

History of the DAFC Badge



The current Dunfermline Athletic badge was designed in 1957 by Dunfermline High School Art Teacher, Colin Dymock

The crest uses the lettering DAFC to represent the initials of the club name

Below the crest depicts the Malcolm Canmore Tower. The tower was adopted by the town of Dunfermline to be used for the Burgh Arms and old way seals.

Malcolm Canmore was King of Scotland from 1057AD to 1093AD, and made his residence in Dunfermline within what is now Pittencrieff Park. The park is represented by the blue and black area behind the tower.

The green area at the bottom of the crest is meant to represent East End Park

ORIGINS OF CLUB NICKNAME



It is clear that they started to be known as the Pars in the early 1900s but the exact reason for the nickname being adopted have never been fully known. A number of historians have made attempts to find out and the most popular explanations are as follows:-

- 1. At one time the team were playing so badly that they were nickname the `Paralytcs which was shortened to The Pars.**
- 2. In the early part of the 20th century when Rosyth Naval Base was opened, sailors from the south came to watch Dunfermline and unfurled a banner reading `Plymouth Argyle (Rosyth) Supporters.**
- 3. When Dunfermline gained league status they were called the Pars because they were not on par with other teams.**
- 4. When the team first sported black and white stripes they were called the Pars because their colours resembled the parr, a fish.**

HISTORY: 1895 TO 1959

Part 1



In owing their existence to the game of cricket, Dunfermline Athletic are in the good company of clubs like former European Champions Aston Villa and AC Milan. The boys of the Wesleyan Chapel cricket team decided in 1874 to play some football to keep fit during the winter months and were to become Aston Villa Football Club.

In 1889, AC was founded jointly by a group of Englishmen and Italians and were first known as the Cricket and Football Club of Milan.

In 1874, members of Dunfermline Cricket Club formed a football section for much the same reasons as Aston Villa - fitness during the wintertime. The Dunfermline Club, as they were known, became the principal amateur club in the town at that time and played at Ladysmill (now known as McKane Park).

A dispute among the members caused this Football section to split from the Cricket Club in 1885. After meetings on 26th May and again in the Old Inn on 2nd June, Dunfermline Athletic Football Club was formed, with its headquarters at East End Park which, at that time, was just to the west of the present day stadium.

The Athletic's first match was played on 13th June 1885 at East End Park, Edinburgh University providing the opposition. DA won 2-1.

In the early days, the club colours were maroon jerseys with blue shorts but in 1886 these were changed to black and red hooped jerseys. The black and white stripes were not introduced until 1912.

HISTORY: 1895 TO 1959

Part 2



First success came in 1887 when the Athletic won the Fife Cup but in 1888, through rivalry with a Dunfermline Club which had continued to play at Ladysmill, they were suspended from the fife Football Association. This eventually led to them playing as juniors on 6th August 1892. Their support grew and on 21st May 1900, at their Annual General Meeting, it was agreed to continue the senior team on a professional basis, from which point they, and football, were firmly established in the "Auld Grey Toun".

In 1909, the Scottish Central League was formed. Dunfermline won this Championship and the Fife Cup in season 1910/11. The 1911/12 season saw them lift the Qualifying Cup which was their first big success, beating Dumbarton in the final by one goal to nil at the Gymnasium Ground in Edinburgh. The same season saw the Central League Championship and the Loftus Cup come to East End Park.

On the 1919/20 season Athletic severed their connection with the Scottish League and became the instigators of a breakaway Central League. This league attracted more clubs than the Scottish League had anticipated and, more importantly, attracted players from bigger clubs. It was during this period that Dunfermline signed Andy Wilson who was in dispute with Middlesboro at the time. This legendary centre forward whose "bullet" shot produced some of the most spectacular goals ever seen at East End Park, scored four in his debut against Arbroath.

For over 40 years Wilson held the distinction of being the only player to win international honours while on Athletic's books - a record which remained until Willie Cunningham played for Northern Ireland against Wales in 1961. Eddie Connachan was the first Dunfermline player to play for Scotland since Wilson, when he figured in 1962.

HISTORY: 1895 TO 1959

Part 3



The Scottish League worried by the success of the Central League, looked into the matter and decided to form a Second Division which started the automatic promotion and relegation system.

Athletic won the Second Division Championship in the 1925/26 season under the management of Alex Paterson and stayed in the top flight for two seasons. Second Division football returned to East End Park for the next six seasons until 1934 when promotion once again established them in the First Division for a further three years.

While playing in the Second Division in 1949/50, Dunfermline Athletic reached the final of the Scottish League Cup under the guidance of Webber Lees, only to be defeated by 3 goals to nil by East Fife at Hampden.

Dunfermline had a yo-yo existence during the late fifties. Promotion in 1955 was followed by relegation two seasons later and promotion again after only one season in Division Two. In 1958/59 First Division status was again in danger when April came around - Queen of South were already destined for the drop and the struggle to avoid joining them lay between Dunfermline, Falkirk and Aberdeen.

On the morning of the match Dunfermline sat in second bottom spot with 26 points from 33 games, goals for 58 against 86, goal average 0.674. Falkirk were third bottom with the same 26 points, goals for 56, against 77 goal average 0.727. Next from the foot were Aberdeen on 27 points, 61 for, 65 against average 0.938. Just above them were Raith Rovers and Stirling Albion on 28 points - their goal averages 0.853 and 0.828.

Falkirk were at home to Raith Rovers and Aberdeen's last match was against League Championship favourites Rangers at Ibrox.

HISTORY: 1895 TO 1959

Part 4



Athletic with the inferior goal average, had to be sure of a big win in their last league match against Partick Thistle at East End Park. This match now famous for its 10-1 score-line, ensured First Division football for yet another season. The ten goals boosted the goal average to 0.782 but that didn't matter since Falkirk drew 2-2 with the late John White missing a penalty, DA ended up with one point more than Falkirk. Aberdeen won at Ibrox and Rangers still won the League because Celtic defeated Hearts!

Of the match versus Partick, Dunfermline manager Andy Dickson said:-
"On the day of the game I felt that if we won we had a good chance of staying up. During the match the decimals were being worked out and messages relayed to me saying how many we had to score. I was only interested in winning and regarded it a possibility that other results would go our way and we would stay up."

Dunfermline hero of the day, Harry Melrose who went on to manage the club, claims to remember relatively little of the match:-
"All that sticks in my mind is offering the last penalty kick to Jimmy Watson who was the only member of the forward line not to have scored a goal in the match, he just told me to get on and take the kick because we needed to win by nine goals!"

JOCK STEIN

Dunfermline Manager 1960-64

His words to the assembled newsmen were: "The team is in a precarious position. I have no magic wand but I will do everything in my power to save them from relegation". By the time Stein took over for the last six games of the season Dunfermline lay in the relegation zone with only Stirling Albion and Arbroath below them. The prospect that in just over a year European football and the glamour games that such competitions brought, were to be destined for Dunfermline truly seemed to require the services of a member of the Magic Circle.



The wizardry started as he recorded six straight wins defeating Celtic 3-2 in his very first game in charge. His personal powers were evident considering he made only one change in team selection - George Miller stepping in for the last five matches after an injury to Jimmy Wardhaugh against Celtic.

During the close season of 1960, Stein gave notice of his intentions to foster local talent and Jackie Sinclair and Willie Callaghan were two of his early catches. Experienced Tommy McDonald and Willie Cunningham were bought from Leicester City as Stein tackled the main priority - to consolidate the Pars status as a First Division club.

The 60-61 season saw the Pars finish in twelfth position, but the Scottish Cup run that started at Berwick in January progressed with a win at Stranraer. There were limited radio updates in those days and when the BBC Grandstand teleprinter popped up with the Cup Third Round result - Aberdeen 3, Pars fan`s hearts sunk only to be elated when the figure 6 followed Dunfermline. Stein went on to guide his side to the final and historically won Dunfermline`s first Scottish Cup in a replay.

JOCK STEIN

Dunfermline Manager 1960-64

Stein`s next role was to take Dunfermline into major European competition. It is amazing to think that the Fifers were playing in Europe before Celtic and Liverpool. The Big Man`s foundation was to build a decade where the name of Dunfermline Athletic became as well known to the locals in such far off places as Athens, Copenhagen and the Costa Brava as by the Scots who travelled there for their annual holiday.

Playing 42 matches in Europe between 1961 and 1970, their greatest success was reaching the last four of the 1968-69 European Cup Winners Cup in such distinguished company as Barcelona, Slovan Bratislava and FC Cologne.

Dunfermline qualified for the Fairs Cup in Season 62-63 and having drawn Everton, the "Bank of England" team, with such stars as Billy Bingham, Alex Young, Brian Labone and Gordon West, Stein`s motivation to his players was merely to walk in to the changing room and pin up the Englishmen`s press comments about the "country hicks". Having lost by one goal in Liverpool, the return a week later at East End Park saw goals from Miller and Melrose knock out the Toffees and earn a second round tie against Valencia.

A four nil defeat in Spain looked likely to end the Pars chances but Stein introduced teenagers Alex Edwards and Jackie Sinclair for the return and unbelievably his side had levelled the tie by half time. Unfortunately, the second half only produced one goal aside and a play off in Lisbon eliminated the Pars 1-0.

Stein`s success began to make obvious that he was too big a fish for Dunfermline. He had the winning touch. He was a football thinker, magnificent motivator, a great football talker and such talents were worth more than the small support that Dunfermline attracted. On 27 February 1964, at the request of Mr Stein, it was announced that the Board had agreed to terminate his contract at the end of the season.

JOCK STEIN

Dunfermline Manager 1960-64

Willie Cunningham took over as Manager and continued the momentum that Stein had built by taking the Pars to European successes against Gothenburg, Stuttgart, Spartak Brno as well as reaching the 1965 Cup Final. When Cunningham left in June 1967, George Farm was able to continue the success winning the Cup in 1968.

Pars supporters found it hard to comprehend the transformation that was started by Jock Stein and came to expect their team to be near the top of the league and in European competition. Dunfermline will be eternally grateful for his contribution. While undoubtedly a legend in his own lifetime, his affection for Dunfermline remained a deep and powerful one.

He famously wrestled the Scottish Cup with George Farm as the Champions took on the Cup winners in April 1968 and his happy return for the Centenary Match in 1985 was his last visit to East End Park. He always had time to recall his days there and was one of the first to phone Jim Leishman to wish him well as the new Manager of Dunfermline in 1983.

Maybe he had no wand but Stein had the magic power and Pars fans will always be proud of those halcyon days.