

DEDICATION OF THE GRAVE OF WILLIAM EDWARD SCOTT



17 MAY 1882 - 15 AUGUST 1936

GOALKEEPER, EVERTON FA CUP -WINNINGTEAM 1906 AND IRISH INTERNATIONAL

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2017

ANFIELD CEMETERY, LIVERPOOL

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Brendan Connolly, Chairman, EFC Heritage Society

MINISTER

The Reverend Harry Ross, Chaplain to Goodison Park

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, giver of life and conqueror of death, be with you all.

*People: And with your spirit.

Anita Davies sings Abide With Me

Let us pray.

Lord, you have made your people a pilgrim church, to be welcomed by you into its eternal home. Bless us our gathering in this cemetery as we remember Billy Scott, who is at rest in you. May this place, prepared in the sure hope of the resurrection, never cease to remind us of the life that we are to share in Christ, who will transform our earthly bodies to be like his in glory, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

There are many rooms in my Father's house. Jesus said to his disciples- "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you also may be. Where I am going, you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me."

Anita Davies sings "The Lord's my Shepherd"

Prayers of Intercession & Lord's Prayer





EARLY CAREER - CLIFTONVILLE AND LINFIELD

Billy Scott was born in Belfast on 17 May 1882, the son of William and Mary Jane Scott.

Billy had three brothers -Thomas (born in 1881), John (born in 1896) and Elisha (born in 1893) and six sisters - Margaret (born in 1878), Mary (born in 1888), Hannah (born in 1889), Annie (born in 1891), Elizabeth (born in 1900) and Kathleen (born in 1904).

He had two children and was an iron moulder by trade and a member of the Church of Ireland.

In 1901 he resided at 6 Moltke Street and in 1902 at 553 Donegall Road - both Belfast addresses being a short distance away from what was to become Linfield's Windsor Park home in 1905.

The young Irishman played for Wesley in Lisburn, County Antrim, before joining his home town club Cliftonville as an amateur in early 1901, but was unable to secure a place in the first team due to competition from two Irish internationals. Later that year he crossed Belfast to sign for local rivals Linfield, where his debut came on 31 August 1901 in a 2-0 home league win against Distillery. He was an ever present for the following three years, apart from one County Antrim Shield game in 1903 when he was unavailable through injury. While on Linfield's books, he won the Irish League and Cup double in both 1902 and 1904, and a number of other minor trophies.

He represented the Irish League on three occasions and made his full international debut on 14 February 1903 against England. The Irish finished on the wrong end of a 4-0 score line, but Scott retained his place. In his second international on 21 March the Irish team secured the country's first victory over Scotland, with Scott keeping a clean sheet after recovering from an anxious start.

Ireland beat Wales 2-0 in the final match of the tournament a week later. The Times reported:

"Happily for the side, Goodall, Boyle and Scott all defended admirably and on the day the superiority which Ireland possessed in this respect determined the fortunes of the match."

The Irish shared the title with England and Scotland, each team managing a couple of victories. Scott remained first choice keeper for Ireland for the next decade, captaining his country on a number of occasions.

On a visit back to Ireland in his later years, Billy reported:

"I played football in good times here, it was nothing to get chased off the field."



EVERTON

In July 1904, Billy was given a shot at the big time when he was signed by English First Division giants Everton for £450 to take over from the ageing George Kitchen. Scott began the season as first choice, making his debut in a 2-1 defeat at Notts County on 3 September, but lost his place after conceding seventeen goals in 12 games. He made way for the colourful Welsh international, Dick Roose, just signed from Stoke, and featured in only four more games.

Manager Will Cuff was building one of the strongest squads in the country and his team challenged that year in both League and Cup. They lost to Aston Villa in the Cup semi-final after a replay but went even closer in the title chase.

They were on top of the table as the season entered its final week and favourites to clinch the title. However they had to play their final three games away from home in the space of four days. What would Klopp and Mourinho have to say about that? Unfortunately they could only manage two points and Newcastle won their final two games to secure the title by a point.



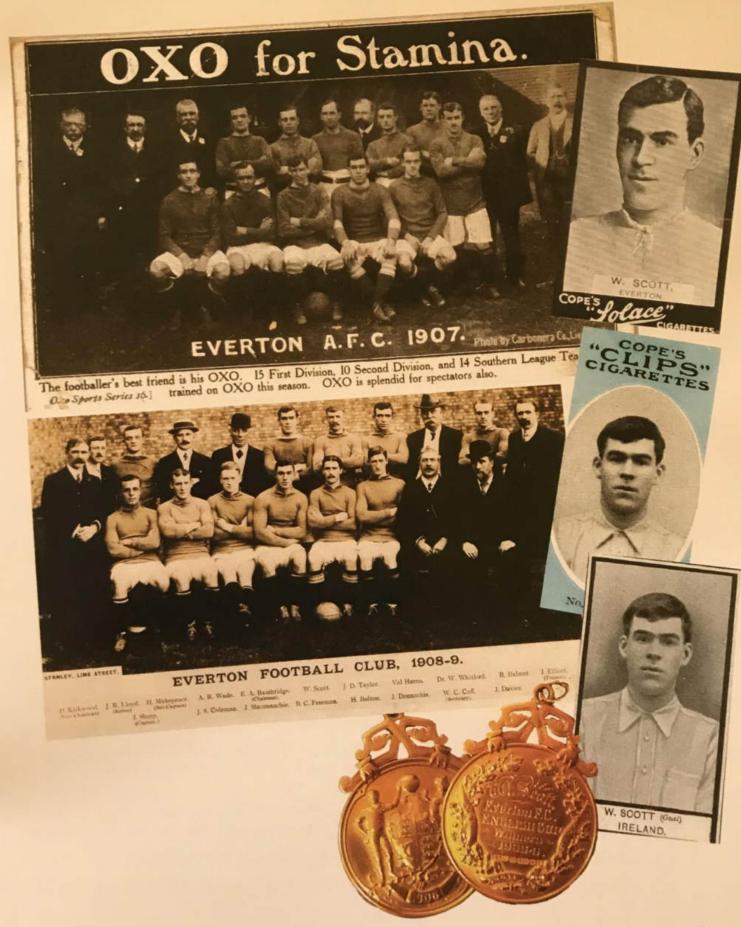
1906 FA Cup Final postcard at Crystal Palace

In the 1905/06 season, Billy established himself as first choice for Everton when Roose returned to the Potteries. It was a successful start despite splitting the webbing between his forefinger and thumb in the FA Cup Semi Final v Barnsley. The Irishman won an FA Cup winner's medal when the Goodison side defeated a strong Newcastle United side 1-0 at Crystal Palace in April 1906 with a goal from Sandy Young.

Everton were back at the Palace to defend their trophy the following year and were favourites to beat Sheffield Wednesday. It was a poor match and Everton were undone by Wednesday's bustling style, the Owls winning 2-1.

Over the next few years, Scott established himself as a firm favourite with the Everton fans, making 251 League appearances for the Merseysiders, who were League runners up in 1909 and 1912. He kept 76 clean sheets for the club, a figure only beaten in later years by Neville Southall, Gordon West and Ted Sagar.

One year, when the season opened with a terrific heatwave the trainer Jock Elliott was ordered to buy silk handkerchiefs to put around the players' necks. Billy did not get one and replied "Oh, I'm only a goalkeeper; I suppose the sun doesn't shine on me"





LEEDS CITY

In June 1912, Scott quit Merseyside for the Second Division, signed by new Leeds City manager Herbert Chapman in a move which sparked some controversy. As part of the deal, Chapman agreed to pay the Irishman a full year's salary of £208 for the ten months to the following April. This meant that the player was receiving more than the maximum wage.

Chapman agreed similar deals with two other international signings, Evelyn Lintott and George Law. When Chapman identified the issue, he persuaded City's directors to raise the matter with the League Management Committee and plead for clemency. His honesty backfired and the League fined City £125, also censuring Chapman and the players, who were ordered to repay the excess amount to the club, much to Scott's annoyance. The 'bonus' had been part of the reason why he had agreed to join City.

'Yorkist', writing in the Leeds Mercury in August 1912, welcomed the signing of the experienced Irishman:

"I had the pleasure of seeing the practice match at Elland Road yesterday morning, and I have not the least hesitation in saying that Leeds City will have a successful side this season... Mr Chapman is to be congratulated on the new men he has secured. Scott, the Irish international custodian from Everton, is a real capture. He had four goals scored against him yesterday, but he showed himself an artist, and it is a safe prediction that Leeds City will not have anything like 78 goals registered against them this season."

Scott's first senior start for City was disappointing: they lost 4-0 at Fulham on the opening day. The Yorkshire Evening Post reported:

"One could scarcely realise that it was Scott, for so many years the mainstay of Everton, who had charge of the City net. He certainly had a particularly warm time during the afternoon, and the support in front of him was not very inspiring, but, generally, his work lacked the finish he has hitherto shown."

However, Chapman's new side soon settled down and Scott kept clean sheets in his next two appearances, though he was to concede six at Hull on 2 November. He gave a string of outstanding displays and 'Old Bradfordian' reported thus in the Mercury after a 1-0 victory at Bradford in September:

"The outstanding player was Scott, who barred the progress of Bradford a score of times when the Leeds goal seemed doomed. The play of the ex-Evertonian was brilliant in the extreme, and he thoroughly deserved the ovation he received at half time and at the conclusion of hostilities. His nimbleness and dexterity in parrying the shots by Little,

Howie and Kivlichan in particular cannot be too generously qualified. To keep out a swift ground shot by Kivlichan he had to throw himself full length at the ball and with arms extended manage to party it."

Scott became the fourth Leeds City player to win international honours when he earned his 23rd Irish cap on 18 January 1913. Martin Jarred:

"Scott's last international before he joined Leeds saw him on the receiving end of a 6-1 thrashing by England, but there was no way the Irish selectors were going to drop him. In those days the only Irish internationals were in the British championship and Scott retained his place for the 1913 Home Internationals. It started with a 1-0 defeat on Distillery's ground against a Welsh side including four new caps, one of whom, Wrexham's James Roberts, scored the only goal after five minutes. On the same day, Leeds City, with Hogg replacing Scott in between the uprights, beat Bradford City 2-0 in an Elland Road mud bath.

Hogg kept his place, but Scott still played in Ireland's next game, a historic 2-1 win against England. It was the first time Ireland had beaten England in 32 attempts, and the sequence looked to be extended at Windsor Park when Charlie Buchan put the visitors ahead. With Ireland's inside-left Jim MacAuley limping, it looked odds on England would win, but Scott kept them at bay with some great saves. Former Leeds forward Billy Gillespie, now knocking in goals at Sheffield United, scored twice to earn Ireland a wonderful win. While Scott was lapping up the plaudits, Leeds had lost 6-0 at Stockport the same afternoon and the Irishman won his City place back. However, nothing would have prepared him for the events that were about to unfold in Dublin the following month.

Despite dominating for long periods, Ireland lost 2-1 to Scotland but the crowds were incensed that English referee Arthur Adams had allowed Alec Bennett's winning goal to stand as the Rangers man looked offside. At the final whistle, several Scottish players tried to grab the ball as a souvenir, Sheffield Wednesday's George Robertson emerging with the leather, only to have it knocked out of his hands by a spectator, Patrick Gartland. It was picked up by Ireland's American-born player, Billy Andrews, but in the struggle that followed Gartland was knocked over.

Rumour quickly spread that Robertson had broken Gartland's leg, and a furious mob gathered outside the Scottish dressing room, smashing windows. The Scots were locked in for more than an hour and Robertson, a school teacher by profession, was arrested and taken to a police station. The Irish FA, keen to defuse the situation, agreed to pay the costs of the injured Gartland, who dropped the charges against Robertson, who was released. But the Irish mob continued to vent their fury and followed the Scottish party back to their hotel, where Swindon full-back Jock Walker was attacked outside."

The match, Scott's 25th for Ireland, marked the end of his international career and a couple of years later, his brother Elisha became his long term successor.

Billy lost his Leeds City place permanently to Tony Hogg following a 1-0 win against Hull at

Elland Road on 8 March 1913; he made only two further appearances, early in 1914.

His final game for City saw him concede three goals in a controversial game away to Clapton Orient on 2 March 1914.

The Monday afternoon fixture was scheduled to commence at 4.30pm in an attempt to maximise gate receipts, though only 7,000 people turned up. Floodlights were not yet widely available, and it was inevitable that the game would finish in semi-darkness.

City protested. Stephen Studd in 'Herbert Chapman: Football Emperor' reported:

"After some argument they agreed to 4.20, but the referee and linesmen arrived late. The game was further delayed when the referee ordered Leeds goalkeeper Scott to change his jersey, in keeping with the League rule of 1909 that keepers must wear distinctive colours. By the time Scott had changed his blue jersey for something less like the blue and gold of his colleagues, the ten minutes' grace had been swallowed up. By half time it was obvious the rest of the game would continue in darkness, and to save time the referee ordered the players to stay on the field for an interval of two minutes only."

"By a quarter to six," the Yorkshire Post reported, "it was practically impossible to distinguish players in midfield ... The referee asked the linesmen if they could follow the ball and, receiving an affirmative reply, the game was allowed to proceed. It was quite certain, however, that the players themselves could not follow the ball."

City opened the scoring, but as the gloom thickened they conceded three goals in quick succession. Scott claimed he was unable to see the last two shots. Stephen Studd:

"The result stood because the referee, after consulting his linesmen, decided that Scott could have seen the ball coming at him. A furious Chapman regarded the affair as an outrage, and assured the referee he would lodge an appeal against 'this insult'... The incident goes a long way to explaining Chapman's later enthusiasm for floodlit football."

The Management Committee found in favour of City, but decided that there was no rule or precedent entitling them to overturn the result, which stood. Orient were fined 25 guineas and Leeds missed out on promotion.



In the summer of 1914, Scott returned to Merseyside to sign for Liverpool, although the First World War effectively ended his football career, and he made only 27 non-competitive appearances for the Reds.

On New Year's Day 1919, Billy played for Liverpool against Everton and at the 1919 AGM of the club on 25 June, Chairman John McKenna spoke of the brilliant exhibition by which the team triumphed in the Lancashire Cup Final and paid tribute to the worth of William Scott, who

"came to the club's aid when they were sorely in need of a goalkeeper. Had they had William Scott from the start of the season, they should have fought for first place rather than finish third."

It was announced at the AGM of Liverpool FC on 23 June 1920 that:

"another member of the William Scott family had been signed by the club as an amateur. John, like William and Elisha, is a goalkeeper"

AFTER FOOTBALL

The Lancashire Evening Post, on 1 November 1919 reported: "Fairfoull, the old Liverpool half-back, has followed in the footsteps of William Scott, Everton's former goalkeeper, as a taxicab owner. Harry Makepeace has a similar idea of adding to his income"

The Liverpool Echo reports that in "later years he and his wife concerned themselves with licensed houses".

Billy's death on Saturday 15 August 1936, at the relatively young age of 56, was reported in the Liverpool Echo two days later.

"William Scott, brother of Elisha has gone to his rest. He had not been well for some time and pneumonia caused his death on Saturday evening. I don't suppose there were two such contrasting characters as William and Elisha, but in spite of that they were parallel cases when they took to the sport and kept goal.

William Scott left Ireland for Everton in the 1905-06 season, following George Kitchen, and at once became a favourite with the Goodison Park people. He was taller than Elisha and not so demonstrative on or off the field. In fact one would callWilliam Scott the stolid goalkeeper and in dealing with the best shots of old times.

William Scott was unequalled in his ability using a knuckle to knock down the hottest shot from a Hampton, a Shepard or any other driving force. He was Ireland's goalkeeper for many years. He was the goalkeeper of the first Irish team ever to beat England and Scotland. I think (but I will not swear to it) that he had more football honours than the modern Elisha.

(Liverpool Echo 17 August 1936)

Billy helped his brother get his big break at Liverpool; he recommended Elisha to the Reds in September 1912 after an unsuccessful trial at Goodison. Everton considered the 17-year-old too young and rejected him. Elisha went on to spend 22 years at Anfield, making a then club record 468 appearances and winning 31 Irish caps.

CLUB CAREER

Cliftonville No first team appearances

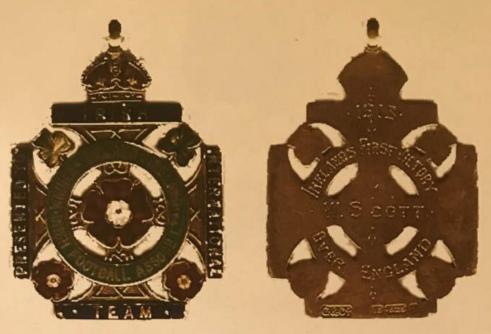
Linfield 52 appearances Everton 289 appearances

Leeds City 26 appearances

Liverpool 27 wartime appearances

INTERNATIONAL CAREER - 25 IRELAND CAPS

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The medal above was awarded to Billy Scott in recognition of Ireland's first ever victory over England and is referred to in the sketch below.



These scenes from the Irish soccer match against the Scots in Dublin in 1913, include the presentation of a gold medal to Val Harris the Irish captain, to commemorate the first ever Irish defeat of England two weeks earlier. The medal was sponsored by the Belfast sports newspaper Ireland's Saturday Night, and presented by the earl of Aberdeen, the then Lord Lieutenant.



THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gavin Cahill

Roy Cathcart

Cliftonville Football Club

Roy McGivern and Andrew Conn, Linfield FC

Everton Football Club

Professional Footballers' Association

Kjell Hanssen

Kevin Knight (grandson)

Sheelagh Peroulis (granddaughter)

Allen Mackie – EF Mackie Ltd., Monumental Masons

Mightyleeds.co.uk

Barry Rojack

Paul Wharton

Suzie Parker











Invited Guests are welcome to come back to The 1878 Brasserie, Everton Football Club for refreshments.