



By Kieran Smith

# TOM WYLLIE - HISTORY MAKER

Tom Wyllie was born in April 1870 in the Ayrshire town of Maybole.

His father, George, was a weaver and would have been employed in the town's shoemaking industry, but Tom's career was destined to involve a different kind of footwear.

His football career began with local club Maybole FC before Glasgow Rangers made their move for the young starlet in the summer of 1888.

Scottish football was still in its pre-league days and Tom soon became a favourite amongst the Gers faithful. October 1888 saw the first competitive Rangers v Celtic game, as the two faced off in a Glasgow Cup tie. Tom was part of the Rangers XI that lost 6-1.

In March 1890 he gained his only Scottish cap in a 4-1 win over Ireland, bagging one goal in the second half. That year also saw the founding of the Scottish Football League and Tom featured in the first-ever Rangers league match, against Hearts.

December 1890 saw him move south of the border to Everton, still playing at Anfield of course, and he made his debut at Wolves. He managed four games that season, all in December, in what would be Everton's first-ever title-winning campaign. Included in these games was the 6-2 defeat of Derby County at the Baseball Ground, with Tom scoring four goals.

After a total of 20 league appearances for Everton, the Scot made the move to the newly-formed Liverpool FC in 1892. As Everton played their inaugural match at Goodison in a friendly game against Bolton Wanderers, a smattering of curious



The 1892/93 Liverpool team

J. McQUEK. J. McCARTREY. A. HANNAH. S. H. HOSS. M. McQUEEK. D. McLEAN. J. McBRIDE. A. DICK (Trainer). T. WYLLIE. J. SMITH. J. MILLER. M. McVRAN. H. McQUEEK.

onlookers gathered at Anfield to witness the first-ever game featuring John Houlding's Liverpool, in a friendly against Rotherham Town.

Wyllie rattled in three goals in a 7-1 victory. Then, just a few days later in the club's first Lancashire League fixture, Tom again featured in an 8-0 win over Higher Walton.

The 1893 Liverpool Senior Cup final would be the very first meeting of Everton and Liverpool. With Everton's team being a strong Combination XI and Houlding's Liverpool almost at full-strength, the hotly-anticipated tie was played out in front of 10,000 spectators at Hawthorne Road, the home of Bootle.

Liverpool edged the contest, with the solitary goal that separated the two sides being scored by none other than Tom Wyllie.

Tom's time at Liverpool was short-lived, scoring 15 goals in 25 games before moving to Bury in September 1893,

ultimately ending his playing career with Bristol City.

His name may not be familiar to many but having played in the very first Glasgow derby and then repeating the feat on Merseyside, his place in football history is assured.



Tom Wyllie