

When I first read Paul Smiths request for information I honestly thought it would be a simple task to go and retrieve information. Helensburgh library was the obvious first stop. What I found was two hand-written A4 sheets with a brief history. Pauls request asked for a location for the Football Park and so I started with newspapers. With each nugget of news a picture began to emerge.

Others had got in touch with Paul Smith, he passed the information on. During this time I met Malcolm Osborne who, as a 10 year old, had watched HelensburghFC play up at Ardencaple Park. The bits of information that turned up showed a picture of a town fully immersed in football. What follows is an insight into one of the numerous football clubs that played in grounds throughout the town - **Helensburgh FC**

Dec 2005



The Beginning

A new football club has been formed under the title of Helensburgh Football Club (Association Rules). The Helensburgh Cricket Club has kindly granted the use of Its park for practice.

"At Ardencaple Park on a Saturday afternoon, before a good number of spectators, this newly formed team won their first match 6-0, beating Latto & Co of Glasgow. By half time the score was 5 nil. The visitors won the toss and the Helensburgh FC kicked off. Aided by a strong wind they soon bore down on their opponent's stronghold, where, from a judicious centre by the left wing, the ball was put through. The leather was again put in motion, and after some fine passing on the part of the home forwards, and the centre being on the spot he had no difficulty in adding two more points"

H & G Times Nov 10th 1886



First of all Ardencaple Park has played a major part in Helensburgh sporting activity. Larchfield played their rugby at Upper Ardencaple Park, Hermitage Former Boys played Glasgow Rangers at West Ardencaple Park, Helensburgh Cricket Club has entertained national and international sides at their ground and the schools of Hermitage, Larchfield, St

Brides and Lomond have used areas of Ardencaple Park for their sports.

What is less clear is a record of their early games at Ardencaple. It appears, from newspapers of the late 1800s, that most football games were played in the town itself – either at East end (Public Park) or Mossend Park so more work needs to be done of this period. HelensburghFC may also have used other names, such as Helensburgh Victoria and then we have newspaper reports that talk of the volume of games played back then.

"Helensburgh suffered a series of defeats over the weekend. On Friday they travelled to Shawfield and were beaten 3-2, on Saturday they were beaten 3-1 by Maryhill and on Monday night they were beaten 1-0 by Benburb....Helensburgh is at home to Duntocher on Friday night and Ashfield on Saturday..."

By 1921 Helensburgh FC was members of the Scottish Football Association and in 1922 they were runners up in the Dunbartonshire Charity Cup.

On 2nd Aug 1923 at a meeting of the Scottish Football League Management Committee, in Glasgow, Helensburgh agreed to come into the third division. During the 3 years they were in the league they would travel the length and breadth of the country playing their game. To Aberdeen, for





example, they played Aberdeen, at Pittodrie in front of 14,000. They were Div 3 champions 1925/26 and although being runners up in the Dunbartonshire Cup in 1922 they went on to win it the following year. Helensburgh played through the early 1920s and left the League when Division 3 was disbanded near the end of the 1925/26 season. Helensburgh FC also had international players like goalkeeper Matt Dickie, above.

3rd Feb 1925- Scottish Cup Replay

Helensburgh were beaten 2 - 0 in the replay with Bo'ness in a game they should have won. Playing at Firhill in front of 4000 they showed poor finishing.

They continued to play in, and were members of the Junior Football Association. It is also understood that there may have been 2 teams at this point, playing in different competitions.

Helensburgh FC played in red jerseys –

Pleased to see Jimmie Wilson back in a red jersey... 4th season with Helensburgh FC (H & G Times Aug 17 1927)

"Those were great days this team had won the West of Scotland Amateur Championship a couple of times. The manager of the Picture House, John st offered to buy a pair of football boots to every player who scored a goal in the Amateur Championship. "I scored 3 goals in the first game," says Jimmy, "the manager bought me a whole new football outfit."



The Field of Play

We now know that Helensburgh FC had their club ground in Ardencaple Park, between the cricket field and the drainage burn just to the south of Upper Ardencaple, where Larchfield played their games. It is also becoming clear that the original football ground is more or less where the current Helensburgh Rugby team play their games.

The terracing on the north side of the Rugby ground was made by and for Helensburgh FC. (Spectators stood on that terracing watching football in the early 1900s. Spectators today are standing on that terracing watching Rugby. Entrance to the football ground was by a path from Rhu Road upper, to the left of the current Rugby club building, ending with a gate where you paid to enter.



"The pitch was east-west, between the burn and the cricket ground. There was a tall corrugated iron fence at the woods [east] end to stop balls going too far behind the goal. The pavilion "and some sort of enclosure" was on the north side. Entrance to the ground was affected off the main road and via a track. The pitch was always a quagmire and they reckoned it was worth a two goal start!"

Jackie Paton, in his late 80's



An aerial view of west Helensburgh, showing Helensburgh Football Club pitch at Ardencaple. The image, date unknown, is from the collection of William Orr of Rhu, who was at one time the Burgh Engineer before becoming the Assistant Engineer for Argyllshire, and it was supplied by his great nephew, Alistair Quinlan.



Attendance

Crowd Attendance was generally only talked about in terms of "*a good crowd of spectators attended*" according to the newspaper archives. Occasionally a match report would mention 100 attended this match, 200 spectators at that match. It would seem from the scarce mentions of gate money that up to 200 may have been the average attendance.

The record attendance, however, was the cup-tie between Helensburgh and Royal Albert and Ardencaple in the 1st round of the Qualifying Cup when 2000 supporters attended. They also had a record gate of 1,500, set at the Scottish FA Cup 1st Round Replay v. Bo'ness (0-0) on January 28th, 1925. They also played Aberdeen, at Pittodrie in front of 14,000.

Season tickets appear to have come into play at the end of 1903, after some crowd trouble among the 200 or so spectators, the committee decided that anyone not possessing a season ticket would not be allowed into their field to watch games.

DATE	TYPE	COST	
1903	season ticket	1s 6d	
1922	season ticket	10s	
	Full membership	7s 6d	
	apprentice	5s	
	entry to ground	5d adult	2d boys
1926	Season gate money was £20	1s adult	6d boys



Beginning of the end

F.W. McMillan, President of Helensburgh FC called for a meeting of the 3rd division teams, in Central Halls Glasgow. Several clubs were financially embarrassed, partly on travel expenses, partly on arrangement of fixtures. It was decided to approach the League Management Committee to request help.

"The affairs of the third division of the Scottish Football League appear to be in a serious condition. The long railway journeys, to away games, have killed this league. Mr FW McMillan (Helensburgh FC) called for a meeting of the teams to be held in Glasgow."

H & G Times 14th April 1926

"Several clubs are financially embarrassed, partly on travel expenses, partly on bad arrangements of fixtures. They decided to approach the League Management Committee to request help."

H & G Times 14th April 24th 1926

Helensburgh FC, like most other teams, had to raise money over and above the gate money. In 1927 their average weekly gate money was £20 and they needed to raise a further £12 weekly on top of that.

PLAYING RECORD OF HELENSBURGH LEAGUE PROGRAMME

- First Match; 0-2 v. Arthurlie (1,000) (August 18th, 1923)
- Last Match; 5-1 v. Montrose (-) (April 17th, 1926)
- Highest Gate 2000 Cup-tie between Helensburgh and Royal Albert at Ardencaple in the 1st round of the Qualifying Cup- Sept 1925.
- They also played to 14,000 at Aberdeen in 1927
- Highest Home Win; 8-4 v. Beith (-) (December 6th, 1924)
- Highest Home Defeat; 1-5 v. Vale of Leven (-) (January 16th, 1926)
- No. of Matches Played by Helensburgh; 45
- Helensburgh FC was semi-finalists of the Scottish Cup in 1888 as well as being Scotland Amateur League Champions.
- They were semi-finalists of the Scottish Amateur Cup in 1910.



Season 1923 - 24

DIVISION 3	ARTHURLIE	BEITH	BRECHIN C	CLACKMANNAN	DUMBARTON H	DYKEHEAD	E STIRLING	GALSTON	HELENSBURGH	MID ANNANDALE	MONTROSE	NITHSDALE W	PEEBLES	QUEEN OF SOUTH	ROYAL ALBERT	SOLWAY STAR
ARTHURLIE	Feb09	Sep22	Dec01	Jan12	Mar08	Aug25	Feb16	Jan02	Nov10	Feb02	Dec08	Jan26	Dec22	Oct20	Oct06	
BEITH	0-1	4-0	2-0	3-0	3-0	2-3	3-2	5-0	3-2	3-0	2-1	1-1	3-2	2-0	3-2	
BRECHIN C	Nov24	0-1	Apr12	Mar29	Mar08	Feb16	Jan02	Sep22	Oct06	Dec15	Oct20	Feb02	Apr05	Dec08	Aug25	Apr21
CLACKMANNAN	0-1	2-2	2-1	3-2	6-2	9-3	2-0	4-1	3-4	2-1	1-1	3-0	2-0	4-0	1-0	4-0
DUMBARTON H	Nov17	Mar22	Sep08	Apr05	Apr19	Mar01	Nov10	Mar09	Jan05	Aug18	Jan01	Dec01	Feb02	Jan12	Dec08	
DYKEHEAD	2-0	1-0	0-1	1-3	1-0	1-1	2-8	1-1	2-3	0-4	3-3	1-1	0-0	0-1	0-2	
E STIRLING	Nov03	Jan05	Feb09	Dec31	Jan19	Sep15	Nov24	Sep22	Feb23	Dec15	Aug18	Oct06	Oct20	Dec08	Apr19	
GALSTON	0-1	2-2	2-1	1-1	3-0	5-1	1-1	3-0	1-0	1-2	1-3	0-0	0-1	3-2	2-1	
HELENSBURGH	Mar15	Sep08	Feb23	Aug25	Nov24	Oct20	Mar01	Nov03	Feb16	Oct06	Dec22	Feb02	Jan19	Jan02	Sep22	
MID ANNANDALE	0-2	0-0	0-2	2-3	1-0	0-9	4-1	1-1	0-0	4-3	1-0	1-0	0-5	2-0	3-1	
MONTROSE	Feb23	Apr08	Mar29	Jan12	Dec15	Nov03	Aug25	Oct20	Feb02	Apr05	Mar15	Sep22	Jan02	Apr05	Mar01	
NITHSDALE W	1-2	5-1	4-0	3-0	3-2	4-0	3-1	1-0	3-2	1-0	2-0	4-1	2-2	4-0	1-0	
PEEBLES	Jan01	Aug18	Jan19	Sep01	Dec01	Jan05	Mar29	Apr25	Sep08	Sep22	Nov10	Dec15	Apr05	Oct27	Feb16	
QUEEN OF SOUTH	1-1	2-1	4-1	5-0	4-1	1-0	3-1	2-0	2-0	3-0	4-0	2-1	2-1	1-1	1-1	
ROYAL ALBERT	Mar22	Feb23	Mar15	Feb02	Nov17	Jan01	Mar08	Jan05	Apr23	Nov03	Sep08	Oct20	Oct06	Dec15	Aug18	
SOLWAY STAR	0-3	3-0	2-0	1-1	3-1	2-3	1-4	1-0	1-4	3-1	2-3	5-5	2-0	2-0	2-0	
ARTHURLIE	Aug18	Nov10	Nov24	Dec22	Feb09	Sep08	Oct06	Oct13	Jan01	Mar01	Oct27	Feb23	Apr19	Mar29	Feb02	
BEITH	0-2	1-2	3-2	1-2	1-3	2-4	3-3	2-1	3-3	4-0	0-0	2-4	2-2	6-1	1-1	
BRECHIN C	Mar01	Mar15	Apr26	Nov17	Dec08	Apr12	Oct06	Dec01	Aug25	Apr19	Nov24	Jan02	Nov03	Sep22	Mar29	
CLACKMANNAN	2-2	2-3	6-1	6-1	2-1	1-0	0-1	4-1	4-3	1-1	2-0	3-2	1-3	4-1	0-1	
DUMBARTON H	Mar29	Dec22	Jan02	Sep29	Jan05	Dec08	Mar22	Apr12	Feb16	Oct27	Oct13	Mar15	Aug25	Nov10	Nov24	
DYKEHEAD	1-1	2-1	4-2	1-0	1-1	6-2	2-1	5-0	4-1	2-0	2-1	1-0	1-1	2-1	5-1	
E STIRLING	Jan19	Apr19	Aug25	Mar01	Mar22	Feb09	Jan12	Apr05	Dec15	Mar08	Dec01	Nov03	Sep22	Oct05	Oct20	
GALSTON	0-1	2-0	5-0	1-1	0-4	1-0	0-0	4-0	2-9	2-9	3-9	3-2	1-1	3-1	2-1	
HELENSBURGH	Oct13	Mar01	Feb16	Nov10	Dec29	Dec22	Sep29	Oct27	Jan19	Aug18	Sep08	Jan05	Nov17	Feb09	Jan01	
MID ANNANDALE	1-3	0-0	2-0	4-0	0-0	2-1	2-6	1-3	5-2	1-2	3-1	0-0	1-1	3-0	2-2	
MONTROSE	Sep08	Apr26	Dec15	Mar08	Mar29	Aug18	Nov24	Nov15	Dec29	Mar20	Jan01	Feb16	Mar22	Mar01	Jan05	
NITHSDALE W	0-0	2-0	7-2	5-0	5-2	2-0	1-0	6-1	4-0	3-0	3-3	0-0	4-0	0-1	1-1	
PEEBLES	Jan05	Dec01	Nov03	Feb16	Aug18	Oct13	Feb02	Dec22	Nov17	Mar22	Feb23	Sep29	Nov24	Mar15	Mar08	
QUEEN OF SOUTH	0-1	2-1	2-0	3-0	3-0	2-1	1-3	1-1	4-2	1-1	2-4	2-1	4-3	2-0	3-3	
ROYAL ALBERT	Dec15	Oct13	Dec29	Oct27	Nov10	Mar22	Nov17	Jan02	Dec01	Apr05	Jan12	Feb23	Aug25	Apr12	Sep08	
SOLWAY STAR	2-0	1-0	1-1	1-1	0-0	3-0	3-3	4-1	2-1	1-3	3-1	0-1	2-1	0-2	2-3	

Season 1923 - 24

DIVISION 3												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arthurlie	30	12	12	39	14	9	4	2	20	10	47	
E. Stirling	30	12	3	0	37	9	5	5	5	26	27	42
Queen of South	30	10	4	1	43	10	4	6	5	21	21	38
Montrose	30	12	3	0	39	13	3	3	9	21	35	36
Dykehead	30	13	1	1	41	11	3	0	12	14	30	33
Nithsdale W	30	10	3	2	29	11	3	4	8	13	24	33
Beith	30	11	1	3	37	16	3	3	9	12	25	32
Mid Annandale	30	9	2	4	38	21	4	3	8	21	27	31
Royal Albert	30	9	3	3	32	18	3	1	11	12	35	28
Dumbarton H	30	7	4	4	19	18	3	4	8	21	33	28
Solway Star	30	7	4	4	25	18	2	5	8	17	30	27
Clackmannan	30	7	4	4	25	16	3	3	9	12	38	27
Galston	30	9	1	5	30	23	2	2	11	23	47	25
Peebles	30	6	5	4	27	21	1	3	11	16	35	22
Helensburgh	30	4	5	6	31	30	1	2	12	15	42	17
Brechin C	30	3	5	7	15	28	1	1	13	13	48	14



Season 1924 - 25

DIVISION 3	BEITH	BRECHIN C	CLACKMANNAN	DYKEHEAD	GALSTON	HELENSBURGH	LEITH A	LOCHGELLY U	MID ANNANDALE	MONTROSE	NITHSDALE W	PEEBLES	QUEEN OF SOUTH	ROYAL ALBERT	SOLWAY STAR	VALE OF LEVEN	DUMBARTON H
BEITH	Jan10 7-1	Dec27 3-0	Nov01 1-1	Jan01 4-2	Sep27 4-4	Apr25 5-0	Oct18 1-3	Oct04 0-3	Apr29 3-2	Apr11 3-0	Sep13 1-1	Dec13 2-1	Nov22 1-1	Aug23 1-1	Mar21 2-0		
BRECHIN C	Feb28 5-0	Dec13 3-0	Mar14 3-1	Dec27 0-0	Aug23 3-2	Jan03 2-1	Apr04 0-1	Nov22 5-0	Oct11 0-1	Sep13 1-1	Feb21 4-1	Sep27 1-3	Mar28 2-2	Sep20 0-2	Nov28 0-2	Oct25 4-2	
CLACKMANNAN	Aug16 1-0	Nov15 2-1	Apr21 1-1	Oct11 3-2	Feb07 0-0	Jan17 2-1	Mar14 2-0	Jan19 3-1	Nov29 1-0	Apr04 0-1	Feb14 3-2	Sep13 2-2	Oct25 2-0	Sep27 0-2	Jan03 3-0	Dec26 4-1	
DYKEHEAD	Mar07 2-2	Nov22 2-1	Feb28 2-1	Mar21 3-0	Nov29 4-2	Oct25 1-1	Sep13 3-2	Feb21 3-2	Apr25 1-1	Jan03 1-1	Apr11 2-5	Oct18 2-1	Nov28 3-0	Dec06 1-0	Jan17 1-0	Aug26 5-0	
GALSTON	Mar14 1-0	Aug30 3-0	Apr24 2-1	Dec29 0-2	Nov29 4-2	Oct25 1-1	Sep13 3-2	Feb21 3-2	Apr25 1-1	Jan03 1-1	Apr11 2-5	Oct18 2-1	Nov28 3-0	Dec06 1-0	Jan17 1-0	Aug26 5-0	
HELENSBURGH	Dec26 3-4	Dec29 2-1	Sep26 3-1	Apr08 1-0	Apr18 5-0	Apr04 3-2	Feb21 2-1	Jan01 2-1	Feb20 5-0	Mar28 4-0	Mar07 3-1	Nov22 3-4	Aug23 1-1	Jan16 0-0	Aug15 1-4		
LEITH A	Nov26 3-1	Mar07 1-1	Aug23 2-1	Apr15 2-0	Jan31 5-0	Mar14 2-1	Jan10 0-0	Apr11 2-0	Nov15 3-2	Nov25 0-0	Dec13 2-3	Mar28 2-1	Dec27 4-0	Feb28 2-3	Apr18 2-0		
LOCHGELLY U	Sep29 4-1	Nov01 3-1	Dec06 3-1	Aug23 5-1	Mar07 6-0	Apr15 3-2	Nov22 0-1	Mar21 2-0	Dec27 4-1	Nov15 0-2	Feb28 2-1	Jan17 3-3	Apr11 4-0	Feb14 2-1	Sep26 1-5	Oct04 6-0	
MID ANNANDALE	Mar28 2-1	Jan01 3-1	Nov06 1-1	Oct11 1-1	Feb07 2-2	Sep13 4-4	Dec20 1-0	Sep27 1-2	Aug23 2-2	Dec06 4-2	Jan03 3-2	Nov29 1-2	Mar14 4-1	Apr04 0-2	Oct25 2-3		
MONTROSE	Aug30 3-0	Jan01 3-1	Apr11 1-0	Mar29 0-0	Jan19 2-0	Dec13 2-3	Feb14 1-2	Nov26 2-4	Mar07 2-1	Oct25 0-2	Nov22 2-1	Mar14 2-0	Aug16 0-3	Jan17 1-2	Oct04 0-1		
NITHSDALE W	Dec20 3-1	Jan17 5-3	Sep20 3-1	Nov22 4-0	Nov22 4-2	Oct11 4-3	Aug16 3-2	Aug20 1-1	Feb29 3-1	Apr18 8-0	Jan10 7-1	Feb07 2-0	Jan31 6-2	Nov08 3-0	Feb21 6-1	Sep27 0-0	
PEEBLES	Apr18 7-1	Dec26 3-1	Sep05 4-3	Nov29 2-0	Apr29 4-0	Jan17 5-0	Apr20 1-1	Oct25 1-1	Aug30 4-0	Dec20 3-2	Mar21 3-2	Nov26 0-1	Jan01 1-1	Mar14 1-1	Mar28 1-0		
QUEEN OF SOUTH	Jan17 0-0	Feb14 3-1	Feb28 2-0	Dec13 3-1	Apr27 1-1	Jan03 3-1	Nov21 4-2	Dec20 3-1	Apr18 1-1	Apr04 4-2	Mar07 2-1	Oct11 0-0	Jan10 5-1	Dec20 4-0	Sep20 0-1	Aug26 1-0	
ROYAL ALBERT	Jan03 3-2	Aug16 1-5	Nov01 0-0	Jan10 7-0	Nov01 1-1	Oct18 3-1	Apr30 4-2	Mar29 2-0	Nov15 2-3	Sep13 2-1	Dec13 1-4	Dec27 2-2	Oct11 1-1	Apr13 2-0	Mar07 3-0	Nov22 0-0	Apr25 7-1
SOLWAY STAR	Jan03 5-0	Aug16 4-1	Nov01 0-0	Jan10 1-1	Nov01 1-1	Oct18 3-2	Apr30 1-0	Mar29 1-0	Nov15 2-1	Sep13 1-1	Dec13 0-0	Dec27 2-1	Oct11 1-1	Apr13 1-0	Mar07 0-0	Nov22 7-1	
VALE OF LEVEN	Oct11 5-2	Apr11 4-0	Nov01 6-0	Jan10 3-0	Aug23 3-0	Dec27 2-2	Sep13 2-1	Nov29 2-1	Dec13 4-1	Sep27 6-2	Mar14 2-2	Nov15 2-1	Feb28 1-0	Oct18 3-1	Jan31 0-0		
DUMBARTON H	Nov15 2-2	Nov29 1-0	Sep13 0-3	Dec13 3-2		Oct11 1-1	Oct18 3-1		Aug23 1-4		Aug23 6-3		Dec27 6-3		Dec31 3-1		

Season 1924 - 25

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nithsdale W	30	14	1	0	62	18	4	6	5	19	22	43
Queen of South	30	12	2	1	46	9	5	4	6	21	23	40
Solway Star	30	9	6	0	24	9	6	4	5	17	19	40
Vale of Leven	30	12	3	0	45	13	5	1	9	16	30	38
Lochgelly U	30	11	1	3	42	18	4	3	8	17	23	34
Leith A	30	10	3	2	32	13	3	2	10	16	29	31
Helensburgh	30	11	2	2	43	20	1	5	9	25	40	31
Peebles	30	10	4	1	41	15	2	3	10	23	42	31
Royal Albert	30	8	4	3	34	22	1	4	10	14	39	26
Clackmannan	30	10	3	2	25	13	0	3	12	10	35	26
Galston	30	10	3	2	27	18	0	3	12	12	52	26
Dykehead	30	6	6	2	21	13	1	5	9	9	34	25
Beith	30	9	4	2	47	22	0	2	13	15	52	24
Brechin C	30	8	3	4	33	17	1	1	12	18	44	24
Mid Annandale	30	6	5	4	31	26	1	2	12	16	44	21
Montrose	30	7	1	7	21	20	1	3	11	18	46	20
Dumbarton H	17	5	2	2	20	17	0	1	7	5	30	13



Season 1925 – 26

DIVISION 3	BEITH	BRECHIN C	CLACKMANNAN	DYKEHEAD	FORFAR A	GALSTON	HELENSBURGH	JOHNSTONE	LEITH A	LOCHGELLY U	MID ANNANDALE	MONTROSE	PEEBLES	ROYAL ALBERT	SOLWAY STAR	VALE OF LEVEN
BEITH	Jan01 7-3	Jan09 2-0	Feb27 2-2	Nov07 2-2			Jan30 2-2	Aug29 3-1	Apr21 2-4	Nov21 5-1	Mar27 2-0	Mar13 4-1	Aug15 1-2	Oct17 2-1	Sep12 2-5	Feb20 3-1
BRECHIN C	Apr03 3-0	Aug29 3-1	Jan16 2-3	Feb13 2-0	Jan02 9-2		Mar05 2-2	Dec05 0-1	Apr19 0-4	Nov07 4-0	Aug15 4-2	Apr26 4-1		Mar27 4-2	Apr17 3-2	Sep26 4-5
CLACKMANNAN	Nov14 7-3	Mar13 1-1		Oct03 2-2			Jan23 2-2	Mar27 1-1	Apr24 3-3	Aug22 3-0	Nov28 3-2	Dec05 2-2	Sep12 2-4		Jan01 4-3	Oct24 1-7
DYKEHEAD	Sep25 3-1	Nov28 3-0	Jan30 5-1	Jan02 2-3			Dec19 2-0	Aug15 2-1	Sep12 2-0	Oct24 1-0	Jan09 2-1	Aug29 3-1	Nov07 4-1	Feb13 8-2	Apr10 2-2	Mar20 1-1
FORFAR A		Oct31 3-1	Sep26 5-0	Aug22 2-1	Nov14 1-1		Aug15 3-1	Sep19 4-1	Mar13 3-0	Oct17 1-0	Oct10 3-1	Mar06 2-0	Jan30 5-2	Dec12 3-2	Jan09 4-1	Jan01 6-2
GALSTON	Oct24 3-3	Sep12 6-1	Jan01 2-2				Oct31 0-3	Jan09 8-2			Dec12 2-0		Nov26 1-2	Aug22 1-5		
HELENSBURGH	Oct10 2-1	Nov14 4-0	Nov07 2-0	Feb20 0-1	Feb27 3-0	Dec05 6-0		Sep12 4-1	Mar20 3-2	Mar13 1-1	Feb13 1-1	Apr17 5-1	Aug22 1-0	Jan09 5-1	Sep26 1-1	Jan19 1-5
JOHNSTONE	Oct03 3-0	Apr10 2-3	Oct17 2-2	Dec12 1-3	Sep06 4-0		Nov28 2-4		Aug22 2-2	Jan02 2-2	Oct24 6-2	Mar20 1-1	Mar13 3-1	Jan30 1-1	Feb20 3-2	Oct10 3-4
LEITH A	Mar06 4-0	Dec12 0-2	Oct10 4-0	Apr14 3-0	Oct24 2-1	Aug25 3-5	Nov21 5-3	Apr17 4-1	Jan30 2-2	Apr10 4-0	Aug15 6-1	Jan09 2-0	Sep26 2-0	Mar27 2-0	Feb13 2-1	Feb13 2-1
LOCHGELLY U	Jan16 5-2	Jan09 7-2	Dec12 5-0	Feb06 4-4	Mar20 1-0	Aug15 2-2	Aug29 1-2	Sep26 2-1	Apr03 2-2		Mar06 0-1	Mar27 3-3	Oct19 5-3	Feb20 6-0	Apr24 1-1	Nov28 1-0
MID ANNANDALE	Oct31 4-0	Mar20 1-1	Feb06 5-2	Oct17 4-1	Dec19 2-1		Jan01 1-0	Jan16 3-2	Feb27 3-1	Sep12 0-3		Nov14 1-0	Dec26 3-1	Mar13 2-0	Aug22 1-3	Dec05 3-1
MONTROSE	Dec12 4-3	Aug22 5-2	Feb13 2-1	Apr24 4-1	Sep12 0-2		Jan02 1-2	Feb27 4-1	Feb20 1-0	Jan01 2-1	Jan30 4-0		Sep26 5-3	Apr03 4-0	Nov21 4-2	
PEEBLES	Jan02 0-4	Oct24 3-0	Mar27 3-1	Apr10 2-1			Apr03 2-3	Feb13 2-1	Jan01 0-6	Oct31 5-0	Nov21 2-4			Apr17 1-4	Oct17 5-0	Aug29 2-4
ROYAL ALBERT		Feb27 6-1	Aug15 7-1	Oct19 2-1	Nov21 5-2	Nov07 5-4	Feb06 3-1	Jan01 2-0	Jan04 2-0	Dec05 5-0	Aug29 3-0	Apr16 3-0	Mar20 5-3		Jan16 4-1	Sep12 3-1
SOLWAY STAR	Mar20 2-1	Jan30 0-3	Dec26 0-0	Mar13 2-1	Aug29 2-1	Oct10 2-1	Dec12 3-2	Apr03 2-3	Nov28 0-0	Feb13 1-1	Jan02 0-1	Sep05 1-2	Mar06 7-1	Oct24 5-2		Aug15 1-6
VALE OF LEVEN	Aug22 3-1		Oct31 2-3	Nov21 2-1	Mar27 0-1		Oct17 3-0	Feb06 6-3	Sep19 2-4	Dec19 8-2	Apr03 2-2	Jan09 5-3	Dec12 4-2	Nov14 2-0	Feb27 1-2	

Season 1925 - 26

DIVISION 3	
	P W D L F A W D L F A Pts
Helensburgh	30 10 2.5 2 39 18 6 2.5 6 27 29 38
Leith A	29 12 0.5 2 45 16 4 4 6 28 25 37
Forfar A	28 13 1 0 45 13 3 2 9 16 26 35
Dykehead	28 11 1.5 1 40 14 3 3 8 22 33 33
Royal Albert	28 14 0 0 55 15 2 1 11 20 46 33
Mid Annandale	29 11 1 2 33 16 3 1 5 10 17 38 31
Vale of Leven	26 8 1 4 40 24 6 1 6 38 31 30
Montrose	26 11 0 2 40 18 1 3 9 16 40 27
Lochgelly U	29 8 4.5 2 45 23 1 4 9 13 40 27
Brechin C	28 9 1 4 44 25 3 2 9 23 48 27
Solway Star	29 6 2.5 6 25 25 3 3 8 25 37 24
Beith	27 8 3 3 39 25 1 1 11 19 43 22
Johnstone	29 5 4.5 4 35 27 2 0 5 12 20 47 20
Peebles	26 6 0 6 27 28 3 0 11 25 48 18
Clackmannan	25 4 6 2 31 30 1 2 10 11 44 18
Galston	15 3 2 3 23 18 1 2 4 15 28 12



Sources, Thanks & Notes

With grateful thanks to Helensburgh Library, Paul Smith(Author of The Ultimate Directory of English & Scottish League Grounds), Dr Martin Everett(Lomond School), Malcolm Osborne, Donald McAllister, Jackie Payton, Bill Wilkie of Helensburgh, for all their help in getting this history together

Sources:

- Helensburgh & Gareloch Times 1886 – 1927
- Helensburgh Advertiser
- Personal Recollections
- 100 years of Helensburgh Cricket
- Scotsman

Other Helensburgh Playing fields

- **Kirkmicheal Park** - Part of Kirkmicheal Farm and was off Old Luss Road, near the cemetery. Helensburgh Cricket Club played here before moving to Ardencaple Park as did HelensburghFC who played Hibs here.
- **East End Park** - East King Street Public Park. most teams played here
- **Mossend Park** - Victoria FC played here. At the end of South King Street, where the housing estate is (we believe).
- **Upper Ardencaple Park** - Larchfield played here, rugby, football cricket
- **West Ardencaple Park** - Hermitage former Boys played here. They played Glasgow Rangers here



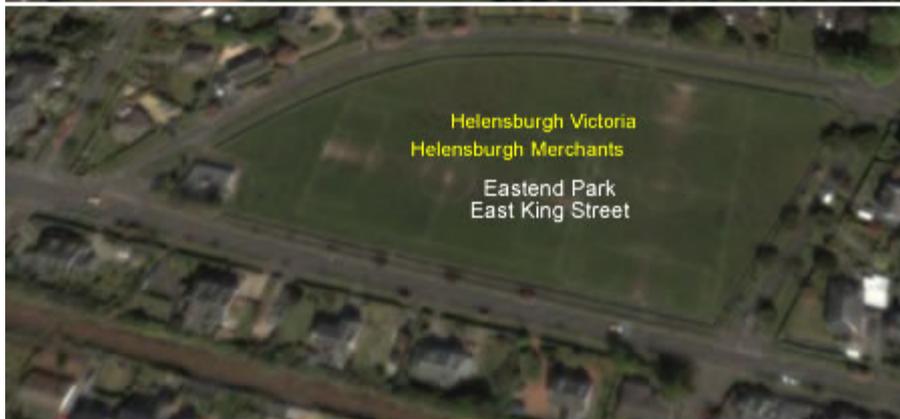
Known Football Teams



- Hermitage former Boys
- Helensburgh West-end



Where they played





NOTES:

1. From the Helensburgh & Gareloch Times September 14th 1881

The Cup-tie between Kilmarnock(Lochlomondside) V. Helensburgh was played at the ground of the formewr. The home team were the heavier and contested the game very stubbornly, but the strangers showed greater science and training in their play, the result being an easy victory for them by 6 goals to 2

2. From the Helensburgh & Gareloch Times November 9th 1881

Helensburgh V. Hibernians(Vale of Leven). This match was played on the ground of the former, Kirkmicheal Park, Helensburgh. During the 1st half the Helensburgh players took 4 goals. On sides being changed, by good passing, the home team added 2 more goals – all six being from the foot of A. Hutchison.

Towards the end of the game, the Hibernians, aided by the increasing darkness scored and just at the last moment added a second goal – this leaving the game Helensburgh 6 Hibernians 2

3. From the Helensburgh & Gareloch Times November 17th 1881

Helensburgh played the Renton at Kirkmicheal Park – draw
The Victoria played the Surrey – draw

4. From the Helensburgh & Gareloch Times October 13th 1881

Abercorn(Paisley) V. Helensburgh at Kirkmicheal Park. Helensburgh won 4 -2 in front of a large crowd