that they will have to adopt a different method of play, if they are to gather points in the competition. We understand that Stratheden have the men ready who will, it is hoped, be able to give the team that 'punch' which will be required to win matches. The visitors seemed quite pleased to have run the wearers of the green to a goal on Saturday, but they had in their opponents a side as yet merely in the experimental stage, without that understanding with one another, vitally important to the making of a successful team. We fancy the men from the Royal burgh will get a shock or two at no very distant date. The weather on Saturday was showery, rain falling during most of the game. This, coupled with other attractions, was perhaps to blame for the very modest turnout of spectators. Mr Walker, Ladybank, started the following teams: -

Stratheden – Legg; Hart and J. Maxwell; Lockhart, Petrie and Wilson; Chapman, Reid, McDougall, F. Maxwell, and Ness.

Falkland – Shields; Abernethy and Lee; McGregor, M. Robertson and A. Robertson; Bett, Strudley, Stark, Dall and Birrell.

Chapman won the toss, and elected to face the rain and what wind was blowing. The homesters attacked right away, but this was unproductive of anything tangible. Hart conceded a corner which was cleared with ease, to be followed by McDougall forcing another at the Falkland end. Dan Reid's parting shot, however, good though it was, counted for nil. A foul shy off A. Robertson was well directed into the Falkland goalmouth, but Shields held with confidence. Wilson's pass out to Ness was too strong, and from the throw-in, Stark got possession to shoot high over. The Greens came again, but McDougall hesitated when well set, and the chance went, a-begging. Birrell was given an opportunity to show his paces and got off, but shot behind, when a cross would have been more profitable. Bett next had a try, but it was abortive. Abernethy was forced to kick out for relief. Reid again forced a corner for Strath, but Shields cleared at the expense of another, which was fruitless. Falkland's attacks on Legg were spasmodic. Chapman shot narrowly past from a foul off Lee. The Greens were certainly having most of the chances going this half. McDougall scraped the top of the crossbar with a lovely effort, with Shields at the other end. Wilson next did a bit on his own, and after beating three opponents he saw his parting shot go narrowly past the foot of the upright. Falkland wakened up and crowded down on Legg, who saved a point blank shot at six yards' range. This was the first direct shot the Strath keeper had got. Back came the homesters, and Chapman forced two corners in quick succession, from the second of which Dan Reid smartly headed past Shields. Bett made a mess of his shot at Legg's end, and then Ness forced an unproductive corner. Falkland tried hard to count, and after Legg came out in a crowd to save, McGregor shot past a tenantless goal. Stark in the Falkland centre made poor attempts with his chances, and failed repeatedly to gather the ball. Falkland's shooting was generally of the 'wild' variety. Birrell again put wide on the next Falkland raid.

Half-time: - Stratheden 1, Falkland 0

McDougall kicked off in a temporary burst of sunshine, but this was short lived, the rain coming on as bad as ever. The play at this juncture developed into a real nippy game, and the first bit of excitement came when Ness headed past the post from close in, after Maxwell had missed a fine cross. The Falkland goal at this juncture ran a series of narrow squeaks, but the fine play of the defence, and that especially of Shields and Lee, saved the situation with a bit of luck. Abernethy was too prone to kick out when pressed. Jack has lost much of the dash he used to exhibit when he played for the Strath. Falkland showed more method this half, and, led by Birrell, who had gone centre, made a few dangerous looking raids into Strath territory, but these were terminated by Hart and Maxwell, the latter clearing well. From a free kick

off McGregor, Chapman got down to put over a fine cross, which Abernethy glaringly deflected past the far post with his arm. This incident was apparent to all save the referee, the latter evidently failing to notice the infringement, which was lucky for Falkland. A fruitless corner was the only result. The homesters seemed to be tiring, and the opposition were not slow to take advantage, Birrell forcing a corner in the next rush. Chapman followed with another, and Maxwell had a try. Falkland's shooting had improved very little, for both M. Robertson and Bett shot wide of the mark. They were, however, having the best of the game at this period. Birrell was offside in a promising raid, and again Abernethy kicked out at the other end, when pressed. The home keeper saved from Birrell at the expense of a corner, which gave Falkland no reward. The visitors pressed more, and Maxwell gave another, which was equally useless. Stratheden did not have the force in their attacks which characterised their play in the opening moiety. Petrie at centre-half, of whom we heard glowing reports, seemed in need of training. He has all the physical qualities of a fine pivot. A lot of aimless kicking was indulged in by both sides, and it looked as if the visitors might score at any moment, but they lacked the necessary finishing power which begets goals. There was no more scoring, and a very uninteresting game, in which good football was conspicuous by its absence, ended, Stratheden 1, Falkland 0.

The play on the whole was of a scrappy nature, the only flashes of combination coming from Chapman and Reid; and that on few occasions. Legg, although not as yet imparting the confidence that was reposed in Gavin, kept a clean sheet, and his save in the first half, of a six yards shot, showed him to be a fearless keeper. Hart and Maxwell, though showing nothing brilliant, stuck tenaciously to their work. Lockhart is a find, and once he gets one or two of the rough edges off, he will make a valuable player. Petrie, as already mentioned, was off colour. Wilson put in a power of work and was if anything the best half afield. Chapman was well watched, but along with Reid did quite a lot of good work. McDougall is prone to work too much and it would pay him to cut this out a lie further up-field. Maxwell and Ness made a solid, if not artistic left wing. The men who mattered on the Falkland side were Shields, Lee, McGregor, and Birrell; the veteran Stark was lost at centre, but shone better in the inside position. M. Robertson was not a success as pivot, and the Falkland officials must try a re-arrangement of their team before they can get the best out of it."

15th September 1923

Article in *The Fife News*: **The Late Charles Gulland, Falkland 1840-1909. An Appreciation:**

"In his series of articles on 'Poets and Poetry of Fife', appearing in the *Fifeshire Advertiser*, the Rev. A.T. Richardson deals in Saturday's issue with the life and

writings of the late Charles Gulland, Falkland. This gifted poet and accomplished author, he says, was born at Falkland on the 26th February 1840. He obtained his elementary education in the parish school, and at the age of twelve entered the Edinburgh Academy, where his exceptional abilities soon made themselves manifest. After a distinguished career as a student at the University, where he succeeded in gaining, among others, the poetical prize under Professor Pillans, he spent a few years in London preparing himself for his later work. In 1865 Mr Gulland returned to join his father in business at Falkland as a solicitor and banker. He was also associated with his father in the town-clerkship of the burgh, an office he held throughout the long period of forty-three years. He passed to his rest on 6th August 1909.

There are few more romantic, old-world towns than Falkland. It nestles 'neath the shadow of the Lomonds, the watch towers and impregnable strongholds of ancient Fife. It is the centre of a locality full of inspiring tradition, and is the guardian of the stately Palace of the Stuart Kings. Amid these surroundings Mr Gulland found much inspiration, and devoted such time to the cultivation of the Muse as he could afford from an otherwise busy life. And in his poetic efforts he was conspicuously successful, as may be seen by his published works. These include: -

'Sylvanus, Netherton, and other Poetical Works', published by William P. Nimmo, Edinburgh (1867); 'After', a poem (1875); 'The Fairies of Falkland', a Metrical Romance (1876); 'The Lomond Hills', a poem (1877); 'Scottish Ballads, and other Poems' (1881). In 1895, 'Poetical and Dramatic Selections' from his works, containing 'Lomond Hills', 'Fairies of Falkland', historical tales, and miscellaneous poems and songs, were published by J & G Innes, Cupar; and these were followed in 1903 by 'Queen Mary and Darnley', a drama from the same publishers.

Many of Mr Gulland's early productions made their first appearance in the columns of the Fife Journal where he was ever a welcome contributor. All his work gives evidence of mature thought and careful finish. It shows depth of feeling and much power, and is characterised by precision and clearness. As a ballad writer, whether tragic or humorous, he shows considerable powers of narration, his descriptions being lively and vigorous.

While he is scrupulously faithful to the spirit of the times depicted, he succeeds in investing them with a charm and fascination of romance, which gives to them a new interest. In the pageant of the past we hear again the ring and rattle of action, the mirth and melody of the old home life, the quaint manners and customs of the simple and the great. We live again in the brave days of old, for they are reproduced vividly, naturally, and with graphic power. His dramatic piece entitled 'Wallace' will repay close reading and careful study."

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Letter** – “A letter has been received stating how greatly the Queen admired the Palace gardens. The way they were laid out and the colouring were simply splendid, it was said, which says much for Bailie Hunt’s taste.”

Article in *The Fife News*: **Football – Falkland Victoria v Freuchie Rovers (Cupar and District League)**:

“There was a large turn-out at Myreside, Falkland, on Saturday, when the local team had the pleasure of seeing a hard and fast game. There was not a dull moment from the beginning to the end of the match, each team being eager to score. Some very fine runs were made; Strudley shining in that respect. Both goalkeepers did well. Freuchie had the best defence. They were a much heavier team, but Falkland fought well, and were value for a draw. Morrison, Haxton and Forrester did well for the visitors, and for the home side, Strudley, McGregor, and Shields were often in the picture.

Final score – Falkland Victoria – 4, Freuchie Rovers – 6.

Falkland team – Shields; Burgess and Lee; Robertson, McGregor and P. Birrell; Lister, Strudley, Stark, Schofield and H. Birrell.

Freuchie team – Forrester; Blackwood and Ruthven; Peebles, Oswald and Haxton; Barclay, Ferguson, Morrison, Henderson and Archibald.

Referee – Mr J. Macnaughton, Strathmiglo.”

22nd September 1923

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Pass Certificate** – “Miss Jeannie Lister, Falkland, has been awarded a pass certificate (elementary) in pianoforte, issued by the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music. Miss Lister was a pupil of Miss Zoe Murray, teacher of music at the Bell Baxter School, Cupar.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Alterations** – “At a Dean of Guild Court, plans were passed for alterations on South Bank, Falkland, for Mr Love. Part of the premises is to be used as a chemist’s shop.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football** – “Falkland Victoria meet the Bellevue at Station Park, Auchtermuchty, to-morrow (Saturday) in the first round of the Scottish Juvenile Cup. Falkland’s team will be chosen from the following: -

T. Shields, H. Lee, J. Hay, F. Fernie, J. Abernethy, A. Robertson, D. McGregor, S. Grierson, W. Strudley, H. Birrell, O. Strudley, W. Bett, T.C. Schofield, P. Birrell.”

Article in *The Fife News*: **Cricket – Falkland Averages:**

“Falkland Cricket Club played 23 matches, of which 13 were won, 7 lost, and 3 drawn. Total runs scored amounted to 1748 for 209 wickets, against total for opponents of 1324 runs for 220 wickets.

Batting				
Name	No. of Ins.	Times n.o.	Runs	Average
P. Robertson	7	-	134	19
T. Drysdale	20	1	267	14
J. Shields	8	-	94	11.7
R. Hopkins	21	3	192	10.6
Provost Hopkins	12	2	93	9.3
M. Robertson	12	2	92	9.2
P. Lawson	21	1	175	8.75

Bowling				
Name	Overs	Runs	Wkts	Average
P. Lawson	73.3	117	27	4.3
J. Allan	200.4	381	76	5
J. Ross	172.5	376	59	6.4

29th September 1923

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Heather Day** – “A successful heather day was organised by Mrs Nisbet, who handed over almost £5 for the funds of the Children’s League of Pity. The collectors were: -

Agnes Baxter and Ina Brown - £1 12s 11 ½ d; Flora Stark and Marjory Herd - £1 5s 6d; Lizzie Skinner and Jean Douglas - £1 3s 5 ½ d; Cathy Walker and Margaret Shields – 15s 7d.”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Football – Scottish Juvenile Cup – 1st Round**

“Score – Bellevue – 2, Falkland Vics – 0”

Extract from *The Fife News*: **Death – Taylor**

“At Falkland, suddenly, on 24th inst., Annie Louisa, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Wm. Taylor, 40 Albany Street, Edinburgh.”

