

The Other Upton Park – the Forgotten Olympic Champions

By Peter Hamersley

The Velodrome at Vincennes, built in 1894, was the venue for cycling, archery, gymnastics and the team games (football, rugby and cricket) in 1900. They were all part of the international sports competitions of the Paris World Exhibition, which did bore little resemblance to present day Olympic Games. Thus in football, there was no tournament. Only two games took place. The winners of these matches, Great Britain and France, are considered "Olympic champions".

Photo: Jules Beau Collection, courtesy of Gallica.bnf.fr.



FA Premier League team West Ham United have played at their Upton Park ground (formally known as The Boleyn Ground) for well over a century. In the summer of 2016, the club will move into the London 2012 Olympic Stadium a few miles away in Stratford. It is a timely moment to tell the story of another Upton Park, the long forgotten amateur side who were victorious at the first Olympic football competition, held in Paris in September 1900.

It was the first time Association Football had been played at the Olympics and it is often stated that it was a demonstration sport. No official medals were given at the time of the events. The medal positions were only

retrospectively recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

It is, however, unlikely that football was merely a demonstration event in 1900. There are no statements to this effect in the official report, or in newspaper reports of the time. In fact football (Association and Rugby) both appear on the *Programme Des Jeux* with the same prominence as other sports. The football event was not structured in a knock out format but it was competitively fought regardless. The players who took part fought in the true Olympic spirit and gave their all in the same way as thousands who followed in later years. The importance of their contribution to the history of the game at Olympic level should not be underestimated.

So, who were these teams and footballers that represented their countries at the Paris Games? What was the story behind the football competition at the second Games of the modern Olympiad?

In January 1899 reports stated that events for the 1900 Paris Exhibition were so numerous they had outgrown the planned venue at the Champ De Mars. Instead they would be held in various sports centres in the woods at Vincennes.¹ For football, entries were to be delivered to the Organising Committee by 15th August 1900.²

According to the *Official Report* there were five entries.³ The original plan was for hosts France, to play each of the other countries. Accordingly, the French were to play Switzerland on 20th September, Belgium (23rd), Germany (30th) and Great Britain (7th October). Each winning team would receive an *object d'art*, and there would be a souvenir for individual players. All matches were to take place on the grass pitch inside the Velodrome at Vincennes, even though the pitch was a bit narrow for football.

However, at what must have been rather late notice (just before the competition was to have begun), the German and the Swiss teams withdrew, leaving just two games to be played. The match between France and Great



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Britain was to have concluded the tournament. Instead it became the first match, leaving the arrangements for France vs Belgium as unchanged.

The French team was chosen by the commission of the Union des Sociétés française de Sports athlétiques (USFSA), and was represented by Club Français, the champions of Paris. The Belgian team was reported to be a combined university team from Brussels. The British were represented by the Upton Park Football Club from London (the main subject of this article).

The *Official Report* on the World Exhibition (and the unofficial of the Olympics) was published in 1901 and listed some brief details of the games, along with team lists.⁴ Recent research has found these to be inaccurate. As a result, the actual players who took part in this moment of football history have not been formally recognised, until now.

The first game took place on Thursday 20th September 1900 in front of 500 spectators. Upton Park beat the French team 4–0. According to the *Official Report*, the teams were:

- **Upton Park:** (Goal) Jones, (Defence) Buckenham, Grosling, (Half-Backs) Chalk, Burridge, Quash, (Forwards) Turner, Spackman, Nicholas, Zealley, Haslom (Captain).
- **French Team:** (Goal) Huteau, (Defence) Bach, Allemane, (Half-Backs) Gaillard, Bloch, Macaire, (Forwards) Fraysse (Captain), Garnier, Lambert, Grandjean, Canelle.

Three days later, on Sunday 23rd September 1900, the French team beat the Belgian side by 6 goals to 2, in front of a larger crowd of 1500 people. The French made two changes to their team and the players were:

- **French Team:** (Goal) Huteau, (Defence) Bach, Allemane, (Half-Backs) Gaillard, Bloch, Macaire, (Forwards) Duparc, Garnier (Captain), Peltier, Lambert, Canelle.
- **Belgian Team:** (Goal) Leboutte, (Defence) R. Kelcone, E. Moreau, (Half-Backs) A. Renier, G. Pelgrims (Captain), C. Van Hoorden, (Forwards) Thornton, Delbecque, Spaunoghe, Van Heukelum, Londot.

The report stated that it was an easy victory for the French because the Belgian players had limited training and a lack of cohesion, some having met for the first time to play this game.

That's the official version. But how much of this is true? Match reports and team line ups from contemporary Paris and London newspapers reveal many discrepancies with the *Official Report*. Even the result of the second game is open to question. There are many versions and reports spanning the midst of time. After years of research into the Upton Park Football Club, it is now time to set the record straight.

A Brief History of Upton Park Football Club up to September 1900

To find out the story of these players, and how they found themselves in Paris at the beginning of the twentieth century, we must go back to the middle of the previous century and uncover the history of an unremarkable and now defunct football club which nonetheless left remarkable and lasting legacies. There were actually two Upton Park Football Clubs (for ease of reading, UPFC I and UPFC II), and other than name, there are no connections between them. The first club was formed out of the South West Essex and Upton Park Cricket Clubs under the leadership of H. Alexander in 1867. UPFC I played home games in West Ham Park, a public park, and were the first football club to originate in what is now the London Borough of Newham. They were early pioneers of the game. The club players were all ex-public schoolboys and gentlemen of society backgrounds. They practised sport for pure amateur intentions as a form of Muscular Christianity.



UPFC I played only friendly matches and Cup ties. In fact they were amongst the original 15 sides who entered in the very first Football Association Cup (FA Cup) in 1871/72. In fact the very first goal ever scored in this competition was scored at West Ham Park by Jarvis Kenrick of Clapham Rovers against UPFC I on 11th November 1871.⁵

UPFC I reached the FA Cup quarter finals four times. The most famous of these was in 1884 when they lost 3–0 at home to Blackburn Rovers. It is estimated there were over 3,000 people trying to see the game. This was played in West Ham Park on a roped off pitch with no enclosure and no gate money taken!⁶

The French team of the USFSA (Club Français) lost 0–4 to Upton Park FC. 500 spectators watched the match.

Photo: gallica.bnf.fr



Two scenes from the game France against Upton Park FC.

Photos: Le Sport Universel
Illustré 1900

In the previous round UPFC I drew away to the mighty Preston North End, who were subsequently disqualified from the competition for being professional. This caused quite a stir in the north of England where the idea of a breakaway association allowing professionalism was gathering pace. This resulted indirectly in the formation of the Football League a few years later.

As a leading club of the day, UPFC I could call upon several England International players such as Clement Mitchell, Segar Bastard and Conrad Warner. Additionally, several other internationals played on a regular basis for the club including EC Bambridge ("Charley Bam"), one of the most popular players of the era. UPFC I reached the final of the first three London Senior Cup competitions, winning the first two in 1882 and 1883. In this competition, UPFC I were only ever defeated by the winners of the trophy. The peak of their success was in 1883-1884, when they lost one game and had the best club average in all Britain.⁷ The club's demise came in 1887, just three years after its zenith. It failed to embrace the growing popularity of the game that it had done so much to nurture. The club enjoyed large local support, but showed no intent to recruit from that base. The result was to fold, rather than evolve.

As a legacy from UPFC I, amateur football clubs in East London and Essex flourished. New clubs rose to prominence. The strongest of these was Clapton FC, whose home ground was immediately across the road from West Ham Park. Clapton won many honours, most notably five FA Amateur Cups. They are also recognised as being the first English club to tour in Europe, having played in Antwerp in 1890.

Another local side Belmont FC, was formed in 1887. Having achieved little of note, the club took up the

famous and now vacant name of Upton Park in 1891. They were thus the second club to use that name. Despite winning the Essex Senior Cup in 1895 and the Grays Charity Cup of 1897, UPFC II were not particularly successful and had finished bottom of the inaugural Southern Alliance League in 1892/93. In season 1895/96 the club lost more than 80% of their matches

It was during the disastrous 1895/96 season that two events happened to change the club's future. They were to lead indirectly to the appearance at Paris in 1900. Unhappy with its home at the Rising Sun ground near Manor Park, the club found itself homeless. The decision was taken to play all games away from home and become a wandering (nomadic) team. The second event was the arrival of James Harry Jones (Jonah) as goalkeeper and secretary. Using his varied contacts in the football and business world, Jonah transformed the Upton Park club by developing its travelling status to take in regular tours at pre-season, Christmas and Easter.

In September 1897, UPFC II began making annual tours of the West Country and the Channel Islands. In 1899 the tour was expanded to France. They met Saint Servan at Saint Malo. Now lasting about two weeks, the tour was repeated each and every season up until September 1908. The fourth such tour was in 1900, when the club played eight games, including the game in Paris (see details).

UPFC II became famous for its tours. Often the touring party consisted of representative players, guesting from other clubs. These were county standard players from London, Dorset, Essex and Middlesex amongst others, plus some leading amateur footballers of the day. It was in this way the eleven men representing Great Britain in Paris in 1900 were composed.

September 1900 – Upton Park Tour: Dorset, Channel Islands and France.

By the time September 1900 came around, UPFC II were embarking on their fourth annual tour. This had been timed to coincide with the match in Paris originally scheduled for 7th October. The club had been offered the opportunity to play in Paris by the Amateur Status Committee of the Football Association (they were the first club to accept the offer, but it was unlikely that they were the first to be asked).⁸ Following the pattern of previous tours, the club would have taken a train from Paddington Station down to Dorchester on the day of the first tour game (13th September). They played a series of games over the next four days in the West Country against local sides Dorchester, Bridport, Yeovil and Weymouth. The ferry was then taken to Guernsey where the club made their base on or about 18th September.

Perhaps the news of the late withdrawal of the German and Swiss teams from the Olympic football competition was given to the club on tour, forcing the Upton Park men to alter their plans and reschedule the planned matches against Guernsey and Jersey island sides. Instead, Upton Park would now play in the first game at the Paris Exposition. They had therefore to leave for France almost immediately. This meant travelling all night, as they were due to arrive at six a.m. on 20th September – the very morning of the match!⁹

The German and Swiss withdrawals must have been at the last minute indeed because even as late as 20th September French newspapers were still talking about the proposed games. News of the rearranged opening game was only made public on the day. This undoubtedly affected the attendance.

Football took place at the specially constructed Vincennes Velodrome. Set in the woods of Vincennes,

the excellent facilities had been built as an annex to host many sporting events away from the centre of Paris.

Upton Park were reported to be a first class English side – which was a slight exaggeration of the truth designed to attract as many as possible to the new venue!

20 September 1900: France (Club Français) o v Great Britain (Upton Park FC) 4

Borrowing from *The Morning Advertiser*, the *West Ham Guardian* of 29th September 1900, gave perhaps the most detailed account of the game that took place at Vincennes nine days earlier. It was reported that the Ministry of Commerce had put up posters throughout the suburbs to advertise the game, billed as France versus England.

Kicking off at half past two in the afternoon, the French took advantage of the sun and a slight breeze behind them. However, they were immediately overrun by the experienced Upton Park side who scored two goals inside the first ten minutes. These goals are possibly captured by the photographer signing as “M.K.S.L” in the two photographs on p. 30. If this is correct, then these goals were scored by Nicholas and Turner for Upton Park.¹⁰

Following the two early goals, play slowed down considerably, possibly due to the hot weather. The French team came into the game more and more but could not force a goal. In the second half Gosling, the Upton Park full-back, was injured and had to leave the field for a long time. Reduced to ten men, Upton Park were forced into defence. The French came close to scoring and hit the cross bar, but they missed the rebound when they should really have scored. Towards the end of the game, possibly after Gosling had returned from injury, Upton Park scored two late goals (via

William Quash of Upton Park FC (dark shirt, white sleeves and shorts) challenges a French player in the air.

Photo: Le Sport Universel Illustré 1900



Nicholas and Zealley). The French newspapers reported that their team had tired due to having limited training considering it was not yet the start of the football season in Paris. However, mention was made that Upton Park might well have scored more goals (as was expected), but were probably also tired especially after the all night journey they had made to play the game.

It is widely reported and generally accepted, that the final score was 4–0 to Upton Park. Consequently Upton Park were the winners of the first ever football game held at an Olympic Games.

Having made football history, Upton Park were still on tour and also found themselves in a quandary. It was Thursday afternoon, and the team were in Paris. A FA Cup game was scheduled on Saturday in London, ironically against a club named Olympic! Additionally, four games had been arranged against the French side Saint Servan at Saint Malo, plus two games against Guernsey and Jersey.

Incredibly, several players left Paris as soon as possible and travelled back to London to take part in the FA Cup tie on Saturday. On that day 22nd September at Shepherd's Bush, West London, Upton Park were knocked out of the Cup by Olympic. The score was 5–0. It was reported that the makeshift team consisted of some players from the West of England and some gentlemen in khaki!¹¹

Still, the show went on, and the travelling players went back to France to be reunited with their touring colleagues. They managed to beat Saint Servan 5–0 in Saint Malo on 24th September!¹² The tour was completed by games on Jersey and Guernsey, Upton Park fielded their full Olympic X1 in both. To commemorate the victory in Paris, the Upton Park players were to receive special medals at the end of the 1900–1901 season.¹³

So who were the men that represented Great Britain at the very first Olympic football competition, and how were they identified?

The key to identifying the Upton Park players lies in the history of their tours. As stated, the club made twelve tours to France and the Channel Islands between 1897 and 1908. Additionally, Easter tours to Belgium were undertaken from 1907, possibly through to 1911. Some players only appeared for the club on these tours – therefore newspaper reports revealing their initials and parent club are vital. Some were members of other clubs, opponents of Upton Park during the regular season. Detailed research along these lines has revealed the identity of the following eleven men.

Upton Park FC : The Players at the 1900 Paris Olympics

James Harry Jones, ("Jonah") Goalkeeper, Secretary. Almost always listed as "JH", Jones joined the Upton Park club from Tunbridge Wells in 1896. With tireless

work and enthusiasm he set about changing the club's fortunes almost single-handedly. He was a dynamic personality with a reputation as being one of the finest keepers in London amateur football. It is reported that he was not very tall, but made up for his lack of height by his goalkeeping prowess and was often mentioned in match reports. He remained with Upton Park until the club's demise in 1911. Jones is known to have taken part in all twelve trips to France and the Channel Islands and four Easter tours of Belgium. Before the club ventured abroad, Jones had organised Easter tours to the Isle of Wight, Wales and Yorkshire. Before his time with Upton Park, Jones had been a very popular goalkeeper for Tunbridge Wells FC, first appearing in December 1895.¹⁴ He also represented Upton Park on the London FA sub divisional committee in 1897.

Born December quarter 1873 at Camberwell, Surrey, James Harry Jones can be found on the 1901 census living at 93 Grove Lane, Camberwell – the address he gave to the press when he began as club secretary of Upton Park.¹⁵ Tracing back through census records, it is established that J.H. Jones was the grandson of Samuel Jones. He worked for the family business, Samuel Jones & Co, the famous stationers of Camberwell. He married Mabel Gwendoline Doggett in 1909 and eventually settled in Hove, Brighton. He died in 1955 at Hove aged 82, leaving a tidy sum of £31,956.

Claude Percival Buckenham.

Full-Back. Essex County full-back who also played for Leyton, Woodford and Chelmsford. Buckenham played on a regular basis for Upton Park¹⁶ from 1897 to 1900 including four foreign tours. He was better known as a cricketer, playing for Leyton, Essex and England. His England caps

all came on the 1909–10 tour of South Africa where he took 21 wickets in four tests.

Born 16th January 1876, Herne Hill, London. He served in the army as a Sergeant during First World War when his height was given as 1.75 m. However, locally recorded statistics from his cricketing career put his height at 1.83 m.¹⁷ He married Catherine Helen Lawson in 1898 and had four children. After the war, he settled in his wife's native Scotland and became the professional at Forfarshire Cricket Club. Died 23rd February 1937 in Dundee, Scotland.



William Sullivan Gosling. Full-Back. A regular full-back for Chelmsford, Gosling also played for Casuals FC and Old Etonians. He had appeared for London against Sheffield in 1892. Gosling was a military man, an Old

Etonian, and part of a famous sporting aristocratic family. He was the brother of Robert Cunliffe (RC) Gosling who played football for Corinthians and England (five caps 1892–1895). R.C. Gosling also played for Essex (1894–1896) and was a colleague of C.P. Buckenham. W.S. Gosling's appearances for Upton Park were limited to the one tour of 1900, playing at least three times. He suffered an injury in the Paris game, and spent a part of it off the field until he recovered.¹⁸

Born 19th July 1869, at Farnham, Essex, W.S. Gosling is found on the 1911 census at Lovells Court, Marnhull, Dorset. The family were lords of the manor of Bentfieldbury, Stansted Mounfitchet, Essex. There were five Gosling brothers at Eton at the same time in the late 1880's. W.S. Gosling was at Cambridge University in 1889¹⁹ and was a Major in the Essex Yeomanry. In 1927 he was appointed as the High Sheriff of Essex. He married Lady Victoria Kerr, 9th Marquess of Lothian in 1903. He died in October 1952 at Saffron Walden, Essex aged 83, leaving a vast sum of £380,169 in his will.²⁰

Alfred Ernest Chalk. Essex half back. Featured for Upton Park from 1893 to 1902, touring at least five times. He also played for Ilford, Barking Rovers and Barking Woodville for many seasons. Alf Chalk had a long football career in Essex, often featuring with his brothers Fred and Ernest. He was captain of Upton Park's winning Essex Senior Cup Final team of 1895. He also featured with his two brothers for Barking Woodville who won the same trophy in 1896. He represented his county numerous times. Chalk was prominent on the 1900 Upton Park tour.²¹

Born in 1874 at Plaistow, Essex, Chalk was a Railway clerk from a very large Barking family.²² He died in June 1954 at Herne Bay, Kent, leaving £5141 to two of his unmarried sisters.²³

Tom Eustace Burrridge. Centre Half. Burrridge is often described as a tall and strong player and impressed many match reporters. He appeared for Upton Park between 1899 and 1905, touring on at least four occasions.²⁴ He held a post on the club's committee in 1900 at the tender age of 19.²⁵ Predominantly a centre half, Burrridge often ventured forward during games and got amongst the goalscorers. To date, he has not been found playing for any other clubs. He was selected to play for Upton Park South versus Upton Park North in a game that preceded the club's annual dinner of March 1905.²⁶

Born 30th April 1881 at Pimlico, London, Burrridge was a student at the Royal College of Veterinary Students (RCVS) during his first few seasons with Upton Park, as were the brothers John and Thomas Nicholas (see p. 34). Along with the Nicholas brothers, Burrridge went on to serve in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC) in First World

War. All three were promoted to the rank of Major on the same day, 10th July 1915.²⁷ Prior to WWI, Burrridge served in South Africa, departing on 12th October 1905. Upton Park FC held a gathering to bid him farewell as he left for South Africa.²⁸ He married Lillian Baxter at Battersea, London in 1919. He died 16th September 1965 at Chatham, Kent, leaving £4410 to his son, John.²⁹

William Francis Patterson

Quash. Half Back. First appearing for Upton Park in 1894, Quash featured regularly between 1899 to 1901. He appeared on two tours, 1900 and 1901. He also played for several teams local to Barking, Essex, but most notably Barking Woodville with whom he won an Essex Senior Cup winners medal in 1894 and was assistant secretary in 1897. Team mates at Woodville included the Chalk brothers, Fred and Alf. Quash also played cricket for Barking Rovers.³⁰

Born 27th December 1868, Barking, Essex. Quash was listed as a Shipbrokers Clerk on census records. He was the son of a fishing smack owner and came from a very large Barking based family. He enlisted with the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers in 1894 where he was described as 1.71 m tall with blue eyes. He was a keen all round sportsman excelling at cycling, swimming, cricket and figure skating among others.³¹ His family was well known in the Barking area and were responsible for the erection of the town's first library, swimming baths and savings bank.³² Married 1904, Alice Emma Saltzbauer. Died at Romford, Essex in 1938.

Richard Rennie Turner.

Right Wing. Appeared for Upton Park from 1899 through to 1906, but appears to made only one pre-season tour. He also assisted Crouch End Vampires in 1902. He is often described as a speedy winger with an eye for goal. He is credited with scoring one goal at the 1900 Paris Olympics. During the 1900 tour, he was mostly referred to as R. R. Turner in newspaper reports.³³ Turner was the youngest member of the Upton Park team in Paris, at just 18 years and 172 days. He is also a strong candidate for Britain youngest medal winner at the 1900 Games. Younger brother of Alfred Docwra (A. D.) Turner who appeared from time to time for Upton Park (often in the same team as his brother).³⁴ A.D. Turner, a regular for Crouch End, represented both Middlesex and London and went on to play a handful of Football



Photo: Courtesy of Lesley Gentry, his great-granddaughter.



Photo: by permission of his grand-daughter Bridget Powys-lybbe.

League matches as an amateur for Nottingham Forest and Bristol City between 1902 and 1905. Along with Arthur Turner,³⁵ A.D. Turner is frequently incorrectly stated to have played in Paris for UPFC.

R.R. Turner was born 24th April 1882 at Hornsey, Middlesex, the son of Alfred E. Turner and Emma Docwra. He was a merchant and went on to be a coffee plantation manager in Singapore. He is found on the 1901 census at 24 Colfe Road, Lewisham. He married Florence L. C. Hoare in 1912 and had three children. He died at Worthing, Sussex in 1960, leaving £4023 to his wife.³⁶

Walter John Zealley (Jack). Inside Right. At 1.68 m tall, Zealley appeared for Upton Park mostly on tours between 1899 and 1908 (eight in all). "Jack" Zealley was a celebrated Bridport footballer and cricketer. He won 44 badges for the Dorset county side. Always known as Jack, he played 226 times for Bridport, scoring 73 goals. He is credited with scoring a goal in the Paris Olympic Games. On each tour, Zealley would appear for Bridport against Upton Park and then join his erstwhile opponents for the rest of their tour.^{37,38} He was the brother of Arthur Zealley, who appeared many times for the Dorset County cricket side and also featured on the Upton Park tour of 1899. The sporting prowess of the Zealley brothers is often mentioned in West Country press reports.³⁹

Born 1874 at Bothenhampton, Bridport, Dorset. Married 1917 – Mary E. Elliott. Jack Zealley was a farmer by trade. His family owned Hyde Farm at Walditch. On the 1881 census, Hyde Farm was described as having 215 acres and employing 8 people. Zealley also had a long military career, serving with the Dorset Yeomanry in the Boer War and in First World War. Died 15th May 1956 at Dorset, leaving £3343 to his wife.⁴⁰

John Nicholas ("Nich"). Centre Forward. Upton Park FC 1900–1903. Lieutenant John Nicholas A.V.S was a member of Slough FC when he appeared on his one and only tour with Upton Park in 1900.⁴¹ A free scoring forward, he is credited with scoring two goals in the Paris Olympic Games. In 1899 Nicholas was described as "fairly weighty, has good pace, is clever with both head and feet, and above all, knows no fear".⁴² In addition to Slough FC (45 appearances, 33 goals), he also appeared for the RCVS team and for one of the Harrow clubs before joining the RAVC and fighting in the Boer War.⁴³

Born 24th July 1879, at Allahabad, India. John Nicholas was a student at the RCVS from 1898 to 1901, at the same time as his younger brother Thomas and T. E. Burrigge (see p. 33). His father was Superintendent of the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace in 1911. Nicholas graduated from the RCVS in 1901 and joined the RAVC. He was promoted to Captain in 1909 and then Major in 1916

(on the same day as his brother and Tom Burrigge).⁴⁴ Nicholas was awarded an O.B.E in 1920 or 1921. He served in Mesopotamia, Palestine and Egypt in WWI and was later the Deputy-Assistant Director of Veterinary Services to the British Army of the Rhine between 1921 and 1922.⁴⁵ He died of pneumonia on 29th September 1929 at Nainago, India, leaving behind a widow, Mabel, and two children.⁴⁶

Frederick George Spackman.

Inside Left. Fulham FC amateur 1899–1904 (53 appearances, 9 goals – including 26 games in the Football League). He also played for Wandsworth & Queens Park Rangers. Standing at 1.73 m tall, he toured at least eight times with Upton Park between 1897 and 1908. He



was the brother of Harry Spackman, also of Fulham & Wandsworth FC (both brothers appeared on the 1899 Upton Park tour). Spackman was a versatile player who could play both forward and back positions. His *Times* obituary of June 1942, confirmed his playing days for both Upton Park and Fulham.

Born 1878, Shorncliffe, Sandgate, Kent. He is listed as a Journalist and Printer Reader in 1916 First World War military records. He worked as a proof reader for *The Times* newspaper. Married May Perkins, a fellow *Times* employee in 1938. Died Bromley, Kent 1942.⁴⁷

Henry North Haslam. Outside left. Team captain of the Olympic Games side (name incorrectly spelt "Haslom" in some reports). Toured with Upton Park four times between 1900 and 1903. Also played for Worksop Town (1896 and 1899–1902), Tonbridge FC (1896–97 and 1899)⁴⁸, Tunbridge Wells FC (1897–1900) where he was a team mate of J.H. Jones⁴⁹ and a badge of merit winner in season 1897–98.⁵⁰ He also assisted West Norwood (1898–99) and Barnet (1900). Haslam toured Belgium with Tunbridge Wells at Easter 1900 and was said to be of Shrewsbury Town FC and the Tonbridge club, Eton House.⁵¹ When at West Norwood he was chosen to represent the London League.⁵² At just 1.61 m, Haslam was a small man suited to wing play and was often mentioned in match reports for the accuracy of his crosses. He was stated to be of Derby County Reserves in 1903, though he has not been found in team lists.⁵³ He also played cricket for Worksop (mostly 2nd XI), Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, The Robins (Tonbridge), and Clumber Park (Worksop).

Haslam, was born at Worksop, Notts in 1879. He was the son of Joel Haslam, the Estate Agent for the Duke of Newcastle, a benefactor for Worksop Cricket Club, for whom Haslam featured. He schooled at Uppingham in

1895–1896 and then boarded at Eton House, Tonbridge (circa 1896–1899), a military and university prep college. He married Amy Clarke in 1904, had children and left his fathers' employ to take up a clerical position at a steelworks in Sheffield. There appears to be no further sporting record of him following his marriage. After serving as a clerk during First World War, Haslam's life fell into demise. He was convicted of a string of minor drink related offences. In 1926 he pleaded guilty to two offences of breaking and entering and was sentenced to twelve months hard labour! This was followed with another spate of law breaking in the 1930's before his early death in 1942. His educational background and inheritance was mentioned in newspaper reports of his crimes.⁵⁴

The French and Belgian teams

The French team representing USFSA was Club Français. In 1900, football was still in its infancy in France, but Club Français were no strangers to touring sides and international games. The first international match played in Paris took place in 1896 when Club Français lost 8–0 against the English Ramblers⁵⁵. The strong English side was composed of various Old Etonians and Harrovians led by M. G. Rebow.

Club Français were champions of Paris in 1898 and 1899 and played English touring clubs on a regular basis after 1896. A combined team gathered by L. Huteau (goalkeeper at the Olympics) also hosted English clubs on the same tours.⁵⁶

In addition to being the champions of Paris, Club Français was totally comprised of French players, a fact that was supported by its selection to represent the USFSA. Other leading Parisian clubs at this time had strong English elements in them. In 1899 Club Français were defeated by a German touring team from Hamburg. This was the first time a German side had played in Paris – they also beat a United Paris side on the same tour.⁵⁷

The French Olympic team of 1900 was very smartly attired and wore shirts with two rings on the chest. Perhaps this was an early forerunner to the future Olympics symbol.

In addition to those listed in the *Official Report*, the following names are given for the French squad:

Goal: Lucien Huteau. Full-Backs: Louis Bach, Pierre Allemane. Half Backs: Virgile Gaillard, Alfred Bloch, Maurice Macaire. Forwards: Eugène Fraysse* (Captain), Georges Garnier, Marcel Lambert, Fernand Canelle, Gaston Peltier*, R. Grandjean, R. Duparc*.⁵⁸

Belgium

The Belgian team was made up from various sources, often stated to be university students that 'lacked cohesion'. However, some of these players had previous exposure to international teams. Leading British amateur teams had been touring Belgium since at least 1890. Regular games had taken place in Brussels against Racing Club and Leopold FC. Many of the leading Belgian clubs had been formed by groups of former university



The Belgian team, lost 2–6 to France on 23rd September 1900 in front of 1500 spectators

Photo: gallica.bnf.fr

France v Belgium:
The variety of Belgian
shirts can be seen in
this action shot from
the game.

Photo: gallica.bnf.fr



students – this was probably similar to the same state of affairs in England with famous old boys clubs such as the Old Etonians and Old Harrovians. A report states that the Belgian side at the 1900 Games was made up of four captains from leading clubs, and refers to the lack of cohesion in the team.⁵⁹ Perhaps they played badly on the day, but several of the Belgian team had played against the English sides that had toured their homeland each Easter since 1894. Players such as Delbecque, Van Hoorden, and Reiner were very familiar with English clubs. Additionally, the Belgian organiser was Frank Konig, an extremely experienced player and coach for Racing Club of Brussels.

The lack of cohesion suggested extended to the fact that the Belgian team did not have a uniform set of shirts. In fact it appears as if each player wore their own kit! A photograph of the Belgian team reveals as many as four different shirts!

The *Journal De Bruxelles* provides the following Belgian team:

Goal: Marcel LeBoutte (Spa FC & Universite Liege). Full-Backs: Raul Kelecom (FC Liegeois & Universite Liege), Ernest Moreau de Melen (FC Liegeois & Universite Liege). Half Backs: Alphonse Renier (Racing Club de Bruxelles), Georges Pelgrims (Captain) (Leopold FC & Louvain Universite), Eugène Neefs* (SC Louvain). Forwards: Eric Thornton (Leopold FC & Universite Bruxelles), Hendrik Van Heuckelum (Leopold FC)⁶⁰, Emile Spannoghe# (Skill FC), Albert Delbecque^ (Skill FC), Lucien Londot (FC Liegeois & Universite Liege).⁶¹

Whereas the *Official Report* records the game as a 6–2 victory for the French, at least three Parisian newspapers state that this only reflected the goal scoring in the second half. At half time it had been 2–1 to the Belgians, therefore the final score was France 7 Belgium 4.⁶² Mention was made of the newly designed scoreboard which enabled the spectators to follow the correct score.

What became of Upton Park FC?

Under the guidance of J.H. Jones the Upton Park club continued as a touring club for many years. This nomadic life meant continuous travel arrangements being made as teams were put together to play many of the leading amateur clubs of the day. Easter tours were also arranged. They played in various seaside towns as far afield as Scarborough and Filey in Yorkshire to Ryde on the Isle of Wight.

To mark the tenth tour of the Channel Islands in 1906, the club commissioned a beautiful trophy and presented it to the Guernsey Football Association. It was decided to contest the trophy each season between the champion civilian clubs of Guernsey and Jersey. The trophy rapidly became the most coveted club prize in Channel Island football. This lasting legacy remains today as the Upton Park Trophy and it is fought for each April.

Upton Park continued to play all games away from home and attracted large crowds to many regular grounds such as at Tunbridge Wells, Reigate, Oxford

City, Hastings and Redhill. The club continued to put together a team comprising of top county and amateur club players. Many of the players had won county representative honours with other clubs.

At Easter 1907 the club widened its touring field and went to Belgium. This pattern was repeated for the next two years at least. Some sources state that the Bruges Tournei was won in 1907.⁶³ However, although all games were won on this tour, it is more likely these were friendlies against clubs who were competing in the Tournei.

In September 1910, the club were reported to be on tour of the Channel Islands. There are conflicting reports that they scratched from cup competitions at this time, including the FA Cup.⁶⁴ However, at least one report states they did play in the FA Cup on 17th September 1910.⁶⁵ This is the last known result mentioning Upton Park FC and it can only be assumed they folded as a club soon after. This was probably due to the retirement of the ageing Jonah, who had been the driving force of the club since 1896.

The club's legacy lives on in football on the Channel Islands, and, of course in record books of the Olympic Games. The details of the players given above is probably the most comprehensive published to date. ■

- 1 *Pall Mall Gazette*, 11th January 1899
- 2 *Exposition Universelle Internationale de 1900 à Paris, Concours Internationaux d'Exercices Physique et de Sports*. Rapports publiés sous la direction de M. D. Merillon, Bd, I, Paris 1901
- 3 Ibid
- 4 Ibid
- 5 <http://www.thefa.com/Competitions/FACompetitions/TheFACup/History/thefirstevermatches>
- 6 *Sheffield Independent*, 11th February 1884
- 7 Table published in the Stratford Express of 22nd March 1884
- 8 Menary, Steve (2010). *GB United?: British Olympic Football and the end of the amateur dream*. Durrington Pitch. ISBN 978-1905411924
- 9 *Paris Echo*, 21st September 1900
- 10 <http://www.rsssf.com/tables/01900f.html>. There are many goal scoring sources and most agree on Nicholas (2 goals) and Zealley. However, there is dispute on Turner (right wing) or Haslam (left wing) for the goal that was scored early in the game. The photograph in this article strongly suggests it was scored from the right wing.
- 11 *South Essex Mail*, 29th September 1900
- 12 *Essex County Chronicle*, 28th September 1900
- 13 *Slough Observer*, 9th March 1901. The report quoted the "Wanderer" column in the Sportsman newspaper reporting that the team would receive "Exhibition medals to adorn their breasts as a memento of the latter trip."
- 14 *Kent Courier*, 27th December 1895. There are numerous mentions that JH Jones was the ex Tunbridge Wells player (far too many to be incorrect) – refer to *Kent Courier*, 26th January 1906 for example. However, the Tunbridge Wells goalkeeper of 1894–1896 was mostly listed as R.H. Jones – who later played for London Welsh.
- 15 *West Ham Guardian*, 19th September 1900
- 16 *Football Evening News*, 13th January 1900
- 17 *Sevenoaks Chronicle*, 16th May 1913 for example
- 18 *Essex County Chronicle*, 28th September 1900: "W. Gosling, the sturdy right back of the Chelmsford Town club, who played for Upton Park against a team of Frenchman at the Paris Exhibition had the misfortune to meet with an injury, but I understand it was not of a serious nature."

- 19 Cambridge University Alumni 1261–1900, ancestry.com
- 20 Probate record 1952 ancestry.com
- 21 *Football Evening News*, 6th October 1900
- 22 1901 Census England & Wales, 125 East Street, Barking, Essex: The Chalk family had 14 unmarried children living at home out of 18 in total.
- 23 Probate record 1954, ancestry.com
- 24 Burrridge is possibly the player listed as G I Ant in the *Guernsey Evening Press* match reports for the tour of 1905.
- 25 *West Ham Guardian*, 19th September 1900
- 26 *Essex County Chronicle*, 17th March 1905
- 27 *London Gazette*, 9th July 1915
- 28 *Essex County Chronicle*, 13th October 1905
- 29 Probate Record 1965, ancestry.com
- 30 *Essex County Chronicle*, 13th July 1906
- 31 Obituary: *Barking, East Ham & Ilford Advertiser* 1938
- 32 Lesley Gentry: gt granddaughter of William Quash
- 33 *Guernsey Star*, 29th September 1900, *East Ham Echo*, 28th September 1900, *West Ham Guardian*, 29th September 1900, amongst others.
- 34 *Sussex Express*, 3rd December 1901
- 35 *Olympic Football 1900–2012*, Colin Jose, and <http://www.rsssf.com/tables/01900f.html> (accessed 20th January 2016) – for example.
- 36 http://powys.org/pl_tree/ps29/ps29_423.html. Family history web site of Tim Powys-Lybbe, accessed 18 January 2016.
- 37 *Bridport News*, October 1900
- 38 *Western Gazette*, 14th September 1900
- 39 Ibid, 6th July 1900
- 40 Probate record 1956, ancestry.com
- 41 *Slough Observer*, 22nd September 1900
- 42 Ibid, 18th February 1899
- 43 Nicholas is listed as "Harrower" (*la Presse*, 21st September 1900 and *la Figaro*, 20th September 1900). He is also stated to be of the Harrow club in the *Slough Observer*, 5th March 1898.
- 44 *London Gazette*, 9th July 1915
- 45 *Veterinary Record*, 10th October 1925. Information obtained from the archivist at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London, accessed 1st February 2014
- 46 *The Times*, 3rd October 1929
- 47 Ibid, 1st June 1942
- 48 *Tonbridge Free Press*, 26th September 1896
- 49 *Kent Courier*, 5th September 1902
- 50 Ibid, 5th August 1898
- 51 Ibid, 27th April 1900
- 52 *Football Evening News*, 5th November 1898
- 53 *Kent Courier*, 17th April 1903. The Derby County player was Harry Bertie Haslam, ex Belper Town FC
- 54 *Nottingham Evening Post*, 15th December 1937
- 55 *Pall Mall Gazette*, 26th December 1896
- 56 *Kent Courier*, 11th December 1896
- 57 *Pall Mall Gazette*, 17th February 1899
- 58 http://www.linguasport.com/futbol/internacional/olimpia-das/1900_PARIS.htm. *These players were from Racing Club de France.
- 59 *Le Matin*, 24th September 1900
- 60 Tony Bijkerk informed that he was in fact an Dutchman, born 6th May 1879 in The Hague, died 28th April 1929 in The Hague.
- 61 *Journal De Bruxelles*, 23rd and 30th September 1900. * Neefs played in lieu of Van Hoorden. # Spannoghe played in lieu of Feye. However Feye is listed in French newspaper reports. ^ Delbecque played in lieu of Van Missiel.
- 62 *Le Figaro*, 24th September 1900, *Gil Blas*, 24th September 1900, *La Presse*, 24th September 1900.
- 63 <http://www.rsssf.com/tables/b/bruggepasen05-59.html>
- 64 *Essex County Chronicle*, 16th September 1900
- 65 *Sunday Times*, 18th September 1910

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