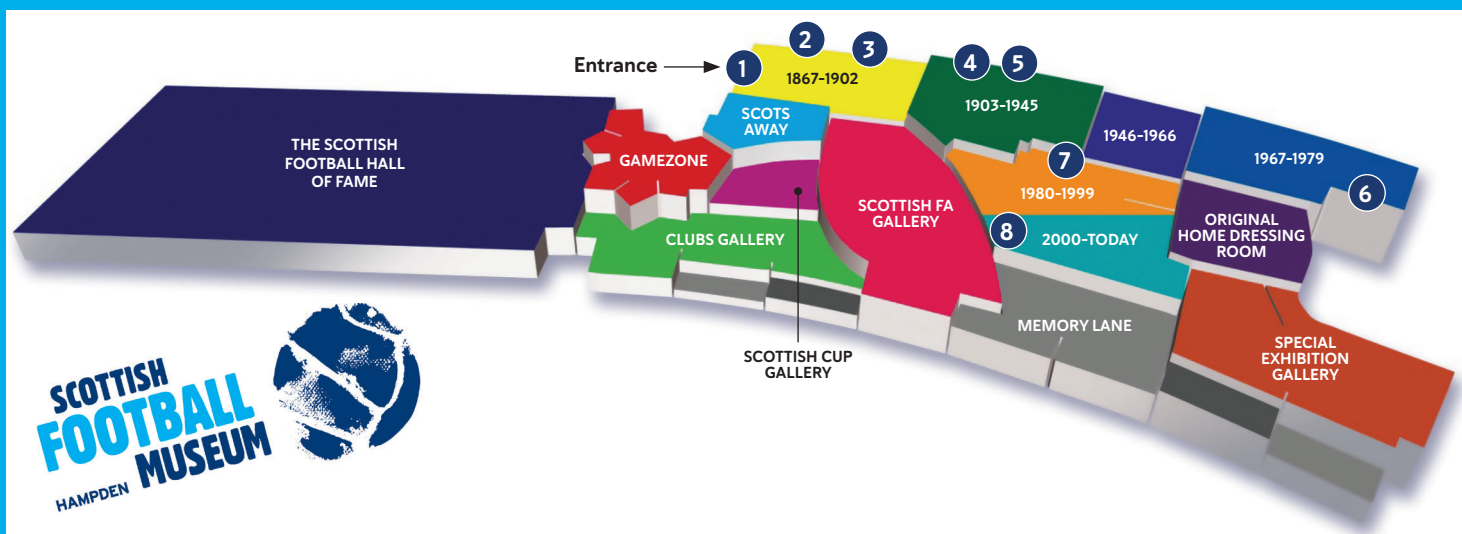


STRIKING HERSTORIES

Use this trail to explore the Scottish Football Museum and learn about the history of women's football in Scotland.



Stop 1 1628

Carstairs, a village in South Lanarkshire, is home to the earliest known account of women's football. Despite popular opinion, women's football is not a new sport and is actually (at least) 394 years old! We know this to be true because of a church document in which a minister complained about the game being played on a Sunday, the Sabbath. In the document Rev John Lindsay regards those playing the game as displaying "insolent behaviour". It's interesting to consider that there could be many more historical documents waiting to be uncovered that shed light on women's football.



To find out more, and to see our new artwork of this match, go to case 1.

Stop 2 1884

Women were playing football in increasing numbers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One of the pioneers of Scottish football was a suffragette named Helen Matthew who began playing in 1884 and formed the team Mrs Graham's XI. In 1895 Matthew joined with fellow suffragette and feminist Florence Dixie to form the British Ladies Football Club, the team went on to draw large crowds of up to 10,000 spectators in their matches all across Britain and Ireland! All the while the British press continued mock the women's game often commenting on the women's looks, fashion and abilities in articles. They even faced verbal and physical attacks during some matches. That didn't stop them though!



To have a look at our new artwork of Helen Matthew head to case 6.

Stop 3 1895

One of the most important historical figures from Scottish women's football is Emma Clarke, Scotland's first known female ethnic minority player. Initially wrongly identified as Carrie Boustead, due to a mistake made in a newspaper article, she has since been identified as Emma Clarke who was born in Liverpool in 1876. Clarke became a confectioner's apprentice and then went on to become an important and respected player in the team founded by Helen Matthew, Mrs Graham's XI. Emma Clarke made her football debut in 1895.

To discover more about Emma Clarke and to see our artwork of her, go to case 8.



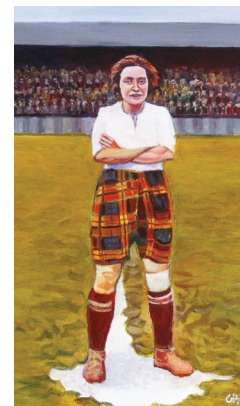


Stop 4 1914 The women's game flourished as never before in the early 20th century and became particularly popular during WWI. Whilst men were at war, women began working in munition factories and this created a hub for women's football and the development of organised teams and matches. Factory teams across Scotland played matches against each other to raise funds for the war, often drawing crowds in their thousands. It's likely that women felt empowered and sense of agency whilst working in the factories which led to the increase in organised matches during and immediately after the end of the war.

To find out more about this period, head over to case 12.

Stop 5 INTERWAR YEARS

In 1921, women's football was banned in England by the Football Association on grounds that it was an unsuitable sport for females. The 1921 ban was informally adopted by the Scottish FA and severely curtailed the women's game. Women could no longer play on the pitches of Scottish FA clubs or use Scottish FA registered referees, which hindered the progression of the game in both the long and short term. Many teams such as Cowdenbeath Ladies and Dumfries Ladies stopped playing, in spite of earlier success. This didn't stop some women from playing, despite all of the adversity placed in their way. One team which led the way was Rutherglen Ladies F.C. founded in 1921 by J. H. Kelly. They played matches across Scotland, including against Dick Kerr's Ladies, and even toured in Ireland twice.



Case 14 has more information on the interwar period of Scottish women's football as well as artwork depicting one of the matches.

Stop 6 1972 There was a continued but slow growth in the women's game between the 1940s and 1970s, with one game in the 1950s attracting 25,000 fans. Coined as the "New Age of Football", the 1970s proved to be an amazing decade for women's football, despite the Scottish FA's disapproval. When UEFA asked its members to vote for women's football to be a recognised sport, Scotland was the only country out of 32 to vote against it! Through all of this, footballing legends such as Elsie Cook, Edna Neillis and Rose Reilly (pictured above) emerged. They, along with others, pushed for formalisation of the game. The first Scottish Women's Cup was played in 1970-71 and in 1972 the Scottish Women's Football Association was founded. The women's national team played their first official international match in November 1972 - playing England and losing 3-2. To pursue a footballing career Rose and Edna moved to Italy, where women's football was a recognised sport. Rose went on to win the 'world cup' with their national team. In 1974 the Scottish ban was finally lifted, likely due to the growing pressures that arose from the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, but the battle continued for increased recognition and funding.



To see objects and more information on this period go to case 26.



Stop 7 2002

The formation of the Scottish Women's Premier League (SWPL) in 2002 was a vital moment for the history of Scottish women's football. Whilst we know that women's football had been happening at both professional and grassroots levels for decades, the foundation of the SWPL gave the game formal recognition and was a catalyst for the popularisation of the women's game in the media. The 17 clubs that made up the SWPL were previously governed by Scottish Women's Football, in summer 2022 these elite teams moved under the SPFL umbrella.

To find out more go to case 35.

Stop 8 2019 In 2019 the Scotland Women's National Team made history by qualifying for their first FIFA Women's World Cup. With Kim Little as their captain and Shelley Kerr as their head coach, Scotland qualified for the competition after winning 2-1 in a game against Albania. Scotland played well but did not make it out of the group stage. The team were put out of the competition in dramatic fashion after drawing 3-3 with Argentina. Nonetheless the team had done their country proud and their performance in 2019 proved to be an inspirational one!

To discover more about the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019, go to case 44.



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