

FLEET STAR FC

and Gatehouse Chamber of Trade



PRESENT

-v-

PAST

PLAYERS

Garries Park
Thursday August 3rd
at 7.00 p.m.



First Game in Juvenile Football at Castle Douglas—April, 1949. Back row l to r: W. McNally (Manager), J. McCarlie, A. Robertson, J. McCormick, R. Taylor, J. Trainer, J. Coates, T. Geddes. Front row l to r: R. Campbell, A. Hope, E. Patterson, J. Kane, W. McGivern.

TEAM FORMED IN THE 40s PLAYERS'



THIS picture shows the commemorative medal that will be presented to all the players taking part in today's special bicentenary match at Garries Park, the 'home' of Fleet Star Football Club.

TODAY'S match ball is sponsored by Tyreservices, Newton Stewart.

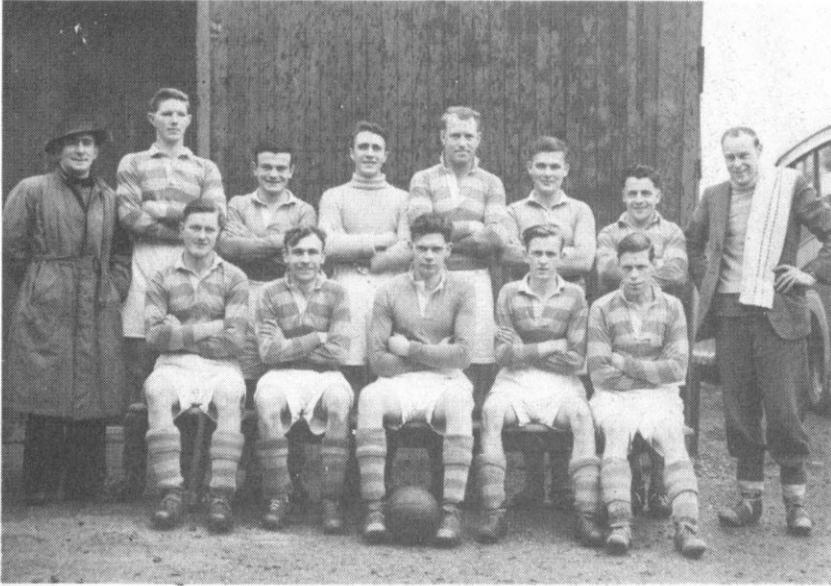
THE following is the first page in the original club constitution & rules adopted 3rd August 1949:

FOREWORD

The Fleet Star Football Team originated among the disorganised football enthusiasts who unable to get a game of football in the summer cups took their skill to the fields around the Market Hill housing site. On seeing just how many youths were keen on playing Sam Heron and Jack Kane raised a team to play village clubs in the neighbourhood and the venture proved so successful that it was decided to try and put the team on a proper footing by forming a Football Club. On being asked to help in this connection I advertised a public meeting of all interested and a large turn out, resulted in the formation of the first committee of the Club on the 19th May 1948. The name Fleet Star F.C. under which the team has first come into being was adopted as very suitable. This being an adaptation of two former Gatehouse Club names, Fleetside

Rovers and White Star. The main proviso laid down at that meeting being that only players residing in the Town and within six miles radius should be eligible to play as it was maintained that a local team should be able to hold its own with local teams from other parts of the County. It was also decided to adopt the colours the team had started with namely Blue and White hoops, the same being lent by the Gatehouse School for our first season. After playing one season in open summer cups the Club then turned to Juvenile football as an appropriate brand of football for fostering the game among young players and the following constitution and rules were drawn up by the committee and passed by an Annual General Meeting of the Club to meet the needs of the Club as it progressed in this sphere.

D.J.F.
Sec.



Coalburn Athletic Juvenile Cup 1952. Back row l to r: H. Hood, D. Taylor, J. Corson, H. Holmes, B. Kelly, J. Kean, R. Farmer, J. Trainer. Front row l to r: W. Taylor, E. Patterson, R. Dodds, A. McCormick, R. Campbell.

'Ban' is imposed by town councillors

FROM the very start of the 1950s, the club became involved with many other activities in the town.

In 1953, a proposal by Creetown F.C. was put to the association that we move to amateur status and the Scottish Amateur F.A. accepted. The Club altered the constitution to this effect on 10th March 1954.

In July 57, the club was banned from playing on Garries Park and re-instated two weeks later, when it was established that the town council had been given wrong information by one of their members.

In June 57, it was decided to fulfill our wish to have a pavilion and to purchase the

framework of a classroom at Kirkcudbright Academy for £80.00 and the required layout was planned.

It was found that site in the park could not be provided by the council for the pavilion and it was agreed to approach Mr Taylor of the Angel Hotel to see about the site he had already offered on his ground. By the autumn, the plans for the pavilion were passed.

In January 1959, the lease for the Angel site was agreed for a period of 20 years, with yearly extensions thereafter till a further lease was agreed.

The estimate for the base, outer shell and a central partition was accepted at £425.00

The work was completed as funds became available during the next two years.

In respect of the playing side of the club, the 1950s ended with little to show for all the hard work the teams and committee had put into the period.

This was a time of experiment and growth in the club's activities and it is staggering, looking at the records, just how many people and how much support was involved.

In the help we received in raising finance and in hard work on the park, we owe the future decades of success to these foundations by willing helpers.



This was the Fleet Star line-up for a match at Stranraer in 1960. The players are:
 Back row, from left — W. Carruthers, Jarret, J. Benson, A. McHarg, T. McMillan, R. Telfer. Front row,
 from left — D. Alexander, J. Hannah, J. McCulloch, A. Walker, and W. True.



Fleet Star, April 1960, at Dalbeattie. Back, from left — W. Broadfoot, G. Stenhouse, R. Telfer, W. Carruthers, I. Graham, D. McWilliam. Front, from left — J. McCulloch, W. Baillie, A. McCormick, N. Muir and J. Pickthall.

1969 was a good year for the club

IN the 1960s, with the pavilion completed and the sweepstake giving a steady income, the extra activities of the committee were now reduced and the football could take priority.

The two teams were, therefore, more organised and the Fleet Star Cup had more backing from the Stewartry FA. We organised a game for Gala Day with the Amateur Cup winners — Minishant FC — and entered the Scottish Amateur Cup. This took us to Stranraer.

The Club, after trouble with the SFA re players, whom we played against Minishant, decided to put a proposal to our local association: "That the association have close season from 1st January each ear to the start of the season in that year." Unfortunately, it was not passed by the association.

A later proposal banning winter players was turned down by the Scottish AFA, but left in the local constitution, and this led to many quarrels and the gradual reduction in members of the Stewartry AFA.

The motorcycle race meetings were still being held, but organised by other organisa-

tions, whom we still helped with our equipment.

In 1963, the first team were runners-up in the Law Cup and the under-18s won the Troqueer Cup. We were notified by Campbells that the buses would be finishing next year.

In 1964, the under-18s won the Troqueer and Fleet Star Cups. Buses continued for another year. A number of our young players were reported as having been signed up by Southern Counties teams and we were struggling for the next season.

This turned out to be the case and, in 1965, it was decided to bring in outside players. As luck would have it, they turned out to be there, as more or less a complete team, from the Kirkcudbright Academy, to fill the team. The first team went to the final of the Macintosh Cup, but were only runners-up.

In 1966, the under-18s were runners-up to the R & DA in the Fleet Star Cup, John McNally was selected for Scottish Schools, Eric Grieve was at Luton Town and E. Bryan & F. Riddell were St. Cuthbert

Wanderers players.

In 1967, some of the academy boys were introduced to the under-18s team and performed very well. It proved a season when players were off a lot for various reasons and we had no winners or runners-up for the first team. The under-18s won the league, but were under-strength most of the season.

The 1968 season started with a dearth of players for the first team and it was decided to advertise for players in the press. This was very successful and, after trials, a good young team was put together. The under-18 also did well, to be runners-up in the Stevenson Cup.

The 1969 season proved to be the best in the club's records, as the first team won the Mark Stewart Cup and were runners-up in the Macintosh Cup. The under-18 lost only one game, in the final of the Fleet Star cup, winning the league and the Troqueer and Stevenson Cups. To cap this, John McNally went to Manchester United.



Playing for the club at Castle Douglas in 1972 were: Back from left — I. McMinn, W. Carruthers, P. Stirling, G. Currie, J. Lawrence, E. Carruthers. Front, from left — M. McKenzie, D. Fergusson, J. Geddes, T. Watson, R. Lees and R. McCarlie.

Lots of Cup

LOCAL newspaper reports of the club's efforts during the early and mid - 1970s proved elusive, with the ones that could be found usually brief.

However, one match of that period which was covered in some depth was the 1972 Captain McIntosh Memorial Trophy final, when Fleet Star were beaten 6-2 by Colliston Star.

The Gatehouse team that day was: McGoldrick, Carter, Currie, McMinn, Carruthers, Stirling, Picken, McKenzie, Geddes, Blacklock and Gillespie. Carruthers and Geddes were Fleet Star's scorers.

In the final of the Robert Armstrong Memorial Cup the following year, Fleet Star lost narrowly to Lybro, the Dalbeattie side winning 2-1. The Corinthians Cup final of 1974 brought a victory for Fleet Star, when they beat Crocketford 2-0. Star also took the

Captain McIntosh Cup in '74, crushing Borgue 4-1.

The reports for 1977 showed a poor league record for Fleet Star, who finished in a low position. At that time, one of the strongest amateur sides was Douglas Wanderers, based at Newton Stewart.

Moving on to the 1978, Star reached the semi-finals of the Borgue Cup, where they were put out by Douglas Wanderers, who won 6-1. Towards the end of this game, things apparently got out of hand and three players were ordered off—two from the Wanderers and one from Fleet Star.

Thanks to a 3-1 win over Dalbeattie Colts in the semis, Star, progressed to the final of the 1978 McGeechan and McCallum Shield, where they met holders Douglas Wanderers. Previous results between the two sides over the season had been fairly even, with little

to suggest the final would end as one-sided as it did—9-1 to the Newton Stewart team. Pickthall, from the six yard line, was Star's scorer and it was reported that young Neil Patterson showed some fine touches, but never received the backing of his team-mates, and eventually faded.

Just before kick-off in this match, Fleet Star chairman R. Thompson presented bouquets of flowers to the parents of the boys in whose memory the shield was donated.

In the league, Fleet Star finished fifth, on 10 points.

In the 1979 Captain McIntosh Cup, Solway Rovers beat Fleet Star 4-3, after extra-time, in the first round.

Star gained their first victory of that season in the first round of the Borgue Cup, at the expense of the host club. In the semi-final of that competition. Star surprisingly beat the



Meet the cup winning 1978 side: Back, from left — I. Prentice, A. McCarlie, W. Salfenmoser, S. McCreath, W. Telfer, R. White, J. Patterson. Front, from left — B. McCreath, A. McIntyre, I. Campbell, D. Cowie, N. Patterson and D. Ferguson.

Finals in 70s

Royal and Douglas Amateurs 5-4 at Gatehouse.

The Borgue cup final, between Star and Douglas Wanderers, failed to produce a winner at the first attempt, ending in a 1-1 draw after extra time. Wanderers opened the scoring, but Star equalised when McCarlie struck a brilliant free-kick. In the closing minutes of extra-time, the Wanderers' keeper pulled off a great save, to take the match to a replay.

It was then recorded that the circumstances surrounding the cancellation of the Borgue Cup final replay were to be thoroughly investigated. Unfortunately, no further mention of this could be found.

There was no joy for Fleet Star when they slumped to a four-goal defeat at the hands of Doug-

las Wanderers in the final of the McGeechan and McCallum Shield. The Gatehouse side failed to match their 'Shire counterparts, who showed real determination.

However, in the Robert Armstrong Memorial Trophy final, Star beat Wanderers 4-1. The best Gatehouse players that day were McIntyre, Houston and Grieve, the latter having some outstanding runs upfield.

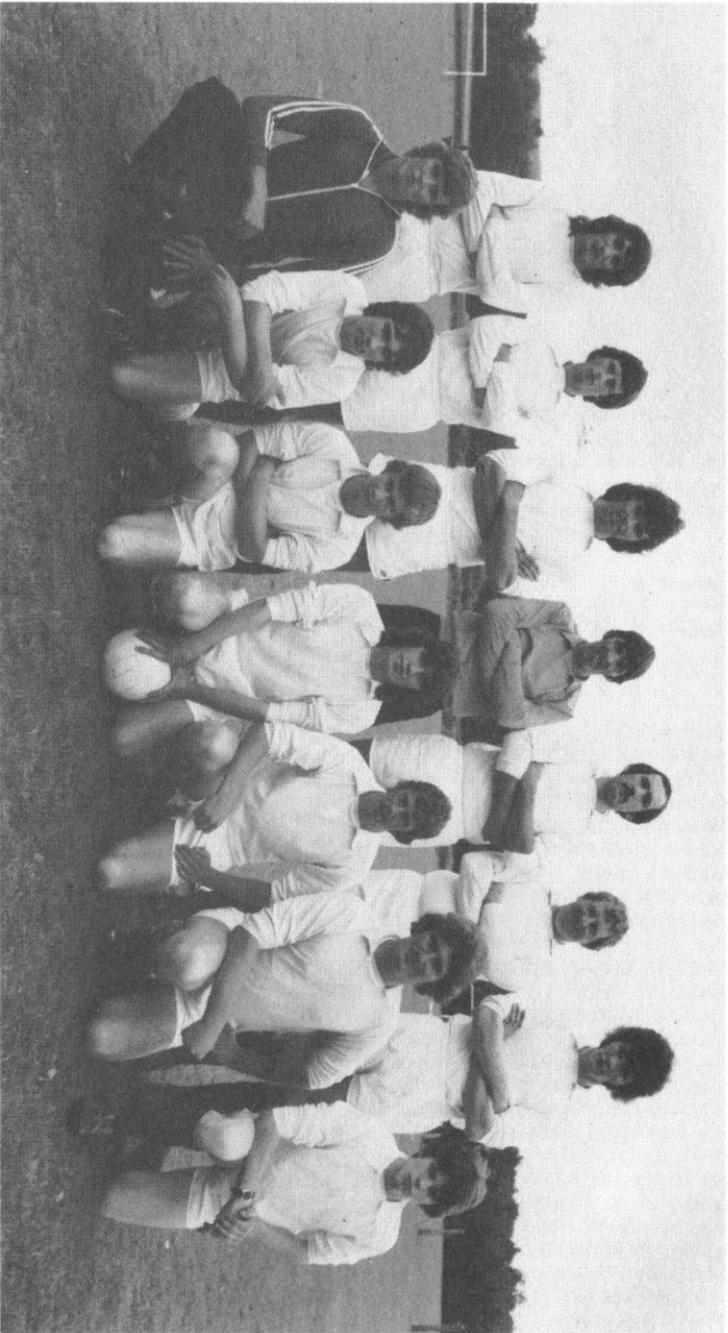
A few days after that final, Star virtually ended Wanderers' hopes of the league title, with a 1-0 victory at Blairmount Park, Newton Stewart.

The Corinthians Cup final between Fleet Star and Douglas Wanderers ended a 1-1 draw. Wanderers went ahead when a penalty kick rebound was netted, and the equaliser came when

Telfer shot home from the edge of the box. In the replay, a makeshift Douglas Wanderers team overcame Fleet Star by 3-1, to take the cup back to Newton Stewart at the second attempt.

After two hours of entertaining football, the Lybro Cup final of 1979, between Solway Rovers and Fleet Star, ended 5-5. In the replay, Rovers hit top form, to win the Lybro Cup for the first time since 1973, beating Fleet Star 4-2 at Gatehouse. Eric Grieve was one of the Fleet Star's scorers in the replay, from the penalty spot.

Although Fleet Star featured in a number of cup finals as the 70s drew to a close, this was in stark contrast to the club's fortunes in the league. Fleet Star finished bottom in 1979, on seven points.



This picture, taken at what seems to be Garries Park in Gatehouse, shows the Fleet Star team that contested the Robert Armstrong Memorial Cup final in 1980. The players here are: Back row, from the left: P. Keenan, D. Ferguson, S. McCreath, E. Houston, E. Grievie, J. Pickhall, W. Salfemmoser. Front, from the left: S. Wood, D. Thomas, B. Cain, I. Campbell, A. McIntyre, W. Telfer and W. McMillan. A summary of the club's fortunes in the 1980s is on page nine.

Tournament is cancelled

BY the start of the 1980s, the Stewartry AFA was down to only four teams and ourselves in Senior League etc. We had an under-18 team, but the other clubs were unsure if they could raise enough players. The Sunday League had most of the teams in the area playing.

The club committee were discussing the best solution for the replacement of the present system of let of the pavilion site and it was agreed to enquire if we could get a more permanent one.

It turned out that the owner was not sure how long he would be there, but till he sold out, we were welcome to remain on the present basis of year-to-year lets. This was to be the position to the end of the decade, with following owners also.

However, towards the end of the period, we were fortunate to make contact with Mr W. Henry, solicitor, for advice on how to go about the application for a grant for a new facility in the park.

He was most helpful and put in a great amount of work on our behalf in approaching all the people required to give various permissions, grants etc. as the decade ended.

The playing side of the club was not at all good, owing to the small number of teams in the seniors, but the Lybro Cup

was won in 1980 and we were in two other finals.

The following year there were only four clubs in the seniors and the under 18s had only friendlies to play. To make up for this, it was decided to run the Fleet Star Tournament for senior teams and invite the four nearest teams from the Sunday League to take part, to make up the numbers. However, the event had to be cancelled, when a protest held everything up.

The first team won the Robert Armstrong Trophy, the Corinthians Cup and the Borge Cup during this season.

The Stewartry AFA did not start up at all in 1983 and it was decided to run two youth teams in the new youth association which was being formed. These were under-14 and under-12 teams managed by R. Thompson and R. Greggan. The under-14s won their league and the under-12s were runners-up in two cups.

There were no trophies won in the 1984 season. The Youth AFA wished us to run a five-a-side tournament at Gatehouse and a successful contest was run in Garries Park for three ages and on three pitches, organised by the club secretary and team members. During the winter, we were approached by members of the local team in

the Sunday League to take over the running of their affairs, as they were now an official amateur association member.

By the start of the 1985 season the club had agreed the change, on condition that they obtained a manager agreeable to all and that they must play under Fleet Star FC. The under-14s won the Fleet Star Cup (Veitch) and were runners-up in the Armstrong Trophy.

In 1986, we had three teams in action, but won nothing, although the senior side were third in the league and runners-up in the Greig Trophy.

We again had three teams in the 1987 season and the senior team were promoted to the First Division and won the W Telfer Trophy. The under-12s won their league and were runners-up in two cups. The under-14 team were runners-up in the Youth Cup. The 1988 season proved to be the best so far for the senior team, who were third in the league and won the Market Trophy, and the W Telfer and Milroy Cups. The youth teams were struggling to get enough players and did not win any trophies.

It was a similar story in 1989 and the youth teams were unable to play any games.



Above, David Grieg Trophy 1995, back row l to r P. Cairnie, N. Pickthall, B. Grieve, B. Pickthall, T. Maxwell, S. McCreath, B. Malcolm, R. Williams, K. Telfer, W. Salfenmoser, R. Telfer. Front row l to r: M. McCulloch, R. McCarlie, E. McGaw, R. Jamieson, C. Kirkpatrick, D. Murphy, L. Knox.
Below, the junior sides are presented with strips by the Lions.



Big problem of pavilion is tackled

THE big problem for the 1990s was, of course, the position with the pavilion and, at our AGM, the committee decided to have a fresh start at solving the Angel site position.

At first, it appeared that we might get somewhere, but, as usual, outside interests on the Angel side once again brought it to nothing.

Two other owners of the site followed in quick time and it was then obvious this was as far as we could go with it.

At the 1992 AGM, it had been agreed that we would have to try and solve our problem by negotiating with the district council again, if this arose, and, in 1993, this was done. We had also to get an agreement with the Ansbro building firm, who wanted to build on the site.

The many transactions required to get financial help etc. which we need to get the pavilion erected have been carried out by the committee and Mr Henry over the past two years and we are now at the position where the council have to obtain planning permission. The funding and plans are in place and the district council will oversee the work.

During 1992, it was decided to consider a further means of fund-raising and a sub-committee was set up to go into this. By the AGM of 1993, they had reported to the effect that a monthly sweep would be the best option and this was agreed, for starting after the playing season. This was done and it has been a fine success since then.

We have also faced the retirement of both our secretary and treasurer after lengthy terms in office and have been fortunate to have these positions filled in excellent manner. We were also able to help the Masons with accommodation during 1993/94.

The playing performance of the senior side in 1990 was all we could wish for, as they won the D Greig Trophy, the W Telfer Trophy and the Milroy Cup, being runners-up in another and fifth in the league.

There were still no youth teams available in 1991 and 1992, but, it was agreed at the AGM in 1993 to try and start under-12s, as there appeared to be enough boys in this age group interested.

It was off and running in good order, when we had to

put pre-matry postponement to it all, after a rumpus in the dressing rooms at a friendly game v Dumfries.

The senior team, however, won the W Telfer Trophy and reached the final of the Houlston Inter-League Cup, only to be scratched for playing an ineligible player (a very controversial decision). We had the pleasure of being the only unbeaten team in the competition, as we beat the winners Castle Rovers 4-2 at Lochmaben, in the semi-final.

We were still without youth teams in 1994, but again the senior team won a trophy - the Milroy Cup. They also had a good away win in the Grouse Cup at Kilbirnie, and decided at the 1995 AGM that, as there were enough players at an age where we could start an under-10 team, the club should try and get coaches together to organise training.

It has been encouraging that, at each meeting since then, another team seems to have started, with also enough girls for a seven of their own.

The senior team is also doing well.

