

## RUGBY PLAYERS

**Sir Allan Arthur** April 3 1855– October 9 1923  
EPSILON COMPARTMENT GLASGOW NECROPOLIS

Arthur attended Glasgow Academy from age 9 to 15 and then went to Merchiston College. He played rugby football for Glasgow Academicals and Glasgow District\* side (now known as the Glasgow Warriors).

*\*The Glasgow District v Edinburgh District sides fixture was played annually and the Glasgow District side, was full of Scottish international players. The Glasgow team – see below - for the 5 December 1874 match features a number of players who are buried in the Glasgow Necropolis - marked in red.*

**Backs:** William Davie Brown [captain], James Stewart Carrick (both Glasgow Academicals)  
**Half Backs:** Malcolm Cross (Glasgow Academicals), William Hamilton Kidston (West of Scotland)  
**Quarters:** **James Howe McClure**, George Buchanan McClure (both West of Scotland), John Kennedy Todd (Glasgow Academicals)  
**Forwards:** Gilbert Heron, **Charles Chalmers Bryce**, **Allan Arthur**, Henry William Allan, George Raphael Fleming (all Glasgow Academicals) Tom Paterson Neilson, John Alexander Neilson, J.S. Kennedy, Preston (West of Scotland) C.E. McArthur, Henry Melville Napier, W.B. Russell, J. Hutchison (Glasgow University)

Arthur was also a Scotland international rugby football player capped twice for Scotland between 1875-76 and his brother, John Arthur, was also capped for Scotland during the first ever rugby international.

Arthur's father, another Allan Arthur, was a Merchant in the firm of Henry Monteith and Company.

The younger Allan Arthur began in the employ of the Merchants Finlay, Muir and Company. He later became a director of the Merchant firm Ewing and Company. At the age of 20 he moved to India as a Merchant, eventually becoming a director of an extensive Jute shipping company: R. Steel and Company Limited.; and a director of the Manipiet Jute Company. He was also a director of the Union Baling Company. He was elected four times as the president of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and retired in 1920.

His civil service career began in parallel. He was appointed a member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council; and in 1890 became the Sheriff of Calcutta. He was knighted in 1900 for his Indian public service work and was named as one of Queen Victoria's birthday knights.

Arthur was unmarried and died at his home, Larch Hill, in Moffat aged 68.

The newspaper *The Sportsman* noted in its obituary of Arthur that he was a noted owner of race horses. Arthur became the chairman of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club. The newspaper noted that although Arthur owned a number of horses, his colours did not merit any great success.

## HOTCH POTCH AND KEDGEREE

Sir Allan Arthur wrote a book called Hotch Potch and Kedgerree illustrated by F.C. Macrae

It was produced to raise funds for '*Her Excellency Lady Carmichael, who has been pleased to accept them, for the benefit of Her Excellency's Bengal Women's War Fund, which, as most people in India know, is a fund for the purpose of ameliorating the lot of our magnificent fighting men, British and Indian, who are serving their King and Country in Eastern Lands, more particularly in Mesopotamia and Persia*'.

**Part One** is called Kedgerree which features stories from his time in India. The illustration of the author shows him with an interest in Polo.



## **Introductory How I came to India**

In consultation with my advisers it has been decided that we shall have our “Kedgeree” before our “Hotch Potch”, and it might be well to explain at the outset how I came to India.

I played Rugby football for Scotland in the year that I left for India, but very nearly lost my place owing to a doubt up to the last moment as to whether I could get through to Edinburgh or not to play in the trial match between the East and West of Scotland. I was then in the office of a large East Indian Firm in Glasgow and had to catch the one o'clock train in order to play in the match. Our Senior on coming to office that day sent down word that he wanted the “boy” (I was then the “boy” on duty) to have his dinner in town, as he would probably be kept late in office. I went all round the office but not one of the other boys could take my place. I was dreadfully sick of the late hours I had been having, with no hope of promotion and only nominal pay, so I determined to go to Edinburgh and chance the consequences. So when ten minutes to one o'clock came, I said to the old porter, William Gardiner, who could do just as much for our Senior as I could, that he was to tell our Senior, if he asked for me, that I had gone out and would be back again, so I went to Edinburgh, played in the trial match, dined comfortably and got into the International. I got back to Glasgow about ten o'clock and went straight to office, and asked William if our Senior had asked for me. William said, “Naw. He has never come out of his room syne you left. You've been an awful lang time in coming back. A have na' had ma tea and am tired o' waitin.” So I told William to go and have his tea, and I sat down in front of the fire and fell asleep. About 11-30 our Senior came downstairs, woke me up, apologized to me for keeping me so late and drove me home in a hansom, and was so pleased with my devotion to duty that he asked me if I would like to go to India, and sent me there on the first vacancy occurring a few months afterwards.

Before leaving for India I told him of the incident, at which he was good enough to laugh, but, as I was being sent to Bombay to take the place of an Assistant who had died of cholera in a few hours, I have never been able quite to make up my mind whether it was honesty of purpose or fear of cholera, that induced me to make confession of my transgression.

It might not be uninteresting if I described a small adventure we had on the voyage out. I went to Madras first to escort a sister of mine, who was going there to be married. At Galle, where the P. & O. steamers called in those days instead of Colombo, a few of the Madras and Calcutta passengers, including my sister and myself, went off in a catamaran after dinner to say good-bye to the passengers, who had changed into the China steamer. On the way back, and as we got quite close to the ladder of our steamer, our catamaran capsized and we all fell into the water. Naturally I looked after my sister, and strangely enough the danger we incurred was not from the billows around or the sharks below, but from the young fellows above, who clambered over the rails, and dived or jumped into the water in their dress clothes to try and save some one. One young fellow very nearly jumped on my head, and as in addition to the seven or eight people originally shipwrecked there were about a dozen would-be rescuers in the water, there was a good deal of congestion at the foot of the ladder before we were all hauled on board. None of us got anything worse than a ducking.

**Part two** called Hotch Potch features him with a gun under his arm with stories from Scotland and a story below mentions the Glasgow Necropolis.

One afternoon in the summer of 1910 I was walking across the bridge leading away from the Glasgow Necropolis, near the old Cathedral, when I met two very respectable looking Scotch women, one of whom bowed to me. I took my hat off, and she immediately stopped and shook hands with me saying, " A'm awfu' pleased that ye've recognized me." I told her that I was not absolutely sure that I did, whereupon she said, " Don't ye remember me, a'm Margaret Duncan. A met ye at Mrs. Patterson's party in Duke Street last winter." I said that I thought there was some mistake as I had been in India the previous winter, and, so far as I could remember, did not know Mrs. Patterson of Duke Street. She stared with astonishment, and after looking me up and down said, " Are you no Detective Thomson." I told her that I was not, and then she said, " Weel a'm feared a've made a mistake, " and then after a little pause " A'm awfu' ashamed at accostin' a strange gentleman, but ye're the split pea O' the detective." I assured her that I was not the detective, and then her companion chimed in, " A thocht you was the detective too." Again I assured them I was not, and after shaking hands with both I took off my hat, and as I turned away I heard the companion say, " Oh Maggie, Thomson disna lift his hat like thon."

A link to a pdf of the book is available – see below

<https://www.electricscotland.com/books/pdf/hotchpotchkedger00arth.pdf>

**Charles Chalmers Bryce** 16 April 1848 – 12 February 1895

#### EPSILON COMPARTMENT GLASGOW NECROPOLIS

Charles Chalmers Bryce attended Glasgow Academy from age 10 and played as a forward for Glasgow Academicals and Glasgow District\* (now known as the Glasgow Warriors).

He represented Glasgow District\* against Edinburgh District in the world's first provincial match, the 'inter-city', on 23 November 1872.

He also represented Glasgow District\* against Edinburgh District in the 5 December 1874 match.

*\*The Glasgow District v Edinburgh District sides fixture was played annually and the Glasgow District side, was full of Scottish international players. The Glasgow team – see below - for the 5 December 1874 match features a number of players who are buried in the Glasgow Necropolis - marked in red.*

*Backs:* William Davie Brown [captain], James Stewart Carrick (both Glasgow Academicals)

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*Quarters:* **James Howe McClure**, George Buchanan McClure (both West of Scotland),

John Kennedy Todd (Glasgow Academicals)

*Forwards:* Gilbert Heron, **Charles Chalmers Bryce**, **Allan Arthur**, Henry William Allan, George Raphael Fleming (all Glasgow Academicals) Tom Paterson Neilson, John Alexander Neilson, J.S. Kennedy, Preston (West of Scotland) C.E. McArthur, Henry Melville Napier, W.B. Russell, J. Hutchison (Glasgow University)

He also was a Scottish rugby union international who represented Scotland in the 1873–74 Home Nations rugby union matches.

He played in both Home Nations matches in the 1873-74 season against England; home and away. His debut was the home match on 3 March 1873. His only subsequent cap for Scotland was in the away match on 23 February 1874.

Photographs [Credit the Glasgow Academy Archive](#).



GLASGOW ACADEMICAL CLUB FIRST TWENTY, 1870

J. Morrison: J. S. Thomson: J. Paterson: T. Chalmers: D. M. Hannay: C. T. Sloan  
W. Arrol: A. Harvey: J. W. Arthur: W. D. Brown  
G. R. Fleming: T. A. Drew: J. Ritchie  
D. Drew: C. C. Bryce: W. Harvey

*Insets: Top left: R. Arnot. Top right: F. Pattison. Bottom centre: W. C. Bryce*





Bryce played in the first ever cross border football match Dec 1870:

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#### **GLASGOW ACADEMICALS v. LIVERPOOL CLUB.**

THE first of the English matches which the Glasgow Club have undertaken came off at Liverpool on Friday. Play began at three o'clock by the Academicals kicking off the ball, the game being well-contested throughout. During the first forty minutes they pushed the Liverpool team very hard, getting two tries, which, however, failed to get them goals. With a change of time, Liverpool played better, and several times carried the ball well into the enemy's quarters; but they did not succeed in getting behind, time having been called without any decided advantage to either side. Messrs Lyon and Yates played back well for Liverpool, the former in his kicking making several drops at goal. The Academicals had it all their own way forward, and, on the whole, had slightly the best of the game. For the Academicals, Bryce, Arnot, Pattison, Ritchie, J. W. Arthur, and Brown were conspicuous for their fine play.

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#### **GLASGOW ACADEMICALS v. MANCHESTER CLUB.**

THE second of the Glasgow Academicals' contests in England took place at Manchester on Saturday. The ground was very hard from the effects of frost. The game lasted seventy minutes, positions being reversed when half that time had elapsed. During the first part of the game the Academicals had two tries from "trees," but no goals. Mr Arthur distinguished himself by a fine run, and planting the ball right behind the Manchester team's goal. When positions were reversed the game was evenly contested. Mr Arthur got another touch behind for the Glasgow club, but in kicking he "mulled" it. No further advantage was gained by either side, although the Manchester team pulled up and worked well together towards the finish. The game thus finished in favour of the Academicals by two touches to nothing, besides having carried all the mauls. For the Academicals Messrs Arthur, Brown, Harvey, Baynes, Thomson, and Ritchie played well; and of the Manchester players Messrs M'Laren, Osborne, Turner, and Higon were most conspicuous.

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**James Howe McClure** 8 July 1851 – 11 May 1909  
EPSILON COMPARTMENT GLASGOW NECROPOLIS

James Howe McClure was born on 8 July 1851 in the Barony district of Glasgow, the son of James Howe McClure (1812–1891) and Grace (née Buchanan). He was one of twins, his brother, George Buchanan McClure, deemed to have been born second. They were the fifth and sixth children of James and Grace. His father remarried in 1872 to Charlotte Russell, sister of the Welsh entrepreneur James Cholmeley Russell.

McClure played his club rugby for West of Scotland FC. He also represented Glasgow District\* (now known as the Glasgow Warriors), against Edinburgh District in the 5 December 1874 match.

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He was capped once for Scotland in 1872. His twin brother, George Buchanan McClure, was also capped for Scotland in the next year, making them the first twins to be capped in international rugby - the only other twins to be capped for Scotland are Finlay and Jim Calder.

James married Ellen (Ella) Mary Collier (1858–1931) on 29 October 1884. They had five children: James died in 1909, outliving his twin by 21 years,

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**James George Walker** 9 October 1859 – 24 March 1923

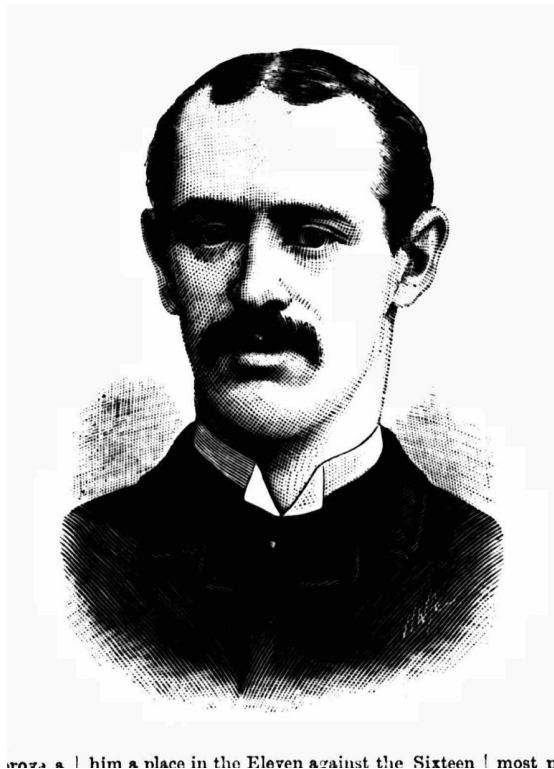
#### EPSILON COMPARTMENT GLASGOW NECROPOLIS

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Walker was born in Tradeston, Glasgow in 1859 and was sent to Loretto School, Edinburgh, at the age of 13. He started playing for his school cricket team at the age of 16 and became captain in 1879. Later that same year he went to Trinity College, Oxford, and graduated B.A. in 1883. He played first-class cricket for Oxford University and Middlesex, and represented the Scotland national cricket team. In 1880 in Glasgow he gave a brilliant performance playing for Scotland against Australia.

At rugby, he played for West of Scotland FC and was capped twice for Scotland between 1882-83. His brother, Archibald Walker, was also capped for Scotland.

After graduating at Oxford, Walker studied law and was called to the bar at the Inner Temple in 1886. He died in Nether Auchendrane, near Ayr, Scotland.



Walker was given a place in the Eleven against the Sixteen in most of

**Alexander Woodrow** 13 November 1867 – 28 February 1916  
EPSILON COMPARTMENT GLASGOW NECROPOLIS

Alexander Norie Woodrow attended Glasgow Academy between 1875 until 1882. He went to Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh where he played cricket for the school.

However he was better known for his Rugby career. The *Athletic News* newspaper called the school 'one the finest - if not the finest - football nurseries in Scotland' and that Woodrow's rugby union ability was 'bred and reared' there.

Woodrow played rugby union for Glasgow Academicals, for Glasgow District\* (now known as the Glasgow Warriors) in their inter-city match against Edinburgh District on 4 December 1886 and played for West of Scotland District in their match against East of Scotland District on 19 January 1887.

\*The Glasgow District v Edinburgh District sides fixture was played annually and the Glasgow District side, was full of Scottish international players.

Woodrow was capped 3 times by Scotland, all in 1887.

At the end of the 1887–88 season it became known that Woodrow would retire from rugby union. A rumour started - and reported in the *Glasgow Evening Post* newspaper - that he would instead play association football with Queens Park the following season.

After he retired from rugby union, he joined his father, Alexander Woodrow senior, as a Lithograph printer based in the business, Alexander Woodrow and Son, at 75 Glassford Street.

He died on 28 February 1916 and was buried in the Glasgow Necropolis.

The value of his estate at death was £4814; 0 shillings; and 4 pence. His son Alexander Woodrow Junior was the sole inheritor of his estate.

The rugby union player predeceased his father, also called Alexander Woodrow, who died later that year on 7 October 1916 in Ayr. As the head of the Alexander Woodrow & Son lithographic printing and engraving business he left a larger estate of £76,271; 8 shillings; and 3 pence. His grandson and the international rugby union player's son, Alexander Woodrow Junior (also a lithographic printer), was also the sole inheritor of his estate and business.

Further info about his test career can be found here: <http://en.espn.co.uk/scotland/rugby/player/798.html>