



Celebrating 80 years of Ice
Hockey at Fife Ice Arena

Fife Flyers **AUTOGRAPHS**



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ROLL OF HONOUR

By John Ross



Every honour and historic first in Fife Flyers' 80-year history.

"It is the spirit of the game we are playing for, the spirit of team work, friendship and comradeship."

Lord Elgin opening Kirkcaldy Ice Rink

FOUNDED: 1938

FIRST GAME: versus Dundee Tigers, Sept 30th 1938 (Dundee Ice Rink) Lost 2-5

FIRST HOME GAME: Versus Dundee Tigers, October 1, 1938 Lost 1-4

FIRST CAPTAIN: Les Lovell (Senior)

FIRST COACH: Les Lovell (Senior)

FIRST GOAL SCORED: Len McCartney v Dundee Tigers 30th September 1938: First home goal
Norman McQuade v Dundee Tigers 1st October 1938

MAJOR HONOURS

Grand Slam: 1977/76, 1999/00, 2005/06

British Champions: 1976/77, 1977/78, 1984/85, 1998/99, 1999/00 Runners-up: 1986/87, 1996/97

Scottish League: 1939/40, 1948/49, 1949/50, 1963/64, 1990/91, 1995/96, 2005/06, 2006/07

Scottish Premier League: 2007/08,

EIHL Gardiner Conference Winners: 2017/18

Northern League Champions: 1976/77, 1977/78, 1996/97, 1997/98, 2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2010/11

Northern League Playoff Champions

Autumn Cup: 1950, 1972, 1975, 1976

Scottish Autumn Cup: 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09

BBC Grandstand Trophy: 1963/64, 1966/67

Spring Cup: 1974/75, 1975/76, 1976/77

Anderson Trophy: 1938/39, 1946/47, 1948/49,

1949/50

Airlie Trophy: 1953/54

McPherson Trophy: 1939

Silver Jubilee Cup: 1948

Coronation Cup: 1948/49

Scottish Challenge Cup: 1984/85

Scottish Cup: 1993/94, 1994/95, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2000/01, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10

Skol Cup: 1963/64, 1964/65, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1970/71, 1973/74, 1976/77

Scottish Canada Cup: 1949/50

STV Trophy: 1964/65

Directors Trophy: 1965

Coca Cola Trophy: 1965/66

Slapshot Trophy: 1977

Celtic Cup: 2008/09, 2009/10

Caledonia Cup: 2002/03, 2003/04

Christmas Cup: 1999/00

Findus Cup: 2001/02

Edinburgh Evening News Trophy: 1976/77

Forth Challenge Trophy: 1983

Northumbria Cup: 1976/77

Taws Trophy: 1990/91

ALL-STAR HONOURS

COACHES OF THE YEAR

Al Rodgers 1946/47, 1947/48, 1949/50

Ian Forbes 1963/64

Lawrie Lovell 1975/76, 1976/77

Ron Plumb 1984/85

Brian Kanewischer 1990/91

Mark Morrison 1996/97, 1997/98, 1999/00

ALL-STAR TEAMS

Team A

1948/49 Floyd Snider, Chick Mann, Bud Scrutton

1949/50 Adrien "Pete" Belanger, Floyd Snider, Chick Mann

1963/64 Bill Sneddon, Sam McDonald, Ian Forbes, Jimmy Spence

1964/65 Sam McDonald

1967/68 Joe McIntosh

1968/69 Joe McIntosh

1969/70 Lawrie Lovell
 1970/71 Les Lovell
 1975/76 Les Lovell
 1976/77 Kenny Horne, Alastair Brennan,
 John Gibson
 1977/78 Alastair Brennan, Dougie Latto,
 Gordon Latto
 1978/79 Alastair Brennan, Gordon Latto
 1979/80 Gordon Latto
 1980/81 Jim Lynch
 1981/82 Jim Lynch
 1984/85 Ron Plumb, Dave Stoyanovich,
 Danny Brown
 1986/87 Steve Moria
 1987/88 Fred Perlini

Team B

1946/47 Floyd Snider, Bud Scrutton
 1947/48 Floyd Snider
 1948/49 Adrien "Pete" Belanger, Verne Greger,
 Al Rogers
 1949/50 Verne Greger
 1950/51 Verne Greger
 1952/53 Harry McQueston
 1964/65 Bill Sneddon, Jimmy Spence
 1967/68 Bill Sneddon, Sam McDonald, Les Lovell
 1970/71 Joe McIntosh
 1971/72 Alastair Brennan, Joe McIntosh
 1975/76 Alastair Brennan
 1976/77 John Pullar, Lawrie Lovell
 1978/79 Lawrie Lovell, Dougie Latto
 1980/81 Neil McKay
 1981/82 Willie Cottrell

British Born Team

1998/99 Joe Watkins

British National League Team

1997/98 Mark Morrison, Todd Dutiaume
 1999/00 Stephen Murphy, Ted Russell,
 Russell Monteith
 2000/01 Todd Dutiaume,
 2003/04 Steve Briere, Greg Kuznik, Dan Goneau

THE AHEARNE MEDAL: Gordon Latto 1998

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Les Lovell 1970/71
 Ally Brennan 1972/73
 Gordon Latto 1976/77, 1977/78, 1978/79
 Dave Stoyanovich 1984/85
 Doug Smail 1993/94
 Mark Morrison 1996/97, 1997/98

MONTFORD TROPHY (Rookie of The Year)

Chic Cottrell 1970/71

Earl Carlson Trophy

(Northern League Leading Points Scorer)

Gordon Latto 1978/79

Goalie of the Year

1972/73 Roy Reid

1999/00 Stephen Murphy

Defenceman of the Year

1978/79 Alastair Brennan

EIHL 2nd All Star Team

Derek Keller (2012/13), Shane Owen (2016/17)

EIHL Fans Favourite Player of the Year

Garrett Zemlak (2011/12)

RECORD SCORES

HIGHEST HOME WINS

Premier League: 22-5 v Southampton (1984)

Division One: 28-3 v Blackburn (1991)

NPL: 26-3 v Castlereagh (1996)

HIGHEST AWAY WINS

NIHA: 28-3 v Paisley (1977)

Premier League: 18-3 v Solihull (1994)

NPL: 26-3 v Castlereagh (1996)

CAREER LEADERS

MOST GAMES: 974 Gordon Latto (1972-1998)

MOST POINTS: 1265 Gordon Latto (1972-1998)

SEASON BESTS

Longest Overall Winning Sequence:

47 games (SNL - September 2006 to April 2007)

Most Regular Season Goals:

108 Dave Stoyanovich (1984/85)

Most Regular Season Assists:

97 Dave Stoyanovich (1986/87)

Most Regular Season Points:

211 Richard Laplante (97+114) 1991/92, 188 Bud Scrutton (107+81) 1948/49

Most Regular Season Power Play Goals:

38 Russell Monteith 1999/00

Most Regular Season Short Handed Goals:

13 Doug Smail 1993/94

80th TEAM



The 80th team and ex-players offer their thoughts on the 80th anniversary from interviews throughout the season.

Todd Dutiaume – “80-years and this my 21st year. It’s hard to believe I have been associated with this club for a quarter of its existence. It’s been an honour and a privilege. We’ve seen a lot of transition since I rolled up in the 1998-’99 season. I have had a lot of good times at this club and they have been very good to me. When I look back at this in the future I’m sure I will be immensely proud to be associated with such a proud and storied organisation.”

Jeff Hutchins – “It’s an honour to be able to coach at this level. Being the 80th anniversary makes it special. Over the past three years I have gained an appreciation of the tradition and history that surrounded the club. I am very fortunate to be a part of it.”

Andrew Little – “It’s an honour to be here for the 80th anniversary.”

Bari McKenzie – “I’m certainly not still going to be playing for their 90th or 100th. I might be watching though.”

Bobby Chaumont – “It’s quite amazing that they have been around for so long and I’m proud to have been a part of it for a few years.”

Brett Bulmer – “That’s pretty special for the team. To go that long it’s an amazing feat for everyone involved, there’s so many people behind the scenes that make it happen here and to come into a place with so much history is special you really want to play for the fan base just because you know how much works put into it for that long.”

Caly Robertson – “It’s really cool being a part of the club’s history because it’s the oldest surviving team in Britain. I feel really privileged to be part of a team with such a history behind it. Coming in for the 80th anniversary was pretty good timing.”

Carlo Finucci – “It’s a great milestone for the club and it feels great to be a part of it. I’m sure they’ll be around for many years to come.”

Chad Smith – “It’s the oldest surviving club in Britain and it’s easy to take for granted sometimes how special it is to be part of it, but it’s a great achievement and proud to be a part it.”

Chase Schaber – “It feels good to be part of a team that has been around for so long. The fans are loyal and it’s great playing in front of them and to have their support. That has been going on for 80 years and that’s quite the accomplishment.”

Chris Wands – “I have seen a few anniversaries over the years now, but this is the biggest and most important. It is an honour to be playing.”

Craig Moore – “Been a pleasure to have been welcomed and become part of this organisation in its 80th year. Really excited for what the rest of the season holds... think we’re heating up at the right time and hopefully win some silverware come playoff time!”

Danick Gauthier – “This is unreal, 80 years is amazing.”

Derek Keller – “To me, it speaks to the passion for the game that the community has. You can’t have a team that is around for that long without having dedicated, passionate fans as well as a strong leadership within the organisation. They have done a really good job of celebrating their history and for good reason, there is a lot of it.”

Evan Bloodoff – “I think it’s pretty special to be a part of the team this year. 80 years is a great achievement. It would really be great to get a championship to mark such an occasion or at least one or two cups.”

Evan Stoflet – “It’s amazing! It’s cool to be part of that tradition.”

James Isaacs – “Absolutely incredible. I was around for the 75th anniversary with Dundee and I thought that was pretty cool back then.”

Joe Basaraba – “It’s very special. If you look at the fans and all the history that this great team has. On the gloves, we have the symbol on there as well. It’s been great this year, I think the fans can feel it too. It’s a special group and I am excited to see what the future brings for this season.”

Jordan Buesa – “It’s the oldest club in the UK and with the history the club has made in that time has made it a real honour to play for the club in their 80th year.”

Joshua ‘Podge’ Turnbull – “Fife making it to 80 years is truly a testament to its rich traditions and its fans. Without the fans and support those traditions don’t make it as long. I was blessed to have been a part of it. I hope to make a trip back eventually with my family.”

Marcus Basara – “You can feel that rich history and what it means to put on a Flyers jersey. I’m honoured to be able to come up here on a special year with these players and try to do something special on a special year.”

Mike Cazzola – “It’s a remarkable accomplishment, 80 years of hockey for the club. I’m really looking forward to playing in this special season in front of these fans.”

Ned Lukacevic – “It’s amazing. Fife Flyers are a historic team, not just in Scotland, but all of Great Britain. I don’t think players that are here won’t realise how special a place it is until they leave.”

Paul Crowder – “They definitely know their hockey up in Fife and it’s been pretty cool to be a part of the 80th anniversary.”

Reece Cochrane – “It’s a pretty big achievement for the club and it was an honour to play in.”

Ricards Birzins – “You can see all the banners around the place, there’s so much history. It’s so special to be a part of.”

Rick Pinkston – “It’s really something special. The talent level of the guys this year, we have an opportunity to build on something special. Being the 80th anniversary year as well, it makes it that much more important.”

Scott Aarssen – “It’s such a cool thing to wear that jersey this year and say I was a part of the 80th year.”

Shane Owen – “Being part of the history is going to be a time I cherish for the rest of my life, it’s going to be awesome.”

Dave STOYANOVICH

By Andrew Birrell



Ladies and Gentlemen this interview is with one of Fife's greatest and most loved imports to come here and play in the Auld Barn.

Dave Stoyanovich may only have played two seasons with Fife, but boy did he make an impact and if you ask anyone to name three imports from that time period, his will be said almost every time.

In his first season with Fife in 1984/85, he scored 174 points and in his second in 1986/87, he scored ten more, amassing 185 points. With stint at the Dundee Tigers, his total points in British hockey was 399. His 360 points for Flyers earned him the 8th spot in the club's all-time point scorers and goal scorers list. He is highest all-time goal and point scorer for players with less than ten seasons of service.

So here is the interview with one of the finest imports to grace British hockey on and off the ice: Mr. Dave Stoyanovich.

How did you get in to hockey?

"I got into hockey due to my father. He played hockey as a goaltender (semi-pro). He had me on skates by the age of two. I think I have loved the game since then."

Did you play junior hockey?

"My home town wanted me to play junior hockey for the Junior A London Knights. At the same time, I was offered a full scholarship to a university in the United States (RPI University) which had a NCAA Division 1 hockey team."

You played four seasons in NCAA and were captain in your last year. How was that whole experience and how proud were you being captain?

"Playing hockey in the NCAA Division 1 league was a great experience. I played with and against some amazing hockey players, including my brother, all while receiving a business management degree. Being Team Captain was certainly an honour. I enjoyed the opportunity of leading and encouraging my team to play to the best of our ability. I was told that university would be the best four years of my life and it certainly didn't disappoint!"

My next two questions were answered together.

From 1982-1984, you played 74 times in the AHL. How did you enjoy that?

You also played 78 games in the IHL for the Kalamazoo Wings. How good was that league and how did the team do that year?

"After university, I was asked to attend the Hartford Whalers NHL camp and did very well. I was the only rookie lucky enough to play with the team. Sadly, I eventually was sent to down to their farm team in the AHL. This turn of events led to me achieving the top rookie scorer of the year, it was then that I got caught up in a 5-man trade to the Montreal Canadiens. Off I went to the Forum. I played for a bit with the Montreal Canadiens, but eventually was sent to their farm team in Halifax, called the



Nova Scotia Voyageurs in the AHL."

How did your move to Fife come about? Did you know anything about hockey in Scotland?

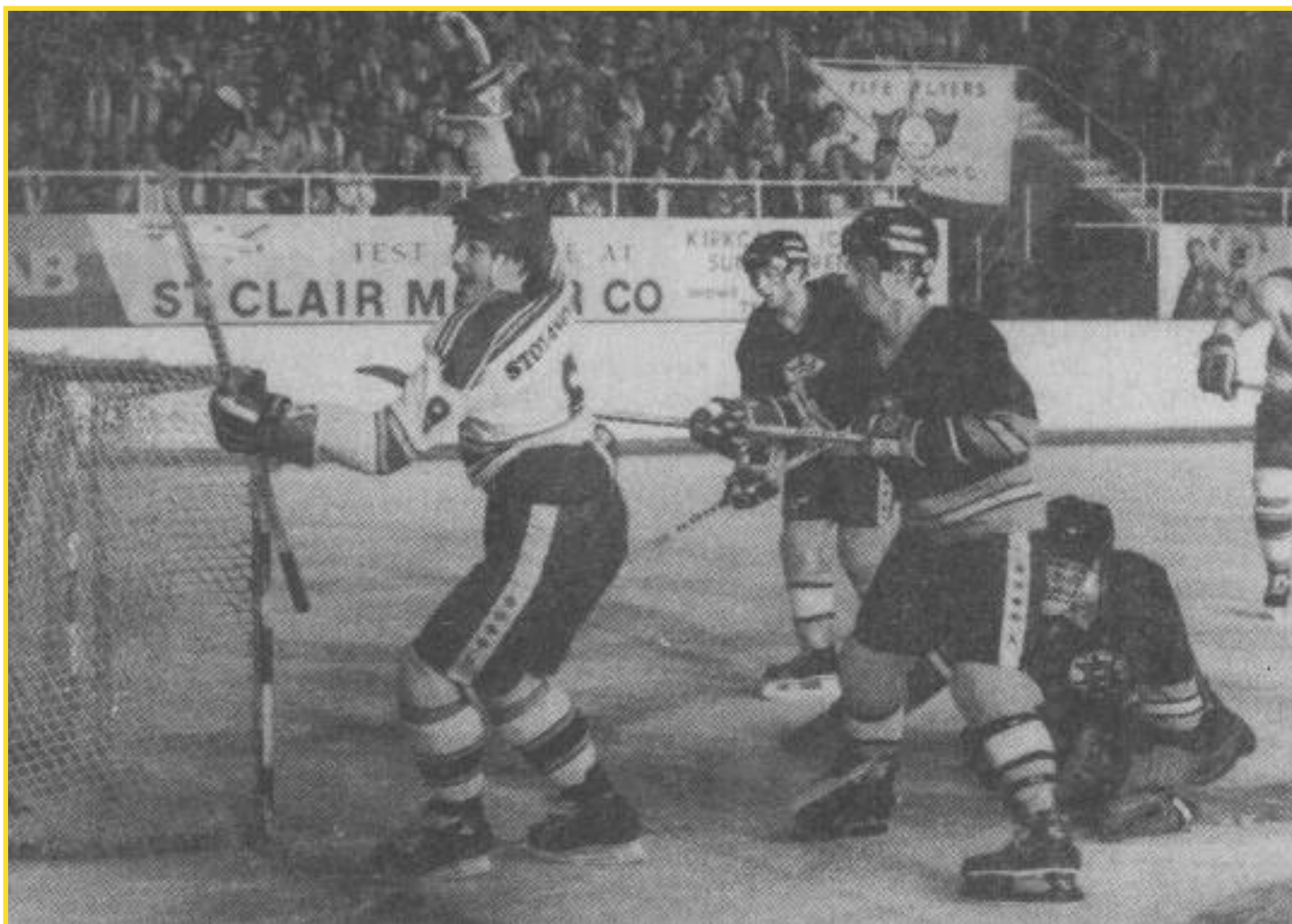
"I had one year left in my contract with Montreal when two guys named John Haig and Jack Dryburgh got in touch with me and my agent to offer me an opportunity to go to Scotland. I did not even know that Scotland had a hockey league. At the time, my brother was playing in Italy and he loved playing in Europe. I was getting tired of the politics involving the teams I was playing with. I decided it was time for a change. Montreal agreed to buy out my last year so I could sign with the Fife Flyers. Hello Scotland! Best decision I ever made!"

Did you think a Scottish rink would be that full and hostile to opposing teams?

"I was amazed! It was great to see a full crowd at all of our games, wearing the team colours and singing and chanting with pride. The chants toward the opposing teams always gave me a chuckle. I felt extremely supported and loved. I will never forget how the fans filled my heart with a love for Fife, the Fife Flyers and Scotland."

You scored 360 points in two seasons, which is some record!

"I loved playing with the Fife Flyers. My team mates were great guys who I still miss to this day. We were unstoppable – Danny Brown & I gelled together, Andy Linton was on right wing, the Plumber [Ron Plumb] was on defence and we were surrounded by a team of guys who played with passion and a conviction to win, all under the influence of our captain Gord Latto – well that proved to be unstoppable. All the way to winning the championship at Wembley. I will never forget that year!! The 360 points that I scored was a direct reflection of those who surrounded me on the ice!"



How did you enjoy your two seasons in Italy? How good was the hockey compared to other leagues you played in?

"It's hard to compare the different leagues as they were all unique in their difference levels of play. I really enjoyed playing in Italy because one year I played against my brother and the next year we played on the same team. This was memorable as it was the last year he played in Europe. We had a lot of fun and the hockey in Italy was good as they had a lot of pro players (only one import - me). Cortina, Italy was a beautiful town set in the Dolomite Mountains. I travelled to many parts of Europe, however, my true home was always in Fife!"

Your final season was in Dundee. How was that?

"Yes, I played in Dundee for a short while. The people were very nice. Unfortunately, I injured my shoulder and could not continue to play, so I went back to Canada early. I eventually had shoulder surgery to replace the ball in my left shoulder. I am now bionic (well, at least partially metal)."

You were at the 75th anniversary game. How did you enjoy the experience of coming back to the Auld Barn?

"It was a blast coming back with my wife, Paula, to the 75th anniversary in Fife. It was such an honour to be invited back. When they told me we were playing against the young guys, I had to find all my old equipment as I hadn't been on the ice for the previous eight years. I was a lot older, I had packed on a few extra pounds and was a wee bit out of shape. Even with all of that against me, I had the best time seeing the fans, both the new faces and the familiar faces and also spending time with my old teammates!

"The feeling of hearing the fans so loud, the feeling of my skate

blades crunching onto the ice with each stride, skating around with all the past and present players, reminiscing of old times and sharing the new times was surely a feeling that I will never forget and won't be lucky enough to feel again. My skates had touched the ice at the Auld Barn for one last glorious time."

How amazing is it that Fife flyers have made it to 80 years of age?

"Wow. 80 years! There's not a lot of places who can't even come close to staying around for 80 years. I think it shows a lot of character, commitment, dedication and loyalty from the fans, the Flyers staff and the organisation! That's a big milestone! Playing for the Fife Flyers is a great experience, the people care and treat you like family and they welcome you into their hearts and homes. Let's face it, there's no place like Fife."

I Would like to say a huge thanks to Dave for taking time out of his busy day to do this interview and I am sure all the Flyers fans will love what you have to say as much as they loved watching you play thank so much.

Dave also had this to say at the end of our interview.

"Thank you for the opportunity to be interviewed. One of these years, I'm going to walk through the front doors of the rink with my hockey sweater. I still have it and I want to bring it back to where it belongs!

"Cheers...

"Dave Stoyanovich #9."

Ted RUSSELL

By Nichola Beveridge (aka Ted)



It was my absolute pleasure to interview Ted Russell from the Grand Slam winning Fife Flyers team in the BNL (British National League) He graced our team playing in defence for two seasons in 1999-'00 and 2000-'01. Playing along with the likes of Mark Morrison, Frank Morris, Todd Dutiaume, the King Brothers and Steven Murphy in Nets. He racked up 43 points in his first season (5 + 38) and 53 points (6 + 47) in his second.

Originally from St.John's, Newfoundland, Canada, the now 46 year old played in the NCAA for the University of New Hampshire. Spending four seasons there between 1991 and 1995. He then turned pro with the Dayton Bombers in the ECHL before moving to the Johnstown Chiefs where he played until the end of the 1996-'97 season. He first came to the UK in the 1997-'98 season where he captained BNL rivals, the Peterborough Pirates for two seasons before joining Flyers.

After leaving Flyers, he was the assistant coach at Lebanon Valley College in the NCAA III from 2002 until 2006, then was brought back as head coach for season 2007-'08 and remained in the post until the end of the 2009-'10 season, leaving to make more time for his family.

He has also been involved voluntarily in the Palmyra Black Knights junior side and was VP of hockey and the Hockey Director for a number of years.

Ted Russell it's my honour to interview you and as my favourite player. I even named myself Ted on all the forums and hockey related pages. How did you find the fans when you played for the club?

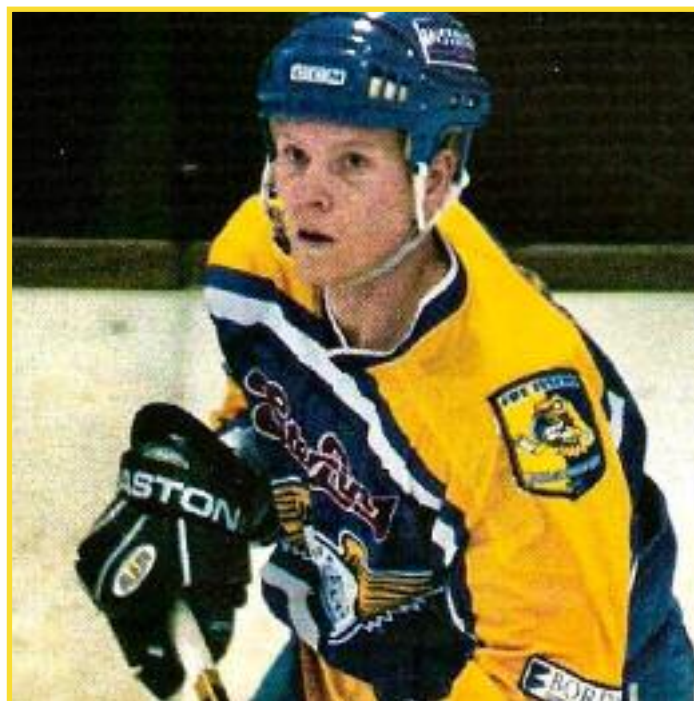
"The fans... very knowledgeable! They understand the sport of ice hockey and expect players to play with heart and passion. After the game... very friendly and willing to help any import with whatever they may need."

Can you tell us briefly about your playing career, clubs, dates and any big achievements?

"I Played Division I at the University of New Hampshire, played for Dayton Bombers and Johnstown Chiefs of the East Coast Hockey League, played for the Peterborough Pirates of the BNL. Player of the year 1st year with the Pirates and Clubman of the year 2nd year. Fife Flyers for two years...Grand slam winners 1st year... best and most successful year playing professional hockey... and most fun year playing with a great team and teammates."

You played under mark Morrison, coach at the Flyers and now he's a coach in NHL. Do you have any advice for Coach Todd Dutiaume one of your team mates from your time at the Flyers?

"Dutes... keep it real!!! Play a system and stick to it! The league is so good right now with many great players. Bring the right



players into Fife... players with values and heart. Players that care for each other!"

What did you like about Scotland and do you miss anything Scottish?

"Scotland was absolutely amazing for my wife and me. The fans were welcoming, the directors cared about the players. My wife and I made great relationships with so many people! Some names that come to mind are the Kings (Derek and Steven) and their families as well as Alan and Julie Seath. Todd and Russell Monteith were two great forwards and made it extremely easy to play my position."

Where are you living now and what did you get up to when you left Flyers?

"Living in Palmyra, PA. Been living here since 2001. Was involved in NCAA coaching for 7 years and left to be with my family more."

Tell me about the Palmyra Black Knights and your involvement?

"Decided to start a hockey youth organization called Palmyra Black Knights... was VP of hockey and the Hockey Director. Year 1 - we had 56 kids and Year 5 - we were at over 250. After Year 5 decided to step down because it was 100% volunteer and I had a real day job."

As we stay in touch, you have told me about your son and his ice hockey career. Can you tell us a bit about him and might we see him as a Flyer some day?



"My son Bryson turned 16 this past July... he played the last 2 years with the Philadelphia Jr Flyers (1 hour and 15 minute drive to practice 3 night per week). He moved away in September to attend St Paul's School and is currently in his 1st year at St Pauls' School in New Hampshire (Prep School)."

Who is the better player you or your son?

"Well my son is already bigger... he is 6'0 now (at once again 16). I do still think I can take him but I am not sure. His skating is his strength which I hope he got from his old man."

You are still spoken about in Fife Ice Arena as a Flyers Legend, how does that make you feel?

"Once again my 2 years in Fife will never be forgotten! Being called a legend...? We had great teams my 2 years... Coach Mark brought in the right players and allowed them to play their game. We had a big sheet of ice... Mark wanted players that could skate. My son has often asked me about my small professional career... my answer has always been the same... my best years was wearing a Fife jersey."

Next time you're in Scotland, will you bring your family to the rink so we can say Hi?

"If invited back my family will be on the plane. GO FLYERS!"

Thank you so much for taking the time out to do this interview Ted it's very much appreciated.



Les MILLIE

By Andrew Birrell



So ladies and gentlemen, I was thinking about those British players I watched growing up and there are many Flyers ones who came through the junior ranks and made it and here is one such player, Les Millie.

Les was born in Kirkcaldy and came up through the junior ranks as so many great British players back then did to play for the Kirkcaldy Kestrels, then his dream finally came true to don the famous gold, white and blue and the wings of the Fife Flyers. He began playing hockey when he was just five years of age.

He also played in Sheffield for the Steelers and also coached in Sheffield alongside another British Fife legend: Number 6, Neil Abel, as they took the Sheffield Scimitars to success, he played for Solihull and Edinburgh Capitals, Wightlink Raiders, Coventry Blaze, Slough Jets, Newcastle Vipers and finally the Blackburn Hawks. Also Les was player-assistant coach for Scimitars and player-coach for the Raiders.

Les first appeared for the Flyers in the 1988-'89 season in the BHL and stayed with the team through the relegation season of 1990-'91 and was instrumental during the Division 1 season of 1991-'92, scoring 82 points before moving to Steelers. He then had another stint with Flyers during the 1995-'96 season, scoring 41 league points and two playoff points that season.

I managed to ask Les some questions and here is how that went:

Did you come up through the Kirkcaldy junior set up?

"I did. I started in what they called the House League on a Sunday evening to then playing for the Cherokees, Chiefs, Flames and Falcons."

Were the junior teams then as good as they are now?

"If I was being brutally honest, I think the kids of today would struggle against the same teams we played. There was so much talent back in our junior days right across the leagues."

Did you enjoy your season with the Kestrels and how did you find it playing at that level after juniors?

"It was my first experience into senior hockey with some really good local talent with some very experienced imports, all of whom I learnt a lot from. I felt I held my own against opposition teams and really helped in my progression."

How exited where you to play in your first season with Fife knowing how good the players were on that team?

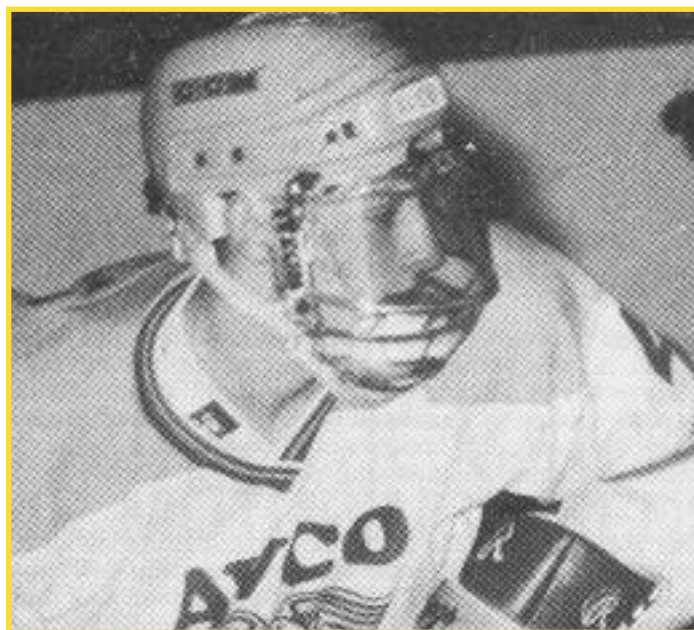
"I was buzzing! My first experience was the season before when Jack Dryburgh brought me up to play a Grampian Cup game away at the Dundee Rockets, I remember wearing Gordon Goodsir's shirt as he was unable to play and I even managed to score on the night too. The feeling of pulling on the jersey after being in the stands every Saturday night watching was unbelievable."

After four seasons with Fife, you moved to Sheffield. Why did you make the move?

"The move came about after a falling out and subsequent suspension by the club after a road trip which came from then coach, Brian Kanewischer. Neil Abel and I were approached by our ex-teammate, Ronnie Wood and I guess the rest is history".

You didn't play for three seasons. Was this due to an injury?

"No it wasn't injury. It was down to a financial decision after the year in Solihull went wrong and we weren't paid for about 3-4 months. I felt it best that I put my family's security first and sought a job in the real world."



From 2001 until your last season, you played for a good few teams. What was your best season during that time?

"That is a tough one. I think for an achievement my final season in Slough will always be memorable clinching the playoffs in my last ever pro season and [the] game in Coventry was a major highlight but also when myself and Neil coached the Sheffield Scimitars, we took them from the ENL to the EPL and in our first season, with virtually the same team, finished in 6th place and made the final four of the playoffs that year. Then to top it off, we finished 2nd the season after and again made the final four. [It] was a great achievement for us with using the local talent we had in Sheffield."

Fife Flyers are 80 this year, what do you think about that achievement?

"It is a fantastic achievement considering some of the low points over the years with collapse of the Heineken League, BNL and the long awaited joining of the Elite league. Some teams would have and have folded in that time so something to be proud of."

What was your best memory as a Fife Flyer?

"Best memory was always pulling on the shirt in front of a packed house in the Auld Barn and even better when we had the Racers in town the place was a cauldron, the atmosphere was out of this world and you could feel it on the ice. On every shift at times you could barely hear yourself think."

Finally, what did you think of the 75th anniversary game?

"Was a brilliant event and really enjoyed meeting up with former teammates made it all the more special considering the company that was there, I grew up watching some of these guys and had the pleasure of being coached by some was an absolute honour."

Have to say I loved the 75th anniversary game, it was awesome to see all those great players of the generations play again and to top it all off, it was my birthday a few days later and my present was Mr Les Millie's game-worn top from that game.

Les I would like to thank you for the memories and great times you have so many as a player and coach.

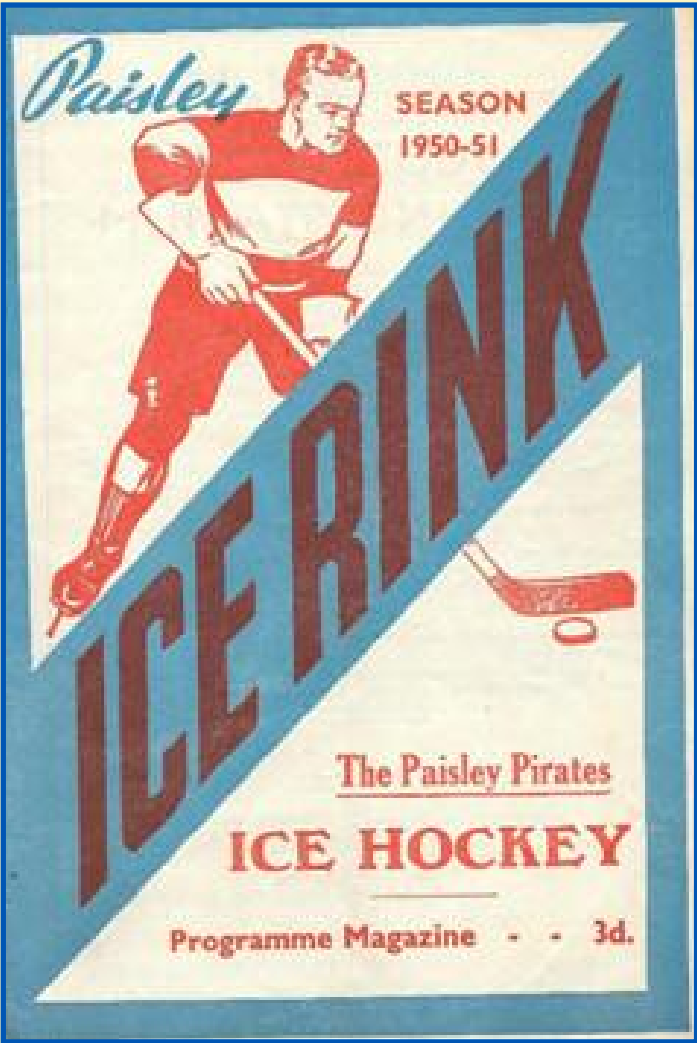
Wednesday 27th September 1950 Autumn Cup programme

Paisley Pirates 2 - Fife Flyers 4

Scoring four goals in a 12 minute burst at Paisley on Wednesday

Pirates- Robertson, Kelly Flyers - Smith (2), Thorne and Blair.

The programme notes advised that “Tonight’s visitors are reckoned by the critics to be one of the strongest teams in the circuit so that tonight’s game should prove to be a real test as



night, Flyers turned a two-goal deficit into a winning lead to bring to an end the Pirates' undefeated record. Turning point in the game came half-way through the second session when the Kirkcaldy team turned on the heat with a vengeance and in a prolonged onslaught on the Paisley cage netted four clever counters. In the opening stages Paisley had piled on the pressure to net two goals, but over-eagerness by both teams spoiled several fine scoring chances. Although the speed increased as the game progressed, play was inclined to be scrappy and opportunistic rather than polished tactics. In the final session, Pirates flung everything but their sticks at Belanger but the cage minder simply would not admit defeat. Sharing honours with the goal-tender were Marshall Bentley and Bert Smith who were both in scintillating form. The rest of the team, particularly the defencemen, also pulled their weight. Pirates' best were Kelly and Shell but near the end, the latter received nasty cut over an eye and had to retire. Scorers:

to the strength of the Pirates” It also noted that “During the first week of the season there must have been a record number of misconduct penalties handed out. The Pirates so far have a clean sheet”

The Flyers came into the game having won one and lost one so far on the season. Looking at the Flyers team line, it has one of the best names ever to appear on a roster.

Al Capone – well not as much of a gangster as you’d think, he was one of five new recruits on the Flyers team that year. Albert Campone (pronounced Camponie) should have been the entry in the team line. He was the “daddy” of the bunch being the oldest at 22 years of age. Weighing 150 lbs he was only 5’6 tall. He should prove a favourite with Al Rogers, as they both hail from the same home town, Saskatoon. A centre-ice he played last year with Kelowna Packers in the Senior “A” league.

EIGHTY Z" – THE 80 GREATEST PLAYERS PART 1: A-M

By John Ross

There have been countless (well the exact number is known but just no one is 100% sure what it is) players to grace the Flyers colours over the years. The following 80 are a selection across the decades, maybe it contains some of your favourites, maybe not, and that's why they haven't been subjectively ordered.

A

Neil Abel

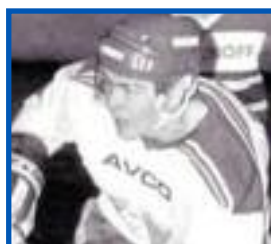
"Big Neily" saw a decade of service with Fife through the 1980's where he made almost 450 appearances and scored over 320 points. A stalwart of the Heineken era, he went on to be part of the Sheffield Steelers' great teams then spells with Blackburn, Hull and Edinburgh over a total of 27 years before moving into coaching.



B

Danny Brown

Danny was one of our 1985 Wembley Wizards whose performances remain long in the memory. Toronto born he joined Fife in 1984 from the University of Western Ontario. He played two seasons and was prolific in each: in 1984-'85 he had stats of 82+75 for 157 points while he returned the following season for a 137-point haul (83+54) from 36 games. He returned to Kirkcaldy in the 1990's with a couple of touring sides and has visited frequently in the last few years when his son Jeff was in town with the Panthers.



Cal Brown

A Hartford Whalers draft pick in 1986. He played for Colorado College, Springfield Indians, Fort Wayne Komets and the Louisville Icehawks before joining Fife. Cal was the captain of Fife Flyers' Division One championship team in 1991-'92. After leading the team to promotion in that legendary showdown with Ayr Raiders and scoring 125 points from defence, he returned the following season only for tragedy to strike. In a challenge game against Billingham Bombers, Brown went to block a shot and was struck on the head by a skate. It was a horrible accident with life-changing consequences. The injury was so severe he was forced to retire.



Ally Brennan

Lawrie Lovell, player-coach of the Fife Flyers gave Brennan a chance in 1972 to return to hockey after a bad car accident and he went onto to complete seven happy years icing for the Kirkcaldy club. Remarkably he was voted the league Player of the



Year in season 1972/73.

As well as brave, Brennan was versatile. After starting his career as a forward, he spent a long mid-career spell patrolling the blueline. He made the first of his record 102 appearances for Great Britain in 1965 and went on to compete in eight World Championship tournaments playing against twenty-two nations.

Karry Biette

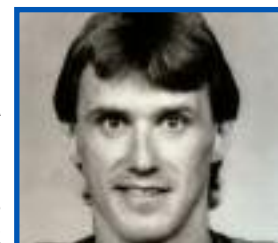
Karry played Major Junior for the Regina Pats before going pro with the Erie Panthers and Roanoke Express in the ECHL. He came over to the UK in 1996 when he iced for the Swindon Ice Lords alongside Todd Dutiaume. He moved north to play two seasons for the Ayr Scottish Eagles in the Super League followed by a couple of seasons with the Guildford Flames where he was captain.



A powerhouse skater, he joined Fife in 2001 and played four seasons making almost 150 BNL appearances and scoring over 200 points and almost 300 PIMs underlining he played the game with an edge. He is probably most remembered for his stunning hat-trick and electrifying performance in a 6-3 win over Coventry Blaze in the Findus Cup final.

Laurie Boschman

Laurie was only with the Flyers for 13 games in the 1994/95 season in which he scored 31 points 14+17. A good friend of Doug Smail he had retired from the NHL the season before after a little over 1000 games and almost 600 points, not to forget his 2400 PIMs in the Show. Interesting that he was traded to Edmonton by Toronto in 1982 for Walt Poddubny and Phil Drouillard. Could this have been where the Poddubny to Flyers rumour started?



C

Chic Cottrell

Forty years of service as a player, coach, bench coach, and at the helm of junior development. As a player, he was the league's 1970-71 Rookie of the Year and went on to play in the Grand Slam team of 1977 and the Wembley Champions team of 1985. He then took over coaching duties from 1986-88, returning again in 1990-'91 after the departure of Mike Fedorko. When Mark Morrison was appointed player-coach in 1996, he asked Chic to run the bench and they forged a strong partnership which led to back to back British championships and another Grand Slam. Chic was also at the forefront of the club's junior development programme, responsible for nurturing a host of young hockey players.



John Coyle

John played NCAA hockey with Northern Michigan University before joining Telford Tigers in 1998. The Flyers signed him from the Tigers and he played just 13 games in 1998-'99, but the very last shot of the season sealed his legacy. The British championship final against Slough went to OT and then sudden death penalty shots when up stepped the quiet man from North Delta, British Columbia to score with the minimum of fanfare. After that he headed home, never to return! It was rumoured he went home to drive the Zamboni at his local rink but was still playing for the Powell River Regals in senior hockey a year or so back.

Jimmy Chappell

Born in Huddersfield, Jimmy Chappell played either right wing or centre. His family emigrated to Canada settling in Ontario where the youngster took up hockey. Moving up through the ranks, he played for the Oshawa Collegiates between 1931-34 and the Whitley Intermediates.

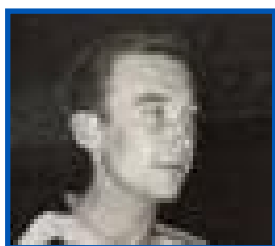


1935 saw him return to Britain to spend a three-year spell with the Earls Court Rangers before moving north to Scotland to play two inaugural seasons, firstly with 1938/39 Flyers and then Dunfermline Vikings. As a member of the '36 Olympic squad, Chappell scored two goals in six appearances and went on to add three more Olympic goals 12 years later when Switzerland hosted the Games.

D

Jack Dryburgh

Although he never skated with the senior Flyers, Dryburgh was an outstanding Kirkcaldy-born player who made his name in the British League with the Nottingham Panthers and Brighton Tigers

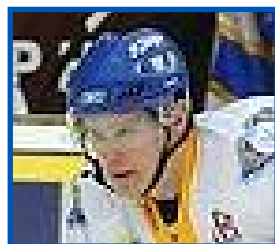


Jack played for the GB team, which finished second, despite going undefeated in the 1961 Pool B World Championship tournament in Switzerland, his one appearance at that level.

In 1984, he and the late John Haig went to Canada with a brief to find top-notch players to spearhead the club's Heineken launch - they returned with the 'Plumb Line' and hockey exploded in town. Jack also stepped in as coach of Flyers and in 1988 he added a whole new dimension to the sport by signing three world class Czechs.

Todd Dutiaume

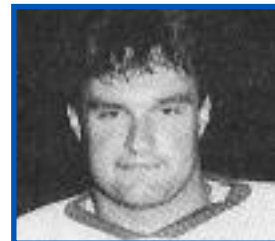
The longest serving import in the club's history, and current head coach. Dutiaume, from Winnipeg, played Major Junior with the Brandon Wheat Kings before playing one pro game for the Portland Pirates in the AHL. He went back to school for a couple of years with the University of Manitoba before coming to the UK to ice with Swindon Ice Lords in 1996-'97 who beat Flyers in the British Championship finals at the Nynex. He moved on to Telford Tigers but when the team hit major problems, Mark Morrison brought him to Fife in 1999. He played almost 300 BNL games for the Flyers scoring 473



points and Dutes' goals were instrumental in Flyers' clean sweep of the honours in the 1999/00 season. When the club dropped out of the top flight, he stuck with them as player-coach. He guided Flyers to great success in the SNL - between September 2006 and April 2007, they were unbeaten in a record 50 games, with 47 consecutive wins - before building an import-led team in the Elite League. He has guided the team to three EIHL playoff final weekends and last season he led them to the Gardiner Conference Championship.

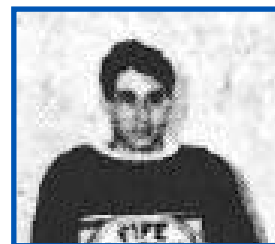
Andy Donald

An outstanding netminder and one of the true characters, the late Donald revelled in the big games and earned many accolades with his saves. Canadian born, he started with the Flyers in season 1981-'82 and was mentored by the experienced Willie Cottrell before later sharing duties with Craig Dickson. In his seven seasons with the Flyers, the obvious highlight was the win at Wembley in '85. He went down south at the start of the 90's and played with the Humberside Seahawks, Sheffield Steelers and Whitley Warriors where he continued to be a fan favourite.



Tommy Durling

Another of the Flyers' "class of 1938". Tommy was a right wing and a very fast lad who, like Chick Kerr, came originally from North Battlefield Beavers who were midget champions of Saskatchewan. He played for his college and also won the Saskatchewan championship. Prior to joining the Flyers, Tommy had played two seasons for Streatham and had coached in Zurich. He was manager of a local cinema in Kirkcaldy when he moved west to become the newly formed Dunfermline Vikings manager for the 1939-'40 season. He was also popular around UK rinks for his prowess at barrel jumping and was hailed as a champion in that discipline.



E

Dean Edmiston

'Deano' was a product of the Kirkcaldy junior development system and made his senior debut with the Flyers in season 1984-'85. He spent the next four seasons in Kirkcaldy during which time he tried his luck in North America with the OHL's Belleville Bulls. He moved south to join the Medway Bears for 18 months and then a season with the Peterborough Pirates before returning to Medway for season 1990-'91. During this time, he made his GB debut and returned to the Flyers in 1992-'93. He crossed the Forth for two seasons with Murrayfield and Edinburgh Racers before once again packing his suitcase for a season in England with Telford Tigers and the Newcastle Warriors. When he returned home to Scotland his route back to the Flyers was via a couple of seasons with Paisley Pirates and another with Edinburgh Capitals before Mark Morrison gave him the opportunity to resurrect his hockey fortunes and he ended up a key member of the 1999-'00 Championship winning team. He called it a day after the 2000-'01 season with over 600 senior games to his credit.



F

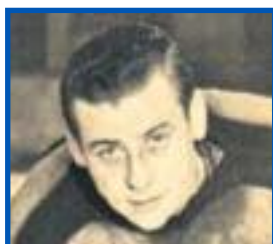
Graeme Farrell

A GB internationalist, 'Pinky' from Perth lived right behind the ice rink and Muirton Park. He started playing hockey after the war with the Panther Cubs and then moved up to the Blackhawks. Jimmy Spence was his neighbour and best mate, and along with his brother Laurie Spence, they were regularly down at the rink on a Saturday morning to practice at 6AM.

"'Eenie' Forbes was his coach with the Blackhawks. He was the senior player and had already gone through the mill. He joined the Flyers at the start of the 1963-'64 season and played during the Flyers trophy laden era. It was Jimmy Brown MBE, the Scottish cricketer, who started calling him 'Pinky' when they were playing ice hockey as boys with the Panther Cubs. He picked it up from The Wizard or The Hotspur, when there was some character called 'Pinky' Farrell.

Ian Forbes

One of the outstanding crop of Scottish-developed players, who broke into the Canadian-dominated pro Scottish League in the 1940's and 50's, he was a mainstay right winger with his hometown Perth Panthers. Always known as 'Eenie', the origins of his nickname remain obscure.



When the Panthers folded, he joined Paisley Pirates and helped them to the British League title in 1958-'59. He signed for the newly-formed Altrincham Aces in 1961, to be part of a devastating line with his Perth and Great Britain team-mates Jimmy Spence and Sammy Macdonald.

Moving back north to Kirkcaldy in '63, the 'Perth Line' went on to spearhead Fife Flyers to a number of triumphs in the mid-60s, including the BBC 'Grandstand' Trophy in 1964 and 1967.

Ian Forbes had another double All-Star honour with the Flyers in 1963-'64, being named as both a forward and coach of the 'A' Team. (Flyers had a 100% record in the Scottish League that season, scoring 141 goals in just 14 games.) In all, the Flyers won nine major trophies under Forbes' leadership over four seasons.

Milan Figala

Milan started his career with Vikovice in the Czech National league at the age of 18. He went on to play for the Czech national team at U19, U20 and senior level which included the 1979 World Championships, Figala was something special. He continued to play for Vitkovice making over 200 appearances before he moved to play three seasons for his hometown Kometa Brno making another 120 appearances in the Czech top league. Prior to joining Fife, he had a season in Denmark and then one in Yugoslavia. An outstanding and much loved defenceman who settled in Kirkcaldy and played for Flyers across five seasons. His debut season 1988-'89 in Kirkcaldy saw him record stats of 14+62 in 34 games and he went on to play 109 games for the Flyers recording stats of 25 + 87. He coached the Flyers in 1990-'91 being replaced by Mike Federko.



Billy Fullerton

Born November 23, 1913 in Glasgow, William "Billy" Fullerton played from 1932 to 1939 in the Scottish National League for Queens, Glasgow Mohawks, and was a member of the inaugural Flyers team in 1938. He also played for the British National Team at the 1939 World



Championship, scoring one goal in five games. A right wing and brother of Alex he had tremendous speed and also held the Scottish Ice Rink Championships title for speed and distance racing for some time.

Alex Fullerton

Brother of Billy, Alex was one of the leading personalities in Scottish ice hockey circles. At over six foot tall, he was 29 years of age when he joined the Flyers for their inaugural 1938-'39 season. A stalwart in his customary position of right defence, a Scottish-trained player, having played for Kelvingrove in seasons 1932-35; Mohawks, 1935-37; and Mustangs, 1937-'38. He played twice for Scotland against England, and has also appeared in representative matches against Wembley Canadians, Richmond Hawks, and Manchester.

G

Dan Goneau

Dan spent only one season with the Flyers but if ever a player in more modern times can be described as enigmatic, it was surely him. A French Canadian, he played Major Junior for Laval in the QMJHL and after being drafted in the 2nd round in 1994 by the Boston Bruins, he refused to sign



for them so went back into the draft in 1996 where he again was selected in the top 50 this time by the New York Rangers. He played four seasons for the Rangers making 53 NHL appearances and almost 250 AHL appearances for Binghamton and Hartford. He then went to the IHL and played for the Manitoba Moose and Detroit Vipers before a season split between Ingolstadt in DEL 2 and Bracknell in the ISL. He found himself back in North America with four teams the season before joining Fife. His season with the Flyers in 2003-'04 saw him notch 23+37 from 35 games. His skating ability was sublime but consistency was something else.

Stephen Gunn

Stephen came through the junior development in Kirkcaldy and went on to play 11 seasons for the Flyers. He made 310 EIHL appearances with stats of 30+24 - his 54 points being the highest by a British born player for the Flyers in the Elite League.



H

Kenny Horne

A key part of a hockey dynasty which began with his father Tommy, rink manager, and continued with his son, Kyle, playing. Kenny was a tough competitor who after a few years with the junior Flyers made his debut in



the senior side in season 1966/67. He was part of Flyers' 1977 Grand Slam team and a stalwart across the 1970's and was heavily involved in coaching and working behind the scenes in FIA. He won all the domestic honours and also played for GB, appearing at the 1976 World Championships.

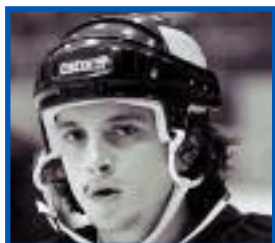
Kyle Horne

Second generation of the Horne family to play with Flyers. Kyle made his senior debut at 16 years of age for Fife. He has represented GB at U18 and U20 where he won gold before moving up into the senior team and making 25 appearances. A stalwart of the Flyers BNL seasons, he made 275 appearances scoring 84 points before moving south to the Slough Jets. He returned north to join the Edinburgh Capitals in the EIHL playing more than four seasons with the Edinburgh team before coming home to join the Flyers in their EIHL debut season in 2011-'12. In total he made over 450 EIHL appearances for 110 points. Following injury, he returned to hockey last season with Solway Sharks with whom he is still playing.



John Haig

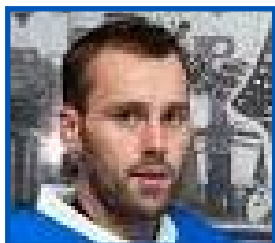
John was yet another local player to debut for the Flyers in his teenage years. The 16 year old iced for the Flyers in 1989-'90 and became a prolific scorer with clubs across the UK in an 18-year career. He played south of the border for the Humberside Seahawks, Bracknell Bees, Blackburn Hawks and Kingston Hawks as well as the Dumfries Vikings before he became an integral part of the Flyers from season 1997-'98 in the BNL when he equalled a club record for most goals in a game by a home-based player with eight. He was a huge part of the Grand Slam team in 1999-'00, but then went south again to play a couple of seasons for the Flyers biggest rival at that time the Guildford Flames. He returned to Fife again and played five seasons including a couple where he was captain before heading across the Tay to play out his career with three seasons at Dundee Stars. He racked-up over 700 senior games in which he recorded over 1200 points.



I

Andy Iles

Andy made a huge impression for the Flyers in season 2017-'18. He played four years in the NCAA with Cornell University before turning pro and playing in the ECHL with the Florida Everblades, Alaska Aces, Tulsa Oilers, Atlanta Gladiators, Brampton Beast, Cincinnati Cyclones and Elmira Jackals. His goaltending stats for the Flyers last year were his best since college. He attended the Rockford Ice Hogs training camp at the start of season 2018-'19 but hasn't iced with anyone so far.



J

Jimmy Jack

Jimmy came through the Kirkcaldy Flyers junior teams in the 70's, making his debut for the Flyers in season 1980-'81 before

going on to have a back and forth (pardon the pun) career with the Flyers and Murrayfield Racers spending most of the next two seasons with the Edinburgh club before returning to Kirkcaldy. He quickly returned to Edinburgh in 1983 and although with the Racers, he did not play against the Flyers at Wembley in 1985. He returned to Fife in 1986-'87 and took his total stats for the club to 36 +49 from 75 games.

K

Steven King

One of the very few one-club players in the UK game, his 22-season association with Fife Flyers spanned several 'eras' and produced many memorable highlights. He made his senior debut at the age of 15. In 1993-'94, coach, Jim Lynch, put him on the same line as Doug Smail and Mark Morrison, and their influence rubbed off. He played for GB U18's, but surprisingly, didn't feature in any later squads or indeed the senior team. After 22 seasons, 748 goals and 404 assists he hung up his skates, but was tempted out of retirement by Todd Dutiaume to help stabilise the team in the 2012-'13 EIHL season when he played four games.



Jindrich Kokrment

Jindrich made his debut in the top Czech league aged 17 when he iced for Litvinov. He played internationally at all levels for the Czechs including the World Championships in 1980. He had twelve seasons with Litvinov as well as two seasons with Dukla Jihlava for a total of almost 500 top flight Czech league games where he amassed almost 400 points. He joined the Flyers in season 1988-'89, and in his partnership with Lukac, recorded a huge 265 points between them – and it could have been much more had Kokrment, the quiet man of the trio, not returned home through injury mid-season. His place was filled temporarily by Tim Cranston. Kokrment only played 26 league games, scoring 51+54.



Derek King

Derek, the older of the King brothers made his debut in 1987-'88 aged 17 and went on to patrol the blue line with distinction for two decades. After three seasons with the Flyers, he moved on to play for the Cardiff Devils for three seasons before returning to Kirkcaldy icing for 18 more seasons in the Flyers colours. He was captain in 1996-'97 and played in over 760 games for Fife before his retirement in 2011.



Ryan Kumm

Ryan started his career in the NCAA with RPI (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) where he played for four years. He was a 12th round draft pick of the Washington Capitals. He went pro with Maine Mariners in the AHL and made over 160 ECHL appearances for the Erie Panthers. The season before he joined Fife, he played with the Brantford Smoke. He arrived in Fife for the 1993-'94 season and was very quickly a favourite for his all-



action style of play. His second season was cut short after he suffered a nasty training accident that required a metal plate fitted in his jaw but in his 61 games, he amassed stats of 65 + 62 and 286 PIMs. The following season, he spent with the Blackburn Hawks as player-coach before returning to Scotland and playing four seasons with the Ayr Scottish Eagles in the Super League.

Chick Kerr,

Netminder Chick played for the Flyers in their inaugural 1938-'39 season. Even at only 20 years old, he was one of the personalities of the game. He graduated from North Battlefield Beavers who were runners up in 1936-'37 for the Allan Cup. He was reputed to be one of the smallest keepers in the game but previous performances, especially with Streatham, proved him to be a real live wire.

Greg Kuznik

Greg played Major Junior with the Seattle Thunderbirds of the WHL and was a 7th round draft pick of the Hartford Whalers. He turned pro with the Florida Everblades in the ECHL. He played for Cincinnati Cyclones in the IHL during which time he got a call up to the NHL to play one game with the Carolina Hurricanes. He also had spells in the AHL with Beast of New Haven and the Lowell Lock Monsters from where he joined the Flyers in 2003-'04. His two seasons in Fife saw him patrol the blue line with a formidable presence, just ask Nathan Rempel. He played 97 games and his stats read 22 + 44. He moved on to Fassa in Italy for two seasons before three seasons in Slovenia with Olimpija Ljubljana.



L

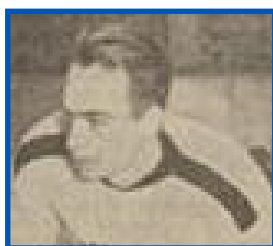
Gordon Latto

Kirkcaldy born Gordon made his debut for the Flyers in 1972-73 aged 15. Apart from a brief spell with Vastra Frolunda when he was a teenager and a few games played for Dundee Rockets in 1982-'83, he played his entire career in Fife totalling 874 games played and scoring a record 1265 points between 1972 and 1998. Between 1976 and 1979, he was the Northern League Player of the Year for three years in a row and the league's top scorer in 1978/79, winning the Earl Carlson Trophy. He played in four World Championships between 1976 and 1989, and his testimonial game attracted a capacity crowd to see his number 16 jersey retired. Inducted into British hockey's Hall of Fame in 1999, Gordon received the Ahearne Medal in 1998.



Les Lovell Snr

Les was born in Montreal, he joined the Perth Panthers as defenceman in season 1936-'37. The following season, he became player-coach to Perth Blackhawks and then in 1938, he came to Kirkcaldy as player coach of the first Fife Flyers team and also helped finish the building of the rink. Midway through the 1938-'39 season, he had the misfortune to sustain a serious shoulder injury, followed almost immediately by an operation for appendicitis. As a result, he was



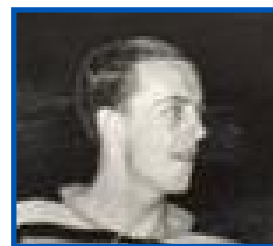
out of the game for a spell and Norman McQuade took over the coaching role at the Flyers. He continued to be involved in the development of the Flyers Juniors throughout the post war years and through the 1950's and into the 1960's, where he even stepped in to be Flyers coach in December 1966.

Lawrie Lovell

Lawrie Lovell was the second hockey-playing son of Les Lovell Snr. Having spent the majority of his playing career with the Murrayfield Racers, he was the player-coach with Flyers Grand Slam team in 1977. He was Coach of the Year in 1975-76 and his Grand Slam Flyers were unbeaten in 32 games spanning 12 months. He played in five World Championships scoring 11 goals and 9 assists for 20 points in 31 appearances. By the time the Northern League ended in 1982, he headed the all-time scoring list with 1,451 points (713+738) from 420 games.

Les Lovell

Kirkcaldy born Lovell started his glittering career in 1957 with Murrayfield Royals and played four seasons with the club. Moves to Brighton Tigers and then Murrayfield Racers were followed by nine seasons with Flyers which included the 1977 Grand Slam team.



Lovell was the top points scorer in the Northern Ice Hockey League in 1970-'71 and was Player of the Year that season. He scored the club's fastest ever goal - six seconds in 1972.

Vincent Lukac

Vincent made his debut in the Czech National League at age 17 for his hometown team, HC Kosice, icing with them for 13 seasons. With one season at Dukla Jihlava, he made 389 top flight appearances scoring 523 points in the Czech league. He represented the Czech's in almost 200 International games including 35 in the World Championships and was drafted in the 10th round by the Quebec Nordiques. He spent two seasons in Germany with Sportbund DJK Rosenheim and the season prior to joining Fife, he played with Wiener EV in Austria. Part of the Flyers' Czech trio in season 1988-'89, their astounding skill levels thrilled the fans and Vincent was undoubtedly the star with a staggering 88 goals and 73 assists in just 34 games. The following season, he played alongside his brother Joseph for Streatham Redskins where he put up 122 points in 28 games.



Jim Lynch

Born in 1953 in Toronto, Lynch came to Scotland to join Fife Flyers with two friends in September 1980. He had a junior career as a winger with the local Markham Waxers and later in the Inter Collegiate League. In his first outing, he scored three times for Flyers in a 14-3 Northern League win at Aviemore. By the end of his inaugural campaign, he was named joint winner of the NL Overseas Rookie of the Year award and to the All-Star 'A' team. Third highest scorer in the Scottish National League and NL the next winter earned Jim a second successive All-Star 'A' rating. He then had three seasons at Murrayfield and returned to coach



the Kestrels for a season before re-joining the Flyers as a successful battle with the BIHA to be reclassified as a non-import.

Richard Laplante

Richard played four seasons in the NCAA with the University of Vermont during which time he was drafted in the 9th round by the Chicago Blackhawks. He went back to study for two years with Concordia University and came to Scotland in 1990-'91 with the Ayr Raiders. The following season, together with Frank Morris, he destroyed defences as Flyers charged to the Division One title. The classy French-Canadian plundered 241 points (112+129) in 42 games, 211 in regular season games to top the Flyers all-time record points for a season. He remained in the UK for the next four seasons playing at Billingham Bombers, Murrayfield Racers, Durham Wasps and Newcastle Warriors. He then headed to Austria for two seasons with Graz and Wiener. A season in Italy with Meran/Merano was followed by three seasons in the Swiss league with Visp and finally a return to Italy with Asiago.



M

Mark Morrison

Mark played his Major Junior hockey with the Victoria Cougars of the WHL from where he was drafted by the New York Rangers in the 3rd round. He played ten games for the Blue Shirts in the NHL as well as regular appearances for Team Canada. In 1985-'86 he played for Meran/Merano in Italy, then two seasons in the Swiss League for Fribourg-Gotteron and Olten. He returned to Italy for five seasons, again with time spent at Meran/Merano but also with Milano. He joined the Flyers in 1993-'94 as a foil for NHL star Doug Smail, scoring 155 points and went on to define an era for Flyers over the next dozen seasons. Alongside Chic Cottrell in 1995-'96, he became player-coach, replacing Ron Plumb and made his debut in the famous 'Braveheart' Benson & Hedges Cup tie with Sheffield Steelers. Over his ten year tenure, he coached them to the inaugural NPL title in 1996-'97, equalling Plumb's record of 14 consecutive wins from 1985, and then cemented his place in the club's history with back to back British championships between 1998 and 2000, which saw the club Grand Slam. Morrison's all-star honours include three times the Coach of the Year, twice player of the year and once players' player of the year. In over 520 appearances for Flyers, he recorded 416 goals and 494 assists for 910 points. He was also instrumental off the ice working in the community and created Flyers' lasting links with Rachel House and CHAS. After leaving Fife, he was; GM/Head Coach with the ECHL Victoria Salmon Kings for five seasons, assistant coach with the AHL's St John's Ice Caps and Manitoba Moose and, for the last two seasons, he has been assistant coach in the NHL with the Anaheim Ducks.



Jimmy Mitchell

One of the very first Kirkcaldy boys to play for Flyers and one of a select group which went to the World Championships. He made his debut in 1946 and he played through the



era where teams were dominated by Canadian players, and playing time was often difficult to attain for the senior Flyers team. A defenceman, he netted twice on his debut in an 8-1 hammering of Falkirk Lions, he deputised that night for Howard Duffield in the right wing. In fact, he played regularly as a forward for the Junior Flyers and in defence for the senior team. He was a key member of the league winning teams at the end of the 1940's. There was a suggestion that, like his pal, Bert Smith, he would leave the Flyers in the early 1950's and try his luck on the continent but stayed with the Flyers until hockey was ceased in 1955. He returned to the rink in 1962, but not in Flyers colours as he was in the Perth Blackhawks line-up for the resumption of hockey.

Joe McIntosh

A key player in Flyers history and that of Scottish hockey. As a defenceman, his career spanned 25 seasons and a number of different teams. Joe spent the 1962-'63 season with Altrincham Aces under coach Ian Forbes, and then followed Forbes to join Fife Flyers for 1963-'64. Joe had seven very successful seasons at Kirkcaldy, helping Flyers to a number of honours, including the televised BBC Grandstand Trophy, and earning himself All-Star selections in 1967-'68, 1968-'69, 1970-'71 and 1971-'72. As player-coach of the Flyers, he was selected as the 'B' Team All-Star Coach for 1969-'70. After spells with Ayr and Dundee he returned in 1976 to be part of the Grand Slam team at the age of 44 before retiring.



Russell Monteith

Toronto born Monteith was the power play king. His office was the slot on top of a goalies' crease! An outstanding forward for the Flyers, Russell played NCAA hockey for Union College for four seasons where he played alongside another future Flyer, Bill Moody. He turned pro with the Mobile Mysticks of the ECHL for two seasons before joining the Flyers in 1999 and teamed up once again with Moody. He played three seasons with Flyers and was a key member of their Grand Slam team of 2000. His debut season haul of 38 power play strikes stands as a record. His stats from 131 games was 141+154 for 295 points.



Garrett ZEMPLAK

By Hazel Rayson



Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, 29 year old Garrett Zemplak is one of a long line of goaltenders who come from the province. Others include the Washington Capitals starter Braden Holtby, Minnesota Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk, Chicago Blackhawks' Cam Ward and fellow EIHL goalie Michael Garnett of the Nottingham Panthers.

Goalie fights are not as common as between their outfield brethren. I've only spoken to one other goalie who had had a fight on the ice and that was former Manchester Storm goalie, Mike Clemente. He fought Dan Spence while playing for the Saskatoon Blades in the WHL.

Garrett Zemplak came to play with the Fife Flyers in the 2011/12 season and soon became much loved by the loyal fans of Kirkcaldy and at the end of the season he was voted fan favourite. It wasn't much of a surprise to the Fifiers who saw his cheeky demeanour and on ice prowess as something that made him a cut above the rest. He came to Fife from the Gwinnett Gladiators of the ECHL and held his own between the pipes in their first season in the Elite League. "The Elite League fans are fantastic," he told Fife Flyers TV back in 2011, "I never thought it would be like that. The league is super competitive." Despite Flyers only getting 22 points that season, Zemplak finished the season with .889 save percentage.

He must have enjoyed the Elite League as he stayed for two more years, playing with the Braehead Clan and the Belfast Giants.

His ideal goal was to play in the higher leagues in Europe or even North America but there is no guarantee, it's very situational, but the EIHL provided him with a good opportunity to have consistency. Coming to the Elite League often gives goalies who are playing in the ECHL a more consistent chance to play, they almost always become the starters of their respective teams and they see the league as a chance to really improve their game and have regular opportunities to play, there is a lot less competition here for starting netminders and a lot of players jump on the opportunity, as proved by starting 51 of the 52 games that season

During his time playing in the EIHL, he would often talk about the way he dealt with the mental side of goaltending. Previous goalies have spoken about how there are more than simply playing the game that goalies have to deal with during the game. "Try not to overthink things as a goalie as that is the point at which things start to snowball and things go wrong." He once said in an interview with Clan TV.



Goaltending can be mentally exhausting, they watch so much of the game that spectators don't see that their mind is always busy. "As a goalie, if you let things get to you, it can affect all aspects of you. Your mind, your body and by extension your performance. If you prepare physically, then that aspect is covered but if you let things get to your mind it can still affect you physically. Just communicating with your defence is good for the game and key to keeping anxiety in check. You have to laugh off the abuse you get from fans, otherwise it'll get to you." And in his time in the EIHL, he got a lot of stick from fans.

After the year in Braehead, he had every intention of going home to the Western United States, he spoke to Fife Flyers TV about this and how there were things off ice there that were affecting his head, however ended up playing in Belfast and having a great season with them.

Garrett has not had a contract since the Louisiana IceGators in 2014-'15. To this day he remains one of the best-loved figures in Flyers' EIHL tenure and was the first of a line of fan favourite goaltenders during recent times.

Archive PHOTOS





Chic COTTRELL

By Andrew Birrell



Ladies and Gentlemen this interview is with a man that spent all of his career in Fife, as a player and a coach, Chic Cottrell. Chic like the rest of the local lads during the late 70's and through the 80's came through the Fife junior set up before moving up to the Kestrels and then the Flyers.

He scored 162 points (71+91) for Flyers over 146 games before he stopped playing during the 1986-'87 season. He was then thrust into the deep end by being named Head Coach in the same season. He had further stints as Head Coach over the next two seasons before returning as Assistant Coach between the 1996-'97 season and the Grand Slam season of 1999-'00. I managed to ask Chic some questions about his time in hockey and here is how that went.

When did you start playing hockey?

"Season 1969-'70."

Did you play in all the junior teams before the Kestrels and Flyers?

"At that time there were no real junior teams, just seniors. The Kestrels team trained but did not play games. 'Pep' Young and Bert Smith did some training with us on Sunday mornings."

What was your experience of playing with the Kestrels?

"As time progressed, there were two teams and I played Flyers and Kestrels. Kestrels had a really strong team and won many trophies."

How did your move up to the Flyers happen?

"'Pep' Young and Joe McIntosh invited me to train and play with the Flyers. I was 15 years old."

Who are the best players you played alongside?

"The whole Wembley winning team: Alistair Brennan, Les and Lawrie Lovell, and Gordon Latto to name a few."

Who are the best players you played against?

"Garry Unger, Roy Halpin, Chris Brinster, Kevin O'Neil, Ted Phillips and many others."

What was your best moment as a Flyer?

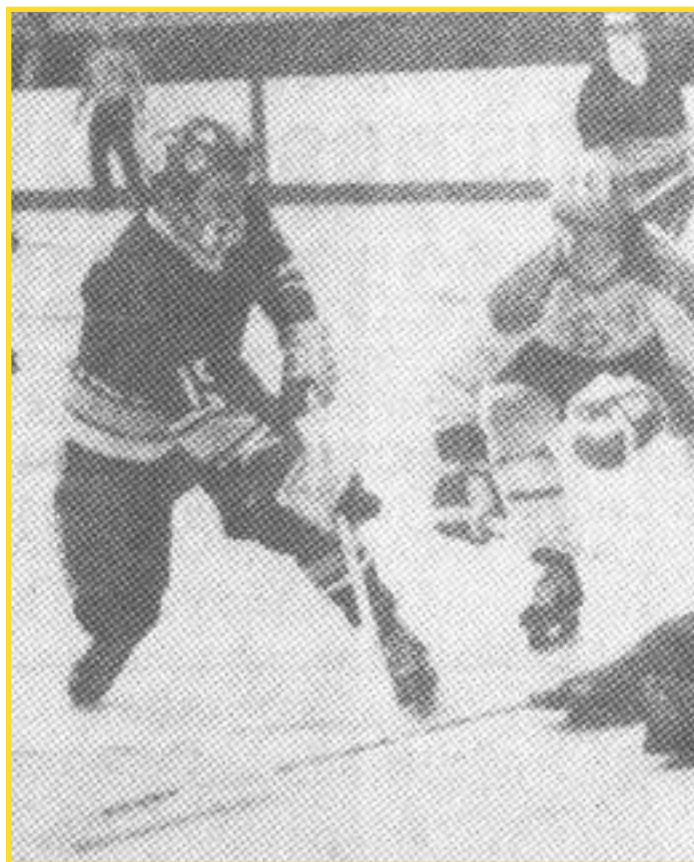
"Winning the Rookie of the year my first season and winning at Wembley."

What was your best moment in hockey as a player?

"Being selected for the GB team in the world championships in Barcelona."

What was it like coaching most of the teams in Fife?

"First season with the Flyers was a disaster. I went from playing to coaching overnight with not enough coaching experience. I went into the juniors and started to learn more about coaching. I worked with all the teams and it was great to see so many kids going on to play for not only the Flyers but for many successful teams throughout the British Leagues. The whole of junior development was restructured at this time and still, to this day, produces quality players."



What was it like to come out on to the ice in front of packed houses in the Auld Barn?

"Fantastic feeling! The fans either loved you or hated you – not much middle ground, but what they always did was support the team. Was a pleasure to play in front of all of them. Amazing atmosphere!"

Best memory as a coach and best piece of coaching advice?

"Working with Mark Morrison and introducing young players into the senior team. We won many league titles and cups, but the best part was player progression."

How amazing is it that Fife flyers have made it to 80 years of age?

"Superb achievement but not enough done to celebrate major milestones."

And finally I asked Chic

What do you think of current state of British hockey?

"I watch it on TV and speak to some of the old players and fans that go, so I keep an interest. Sad that we have allowed the British league to be taken over by too many imports. If these guys ever decide to leave en masse, we will struggle to have enough locals to restructure the league."

I would like to thank Chic for taking the time to do this interview it is very much appreciated and was a pleasure to watch you play.

Gordon LATTO

By Calum McLean



When celebrating a milestone such as Fife Flyers' 80th year, it is easy to look back remember the great imports such as Smail, Dutiaume, Morrison etc. but the one thing that fills us fans with even more pride is the hometown heroes who's names carry just as much weight as those greats. One player who fits that bill without doubt is Gordon Latto. Gordon is still remembered fondly from his time with the Flyers. You will see his name up on the walls in the lounge or see his retired number up in the rafters and for one very good reason, Latto is one of the greatest home-grown players this organisation has had the pleasure to witness.

Gordon Latto spent 27 seasons in a Flyers uniform, captaining the team for 15 and putting up 974 points in well over 700 games. A year in Sweden and a brief spell in Dundee were the only times he did not ice for Flyers. Latto would also go on to represent GB on 28 occasions. After ending his career in 1998, he would see his years of service in the game rewarded by being inducted in the British Hockey Hall of Fame. He is also the club's 2nd all-time point scorer behind Steven King.

The best place to start is right back at the beginning to when Gordon first fell in love with ice hockey and being at the rink. He said:

"My brother Dougie - he was a couple years older - was watching the Olympics and wanted to try skating so that's how we come about arriving at the ice rink. My dad couldn't skate but we were taken along to the ice rink very young, I think I was about three when I started skating. At the time, just getting to the rink was a feat - you're talking 55 years ago - my dad didn't have a car so just getting to the ice rink was something."

Despite the challenges of getting to the rink, it was a place Gordon would go on to spend the vast majority of his time as a youngster. "We lived pretty much in the ice rink, skating every opportunity possible."

After growing up near West Wemyss, the houses were demolished and Gordon would find himself even closer to the rink on a regular basis... "We ended up in Overton Mains, it was actually the one closest to the ice rink. We were within easy walking distance, so life became a bit easier."

With spending so much time at the rink, Latto was able to perfect his skating and Tony Horne, the rink manager and father of Flyers legend Kenny Horne, took notice. "He must have seen the promise in us. He actually let us in for free, gave us passes and we used to go on (me and Dougie) just the two of us on a Sunday morning at 5:30 before the Kirkcaldy junior teams started. That was the level of dedication or craziness there was."

Asked if the ambition was to always play for the Flyers, Gordon insisted it was just about getting as good as you could to begin with. "Harold ['Pep'] Young become involved with the junior set up and we grew the numbers with guys like; Chic Cottrell, Willie Cottrell, myself, Dougie, and a lot of guys ended up playing for



the Flyers in time."

These guys would go onto to play at a very young age for Kirkcaldy Kestrels and while they were "hammered" their first season together, the next year brought about winning the championship and the ones good enough eventually made that jump up to the Flyers. Latto's ability was always there to be seen and it allowed him to fast track through the ranks in Kirkcaldy.

"I played my first game quite unbelievably for the Flyers when I was 13." - A daunting task for most kids that age coming up against grown men but he was in good hands - "There was big guys like Kenny Horne there able to protect me and watch out for me. I was good enough so I was able to get a game."

Latto would go on to score his first goal at age 14 and went on to produce 27 points in 38 games before a career changing move came its way for the young forward. After attending a hockey camp for a Swedish team in Avimora, arranged by Jack Dryburgh, he was noticed as one of the leading Scottish talents. As fate would have it, the owner of Frolunda was there and saw something in Gordon and in the 1975-'76 season, he would make the move to Sweden.

"I gave up the apprenticeship I had to go and play professional ice hockey. It was a different league. It was full time training, which I had never done before." It was a different level for Gordon - from the training to the speed, eating right to the number of on-ice minutes. It was an experience that would bring the best out of him going forward in his career. He returned the following year to post 124 points in 38 games. "When I came back from Sweden, I was absolutely flying. I didn't have to beat anyone, I just skated past them."

Latto would go on to represent Flyers for another 21 seasons after returning from Sweden and was named captain for 15 of



Gordon also said the Ronnie Plumb era as a great era to be part of, but one of his proudest moments was during a difficult period for the Flyers. After relegation and with the future of the club in the balance, he scored the goal against Ayr that in his words "Kept the Flyers alive". The atmosphere in the Summit Centre, Glasgow that day in 1992 is something Gordon still remembers to this day. "There were fans hanging from the rafters. Crazy atmosphere! Anyone who was there will remember it well."

For the Flyers to reach 80 and still be plying their trade at the highest level of British ice hockey is a magnificent achievement and to have played such massive role in the history of the organisation is something Latto is extremely proud of. "27 years is a big part, it's almost a third of the teams history, so aye, I'm proud of that. Proud of that moment to score that defining goal it's kept the club where is now I suppose."

He also pays tribute to the fans who keep the club going all these years. "It is an absolute rocking hotbed for ice hockey. If you give the fanatics what they are looking for, they worship and by the same token they can be hard on you, but it's because they know their hockey. They are educated to it. They go religiously and without them, there would be no hockey."

Gordon's final words for the club on their 80th anniversary: "Keep pushing on and have good year on their celebration year. Hopefully they make 100 and I am here to step on the ice!"

those seasons. Apart from a five-game stint at Dundee, he would reject the other chances to move away from the Flyers. "I was getting all sorts of offers from Murrayfield and down in England. Teams were prepared to fly me up and down at the weekend to play games for them and not worry about training."

It was his love for being at home and having a young family that meant it was Flyers that got to enjoy the talents of this local superstar and it is a reign he is proud of and while his fitness and skating were big contributors he claims it was the move back to defence that helped him prolong his career as long as he did.

With such a long career at the club, it's no surprise that Gordon would struggle to pick just one favourite memory or player that stood out from his 27-year span. "There is so many different eras you take something out them all. The team of 1976-'77 when I came back, there was the combination of two really good players Lawrie Lovell, Les Lovell and Alistair Brennan, I think they are all Hall of Fame players. They were in their later years and I initially ended up playing alongside Les and Lawrie and having someone who can skate like me next to two good hockey brains was the icing on the cake really. We had more than that in that team. We had a lot of really good home-based players."



EIGHTY Z" – THE 80 GREATEST PLAYERS PART 2: M-Z

By John Ross

Frank Morris

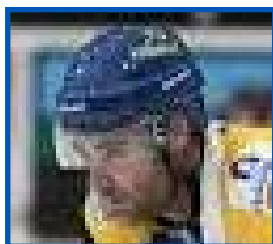
Frank started in Canadian College hockey with Concordia University before playing a few games in the AHL with Moncton Hawks. He came to the UK in 1987 when he signed for the Ayr Bruins and played four seasons down on the West coast.



When he was with the opposition, he was the player Fife fans loved to hate, but as a Flyer, he was 'Captain Fantastic' who gave over a decade of service after signing for season 1991-'92. His first season alongside Richard Laplante in the First Division his numbers were off the charts, scoring 204 points (105+99) in 42 games. His production the following season was 50+37 before he decided to hop over the Forth and join the Racers. During that season, he played for team GB in the World Championships before dropping down a division the next season when he played for Trafford Metros. He returned to Fife in season 1885/96 and in the next nine seasons he totalled 610 points from 345 games, the highlight being when he led the team to its Grand Slam. An intense, fiercely competitive player, Frankie gave his all every single night. He also contributed significantly to junior development and raised thousands of pounds for charity with his cycle runs. Unfortunately an eye injury forced him to call time on his career but he was honoured in 2003 with a testimonial game during which he was recognised by being only the third Flyer to have their number (#47) retired. Frank also holds the all-time record for number of regular season goals (391).

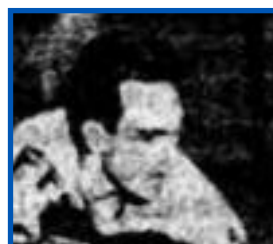
Tommy Muir

Tommy gave 16 seasons service to the Flyers. He made his debut on 2001-'02 aged 16 and as the years progressed, he grew into a steady, stay-at-home, no nonsense defenceman. 526 appearances for the Flyers in which time he scored 11 goals and 77 points in total. His 380 EIHL appearances is the current Flyers record for a British player, but will most likely be passed very shortly by Chris Wands.



Chick Mann

Chick Mann was a signing in season 1948-'49 from bottom club Glasgow Bruins where he had tallied 63 goals and 64 assists. He had previously played all of his hockey for St Catherines up to Junior 'A' level. In his first season, he had 91 goals and 94 assists for 185 points and was runner up to Bud Scrutton (188 points) for top point scorers in the league. In 1949/50 he was the scoring leader with 74 goals and 96 assists for 170 points, he pipped Dundee Tigers 'Rookie of the Year' George Sinfield by a single point. Both seasons he was in the All-Star 'A' team but surprisingly then he disappeared off the hockey map.



Sam McDonald

Sam alongside Ian Forbes and Jimmy Spence were known as the famous 'Perth line'. Perth born, he played for the Perth Panthers in the early 1950's and the trio were reunited following the collapse of professional hockey when he joined the newly formed Altrincham Aces. Spence and Forbes had both joined the Flyers in January 1963 and a few weeks later, McDonald donned the gold, white and blue as a guest. He was officially signed for the 1963-'64 league winning campaign where the Perth Line were included in the All-Star 'A' Team. In 1964-'65, he went to the World Championships with GB in Finland along with Spence, Farrell and McIntosh. In 1965-'66, he took over the captaincy from Bert Smith for a period. He returned to the Fair City to play for the Perth Blackhawks for the 1966-'67 season.

Doug Marsden

Doug played Canadian college hockey for two seasons with the Wilfrid Laurier University. He started his pro career in the ECHL with Erie Panthers and after a little more than two seasons he joined the Glasgow Saints in 1990-'91. He scored 115 points in 31 games but also clocked up 139 PIMs.



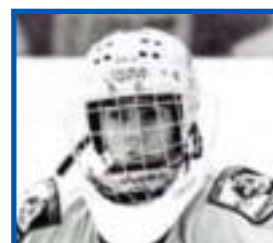
He returned to Canada for a couple of years before returning to Scotland with the Paisley Pirates in 1993-'94. He would prove to be one of the most popular and colourful characters of the 1990's and in that first season with the Pirates he had 151 points but also 196 PIMs in his 43 games. Shortly into the following season, he jumped ship and headed east to join the Flyers and in his 82 games through to the end of the following season (1995-'96) he scored 119 points. He then became the arch villain as he brought his volatile Paisley Pirates to town for some epic head-to-heads over the course of a couple of seasons! He was unceremoniously sacked as Pirates coach and he returned to North America for a short time in 1998 with the Fresno Falcons and had a final season in 1998-'99 playing in Scotland with the Edinburgh Capitals and then had a short time as head coach again at Paisley in 2001-'02 when he replaced Jim Lynch.

Dave Medd

Dave came through the junior Flyers when hockey was resurrected in Fife in 1962. An under-rated defenceman who brought strength and the art of the poke check to the blue line he was present at the club through the troubling late 1960's through the 1977 Grand Slam season.

Stephen Murphy

Dundee born 'Murph' made his debut for the Flyers as a 17 year old at the end of the 1997-'98 season and then back stopped them to Grand Slam glory the following seasons whilst picking up the Netminder of the Year award. He moved to the Dundee Stars



for season 2001-'02 for whom he played two seasons. A year in Bracknell followed before he went to Sweden and played for Bracke, Bjorkloven and Arboga. He returned to the UK for a year with the Edinburgh Capitals before heading to Scandinavia again and Stjernen in Norway. 2008-'09 he spent with the Manchester Phoenix before joining Belfast Giants with whom he is now in his 10th season. A regular for GB in the last 12 years.

Steve Moria

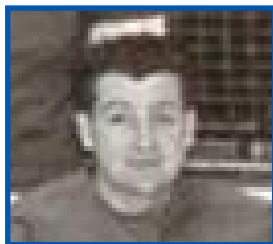
The original 'Mo' - a hugely popular forward in his one-season with Flyers in 1986-'87; the launch-pad of a remarkable career in the UK which continued until 2012 when he finally retired aged 51.



Vancouver-born forward Steve Moria played NCAA Div II hockey for the University of Alaska Fairbanks before going pro for a couple of seasons in the AHL with New Haven Nighthawks. He arrived at the Flyers in the second half of the 1986-'87 season initially to play for just six months but he fell in love with the British game and ended up enjoying an illustrious 25-year career. He made 64 appearances for the Flyers, scoring an eye watering 368 points. He then moved on to complete ten years with the all-conquering Cardiff Devils, where his number 19 shirt was eventually retired.

Harry McQuestion

Harry McQuestion arrived at the club in what is now something of an urban myth. That the Flyers had signed him from the NHL's Detroit Red Wings.



The following picture appears to prove that he was indeed a member of the famous Detroit Red Wings.

The Red Wings needed cover in goals as they started their 1950 Stanley Cup run. Terry Sawchuk played seven NHL games in 1950, because Harry Lumley was injured. Sawchuk was not available for the playoffs because he was helping the AHL Indianapolis Capitals win the Calder Cup. Instead, Harry McQuestion was called up as the spare goalie for the playoffs. McQuestion's name was engraved on the Stanley Cup, but he never played in the NHL. However, unfortunately for Harry, as soon as the 1956 Montreal Canadiens added their names to the Cup, all of the various narrow and wide bands of the trophy's barrel was full. McQuestion was removed from the Stanley Cup when it was re-done during the 1957-'58 season. Spare goalie which was originally included was left off the Cup in 1957-'58, because he never played in the NHL.

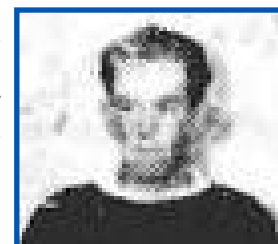
Tommy McInroy,

Born in Rosemount, near Blairgowrie, Tommy was a left wing and began his hockey career in 1936 with Perth Panthers and then Perth Blackhawks before a season with the Flyers in their inaugural year where he was the third of the Scottish players. His hopes of making the grade in Canadian hockey was thwarted by the outbreak of World War Two. The war also halted a promising career with the British national side, though he did play in a tournament in Switzerland against Germany, Canada, Hungary and Belgium just a few months before war was declared.

He resumed his Flyers career in 1947, playing for the club's successful junior team at a time when the senior team was filled with a number of top Canadians. When work took him to Lossiemouth in 1949, Tommy and his wife decided to stay, ending his association with Flyers.

Norman McQuade

A member of the inaugural Flyers team of 1938-'39. A left wing who used to turn out for Wembley Monarchs and prior to a few games for the Perth Panthers in season 1937-'38, coached in Germany. He scored Flyers' first ever goal at Fife Ice Arena and later in the 1938-'39 season, assumed coaching responsibility after the retirement of Les Lovell through injury.



Len McCartney

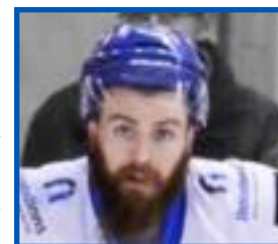
Played for the Port Arthur club in Canada before heading over the Atlantic in 1936 to be a mainstay for two seasons with the Perth Panthers. A centre, he joined the Flyers in their inaugural season and scored the Flyers first ever goal at the opening of Dundee Ice Rink on 30th September 1938.



N

Matt Nickerson

'Nicker' arrived at the start of the 2013-'14 season and within 15 minutes of his debut, was involved in an incident with the Devils' Andrew Lord that saw him receive a three game ban, his first of many brushes with the authorities. Matt was the type of player that hadn't often dressed for Fife in modern days and his presence on the ice and personality off the ice made him a huge fan favourite. He racked up over 500 PIMs in his two seasons, 8th all-time in Flyers history and achieved in 80% fewer games than those above him.



O

Chris Orban

Chris came to the Flyers after a season with Southern AB Institute of Technology in the Canadian College league having come from the Alberta Junior Hockey league. He spent one season with the Flyers when he was second top scorer (49+28) in 31 games behind Gordon MacDougall in the first Heineken League season 1983-'84. He sadly passed away in late 2018.



P

Ron Plumb

Ron was the first player to arrive in Kirkcaldy that could be safely called a North American big name player. He played his junior hockey with the Peterborough Petes and was a 1st round draft pick (9th overall) by the



Boston Bruins in 1970. After a couple of seasons in the CHL with the Oklahoma City Blazers, he then spent seven years in the NHL rival Western Hockey Association with the San Diego Mariners, Cincinnati Stingers and New England Whalers. He then iced for the Hartford Whalers in the NHL where, unbeknown to him, their famous music Brass Bonanza would be a significant feature in his future career. He then had three seasons with the Springfield Indians of the AHL before moving to Germany to play a season with Freiburg. It was from Germany the Flyers secured his services as player-coach and he led 'the Plumb Line' which made hockey big box office in town, and captured the 1985 British championship at Wembley. Cue that Brass Bonanza! He returned the following season and, in total, made 86 appearances scoring 172 points from the blue-line. A brief return as coach in 1995-'96 didn't work out, but his legacy remains intact.

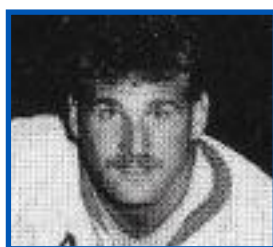
Jimmy Pennycook

The hugely popular 'JP' played for 10 clubs in a 19-season hockey career. He first iced for Murrayfield Racers in 1980-'81 and his hockey career over the years would have to be juggled with his full-time job where he worked offshore in the oil business. As a result, this limited the number of games he played each season but when he was onshore, he was always a player that gave 100%. A season with Dundee Rockets preceded four seasons with the Flyers which commenced as part of Flyers' 1985 Wembley winning side. He iced in 65 games scoring 159 points and was one of the least penalised players over those years. Another season in Dundee, this time with the Tayside Tigers followed and then he went south of the border with stops in Telford Tigers, Solihull Barons and Bracknell Bees. He returned to Scotland with Murrayfield Racers in 1992-'93 and played with the Flyers the following season, but only recorded 2 points in his 17 games. He moved on to Teeside Bombers for a couple of seasons then Trafford Metros and his final four years were spent with Blackburn/Lancashire Hawks before hanging up in 1999.



Fred Perlini

Fred played his junior hockey for his hometown Toronto Marlboros and was drafted by the Maple Leafs in 1980 for whom he played eight NHL games. He was with the St Catharines Saints and Baltimore Skipjacks of the AHL before he headed to the UK and iced the season before joining the Flyers for the Nottingham Panthers. Fred arrived in Fife in 1987 with the job of filling the net in the same way Dave Stoyanovich had done in two of the previous three seasons. The hugely popular, free-scoring forward bagged 210 points in 41 games to lead the team in scoring. He then played single seasons for Deeside Dragons where he was player-coach and Trafford Metros before splitting a season with the Telford Tigers and Blackburn Blackhawks. Two seasons with the Streatham Redskins was followed by another split season with the Basingstoke Beavers and Lee Valley Lions. He then settled in Surrey for three years with the Guildford Flames.



Russ Parent

Russ played NCAA hockey for four years with the University of North Dakota. He was drafted by the New York Rangers in 1986

and played in 1989 for Team Canada. He joined the Ayr Raiders in 1990 and was with them for two seasons. The classy blue-liner with a bullet of a shot almost sank Fife in the classic relegation playoff of 1991-'92. He had a short spell in the Netherlands before returning to the UK where he spent four seasons with the Basingstoke Beavers/Bison before he arrived in Fife at the start of the 1996-'97 season. He enjoyed his most productive year in the UK with Flyers, playing 44 games and scoring 41+59. He returned to North America after that one season and played four years for the Monroe Moccasins in the Western Professional Hockey League.



Q

Robert Quinnell

Quinnell spent four years playing in NCAA Division 1 for the Brown Bears at Brown University where he double majored in economics and business management and was an Academic All-Ivy & Academic All American.

He began his professional career playing for the Corpus Christi IceRays of the Western Professional Hockey League where he recorded 41 points in 62 games and was recognised as the Team's Rookie of the Year. During his second season with the IceRays, he led the league in defenseman scoring points per game, recording 59 points in just 47 games and went on to become the IceRays' all-time leading scoring defenseman. His success in Corpus Christi earned him three stints in the International Hockey League where he played for the Las Vegas Thunder, Long Beach IceDogs, and the Utah Grizzlies. He then went to Graz 99ers in Austria before going back to play for Pensacola Ice Pilots.

He was brought in as the Flyers had significant injury issues in the closing weeks of the 2001-02 BNL season and scored a respectable 6+3 during his eight games. The following year, he started briefly with the Ayr Scottish Eagles in the ISL. After returning from Ayr, he joined the Quad City Mallards of the United Hockey League where he helped the team to an appearance in the United Hockey League Championships. His final year in hockey was with the Alabama Slammers when he was signed by Slammers coach, Garry Unger.

R

Al Rodgers

Al Rogers was a familiar name to all ice hockey enthusiasts when he arrived to coach Fife in 1946. The then 32-year-old Canadian came to this country with the first batch of ice hockey players and sported the colours Brighton Tigers for two years before he came to Scotland to join Dundee Tigers in 1938. Rodgers coached the team to remarkable success. His haul of silverware was comprehensive and included two Scottish League titles, the Autumn Cup and Jubilee Trophy. Rodgers was three times named 'Coach of the Year' in 1946-'47, 1947-'48, and 1949-'50 - a feat only matched since by Mark Morrison. He was released from his duties before the start of the 1952-'53 season after requesting an increase in salary which coincided with a downturn in the team's fortunes and the beginning of the end for the sport generally in the UK over the next couple of seasons.



Roy Reid

Roy was one of the stand-out netminders from Flyers' golden period of the 1960's. He joined the Flyers at the start of the 1963-'64 season having previously played with the Falkirk Lions and on the way to Flyers winning the league he established a record of five shut-outs which stood until Stephen Murphy raised it to seven in 2006-'07. He won the Pete Smith Memorial Bowl for the league's outstanding goalie in 1972-'73.

Ted Russell

Ted, a left-handed defenceman, played NCAA hockey for four years with the University of New Hampshire. He started his pro career in the ECHL with the Dayton Bombers and then the Johnstown Chiefs for whom he played almost two seasons. He headed to the UK to become the Captain of the Peterborough Pirates in season 1997-'98 and from the blue line, was their second top scorer. The following season he again wore the 'C' in the 'rock em sock em' Randy Smith Pirates team. However he maintained a level of discipline throughout the carnage all around that clearly attracted Fife to acquire his services for the following two seasons. Games against the Pirates were ramped up a notch, but he was a defensive rock in the Grand Slam team and from his 89 games he gathered 13+96 points.



Iain Robertson

'Robbo' enjoyed an outstanding 23-year career with many UK clubs. Kirkcaldy born, he joined the Flyers as an 18 year old in season 1987-'88. The following season, he played for the Ayr Bruins and also GB U20 and before returning to Fife, Robbo was 'Rookie of the year' in 1989-'90 winning a trip to join the Calgary Flames training camp. Arriving back in Kirkcaldy in 1990 he spent the next six years with Fife, the latter three as captain. He moved to the Paisley Pirates for two seasons and a season with Edinburgh Capitals before returning again to the Flyers for a further two seasons. He was on his travels again with two seasons back in Edinburgh before he spent the final five seasons of his career with Dundee Tigers/Stars. Arguably one of the best face-off men in the sport, he played in over 800 competitive games amassing over 1000 points.



S

Bert Smith

It began in 1938 when he was picked as the mascot to lead Fife Flyers out for their first ever ice hockey game in Kirkcaldy as the doors to the rink opened on 1 October 1938. Together with his lifelong friend, Jimmy Mitchell, Bert started training under the guidance of Les Lovell, the player-coach of that inaugural team. Post war, they became the first Kirkcaldy boys to skate with Flyers.



In total there were over 100 goals for Fife and in 1948, he was part of the GB squad which went to Switzerland for the Winter Olympics. He enjoyed two seasons with Amsterdam Ice Birds in Holland, travelling some 100,000 miles to play in the Western

European League which took in Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, France and Belgium. Bert had to regain his amateur status to play for Fife on his return to the Kingdom in 1950 and he went on to ice with Murrayfield Royals, and also Altrincham Aces.

Dave Stoyanovich

Dave's early hockey was in the NCAA with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) where he played four seasons. He turned pro in 1982 with Binghamton Whalers of the AHL and the Kalamazoo Wings of the IHL. The season before he joined the Flyers, he played for the AHL's Nova Scotia Voyageurs and scored a total of 15 points in 84 games amassing 143 PIMs. In his first season with the Flyers, the Plumb inspired Wembley Wizards, he wrote his name all over club record books which will most likely endure until the Flyers are no more. Most Goals in one season - 108, Most Goals in one game - 13. Not bad from just 42 games! He did almost repeat his previous seasons PIMs as he sat out 142 minutes.



The next season he headed for Cortina in Italy but returned to Fife for the 1986-8'7 season where he again set what appears to be an unbreakable record, Most Assists in one season - 117. His regular season point total of 185 was only three short of tying the record held by Bud Scrutton. It's a moot point however given the structure of the differing competitions between the eras.

He departed again for Italy, this time Fiemme Cavalese before returning for one final season to Scotland to ice in 10 games for the Tayside Tigers, he still put up 39 points in that short period of time.

Floyd Snider

The original Hall of Fame citation in 1951 stated, "Floyd Snider is without doubt one of the greatest defencemen ever to play in Scottish hockey and if proof were needed, the fact that he has never once been overlooked for All-Star honours in five successive years should be sufficient."



Floyd Snider was born in Kingston Ontario and arrived in 1946 to join Flyers in the Scottish National League where he remained, with the exception of one winter, through to the spring of 1954.

A rushing defenceman, his personal points totals never fell below 58 through his All-Star seasons and in season 1948/49, helped the Flyers scoop both the Scottish National League and Scottish Autumn Cup titles. The following season, as the Flyers retained their league crown and won the Canada Cup, Floyd Snider tallied an impressive 95 points for the fourth highest total on the team.

Doug Smail

Doug was the first player to sign for a UK club direct from the NHL. Smail came to Kirkcaldy from the Ottawa Senators after 13 seasons in the world's greatest league and he did so without ever being drafted! He played



NCAA for four years with the University of North Dakota, during which time he caught the eye of the Winnipeg Jets. He played 11 seasons for the Jets before a mid-season trade to the Minnesota North Stars. He then had a season with the Quebec Nordiques and then the Ottawa Senators before he finished that season helping out the IHL's San Diego Gulls. He arrived in Fife for the 1993-'94 season and thrilled fans with his electrifying speed and incredible standard of play. His haul of 13 short-handed goals that season stands as a record to this day. He played 56 regular season games for Fife scoring 171 points. He moved on to Cardiff the following season but didn't repeat his scoring rate before retiring in 1996. In 2018-'19 he was the head coach of the Rocky Mountain Roughriders' U18 team.

Al Sims

Al played Major Junior in the QMJHL for the Cornwall Royals. He was drafted by the Boston Bruins and made his debut in the NHL in 1973. He played alongside Bobby Orr in his six seasons with the Bruins before moving to play two seasons with the Hartford Whalers and then the Los Angeles Kings for a total of over 500 NHL games. He also played over 300 AHL games with the Rochester Americans and the New Haven Nighthawks. He went to Europe and played a couple of seasons in Germany with EV Landshut and Berliner SC Preussen before arriving in Fife in 1986. One of Flyers' big import signings of the Heineken era, defenceman Sims played two seasons, notching regular season stats of 52+86 in 1986-'87 and then 33+42. He returned to North America for one final playing season with the IHL's Fort Wayne Komets. After hanging them up, he went on to be a coach and GM of many organisations. Five years as GM/Head Coach in the IHL with Fort Wayne Komets, three years assistant coach in the NHL with the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, a season as Head Coach with the San Jose Sharks rounded out his NHL career. He also held head coaching positions at the Milwaukee Admirals, Corpus Christi Ice Rays, Fort Worth Brahmas, GM at the Flint Generals and then a return to Fort Wayne Komets as Head Coach for six seasons. His last position before retirement was in 2015-'16 where he was Head Coach for Evansville Icemen of the ECHL.



Harold 'Bud' Scrutton

'Bud' Scrutton was signed at the start of the 1946-'47 season, the first post war season. He was 21 years, 5'9, weighing 152 lbs. Something of a veteran of the team. Flaming redhead with speed to burn. Sent to Scotland by Mike Bodden, sports editor of the Kingston Whig-standard. Mike, a former NHL referee claimed "this boy will be in the first five in Scottish scoring". This turned out to be hugely prophetic. He was appointed Captain of the team and in his first year he topped the Flyers scoring with 128 points, which was 4th best in the league.

Scrutton added his name to the record books with a 188 point (107+81) haul in 1948-'49. He became the first player in Scotland to hit 100 goals in a season and was pushed all the way by Chick Mann who ended up just three points behind him. He made the All-Star 'A' team along with Snider and Mann that season. The following season he didn't return as he wanted to try for the NHL with the Chicago Blackhawks and ended up in EHL (Eastern Hockey League) for the Grand Rapids Rockets.

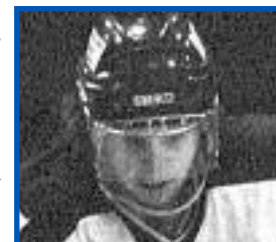
Jimmy Spence

Jimmy was one of ice hockey's finest Scottish born players,

skating for various clubs during his 23-year career and appearing in three World Championships for Britain. Born in Edinburgh in 1935, he played for the Perth Blackhawks and Panthers and after the demise of the SNL. Jimmy moved south to another Panthers side in Nottingham where his 71 points helped them to the double of Autumn Cup and British National League titles in 1955-'56. He then enjoyed spells with Glasgow Flyers and Paisley Mohawks and in the winter of 1961-'62, he came south again, this time joining the newly formed Altrincham Aces where he spent two seasons. He was with the Flyers from 1963-66 when the 'Perth Line' of Spence, Ian Forbes and Sammy MacDonald was the main factor in the club's successes. He holds the record for most goals by a British player in a game when he twice scored eight times v Glasgow Flyers in December 1963 and December 1964.

Andy Samuel

Sammy was a championship winner with Fife and Dundee having made his breakthrough in 1994-'95.



Kirkcaldy born, he made his debut at 19 years of age in season 1993-'94. He played the next eight seasons with Fife, winning the Grand Slam before moving north of the Tay to play three seasons with the Dundee Stars. He returned to Fife in 2006-'07 and played another six seasons before retiring in 2012 after the inaugural season in the EIHL. He was the engine room - the guy who skated two ways every shift, every game. Twice crowned Players' Player of the Year. He skated in over 500 games for the Flyers and scored over 300 points.

David Smith

Born in St Andrews, 'Davie' started with the Kirkcaldy Kestrels in 1987-'88 before moving north to play for the Tayside Tigers for a season. He returned to Kirkcaldy in 1989-'90 and whilst still only 15, he made his Flyers debut. After two seasons with Flyers, he moved to England for a year with Telford Tigers, followed by a year for Murrayfield Racers before returning to the Tigers for two seasons. Staying south of the border, he went on to the Trafford Metros, the two seasons with the Manchester Storm, the second of which was the Super League. His second spell with Fife began in 1997-'98 and he remained with the team through the Grand Slam season. He was the lured south again, this time with arch-rival, Guildford Flames where he remained for two seasons. He returned north and played one final season for the Flyers, completing over 250 games and scoring almost a point per game in his Flyers career before heading to Dundee where he played for the Dundee Stars over the next four years before retirement. He then became involved in coaching, firstly with the Fife Falcons and then Head Coach of the Kirkcaldy Kestrels where he is still involved today as Director of Player Development for the last two seasons.



Jack Stover

A member of the Flyers' inaugural team in 1938-'39 when he was 22 years old. A right defenceman who was 6'2 in height and weighed over 14.5 stones. He played junior ice hockey with Chatham in Ontario, he then graduated to the intermediate stage with Queen's Athletic club. The year before he joined the

Flyers, he played with the Chatham Maroons who were finalists in the Michigan-Ontario league. He broke his wrist only a few weeks into the season and was rumoured to be heading to Kelvingrove as his space on defence had been taken by George Horn, but Flyers appealed to the SIHA to ensure that the maximum number of Canadians signed could be changed to allow him to remain.

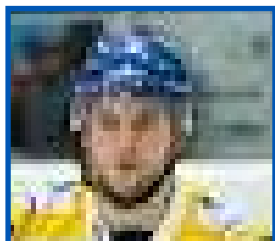
T
Wilfred Thrasher

"Nebby" Thrasher was a true character of the post war era in Scotland. He started with the Perth Panthers in 1947-'48, then the Dunfermline Vikings in season 1949-5'0 before moving on to the Falkirk Lions and Murrayfield Royals and by December 1952, he left the Edinburgh side by mutual consent to return to the Vikings for the remainder of the season. He made his debut for the Flyers on 9th November 1954 against the Falkirk Lions and was Flyers' leading scorer with 24+34 which won him the Mirror of Merit Award that season. With hockey collapsing in Scotland, Nebby went on the following season to play for the Harringay Racers.



W
Jamie Wilson

"Torch" was 18 years old when he made his Flyers debut in season 2004-'05. He played 12 seasons for the Flyers and saw the club's fortunes rollercoaster from the BNL, through the Northern league and back into the top-flight Elite League. He wore the 'C' for three of these seasons playing almost 470 career games. He played a couple of seasons for the Kirkcaldy Kestrels before his retirement in 2018.



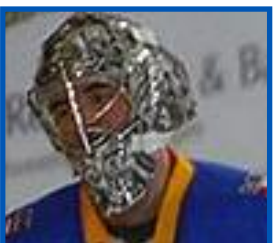
Y
Harold 'Pep' Young

Born in Montreal, he came to the UK in 1948 to ice with Earls Court Rangers and after returning home, he then joined Fife and in 1951. He helped Flyers lift the Autumn Cup only for his own career to suffer a serious setback when an accidental encounter with an opponent's skate blade snapped four tendons in his ankle and he was told he would never skate again. He did. In 1962 he was behind the bench of the new-look amateur Flyers before stepping back to focus on his business commitments. With Flyers in disarray at the end of the 1960's, he returned once more to revitalise the team. His coaching continued when he launched the Kirkcaldy Kestrels as a development team and then the U16 Safeway Sabres from which the Flyers were rewarded with many players you see in this list.



Z
Garrett Zemlak

Garrett played his Major Junior hockey for the WHL's Saskatoon Blades and Prince Albert Raiders. He started his professional career with



the Charlotte Checkers in 2010. In the 2010-'11 season, he played for no fewer than five ECHL sides: Kalamazoo Wings, Stockton Thunder, Elmira Jackals, Binghamton Senators and Gwinnett Gladiators. He arrived in Fife for the 2011-'12 season, the Flyers' first in the EIHL and was voted online as the EIHL fans' Favourite Player of the Year. The following year he moved west to play for the Braehead Clan and then continued westward mid-season to play for the Belfast Giants. A season out followed and he last played a handful of games in 2014-'15 for the Louisiana IceGators of the Southern Professional Hockey League.



Flyers through the Ages: EIHL ERA

By John Ross



The EIHL was formed for the 2003-'04 season following the collapse of the Ice Hockey Super League which had been the top level of the sport in the country since its formation for the 1996-'97 season. The ISL itself had been formed from a rift in the British Hockey League which saw seven teams and the newly formed Ayr Scottish Eagles create an import dominated competition. The Flyers as we know did not join, and after dropping out of the British Hockey League Premier Division in 1996, it was 15 years before the Flyers once again graced the top level of hockey in the UK when they joined the EIHL for season 2011-'12. In the eight seasons before the Flyers joined the regular season league winners were: Steelers, Blaze, Giants, Blaze, Blaze, Steelers, Blaze, Steelers – quite the domination by two clubs. In the Flyers seven seasons to date in the league the regular season winners have been Giants, Panthers, Giants, Steelers, Steelers, Devils, Devils.

In fact, if you exclude the now defunct Newcastle Vipers, who won one title and the recently introduced Conference trophies then the major EIHL honours have only been shared by five teams:

	League	Playoffs	Challenge Cup	British KO Cup	Total
Nottingham Panthers	1	5	8	0	14
Sheffield Steelers	5	5	0	1	11
Coventry Blaze	4	2	2	1	9
Belfast Giants	3	1	2	1	7
Cardiff Devils	2	1	3	1	7
Newcastle Vipers	0	1	0	0	1

It was the ill-fated Newcastle Vipers' demise in the summer of 2011 that opened the spot for the Flyers to be invited into the Elite League. After ratification at the EIHL board meeting in late June it was agreed the Flyers would be the 10th team for the **2011/12 SEASON**, which was only 78 days away and the Flyers pretty much had an entire team to build from a semi-professional league foundation to compete in a professional league.

It was, in fact, 71 days before they played Dundee Stars in a couple of challenge games, losing 6-1 in Fife and salvaging some optimism to start the season with a 4-4 tie on Tayside the following evening.

Coventry Blaze were the first visitors to Fife and inflicted a 2-0 shutout and they followed up the following night in more clinical fashion with a 9-0 hosing on Flyers' first road trip. If the size of the task at hand wasn't already understood, it was becoming abundantly clear and we weren't even into the dark winter nights. The following week, the Panthers, who had been lobbying the league about safety concerns that Fife didn't have full plexi-glass, went back south with a 6-2 win. The Giants inflicted a 9-1 thumping on them the next again week and the following night the first points were on the



board as the Capitals were defeated 3-2 at Kirkcaldy. A trip to Hull yielded a point in a 3-2 SO loss and Garrett Zemlak was chucked out for excessive roughness earning him a match ban.

It was still a loss though and started a run of 14 consecutive defeats, the next win came against the Stingrays at home in the middle of November thanks to a 5-4 shootout. The next eleven games there had only a single success, a double-points league and Challenge Cup game at home to Braehead Clan 5-4. This was enough to not have the Flyers finish bottom of the Challenge Cup group. Bottom of the league they were however and they remained there for the entire season. In late December into January there was a little surge in results, back to back wins over Dundee and Edinburgh home and away then a 4-3 win through at Braehead in mid-January with the following game at home to Coventry another shootout win. A road win in Dundee and a shootout loss at home to Clan at the end of January was the beginning of another dire run with only one win picked up in the remaining 18 games to end a season of hard learning. Danny Stewart, who was familiar with the EIHL after his five previous years in the league with the Blaze and Vipers was top scorer with 36 points, one ahead of Toms Hartmanis who had also starred for the Vipers the previous season. Mike Hamilton with over a point a game returned to the ECHL mid-season and Matt Siddall similarly packed his bags for the EBEL. Smooth skating D man, Tim Maxwell,

joined around Christmas but would miss the end of the season due to a concussion that defined the end of his hockey career. Dundee Stars sacked Dan Cemen as their player coach and he also joined mid-season. Last season's top point scorer, Stephen Gunn, was the top Brit point getter with 15 points. Player/coach Todd Dutiaume also suited up despite being in the twilight of his career.

For the 2012/13 SEASON Flyers had eight Kirkcaldy-born Brits on their roster - Tommy Muir, Kyle Horne, Euan Forsyth, Chris Wands, Stephen Gunn, Jamie Wilson, Josh Scoon and Allan Anderson - as well as Edinburgh-born netminder, Blair Daly. With greater time to prepare a roster, coach Dutiaume and his assistant Danny Stewart introduced some new faces that would have an immediate impact on the Flyers fans: Caisey Haines - was a lead by example type of player and second top points getter. Kris Hogg - just a couple of points behind was someone who played a smart 'in your face' game. The Pitton brothers, the very dependable Bryan in goals and Jason, a power forward who sparked the crowd with goals, hits and fights. In defence; the supreme pairing of Jeff Caister and Derek Keller. Flyers added top goal scorer, Bobby Chaumont, after he departed Braehead after the opening weeks of the season and with a supporting cast of solid imports and Brits the hurt of the previous season quickly faded. This season saw the introduction of a new two-conference format in which the ten participating teams were split into two conferences of five. The Gardiner Conference - named after Edinburgh born and former Chicago Blackhawks goaltender, Charlie Gardiner - comprised the five northernmost mainland teams (Braehead Clan, Dundee Stars, Edinburgh Capitals, Fife Flyers and Hull Stingrays) and the Erhardt Conference - named after the captain of the British 1936 Winter Olympics gold medal winning team Carl Erhardt - comprised the four southernmost mainland teams (Cardiff Devils, Coventry Blaze, Nottingham Panthers and Sheffield Steelers) and the Belfast Giants. Flyers would come within a whisker of their first major honour when they were pipped by a point for the Gardiner Conference by the Braehead Clan. A heated rivalry had developed that season between these two teams which endures today. The team with a 50% record in the Challenge Cup group were knocked out in the quarter finals by the eventual winners, Nottingham Panthers. A race to make the playoff quarter final saw the Flyers stutter to four straight defeats but then make it across the line with three wins to end the season in 7th place. They met the Panthers again and narrowly missed out going to the Finals in Nottingham when they went down 5-4 on aggregate after a rousing 4-2 win over the league champions in



Kirkcaldy. It was fair to say that the flyers had found their footing now in the top flight.

The Flyers were unable to keep a core of imports together for the **2013/14 SEASON** with only Chaumont and Stewart returning. A busy summer ensued to keep the club progressing in the standings. Kevin Regan was recruited in nets and continued the club's excellent recruitment in that position. Jordan Fulton was quickly a fan favourite with his all action, hard-nosed, goal getting style. Matt Reber was lightning fast, Roehl was an agitator, the enigmatic Ned Lukacevic would bewilder you one week and send you to despair the next. Arguably, however, the season belonged to the appearance of one Matt Nickerson - the type of player that Fife fans loved so much to be a target on the away bench. Matt knew his role, the league knew his role, unfortunately the authorities also knew his role. His first game he took Cardiff's Andrew Lord to task for a late poke on Regan and was introduced to the Fife lounge for 3 games. He would be well acquainted with those surroundings including a 12 match ban reduced to 9 games for his part in the now red-hot derby games against the Clan. There was no qualification from the group stages of the Challenge Cup, the league campaign saw the Flyers squeak over the playoff line by a point by virtue of winning their last four games of the regular season. It included dramatic shootout wins on the road over both Braehead and Dundee who were Conference Champs. Their final game of the season against Braehead had the auld barn absolutely rocking, the size of the crowd a throwback to the Heineken days of the 80's. Flyers won 4-1 and matched up with Dundee in the playoff quarter final. Flyers had the momentum coming in as Stars had comfortably qualified and also had a banged-up roster. It was a couple of rip roaring games with both arenas packed to the rafters. Flyers took a slender 4-3 advantage over the Tay where they put the Stars to the sword with a 4-1 win to take them to the Finals in Nottingham AKA. "Scottingham" with the invasion the following week of Gold, White and Blue. Belfast Giants, who were league champions, awaited the Flyers in the first semi-final and in a tense game the Giants progressed with the only goal of the game. The team looked to continue their upward trend entering their fourth EIHL season.

In 2014, the Elite League announced changes to the import rules for the 2014/15 SEASON; the number of non-British-trained players would rise from 11 to 12, while the amount of work-permit players would remain at 11. The number of



'import' players would then rise to 13 in season 2015-'16 and 14 in season 2016-'17. A core of players returned including the ever popular Kyle Haines on D and big Nicker was also back. Added to the forwards firepower were Scott Fleming and Chris Auger and on defence Jamie Milam and Niko Suoraniemi. Flyers proved a tough nut to crack on home ice in the Challenge Cup and progressed to meet Nottingham in the quarter finals. Ironically, they lost 7-2 in Kirkcaldy and beat the Panthers 6-4 on the road to bow out. It was another dog fight in the league to make the top eight for playoff qualification. Home form remained good with points gained in 15 encounters whilst half of the road wins came against Dundee or Edinburgh, crucially none against Braehead who walked the Conference title. As with the last two seasons, it was by the narrowest margins that they squeezed into the post season when despite losing their last two games they finished in 8th place, a point above the Capitals. They faced league champions, Sheffield Steelers in the quarter final and a narrow 2-3 loss in Kirkcaldy suggested an easy passage for the Yorkshire club. Flyers scratched and clawed their way through the game the following night just coming up short in a 3-3 tie.

SEASON 2015-16 saw another wholesale roster change was undertaken during the summer months. Only Danny Stewart, in what would be his final season in Fife, and Kyle Haines returned. David Brown was recruited in net from the

recently folded, Hull Stingrays, whilst all other recruits were new to the UK game. Justin Fox, Ryan Dingle, Shane Stockton, TJ Caig and Michael Dorr were top five in scoring. Nico Sacchetti, who had been with the Stars two seasons before, joined midway through the season to ignite the charge for the post-season and Gardiner Conference title against bitter rivals Braehead. Nicholas Rioux, Philippe Paquet and Matt Delahey all played huge games on the blueline and Patrick Cullen ground down opposition defences every night. A 50% record in the Challenge Cup was enough to qualify for the knockout round and the Steelers once again returned with a 1st leg lead winning 2-4 in Fife. Again the Flyers almost pulled off a comeback when they won 4-3 in Sheffield to lose by an odd goal on aggregate. Flyers were dominant over the Braehead Clan winning 6 of the 8 encounters. A 50% record against the Stars and five wins from eight against new boys, Manchester Storm was all for nothing when the point dropped against bottom dwelling Capitals early in the season in a shootout at Kirkcaldy eventually proved to be decisive. Fife and Clan were tied on points, but goal difference saw Clan win the title. There was a mid-table 6th place finish in the league which didn't require the now customary hand wringing amongst the fans as the season drew to a close.

By virtue of their Conference win, Clan were seeded 3rd to play the 6th seeded Flyers in the playoff. Both games were electric and a late game winning goal from Kyle Haines in Fife gave the Flyers a 2-1 advantage which they saw out in a 2-2 tie the following night. A second trip to the finals in Nottingham where they matched up against the hometown Panthers. Panthers won 4-1 without too much fuss on their way to the title. Whilst disappointed, Fife fans are never ones to wallow too much and yet another party was had over the weekend, fuelled by the legions of purple jerseys in the stands for a team that had failed to qualify. The Scots it appeared had taken over the town.

The 2016/17 season saw Dingle, Fox, Paquet, Haines and Stockton return. Stockton would pretty much miss the entire campaign through injury. New recruits Matthew Sisca and the hugely experienced Brendan Brooks were top three scores along with captain Ryan Dingle. Sebastien Thinel, Chase Schaber and Carlo Finucci all made solid contributions. In goal, Shane Owen made a massive impact and on the back end ex-Steeler Russ Moyer was joined by one time Stanley Cup winner Ric Jackman and David Turon. There was no progression in the Challenge Cup where only two wins were returned in the eight games. Four wins in the first five games of the league campaign however was a decent start. Home form was again a strong factor with only nine of the 26 games not yielding any points. Only 11 of the corresponding road fixtures however yielded points but it was enough to once again take 6th place in the league. The Conference race was much more emphatic with the Clan, who took seven of the eight games from Fife, winning the back to back Gardiner titles. The playoff match-up with the Belfast Giants, who had finished second in the league, was a step too far for the team who lost respectably in Belfast 4-2 in the first leg but the Giants scored early goals to kill the tie on the way to a 4-1 win in Kirkcaldy.

SEASON 2017-18 saw the league was increase to twelve teams with the inclusion of the Guildford Flames and the Milton Keynes Lightning. Finucci and Schaber returned to lead the scoring charts as did Stockton after healing from his injury. Moyer also returned to captain the side, with James Isaacs also returning. Andy Iles took Owen's place in net as he moved to try his luck in Sweden. Liam Heelis and Peter Leblanc put up more than a point a game closely followed by Danick Gauthier. Stockton justified the faith shown in him and hard-working Charlie Mosey and Evan Bloodoff played every shift, every night. In defence; the silky smooth skating Ian Young transitioned the puck superbly and there was a close understanding amongst the group that included Jim Jorgensen and Ricards Birzins. From the off, the whole team appeared to click, the chemistry across all lines was obvious. 50% was good enough again to make the Challenge Cup quarter finals where the Belfast Giants who had beaten them twice in the group stage took care of business on their home ice after a 3-3 draw in Kirkcaldy when they hosed the Flyers 7-0. The one achievement the club craved the most was silverware in the shape of the Gardiner Conference. It was almost a no-contest as the Flyers took advantage of on ice issues through in Glasgow and almost swept Clan in the eight game series. Edinburgh were swept and only the Stars put up a fight which fittingly saw the Flyers travel to Dundee on the 18th of February needing just a single point to secure the silverware. In a pulsating game, it looked as though the Flyers were cruising to victory until a late comeback saw the game end 6-6 in regulation. The point was enough, the bench celebrated but professionally completed the job by snatching the overtime winner. A 7th place league finish saw Flyers meet the 2nd placed Manchester Storm in the playoff quarterfinal. In a season that had already delivered so many highlight games including coming from 5-1 behind in Cardiff to win 8-6, the second leg in Manchester topped the lot. The Storm came to



Kirkcaldy with a cocky swagger and the Flyers appeared to be flat footed most of the night with the Storm taking a surprisingly easy looking 4-1 lead. An army of Flyers fans, undaunted, made the trek to Altrincham the following night and made a belated April Fools out of the home side. Little by little, they chipped away at the Storm aggregate and even recovered from losing a further goal to win regulation 4-1 and take the tie to sudden death OT. In stepped Carlo Finucci with a top class finish that sent the Fife fans into raptures and almost the whole of the home fanbase sat with their head in their hands. It was another Nottingham Finals disappointment however as the Flyers were blanked 4-0 by the powerhouse Cardiff Devils and there was much consideration of what might have been if the highly influential Young and Bloodoff had not missed out through injury. It had been a blast! And what a way for the club to head into its 80th season.

What does the future hold? It's almost certainly nothing anyone can predict given the previous decades.



Danny BROWN

By Chris Taylor



Danny Brown is a Flyers legend in the truest sense as he currently sits as the club's ninth highest all-time goal scorer and, astonishingly, has achieved that accolade having only been with the club for two seasons, a feat only topped by Dave Stoyanovich.

Danny and Stoyanovich were line mates when they both first came to Fife in the 1984-'85 season. They were part of the 'Plumb Line' named for player-coach, Ron Plumb. This was the year in which Flyers won the BHL playoffs in Wembley. Danny returned for the 1985-'86 season, posting a total of 294 points (165 + 129) in 71 games over the two seasons, before retiring from hockey and pursuing a career in business.

Danny recalls his time playing alongside Stoyanovich and says the two are still in touch with each other.

"Stoy made things very easy. After Plumber [Ron Plumb] and I did all the work and got him the puck he got all the glory for getting a beautiful goal. Of course I'm only kidding. He was great to play with we had excellent chemistry, I knew where he was all the time he was exclusively quick and had a great shot. He was a great teammate and we keep in touch now and he's a wonderful man."

Danny's early career came relatively late for most players as he only got into hockey as a teenager and played for Southwest Cougars Midget AAA in 1979 and then for the University of Western Ontario through his college years. He says he was a walk on for his university team, beating out returning OHL junior players to make the team. He then turned down opportunities to turn pro in order to finish his degree before being recruited by Jack Dryburgh for the Flyers. Fife remains the only pro team Danny has ever played for.

"My early hockey career was slow to develop," he said, "I was a late bloomer and really didn't play high level competitive hockey until high school and beyond. I was a walk on at Western University and managed to make that team, despite them having 25 returning OHL Junior veterans. From there things moved fairly quickly as I had two try-outs with the Winnipeg Jets and a try-out with the Canadian national team that was going to the Olympics in 1984. Unfortunately, I fell short on those two attempts and turned down two opportunities to play minor pro in favour of school. After I graduated, I had the opportunity to come and play for the Flyers.

"After graduating, I got a call from a gentleman named Cam Kiloran, who was a great friend and former teammate of Jackie Dryburgh. They informed me they were coming to Toronto to hold try-outs for the team and would I be interested. I must've caught their eye at the try out because they offered me a contract. My wife Anne and I decided at that time to get married and head off to Scotland. There was no way her dad, Tommy Kennedy, was gonna let her go with me without us getting hitched."

Danny and the team won 27 of their 36 games of their league season and drawing four. They were pipped for the league title by Durham Wasps, but they managed to secure the Scottish Challenge Cup before heading to Wembley for the finals weekend. Danny said:

"Wembley was really the icing on the cake of a terrific season for the Flyers. Earlier in the season when we were having success the swell of support from the town was growing very quickly. We had really integrated into the community by that point of the season. At the time I was just focussed on winning a championship but looking back I can see and I'm very happy about what it did for the community. It was a great reward for our loyal supporters!"



Danny scored a hat trick in the win over Murrayfield Racers in the playoff final, securing the trophy and being enshrined in history as a British champion of the Premier League. He said:

"Being crowned the British Champions was an honour then and looking back now I see that it was a great accomplishment. Of course, at the time it was the Premier league and that is a very difficult championship to win."

He also explains that after leaving Flyers, he settled in Toronto, Canada, starting a career in sales and became involved in coaching once his oldest son was ready to skate.

"After leaving the flyers I started my business career focussing on sales. Anne and I settled in the West End of Toronto near our childhood homes and went about raising our two boys. As soon as my oldest son Jeffrey was able to skate I got involved in coaching."

Danny is still involved in coaching now and is currently coaching at high school level at a prestigious private school. He says he is really enjoying his current role.

"I'm really enjoying coaching at the high school/midget level. Being associated with a time honoured private school Lake St. Michael's College is a real pleasure. It has a rich heritage of hockey. I have been lucky coaching, being associated with great organizations like the Toronto Marlboros and now St. Mike's."

Danny has been able to return to Fife since retiring from hockey, most notably was last season where he and Jack Dryburgh presented the team with the Gardner Conference trophy and said it was an honour to asked to present Flyers' first trophy since joining the Elite League. He had returned before then to see his son Jeff play against the Flyers when he first signed for the Nottingham Panthers in the 2016-'17 season.

"Being involved in the trophy presentation was quite an honour, and it was nice to see the supporters getting rewarded again. I've been back a couple of times and always have a great time and have many friends. I was lucky to get back a couple of times watching my son Jeff play against the Flyers. His first game against the Flyers, I was able to drop



the ceremonial face-off with Jeff involved. That was a memorable and proud occasion for the Brown boys.

"I was very excited for Jeff when he signed with the Panthers. I knew it was a lovely town and a solid programme. I knew the league had a great brand of hockey and to be associated with the league and the Flyers again was very nice. Anne and I had such a memorable experience we were happy that Jeff was going to experience something similar. He is finishing his final year as a pro in the French league and has had an amazing time."

Jeff is not the only son of Danny to make a career in hockey. Connor Brown was drafted by the Toronto Maple Leafs in 2012 and has made consistent appearances for them for the last three seasons. Danny is, understandably, very proud of Connor's achievements in hockey and is doubly proud that he has been able to reach the top flight in his hometown too.

"As you can imagine, when Connor signed with the Leafs it was a family dream come true. The fact that he's able to make a living playing professional hockey is a blessing but being able to do it in his hometown, one of the meccas of hockey, is amazing."

When Danny is not busy with work or coaching, he likes to spend time at his cottage, taking the boat out on the lake and hosting some of his old teammates when they visit. Danny said that he recently had a few pints with Jim Pennycook.

"Outside of hockey and coaching, I love to spend time at our cottage which is a couple hours north of Toronto in Lake Country. We do lots of boating and have a great community up there and we may have a pint or two. Seems like every summer we get a visit from some of our Scottish friends. Then we definitely have a pint. And by the way we have a great friend coming to visit us, Jimmy Pennycook. He's a classic!"

"Thank you so much for allowing me to participate in the 80th celebration. What a mile stone for a fantastic club and a city that has warmed our hearts. Congratulations!"

Thank you Danny for taking the time to answer our questions. We certainly hope there will be more trophies you can present in the future. You are a true Flyers legend and the British Championship season will not soon be forgotten!

Kenny HORNE

By Grant Barnes



Ice hockey has been in Kenny Horne's blood since before he was born. The hard-hitting defenceman has been synonymous with the club as an integral part of some of the greatest sides the club has seen in its 80-year history.

Kenny may have made his debut for the Flyers back in the 1960's, however he has been around the club from an early age due to his father's role as rink manager in the Auld Barn.

"As I say to people, I was in this place before I was born! I was brought up with hockey, I've got pictures with hockey players of gone by days sitting on their knees as a baby. It's always been there.

"When I started playing, there was no junior development as you see it just now. You went on and mucked about when there was free ice and it normally ended up being about 6:30 on a Sunday morning. That's when the juniors played and it just went on from there and took a hold until we got where we're at today."

The game was a lot different from the spectacle we see today in Kenny's time. Before imports really began to lead teams, there were humble beginnings for the Flyers sides of old.

"I look back and say to myself; if we had the training, equipment and the time that they've got now, how good a team would we have been? When I first started playing with the Flyers you'd have one hour, hour and a half training session at midnight on a Friday night and that was it. All of us had jobs. You wouldn't take time off, you had to work. You'd train on a Friday night, get back about two or three in the morning and then you'd be off to work on the Saturday morning.

"When was the last time you saw a hip check? It was a skilled part of a defenceman's job but there's fewer and fewer of them going on now. Ice hockey's like rugby, it's synonymous with body contact. People come to the hockey expecting to see a physical sport. That's what hockey is about, the spectacular side of it and that spectacular side is the body contact, the speed and the physicality."

A huge part of the success of Horne's Flyers sides he puts down to local spirit. Most of the players lived in Fife at the time, with many even finding themselves working with the rink on a daily basis, even if there was just an hour's training every week.

"It was guys that ran around the rink, whether they were on the ice staff, they worked in the café or the restaurant, just local guys who were interested in the rink at the time. We were all from Kirkcaldy or surrounding areas. It was up to us to play, there was no parent power at the back of you. If you wanted to play then you would go and play."

Despite the monumental success of those Flyers teams of old, including the historic Grand Slam in 1977, Horne always looked to stay level headed and focus on the task, and there was never an air of complacency in the side when facing some formidable opponents.

"Going back to those days there were still a couple pro teams on the go; Wembley Lions, Brighton Tigers to name two. When you were playing these guys that was a different aspect altogether. It wasn't all plain sailing. You took the bumps and the scrapes as they came but you would play for the jersey and that was a great thing."

Kenny will be the first to admit he wasn't the most glamorous of players, however he had earned a fierce reputation around the league as one of the most revered defencemen in the league.

"I had a job to do when I was playing, I did my job and I was respected for it. You had the Gordon Latto's of this world who could score a goal anytime, anywhere, but that wasn't me. You could compare me to Nickerson when he first came here, I had to protect the better players. It wasn't so much of an enjoyment but that was just my job. When you're good at your job, you can go around with your chest sticking out because you've done it well."

With the success of the team reaching national heights, the Flyers players quickly became local celebrities, however they never forgot their roots.

"It was great to be known around the town. You'd have kids on the back of the bus saying 'Look there's a Fife Flyers player' and I'd turn around and ask where? You never thought of yourself as that kind of guy but that's what was happening. We were all encouraged to mix with the fans. That was part and parcel of the scene at that time."

There has been much made of the emergence of social media and the access that fans now have to players both on and off the ice. Many are quick to take their thoughts to social media straight after a game, however Horne believes that these opinions don't mirror the work ethic of the team.

"It's a highly skilled team sport. One man doesn't make a team. Everyone likes to see a winning team. There's a mentality around that at the minute. If everyone saw the work ethic that goes into the training, the hours they put in then everyone would have a better idea of how hard you have to work to hit the standard the fans are seeing."

Ice hockey has stayed in the family even after, Kenny's retirement, and there is a proud smile on his face as he reflects the first time he saw his son, Kyle, don the Flyers colours.

"A very proud moment. From the age that Mark Morrison saw the potential in him he was only 14 or 15. He came up to me and said he wouldn't be the same player as his dad, he wanted to be a bit more skilful and the like. At that time the policeman like players were getting pushed out of the team. He's still playing now so it's obviously worked for him!"

With the game being such a big part of Kenny's life, he feels forever indebted to the game, and despite his fearsome attitude on the ice, off it. He treasures the memories that last a lifetime.

"Ice hockey's made me a hell of a lot of friends. I was lucky enough to get picked for the GB team and I still keep in touch with some of the guys. When I was ill last year the amount of people that were emailing me and wishing me well, they must have been thinking jeez is he still alive! It was a community back in those days. On the ice, you were out to crunch them but off it you were the best of pals."

When asked how his Flyers sides of old would cope with the demands of today's game, well, you're better asking him yourself.

"If my team played in the game today, you know what we'd maybe get beat, you know 2-1 or manage to scrape a draw. But you've got to mind, I'm 72 years old now!"





Gordon GOODSIR

By Andrew Birrell



Ladies and Gentlemen this interview is of course with another of the Fife Flyers Brit legends Mr. Gordon Goodsir.

Gordon, like most brits and local Fife lads, came up through the youth system before playing for the Kestrels and then the Fife Flyers. He debuted for Flyers in 1981-'82 in the SNL and stayed with the Flyers in the Northern set-up and into the Heineken sponsored BHL era, only leaving for a short spell at Tayside Tigers in 1988-'89. He also made the Great Britain U18 squad and was part of the 1984-'85 'Wembley Wizards' team.

I managed to ask Gordon some questions here is how that went.

When did you start playing hockey?

"I first started playing hockey when I was about 9-10 years old".

Did you play in most of the junior teams?

"Yes the first team I played for was called the Denim Chiefs, then onto the Safeway Sabers, then progressed to the Kirkcaldy Kestrels and going on to make my debut for the Flyers aged 16 against Ayr Bruins scoring on my debut, which was amazing."

How did you get your chance to play for the Flyers?

"I was playing with the Sabers and Kestrels and training with the Flyers. After a few months I was told I'd be on the bench against Ayr, not expecting to get on, but I got my chance towards the end of the game and scored, something I will never forget."

What was your best moment as a Flyer?

"I have two; scoring on my debut against Ayr and scoring against Durham Wasps live on Grandstand with the commentator saying 'It's Goodsir, it's very Goodsir'."

You were selected for the GB under 18 team. How proud did that make you feel?

"An amazing experience. I actually made the GB team the year before but got chicken pocks the week before the tournament, so didn't play. Devastated doesn't come close!"

Who are the best players you played alongside?

"Home players; Gordon Latto, Dean Edmiston, Doogie Latto, Neil Abel and Craig Dickson. Imports; Ron Plumb, Dave Stoyanovich, Danny Brown and Rick Fera."

Who were the best you played against?

"Home players; Tony Hand, John Iredale and Stephen Cooper. Imports; Roy Halpin, Terry Kurtenbach and Chris Kelland."

What was it like as a player to come on the ice at the Auld Barn to the full houses we used to get?

"Amazing! The hairs stood up on the back of your neck."

How did you enjoy the 75th anniversary game?

"It was great to be involved as I hadn't been on the ice for a while and catching up with all the old players and fans"



What do think of the Flyers making it to 80 years?

"It's a fantastic achievement, long may it continue."

And my final question to Gordon was:

How do you think the hockey in Britain has changed over the past 20 - 30 years?

"The standard has gone up from when I played, but downside is there are too many imports in the league now and it's very hard for the local guys to get a game. I think they should start reducing import numbers and get more British players back on the ice if they could get it down to 5/6 imports, it would benefit the local guys."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gordon for taking the time out of his busy day to do this interview.



"Fife Flyers IHC would like to thank each and every player, past, present and future, who has and will wear the Flyers badge with pride. Thank you to our loyal fans and sponsors who have supported us over the decades, and to our staff and volunteers who make our game nights possible. Here's to another 80 fabulous years."

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