

RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL
PEEBLES THE
EARLY DAYS



FIRST GAME IN PEEBLES 1877

PEEBLES CLUB FORMED 1879

PEEBLESHIRE ADVERTISER

MARCH 10 1877

On the afternoon of Saturday last a football match came off in Kingsmeadows Park between Peeblesshire and Selkirkshire. The weather was all that could be desired, the afternoon being bright and mild for the season.

As this was the first match of the kind that had ever been played here a large course of spectators turned out to witness the sport, the footpath on Springhill Road being literally covered with people the whole distance skirting the Park. The Selkirkshire players arrived in Peebles at 3 pm and both teams lost no time in taking to the field of action. Selkirk won the toss and Peebles kicked off at 3:30 pm. The ball being well followed up, the first maul took place in Selkirk territory where play was kept of the four twenties.

The play concluded at 5 pm the result being a decided victory for the home team of 1 goal, and 5 tries to nothing. During the progress of the match the spectators cheered lustily when any good play was shown and appeared to watch the movements of both sides with great eagerness.

Peebles Team -

Back	W.Blackwood
Half Backs	J.R.Blackwood, J.L.Monilaws
Quarter Backs	G.Q.Paterson, S.Jenkins
Forwards	R.Anslie, R.Booth, J.Taylor, J.Phillips, A.J.Macdongall T.W.Tod, W.Younger, J.A.Gardiner, D.Monro, D.Stewart.

MARCH 16 1878 FOOTBALL

We understand a football match, according to the Rugby Football Union Rules is to be played in Kingsmeadows Park on Saturday next between North British Club, Edinburgh, and Peebles County.

MARCH 23 FOOTBALL

A match will be played between Peebles County and North British today at Kingsmeadows Park, play commencing at 4:30 pm. Peebles colours will be Blue and White

The match was played and resulted in a victory for Peebles by 4 goals, 2 tries and one punt out to one goal. Peebles won the toss and chose to play with the wind and sun at their backs. Peebles team -

Back	J.Monilaws
Half Backs	J.K.Blackwood, W.McLaggan
Quarter Backs	C.Bryce, W.P.Smeaton
Forwards	D.R.Monro, G.G.Monroe, R.Ainslie, J.A.Gardiner, H.Junner C.Wood, T.Tod, M.Horsburgh, L.J.Aitken, F.Gray.

J.H.S.Graham, Edinburgh Academicals' Umpire, W.Blackwood for Peebles.

(This is the first two games played in Peebles before the Club was formed that have been found at present (February 1995).

PEEBLESHIRE HERALD & TWEEDSIDE JOURNAL.

December 12 1879 (extract)

Football Club A Football Club has recently been formed here with -
Mr. Robert Reid as Captain
Mr. Andrew Melrose as Secretary
Mr. Robert Todd as Treasurer.

Since the club has started a goodly number of young men have joined it and have been hard at work in qualifying themselves for taking part in this favourite and now popular winter out door pastime. The Rugby Rules have been adopted by the members. It is expected that a match between Peebles and Innerleithen Clubs will take place to-morrow afternoon. Play to commence about 3pm. The Peebles team as follows -

A. Brown (Back)
A. Clark & John Veitch (Half-Backs)
R. Reid & J. Howitt (Quarter - Backs)
A. Melrose, W. Michie, A. Moffat, J. Henderson, J. Thomson,
G. Hunter, F. Wood, C. Reid, A. Aitken & Joseph Veitch (all Forwards)

R. Todd as Reserve.
Wm. Blackwood jnr. Writer as Referee.

Dec 26

REPORT OF FOOTBALL GAME

A Football match came off in Kingsmeadows Park on Saturday afternoon between St. Ronans, Innerleithen and the Peebles Club and was won by the former by two tries to nothing, both teams having to touch down twice in self defence.

The circumstance that both clubs are young, having only recently formed, brought out a large number of spectators, who took a great interest in the game and cheered any good play by either side.

The game consisted of 4 quarters of an hour. Immediately after the kick off in the first quarter the Innerleithen team got the first try, but the player who was entrusted with the kick, failed to make a goal of it. In the second quarter the same side got another try, which however also failed to go over the bar.

The game all through was well contested, especially in the last quarter. Those who most distinguished themselves -

On the winning side were - J. L. Monilaws, G. Scott, J. Graham and A. Johnstone. On the Peebles side were - R. Reid who almost kicked a goal. F. Wood, W. Michie, C. Reid.

The St. Ronans Team consisted of

-J. L. Monilaws. (Back)
D. Ballantyne, Jr. (Capt) and J. Graham (Half Backs)
G. Scott and A. Johnstone (Quarter Backs)
J. Archibald, T. Rittchie, J. McKay, J. Tait, T. Aitken, M. Mclauchlan, J. Jagger,
F. Beattie, J. Thomson, J. Sommerville (Forwards)

The Peebles Team consisted of

-A. Brown (Back)
A. Clark and J. Veitch (Half Backs) R. Reid (Capt.)
and J. Howitt (Quarter Backs)
A. Melrose, W. Michie, J. Henderson, J. Thomson, G. Hunter, F. Wood, C. Reid
A. Aitken, R. Todd, H. Whillans (Forwards)

with Mr. Alex Buchan as Referee.

In the event of another match coming off in the same place it is to be hoped that the spectators will keep outside the lines as it interferes greatly with the play when the flags can not be seen by the players in consequence of the intervention of those looking on

This game was also reported in the

PEEBLESSHIRE ADVERTISER

FOOTBALL MATCH -

Peebles v St. Ronan's-

This match was played at Kingsmeadows Park last Saturday and resulted in a win for Innerleithen by 2 tries (one disputed) to nothing. Both teams having to touch behind several times. The game was 4 quarters. The ground was very hard and slippery and the players had some difficulty keeping their feet.

Considering this was the first match of the Peebles Club, their play was very good, though somewhat loose in the first quarter, but during the rest of the game they played together much better and rather pressed their opponents. The Innerleithen men who had more practice showed better form.

FEB. 14 1880 FOOTBALL MATCH

We understand that a match between the Captain's and Secretary's teams will be played this afternoon in Kingsmeadows Park. It is expected there will be a large attendance of members on this occasion.

SEPT. 4 1880 PUBLIC - NOTICE PEEBLES FOOTBALL CLUB.

The annual meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Peebles on Friday 10 September 1880 at 8:15pm
A. Melrose, Secretary, Peebles Football Club.

OCT. 23 1880 PEEBLES FOOTBALL CLUB

We understand that the opening match of the season is to be played on Saturday first between the Captain's and Vice Captain's teams in a field at Rosetta Road. Play to commence at 3:30pm.

NOV. 6 1880 FOOTBALL MATCH

A football match between Peebles and St. Ronan's (Innerleithen) Clubs is to be played in a field at Rosetta Road this afternoon. The following team is chosen to play -

Back William Melrose
Half Backs Andrew Brown, John Veitch
Quarter Backs Arch. Clark, James Howett.
Forwards James Blackwood, William Gray, Angus Law, Andrew Melrose, Peter Preston
William Rae (Capt.) Charles Reid, James Thomson, Harry Whillans,
Frank Woods. Reserves James Henderson,
William Ross Alexander Moffat

NOV. 13 1880 PEEBLES v ST. RONAN'S

This match was played on the ground of the former Club last Saturday, in presence of a good turn out of spectators and ended in a win for the home team by a try and two touch downs to one touch down. Both teams left the field after playing half time owing to a dispute as to the second quarter being up.

NOV. 20

CORRESPONDENCE

The Late Football Match at Peebles

Innerleithen 18th November 1880

Sir - In your last weeks issue there appeared a statement to the effect that Peebles had beat St.Ronan's at a Football match by one try and one touchdown to one touchdown, which I beg to contradict.

The St.Ronan's team got a try just as some of the spectator's cried time up, which it was not. I was umpire and time keeper for St.Ronan's the whole time.

Peebles had an umpire, but he left the field after the second quarter and I was left the only time keeper, but they got another before the quarter was up. He got his time from me and he cried time was up when the spectators cried it. It wanted a minute when we got the try, but whether time was up or not we could have kicked a goal under protest, but Peebles not allowing us to do so left the field.

I am etc. T. Porter, Secretary, St.Ronan's

NOV. 27

CORRESPONDENCE

The Late Football Match in Peebles.

Sir - I observe in your issue of Saturday last a letter bearing the signature of J.Porter, Secretary of St.Ronan's Football Club the tenor of which is misleading and I beg to assert that the following part is not founded on fact -

" The St.Ronan's team got a try just as some of the spectators cried time up which it was not" the fact being that time up was called by our umpire and a few of the spectators simultaneously, when the ball was in the centre of the field and dead at the time.

The Peebles team on hearing time called by their umpire immediately ceased play, and then the so called try - boasted of in Mr.Porter's letter - was obtained by one of the St.Ronan's team (G.Scott) taking up the ball when dead running with it and placing it between the goalposts, without any endeavour by the Peebles team to tackle him. Further, supporting that the time as being given by our umpire was incorrect (there being no means of proving which of them was wrong) the ball being dead when picked up by G.Scott it should have been brought back. I beg to affirm that the report of the match as published in your paper was substantially correct.

A.Melrose, Secretary, Peebles Football Club.

(This Correspondence carried on for another two weeks, arguing the rule book as to what is a Dead ball, before the Editor closed the correspondence)

FEB22

1881

PEEBLES v ST. RONAN'S

The return match between Peebles and St.Ronan's was played at the ground of the latter last Saturday. The game was for the most part one sided and St.Ronan's eventually won with 1 goal and 3 tries to 1 try.

FEB. 9

1884

PEEBLES v GALA 2

This match was played in Kingsmeadows Park last Saturday in presence of a large turn out of spectators (there is a kick by kick report of the game but in the second half it finishes as) - The Gala team then broke away and subsequently to the 25, where Rae (an old Peebles player) got the ball and crossed the line, but in endeavouring to touch down he lost the ball and Easton secured it. A dispute arose over this, both teams claiming the touch, and as neither of them would yield further play was stopped.

FEB. 16 **1884** **PEEBLES 2nd v GALA SWIFTS**

This game took place last Saturday in Kingsmeadows Park and after a very pleasant and friendly game, resulting in a very even draw, the Swifts touching down thrice in self defence to the local clubs twice.

MAR **1884** **PEEBLES v TWEEDDALE (WALKERBURN)**

The return match came off last Saturday on the ground of the former (which was in a very bad state by the heavy fall of snow during the previous night) and resulted in a draw, neither team scoring. The game consisted of 4 periods of 20 minutes and each was well contested all through. The Peebles was-

Back W.Yellowlees
Half Backs T.Irvine, J.Laing, J.Thomson
Quarter Backs A.Christie, J.Hall
Forwards G.Scougall, A.Clyde, W.Freer, A.Easton, Adam
 Brown R.Broadhead, H.Clyde, V.Swinton, ? Oliver.

SEP 20 **1884** **PEEBLES FOOTBALL CLUB**

The annual meeting of the club took place on Friday evening last when -Mr.T.Irvine was elected Captain Mr.J.Thomson was elected Vice Captain Mr.W.M.Mather was elected Secretary and Treasurer Committee Messrs.
A.Yellowlees, A.Melrose, G.Scougall and J.Laing

NOV. 1 **1884** **PEEBLES v SCRATCH TEAM**

This opening match of the season came off in Kingsmeadows Park last Saturday afternoon in presence of a good turn of spectators and resulted in favour of the Peebles by 2 goals and 6 tries to nil. The Peebles team was -

Back J.Thomson
Half Backs T.Irvine (Capt.) W.Yellowlees.
Quarter Backs A.Christie, J.Hall
Forwards G.Scougall, R.Broadhead, W.Hislop, C.Easton, R.Little
 W.Freer, A.Clyde, C.Morris, ? Scott, V.Swinton

Nov 29 **1884** **PEEBLES v GALA ROVERS**

This match was played last Saturday afternoon in Kingsmeadows Park in presence of a large number of spectators, and resulted in a win to Peebles by 1 try to nothing.

DEC 13 **1884** **PEEBLES v LEITHENVALE rINNERLEITHEN)**

This was played last Saturday at Peebles and resulted in a win for Peebles by a try and three touchdowns to nil. It is right to mention however that the Leithenvale disputed the point (although allowed by the referee) but on what grounds or pretext the spectators we're at a loss to conjecture as it appeared to be quite a legitimate score. (There followed a kick by kick cover of the game)

The report concluded with - In fact all the members of both teams played hard with the exception of, the Peebles back, but through no fault of his own. He was overheard to jocularly remark that he might have as well stayed at home as he had nothing what so ever to do.

SEP 10

1885

PEEBLES FOOTBALL CLUB

At the half yearly meeting of the Club held in the Town Hall on the evening of Friday last the following office bearers were appointed -

Mr. William Thorburn of Craigerne -	Hon. President
Mr. William Blackwood & Rev. J.M. McCartney -	Hon. Vice Presidents
Mr. T. Irvine -	Captain.
Mr. R. Broadbent -	Vice Captain.
Mr. W. M. Mather -	Secretary and Treasurer.
Committee -	Includes above with the addition of - Messrs. Alex. Yellowlees, G. Scougall, J. Laing, and A. Duthie.