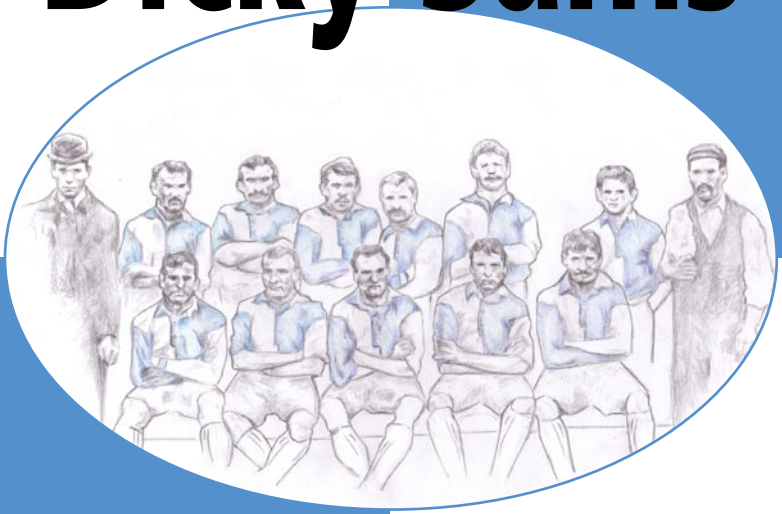
Kjell Hanssen

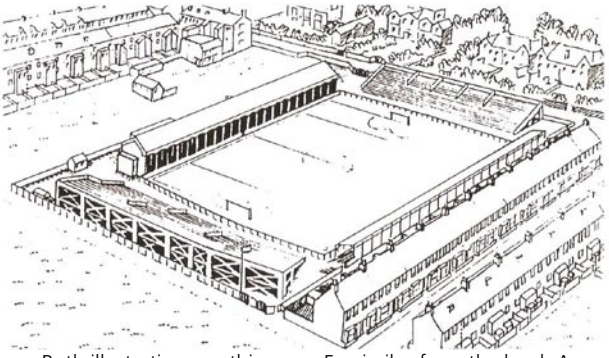
Dicky Sams



Liverpool FC in blue and white
- a diary 1891 - 1896

sportsblikk

1895/1896



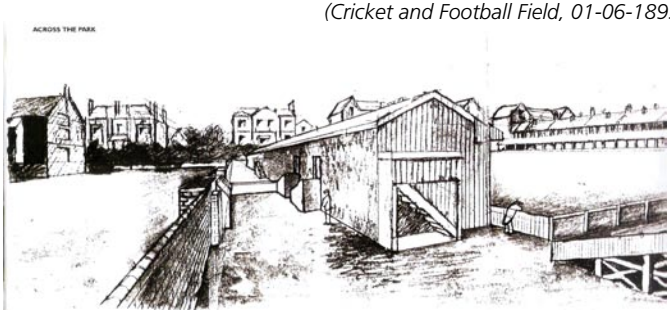
After the split: Anfield in 1894/95, showing the first main stand and uncovered terracing behind the goals

Both illustrations on this page: Facsimiles from the book Across the Park

Saturday, June 1 – 1895

Liverpool evidently do not mean to say die because they have troubled, or because after their fall they failed to get the League to revolutionise itself to set them up again. They have signed the pick of their players, and have followed up that by booking Archie Goldie of the Clyde. The new man is a capable full back, who originally hailed from Hurlford, whence so many good men have come. He has the further advantage of having played with Dunlop, so that the two players will know each other's style. It was in the back division that Liverpool failed last season. They evidently do not mean to be so weak there again.

(Cricket and Football Field, 01-06-1895)



Geary has settled to play for Liverpool, who are reported to be still on the look out for fresh talent. Second division clubs, trouble!

(Cricket and Football Field, 01-06-1895)

Saturday, June 8 – 1895

A big race between Liverpool and Burnley for George Allan, the athletic young centre forward of the Leith Athletic, has ended in favour of the former, much to the disappointment of the good folk at Turf Moor. Some people say that the Burnley executive only wanted the Leith man in order to sell his transfer, but that is perhaps only, a bit of ill-natured hypercriticism. So far as the Anfielders are concerned the fact is sufficient that they have got Allan, who is highly spoken of as a centre, and will undoubtedly strengthen Liverpool in their weakest spot forward. He is only 19, measures 5ft 10in, and scales 13st 6lb.

(Cricket and Football Field, 08-06-1895)

It is said that the Liverpudlians are not yet satisfied, and there are at least three clubs in Scotland which are viewing with considerable distrust certain men on whom the Anfielders have set their eyes. Reynolds, of the Celtic, has been mentioned, and yet another Celt

Hugh McQueen

is said to have received offers on behalf of the Liverpudlians. What will come of these offers remains to be seen, but it would appear that somebody on the banks of the Mersey is determined not to play second fiddle for long.

(Cricket and Football Field, 08-06-1895)

Wednesday, June 12 – 1895

Supporters of the Derby County FC will will be gratified to learn that the negotiations which have been proceeding with Liverpool and Aston Villa regarding the transfers of certain players have been brought to a successful termination.

The result of the negotiations is that the County will be able to command the services next season of Hugh McQueen, one of the best outside "wingers" in the country. McQueen can play on either wing, and he will distinctly add to the strength of the team. His only reason for leaving Liverpool is the fact that the latter club are relegated next season to the second division of the League.

(Derby Mercury, 12-06-1895)

** Also part of this deal was that Derby County visited Anfield for a friendly fixture on September 16 – 1895.

Friday, June 14 – 1895

At the annual meeting of the Liverpool Football Club on Friday it was reported that the total receipts during the past season had been £909 17s 8½d, including over £800 in gate money. The treasurer complained strongly about the smallness of the subscription list, which only amounted to £59. The membership fee is lower than that of any other leading club, and yet it was stated that great difficulty was experienced in collecting the money. The season commenced with an adverse balance of £314, but the money now in hand will enable the club to clear off all aits liabilities, with the exception of £140, owing in respect to of the new grand stand. The players` tour cost the club £40, and there was a loss of about £12 on the complimentary banquet. One payment in connection with the tour was an item of £2 17s for damage to a railway carriage.

(Cricket & Football Field, 17-06-1895)

Saturday, June 22 – 1895

Liverpool possess sixteen players of undoubted ability, most of whom have been severely tried and not found wanting. They do not intend to run a reserve team this coming season, but the Liverpool Casuals, who are, or intend to be, members of the Amateur League, have been practically taken over, and whose players are duly registered for the Anfielders in case their services are required. They expect

to open with Celtic in September, and Aston Villa, Sunderland and other First League teams have generously offered them home and away matches. Matthew McQueen takes a benefit on the 23rd of the opening month, the 16th seeing Derby County at Anfield for H McQueen's transfer. Every sportsman worthy of the name will accord to the Liverpool club their constant support, providing that the new Second Leaguers only show some of that grit and determination which characterised their first two season's work.

(Cricket and Football Field, 22-06-1895)

Nuggets:

* On Christmas Day Liverpool FC will be seen on Bolton's new ground, whilst on the following day they will sport themselves at Ewood Park.
* Matthew McQueen deserves a bumper benefit on the 23rd September, his loyalty being as conspicuous as his varied qualifications on the football field.
* Only Liverpool's new grand stand will be reserved this coming football season. The rest of the ground, covered stand included, may be occupied for the nimble tanner.
* This coming season Liverpool FC intend to adopt the "Stewards` system," as practiced by other clubs. In response to invitations no fewer than 75 supporters turned up out of 80 written to.

Wednesday, July 17 – 1895

A meeting of the Management Committee of the Football League was held on Wednesday, at the Colonne Hotel, Birmingham, under the presidency of Mr JJ Bentley. The transfers of the following players were then approved: Hugh McQueen, Liverpool to Derby County; F Geary, Everton to Liverpool; George Allan, Burnley to Liverpool.

(Derby Mercury, 17-07-1895)

Saturday, August 10 – 1895

The Liverpool FC picnic is unavoidably postponed to the 24th inst, and as the date will land us within a few days of the opening of the football season, the usual stimulating words of their club's president, Mr John Houlding, might bear good fruit,

(Cricket and Football Field, 10-08-1895)

Nuggets:

* Three of Macs of the Sandon club had not arrived by Tuesday evening.
* Everton should be more considerable to Liverpool.
* It is said in Liverpool circles that Mr Barclay, of secretarial fame, has resigned. Mr B was always a smart and useful man, but never a proud one.

Monday, August 19 – 1895

The Liverpool Club commence practice at Anfield-road on Tuesday, commencing at 6.30.

(Liverpool Mercury, 19-08-1895)

Tuesday, August 20 – 1895

The postponed practice match of the Liverpool club took place at the historic Anfield-ground, before 12.000 people. The teams were:

Whites: Whitehead, goal; Curran and Wilkie, backs; Holmes and Ford, half-backs; McVean, Ross, Allan, Becton and Geary, forwards.
Blues: McQueen, goal; Goldie and Dunlop, backs; McCartney, McQue and McLean, half-backs; Griffiths, Bardsley, Bradshaw, Hannah, forwards.

Owing to the non-appearance of one or two local men, the teams were each composed of but 10 men, but the play was of a vigorous nature. The new men shaped in exceedingly good style, but especially did J Holmes, the old North Ender, show the stamp of the hall mark on his play. The players generally exhibited excellence of condition, and without doubt will be a hard nut to crack for all second raters. The speedy forwards were in notable evidence, and a bright career is no doubt before the junior club.

(Liverpool Mercury, 21-08-1895)

The evening at Anfield-rd afforded us a glimpse of their capabilities, and without saying too much their general performance must be marked "very good". The ground was in prime order, and the old players went about their work with a refreshing dash that implice they are in sound condition, and eager for the fray. Indeed, with the players at their command, I do not know two teams that should make them gallop in their division this season. Holmes, brother of the North End back, gave a very promising display, and Goldie, Wilkie and Allan – the other new men – proved they have played football before. Without mentioning the others who did noble duty, their initial exhibition has given every hope of a most successful season. The ground was well surrounded by upwards 10.000 spectators and for go and zeal I am sure those who witnessed it returned pleased and contented.

(Cricket and Football Field, 24-08-1895)

Saturday, August 24 – 1895

The annual picnic of the committee, players and friends of the Liverpool Football Club took place on Saturday last. A party numbering about 50 in all, left the Sandon Hotel about two p.m. in

Kjell Hanssen, *a Norwegian journalist and statistician has spent months in several british libraries during the past few years, detecting material that have never been included in earlier attempts to write the story of the amazing developments in Liverpool football history in the 1890s.*

Halves or quarters?
Blue on the left or the right of the chest?

Honestly, we do not know, and neither does anyone else. 120 years old black and white photographs do not reproduce the light blue very clearly, so maybe the most convincing evidence is the contemporary sketches, a couple of which you willl find in this sensational book - the most comprehensive story ever presented about the formative years of Liverpool Football Club.

The result is finally ready, a diary of the first five years.

You do not know your history until you have read this book!