

Scottish League Re-elections and Elections

The date given is when the League AGM was held.

N/A denotes that the club was not affiliated to any league competition.

The original rule was for the bottom three clubs to retire and make a new application to re-join the League, in competition with other non-League sides. This was reduced to the bottom two clubs from the 1898-99 season.

The competition got off to an inauspicious start after Renton were suspended by the Scottish FA for playing Edinburgh Saints, a team consisting of players banned for professionalism while with St Bernard's. Renton, having played four fixtures, therefore couldn't fulfill the rest until the ban was lifted in December and so were excluded from the competition. They returned in 1891-92.

1890-91

5 June

St Mirren	Re-elected	Scottish League
Vale of Leven	Re-elected	Scottish League
Leith Athletic	Elected	N/A
Clyde	Elected	N/A
Cowlairs	Not re-elected	Scottish League
St Bernard's	Not elected	N/A
Northern	Not elected	N/A
Thistle	Not elected	N/A
Mossend Swifts	Not elected	N/A
Partick Thistle	Not elected	N/A
Morton	Not elected	N/A
Kilmarnock	Not elected	N/A
Airdrieonians	Not elected	N/A

Clyde beat Cowlairs by one vote after a second ballot.

The League was extended from 10 to 12 clubs.

1891-92

3 June

St Mirren	11	Re-elected	Scottish League
Cambuslang	7	Not re-elected	Scottish League
Vale of Leven	0	Not re-elected	Scottish League
Kilmarnock	0	Not elected	Scottish Alliance
Cowlairs	0	Not elected	Scottish Alliance
Northern	0	Not elected	Scottish Alliance
St Bernard's	0	Not elected	Scottish Alliance

By 12 votes to 4, it was decided to reduce the League from 12 to 10 clubs. The bottom three clubs had to retire as per Rule and re-apply.

1892-93

12 June

Renton	12	Re-elected	Scottish League
Dundee	12	Elected	N/A
St Bernard's	8	Elected	Scottish Alliance
Clyde	7	Not re-elected	Scottish League
Abercorn	2	Not re-elected	Scottish League

Dundee were an amalgamation of two Northern League clubs, Our Boys and East End. They and Renton both gained 12 votes out of the 14 available. After Abercorn were excluded, their votes were transferred to St Bernard's in the second ballot.

The following clubs were all excluded after a debate and didn't take part in the re-election vote:

Cowlairs	Scottish Alliance
Hibernian	N/A
Linthouse	Scottish Alliance
Morton	Scottish Alliance
Port-Glasgow Athletic	Scottish Alliance
Thistle	Scottish Alliance

On 7 July 1893, the League decided to form a Second Division. The Scottish Alliance, the principal non-League competition, wanted its members to form the new section but the League themselves took on the responsibility of selecting the clubs. On 10 July, Abercorn and Clyde, who were not re-elected at the initial AGM, above, were granted a place in the new section, as was Hibernian. The Easter Road club had recently reformed after taking a break for a couple of years.

Cowlairs, Morton, Partick Thistle, Port-Glasgow Athletic, Northern and Thistle (all Alliance) and Motherwell (Scottish Federation) were also selected to form the new division. The other members of the Alliance; Kilmarnock, Linthouse, Airdrieonians and Cambuslang, were all refused.

1893-94

1 June

Morton	30	Re-elected	Second Division
Dundee Wanderers	23	Elected	N/A
Airdrieonians	19	Elected	Scottish Alliance
Northern	18	Not re-elected	Second Division
Kilmarnock	14	Not elected	Ayrshire Combination
Royal Albert	11	Not elected	Scottish Alliance
Linthouse	7	Not elected	N/A

Thistle, who finished bottom of the Second Division, didn't apply for re-election.

Cambuslang, Albion Rovers and Wishaw Thistle of the Alliance, and Raith Rovers who were non-affiliated, didn't figure in the voting as they couldn't find a seconder.

Dundee Wanderers were formed by the merger of Johnstone Wanderers and Strathmore, both of the Northern League.

Airdrieonians, despite finishing bottom of the Alliance championship as shown below, were elected ahead of Royal Albert who could only muster 11 votes, 8 fewer than Airdrieonians.

Scottish Alliance 1893-94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Royal Albert	9	6	1	2	28	22	13
Cambuslang	10	4	3	3	22	15	11
Arthurlie	10	5	1	4	26	24	11
Albion Rovers	10	5	1	4	26	27	11
Wishaw Thistle	9	3	2	4	23	24	8
Airdrieonians	10	1	2	7	16	29	4

Wishaw Thistle were formed in 1885 moving into Recreation Park in 1888. They competed in the Scottish Federation from 1891 to 1893 before joining the truncated Alliance which they won twice. Another move in 1896 saw them join the Scottish Combination. This was very much a disaster as they finished bottom in three of the four seasons they competed. In May 1900, a merger with rivals Wishaw saw a new club at Recreation Park, Wishaw United. After securing a place in the Combination, they improved slightly on the previous seasons, but midway through the 1902-03 campaign, they resigned from the league and disbanded soon after. Recreation Park didn't stay empty for long though as Wishaw Amateurs took up the challenge, joining both the Midland and Scottish Amateur Leagues. In 1906 the Amateurs changed their name to Wishaw Thistle, and it was this club that finally found a place in the Scottish League via its Third Division expansion in the 1920s.

Elections for promotion to the First Division

Dundee	14	Re-elected	First Division
Clyde	14	Elected	Second Division
Leith Athletic	8	Re-elected	First Division
Cowlairs	4	Not elected	Second Division
Renton	3	Not re-elected	First Division
Hibernian	1	Not elected	Second Division

The top three clubs in Division 2 all applied for promotion, Clyde winning the place of Renton. A subsequent motion by John McLaughlin of Celtic FC that future Second Division champions be automatically promoted didn't find a seconder.

1894-95

3 June

Kilmarnock	24	Elected	Ayrshire Combination
Linthouse	24	Elected	N/A
Abercorn	22	Re-elected	Second Division
Raith Rovers	10	Not elected	N/A
Wishaw Thistle	6	Not elected	Scottish Alliance
Cowlairs	3	Not re-elected	Second Division
Dundee Wanderers	3	Not re-elected	Second Division

Dundee Wanderers lost their place after only one season.

Despite an impressive Alliance winning campaign, Wishaw lost out to Glasgow club Linthouse. They were a massive 18 votes behind the Govan side who were not even in a league during 1894-95 season.

Elections for promotion to the First Division

Dundee	14	Re-elected	First Division
Hibernian	11	Elected	Second Division
Dumbarton	10	Re-elected	First Division
Motherwell	4	Not elected	Second Division
Leith Athletic	3	Not re-elected	First Division

Hibernian and Motherwell, who finished first and second respectively in the lower division, applied, the former winning the vote and being promoted in place of Leith Athletic.

1895-96

26 May

Motherwell	Re-elected	Second Division
Morton	Re-elected	Second Division
Linthouse	To deciding ballot	Second Division
Wishaw Thistle	To deciding ballot	Scottish Alliance
Raith Rovers	Not elected	N/A

Deciding ballot

Linthouse	21	Re-elected	Second Division
Wishaw Thistle	19	Not elected	Scottish Alliance

After tying in the first ballot, Linthouse retained their place by defeating the luckless Wishaw by 21 votes to 19 in a deciding vote.

Motherwell had slumped to the third bottom of Division 2 after the previous season's second place finish.

Four other clubs had applied for one of the places but all failed to find a seconder and so were excluded from the vote:

Ayr	Ayrshire Combination
Dundee County	N/A
East Stirlingshire	Midland League
Falkirk	Midland League

Ayr were Ayrshire Combination champions in 1895-96, while Dundee County were a new 'club' that broke up after failing to win a League place.

Elections for promotion to the First Division

Clyde	14	Re-elected	First Division
St Mirren	13	Re-elected	First Division
Abercorn	8	Elected	Second Division
Leith Athletic	4	Not elected	Second Division
Dumbarton	2	Not re-elected	First Division
Renton	1	Not elected	Second Division

Renton beat Kilmarnock 2-1 in a play-off at Cathkin Park in Glasgow on 20 May 1896 to decide third place and the last election place.

Again the top three Second Division clubs applied, Dumbarton who were League Champions only a few seasons before, lost their place to Abercorn.

1896-97

1 June

Motherwell	34	Re-elected	Second Division
Port-Glasgow Athletic	27	Re-elected	Second Division
Ayr	24	Elected	Ayrshire Combination
Dumbarton	17	Not re-elected	Second Division
East Stirlingshire		Not elected	Scottish Combination
Falkirk		Not elected	Scottish Combination
Hamilton Academical		Not elected	Scottish Combination

Only five years after being League champions, Dumbarton found themselves replaced by Ayr, the Ayrshire Combination champions.

Elections for promotion to the First Division

3rd Lanark RV	14	Re-elected	First Division
Partick Thistle	13	Elected	Second Division
Clyde	8	Re-elected	First Division
Abercorn	7	Not re-elected	First Division
Kilmarnock	0	Not elected	Second Division
Leith Athletic	0	Not elected	Second Division

Partick Thistle replaced Abercorn in the First Division.

The resignation of Renton

On 20 October 1897, during the 1897-98 season, Renton resigned for financial reasons. They couldn't meet the £10 guaranteed gate money for visiting clubs, and as they had played only four fixtures, it was decided to elect a replacement club to fulfil the remaining matches. A proposal that the division carried on with nine clubs was rejected and it was decided to consult with Hamilton Academical, Albion Rovers, East Stirlingshire and Falkirk to ascertain if they were willing to fill the vacancy. Three other clubs that applied for the place were deemed unsuitable and were dismissed. On 27 October, Hamilton were elected, after which they tendered their resignation from the Scottish Combination, having to pay a £20 penalty in the process.

Election for the replacement of Renton

Hamilton Academical	Elected	Scottish Combination
Albion Rovers	Not elected	Scottish Combination
East Stirlingshire	Not elected	Central Combination
Falkirk	Not elected	Central Combination
Arthurlie	Did not qualify	Scottish Combination
Raith Rovers	Did not qualify	N/A
Victoria United	Did not qualify	Northern League

1897-98

30 May

Airdrieonians		Re-elected	Second Division
Hamilton Academical		Re-elected	Second Division
Motherwell	20	Re-elected	Second Division
East Stirlingshire	16	Not elected	Central Combination

Falkirk (Central Combination) and Raith Rovers (N/A) both failed to find a seconder and didn't make the vote. Motherwell were again successful in their third consecutive application.

From 1899, it was agreed that the number of clubs required to apply for re-election in both divisions was reduced from three to two.

1898 Elections for promotion to the First Division

St Bernard's		Re-elected	First Division
Partick Thistle		Re-elected	First Division
Clyde		Re-elected	First Division
Kilmarnock		Not elected	Second Division
Morton		Not elected	Second Division
Port-Glasgow Athletic		Not elected	Second Division

Clyde beat Kilmarnock on the second ballot.

Dundee had beaten Partick Thistle 2-0 at Meadowside Park in Glasgow on 24 March 1898 to decide which club finished in eighth position and the third and final re-election place.

1898-99

30 May

Linthouse	37	Re-elected	Second Division
Abercorn	32	Re-elected	Second Division
Raith Rovers	13	Not elected	East of Scotland League

Arthurlie	Scottish Combination	These clubs all failed to find a seconder
Dundee Wanderers	Northern League	
Orion	Northern League	

While Raith Rovers finished bottom of their league - the East of Scotland League was a 'supplementary' league for the main eastern based Scottish League clubs - Arthurlie were runners-up behind Rangers 'A' in the Combination, and Orion and Dundee Wanderers were in the first two places of the Northern League.

This was Orion's only application. In 1903 a merger with Aberdeen and Victoria United saw the formation of the present Aberdeen club.

1899 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Kilmarnock	15	Elected	Second Division
Dundee	10	Re-elected	First Division
Partick Thistle	5	Not re-elected	First Division
Leith Athletic	2	Not elected	Second Division

1899-1900

16 May

Airdrieonians	Re-elected	Second Division
East Stirlingshire	Elected	Falkirk & District League
Raith Rovers	Not elected	East of Scotland League

Linthouse did not apply for re-election

Raith Rovers were still only members of the supplementary East of Scotland League competition, East Stirlingshire competed in the Falkirk & District League when they finished second to Stenhousemuir.

After leaving the League, Linthouse were practically defunct. They did enter the Qualifying Cup the following season, gaining a bye in the first round before scratching to Motherwell.

1900 Elections for promotion to the First Division

First ballot

Morton	13	To second ballot	Second Division
Clyde	8	To second ballot	First Division
Partick Thistle	6	To second ballot	Second Division
St Bernard's	5	Eliminated	First Division

Second ballot

Morton	16	Elected	Second Division
Partick Thistle	8	To decider	Second Division
Clyde	8	To decider	First Division

Partick Thistle beat Clyde on lots to decide who played in the First Division in 1900-01.

St Mirren had earlier beaten St Bernard's 2-1 at Dens Park on 7 April in a decider for the second re-election place.

Queen's Park's admission to the First Division

A difference of opinion over the voting powers of Second Division clubs saw a split in membership and the formation of a new body on 12 July 1900, to which Queen's Park accepted the invitation to join. At the time they were members of the 'supplementary' Inter City League. On the resolution of the dispute on 25 July 1900, Queens were allowed to retain their membership of the First Division. They therefore became the only club to bypass the Second Division and move directly into the First Division. Aberdeen failed to do the same a few years later and the Rule was later changed to stop it happening again.

1900-01

30 May

Hamilton Academical	Re-elected	Second Division
Motherwell	Re-elected	Second Division
Leith Athletic	Re-elected	Second Division
Arthurlie	Elected	Scottish Combination
Raith Rovers	Not elected	East of Scotland League
Ayr Parkhouse	Not elected	Ayrshire League
Albion Rovers	Not elected	Scottish Combination

With the Second Division expanding to 12 clubs there was the need to elect one new member after Partick Thistle were dropped from the First Division which reduced to 10 clubs.

Arthurlie beat Raith Rovers by 12 votes to 10 in the final ballot.

Hamilton and Leith had finished level in eighth place in the Second Division but a proposed play-off at Merchiston Park in Falkirk a day before the League AGM was vetoed by the Scottish FA. Both clubs had to apply for re-election.

1901 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Heart of Midlothian	Re-elected	First Division
St Mirren	Re-elected	First Division
St Bernard's	Not elected	Second Division
Airdrieonians	Not elected	Second Division

After finishing in bottom place, Partick Thistle were demoted to the Second Division, reducing the First Division to 10 clubs.

1901-02

19 May

Clyde		Re-elected	Second Division
Abercorn		Re-elected	Second Division
Raith Rovers		Elected	Northern League
Falkirk		Elected	Central Combination
Ayr Parkhouse		Not elected	Scottish Amateur League
Albion Rovers		Not elected	Scottish Combination

The First Division increased to 12 clubs with the inclusion of Port-Glasgow Athletic and Partick Thistle who filled the top two positions of the Second Division.

1902-03

18 May

Raith Rovers	31	Re-elected	Second Division
Albion Rovers	21	Elected	Scottish Combination
Clyde	17	Re-elected	Second Division
Ayr Parkhouse	15	Elected	Scottish Amateur League
St Johnstone	14	Not elected	Northern League

1903 Elections for promotion to the First Division

First ballot

Morton		Re-elected	First Division
Port-Glasgow Athletic		Re-elected	First Division

Second ballot

Motherwell	11	Elected	Second Division
Airdrieonians	8	Elected	Second Division
Aberdeen	5	Not elected	Northern League

The First Division was expanded to 14 clubs, Morton and Port-Glasgow Athletic both being re-elected. Aberdeen were the amalgamation of the original Aberdeen club, Orion and Victoria United, all of the Northern League.

1903-04

30 May

First ballot

Arthurlie	14	Re-elected	Second Division
Aberdeen	11	To second ballot	Northern League
Ayr Parkhouse	9	To second ballot	Second Division
Royal Albert	7	To second ballot	Scottish Combination
Cowdenbeath	7	To second ballot	Northern League

Second ballot

Aberdeen	14	Elected	Northern League
Ayr Parkhouse	6	Not re-elected	Second Division
Royal Albert	3	Not elected	Scottish Combination
Cowdenbeath	1	Not elected	Northern League

Aberdeen replaced Ayr Parkhouse in the Second Division after they had tried, and failed, for a place in the First Division. They gained more votes than Combination champions Royal Albert.

1904 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Motherwell	10	Re-elected	First Division
Kilmarnock	8	Re-elected	First Division
Aberdeen	4	Not elected	Northern League
Hamilton Academical	2	Not elected	Second Division
Clyde	0	Not elected	Second Division
East Stirlingshire	0	Not elected	Second Division
Falkirk	0	Not elected	Second Division

Despite running away with the Second Division title, Hamilton won fewer votes than an Aberdeen side which had just finished third in the Northern League.

1904-05

22 May

St Bernard's	23	Re-elected	Second Division
Abercorn	19	Re-elected	Second Division
Cowdenbeath	18	Elected	Northern League
Vale of Leven	17	Elected	Scottish Combination
Ayr Parkhouse	7	Not elected	Scottish Combination
Stenhousemuir	6	Not elected	Northern League
Beith		Not elected	Scottish Combination
Dumfries		Not elected	N/A
Royal Albert		Not elected	Scottish Combination
Bathgate		Not elected	Eastern League

Vale of Leven were Combination champions while Cowdenbeath finished second behind Dundee 'A' in the Northern League.

Dumfries had been founded in 1897 and for the most part they played only cup-ties and friendlies. In 1906 they joined the Scottish Union, and remained there until the outbreak of the Great War. In 1919 they merged with local rivals 5th KOSB and works team Arrol-Johnston to form Queen of the South. This was to be their only application to join the Scottish League.

1905 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Aberdeen	12	Elected	Second Division
Motherwell	11	Re-elected	First Division
Morton	10	Re-elected	First Division
Falkirk	7	Elected	Second Division
Clyde	5	Not elected	Second Division
Albion Rovers	0	Not elected	Second Division
Hamilton Academical	0	Not elected	Second Division
Leith Athletic	0	Not elected	Second Division

Although Clyde were four points clear at the top of the Second Division, runners-up Falkirk and seventh place Aberdeen were elected into the expanded First Division.

1905-06

21 May

Vale of Leven	22	Re-elected	Second Division
Ayr Parkhouse	14	Elected	Scottish Combination
East Stirlingshire	13	Re-elected	Second Division
Dumbarton	12	Elected	Scottish Combination
Alloa	8	Not elected	Scottish Combination
Dunfermline Athletic	8	Not elected	Northern League
Royal Albert	7	Not elected	Scottish Combination
Stenhousemuir	4	Not elected	Scottish Combination
Beith	3	Not elected	Scottish Combination
Lochgelly United	3	Not elected	Northern League
Renton	3	Not elected	Scottish Combination
Dundee Wanderers	1	Not elected	Northern League
East Fife	1	Not elected	Northern League

A record thirteen clubs applied for a place at the 1906 AGM, seven of which were members of the Scottish Combination. Surprisingly, Ayr Parkhouse were elected over the others despite finishing eighth of eleven clubs. Only Renton, who finished last, had a worse record than them.

1906 Elections for promotion to the First Division

First ballot

Kilmarnock	14	Re-elected	First Division
Queen's Park	14	Re-elected	First Division

Second Ballot

Hamilton Academical	10	Elected	Second Division
Clyde	7	To third ballot	Second Division
Albion Rovers	7	To third ballot	Second Division
Leith Athletic	6	Not elected	Second Division
Raith Rovers	3	Not elected	Second Division
Cowdenbeath	0	Not elected	Second Division

Third ballot

Clyde	9	Elected	Second Division
Albion Rovers	6	Not elected	Second Division

Port-Glasgow Athletic had beaten Kilmarnock 6-1 on 15 May in a play-off at Cathkin Park to decide who would have to apply for re-election.

It had been decided to increase the First Division to eighteen clubs, therefore Kilmarnock and Queen's Park were unanimously re-elected. Further ballots were taken to decide who would fill the two vacancies. Despite winning the Second Division, Leith were passed over in favour of runners-up, Clyde, who beat third place Albion Rovers in the third ballot.

1906-07

27 May

East Stirlingshire	24	Re-elected	Second Division
Ayr Parkhouse	16	Re-elected	Second Division
Renton	8	Not elected	Scottish Union
Dunfermline Athletic	6	Not elected	Northern League

In a play-off, Raith Rovers beat East Stirlingshire 3-2 on 11 May at Logie Green in Edinburgh to avoid re-election.

1907 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Hamilton Academical		Re-elected	First Division
Kilmarnock		Re-elected	First Division
Port-Glasgow Athletic		Re-elected	First Division
Dumbarton		Not elected	Second Division
Leith		Not elected	Second Division
Raith Rovers		Not elected	Second Division
St Bernard's		Not elected	Second Division
Vale of Leven		Not elected	Second Division

As goal average wasn't used to separate clubs in important league positions, Port-Glasgow Athletic, Kilmarnock and Hamilton all finished bottom with 21 points. However it was decided not to arrange a three-way play-off to decide who would apply for re-election. Of the Second Division clubs who applied, Raith Rovers were worst placed after they missed the Second Division re-election spot by the skin of their teeth.

1907-08

1 June

Cowdenbeath	25	Re-elected	Second Division
Arthurlie	22	Re-elected	Second Division
Johnstone	9	Not elected	Scottish Combination

Johnstone, the only club that applied at the League AGM, were Combination runners-up.

1908 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Clyde	12	Re-elected	First Division
Port-Glasgow Athletic	9	Re-elected	First Division
Raith Rovers	8	Not elected	Second Division
Dumbarton	2	Not elected	Second Division
Abercorn	1	Not elected	Second Division
Ayr	0	Not elected	Second Division

This season saw the top four from the Second Division apply.

1908-09

31 May

Arthurlie	21	Re-elected	Second Division
Cowdenbeath	17	Re-elected	Second Division
Johnstone	11	Not elected	Scottish Union
Renton	8	Not elected	Scottish Union
Wishaw Thistle	5	Not elected	Scottish Union
Dundee Hibernian	3	Not elected	N/A

Newly formed Dundee Hibernian having failed to win a League place, opted for a place in the Northern League. Wishaw Thistle was a different club from the one which applied for League places in the 1890s, this one being previously called Wishaw Amateurs.

1909 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Morton		Re-elected	First Division
Partick Thistle		Re-elected	First Division
Raith Rovers		Not elected	Second Division
Dumbarton		Not elected	Second Division

The top two in the division, Abercorn and Vale of Leven didn't apply for promotion.

1909-10

7 June

Cowdenbeath	26	Re-elected	Second Division
Dundee Hibernian	20	Elected	Northern League
St Johnstone	10	Not elected	Central League

Ayr Parkhouse had finished bottom but didn't require to seek re-election as they had merged with Ayr to form Ayr United. The new club didn't waste any time and applied for a First Division spot but they won just two votes.

1910 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Morton	16	Re-elected	First Division
Raith Rovers	13	Elected	Second Division
Ayr United	2	Not elected	Second Division
Abercorn	1	Not elected	Second Division
Dumbarton	0	Not elected	Second Division

Port-Glasgow Athletic resigned their First Division place.

Despite sharing the Second Division title with Raith Rovers, Leith didn't apply for promotion.

A motion for automatic promotion was defeated.

1910-11

5 June

St Johnstone		Elected	Central League
Vale of Leven		Re-elected	Second Division

Port-Glasgow Athletic, having lost the tenancy of their ground and due to their precarious financial position, resigned their League place. St Johnstone were the only club applying for the vacancy.

1911 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Motherwell		Re-elected	First Division
Queen's Park		Re-elected	First Division
Dumbarton		Not elected	Second Division

At the League AGM, there was another (failed) motion placed proposing automatic promotion for the Second Division champions.

1911-12

3 June

Albion Rovers	Re-elected	Second Division
Vale of Leven	Re-elected	Second Division

The decision was taken to increase the Second Division to fourteen clubs. The bottom two were unanimously re-elected and a second vote taken to fill the two vacancies:

Dunfermline Athletic	Elected	Central League
Johnstone	Elected	Scottish Union
Bathgate	Not elected	Central League
Galston	Not elected	Scottish Union
Peebles Rovers	Not elected	Scottish Union

The two elected clubs were champions of their respective leagues. Peebles later helped form the Eastern League.

1912 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Queen's Park	Re-elected	First Division
St Mirren	Re-elected	First Division

Ayr United, the Second Division champions, did not apply for promotion.

It was agreed that the lowest placed First Division club, St Mirren, would be replaced by the Second Division champions. However, as St Mirren had committed themselves to a First Division wage bill for the new season, the proposal was held over to the following season, but eventually not taken up.

1912-13

2 June

Arthurlie	Re-elected	Second Division
Leith	Re-elected	Second Division
Dumbarton Harp	Not elected	Scottish Reserve League
East Fife	Not elected	Central League
Galston	Not elected	Scottish Union
Kirkcaldy United	Not elected	Central League
Peebles Rovers	Not elected	Eastern League
Wishaw Thistle	Not elected	Scottish Union

Of the Central League aspirants, Kirkcaldy United, as runners-up would have better qualifications for election, had the Scottish League not already had a club from the town. Dumbarton Harp made their first application. They were members of the Scottish Reserve League, a competition which, despite its name, also included first-team XIs.

A decision at the AGM to increase the Second Division back to 14 clubs was reversed at a later extraordinary meeting.

1913 Elections for promotion to the First Division

First ballot

Partick Thistle	Re-elected	First Division
Queen's Park	Re-elected	First Division

Second ballot

Ayr United	Elected	Second Division
Dumbarton	Elected	Second Division
Cowdenbeath	Not elected	Second Division
Dunfermline Athletic	4	Not elected
Dundee Hibernian	3	Not elected
St Bernard's	0	Not elected
Abercorn	0	Not elected

Partick and Queen's Park were unanimously re-elected while Dumbarton were elected over Cowdenbeath on the chairman's vote. Of the other clubs, St Bernard's and Abercorn didn't figure in the voting.

The First Division was increased to 20 clubs.

1913-14

5 June

First ballot

Clydebank	26	To second ballot	N/A
Vale of Leven	25	To second ballot	Second Division
Bathgate	17	To second ballot	Central League
Johnstone	17	To second ballot	Second Division
Lochgelly United	17	To second ballot	Central League
East Fife	13	Not elected	Central League
Forfar Athletic	2	Not elected	Central League

Second ballot

Vale of Leven	29	Re-elected	Second Division
Clydebank	26	Elected	N/A
Lochgelly United	22	To third ballot	Central League
Bathgate	20	To third ballot	Central League
Johnstone	17	To third ballot	Second Division

Third ballot

Lochgelly United	23	Elected	Central League
Bathgate	17	To fourth ballot	Central League
Johnstone	15	To fourth ballot	Second Division

Fourth ballot

Johnstone	15	Re-elected	Second Division
Bathgate	10	Not elected	Central League

This extended vote saw the Second Division expand to fourteen clubs. Vale and Johnstone were both re-elected and Clydebank, who had only been formed the previous February were overwhelmingly elected despite their lack of competitive football. Surprisingly, Lochgelly United won the last place despite finishing bottom of the Central League, Bathgate (3rd place), favourites East Fife (4th) and Forfar (6th) being rejected.

1914 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Dumbarton	Re-elected	First Division
St Mirren	Re-elected	First Division
Cowdenbeath	Not elected	Second Division

Another proposal for automatic promotion failed, the 11 votes to 7 against not meeting the two-thirds majority required.

1914-15

31 May

Arthurlie	Re-elected	Second Division
Vale of Leven	Re-elected	Second Division

There were no applicants from non-league circles.

1915 Elections for promotion to the First Division

Raith Rovers	Re-elected	First Division
Queen's Park	Re-elected	First Division

It's uncertain, though unlikely, whether Cowdenbeath, Leith or St Bernard's, the top three in Division 2, applied for promotion.

At a later meeting, the Second Division was suspended 'for the duration of the war'. Those involved plus a number of non-league clubs formed two regional leagues, the West of Scotland League and Eastern League. Despite not having a say at the League meetings, they were still viewed as being League members and were still required to pay their membership dues! The Second Division didn't re-form until 1921 after a brief 'war' between the Scottish and Central Leagues.

Between 1916 and 1921 there were no further re-elections held at the AGMs although Aberdeen, Dundee and Raith Rovers were asked to step down in 1917 to help reduce the travelling incurred by the rest of the clubs. Clydebank, the West of Scotland League champions, were offered a place to bring up the numbers to eighteen clubs and this was accepted at a League meeting on 6 June 1917. League runners-up, Stevenston United and Albion Rovers, who finished sixth out of nine clubs, were also interested in the vacancy if Clydebank had refused.

With Aberdeen, Dundee and Raith Rovers returning to the Scottish League in 1919-20 season, a vote was taken to fill the vacancy that was created. On 3 April 1919, Albion Rovers beat Cowdenbeath by 11 votes to 10 to take the position. Clydebank, who had been 'co-opted' in 1917, had their place in the League confirmed.

The 'First Division' now stood at a record 22 clubs, but the League as a whole was reduced after the Second Division, although not played since 1915, was dropped at the AGM on 2 June 1919. Abercorn, Arthurlie, Cowdenbeath, Dundee Hibernian, Dunfermline Athletic, East Stirlingshire, Johnstone, Leith Athletic, Lochgelly United, St Bernard's, St Johnstone and Vale of Leven, all lost their place.

Furious at what they saw as a betrayal, the eastern clubs formed the Central League. By not being members of the Inter League Board, these clubs could poach Scottish League players and not pay a transfer fee. This money would go direct to the players and a number of big name stars moved to the new league. The Scottish League initially waited out to see if the bubble would burst, but the Central League clubs grew in strength. Crowds went up as the fans flocked to see the big names play for their teams. By 1921 the Scottish League had had enough and a compromise was reached. The Second Division was to be reformed with automatic promotion and relegation, with the clubs listed below:

Central League

Alloa Athletic	Dundee Hibernian
Armadale	Dunfermline Athletic
Bathgate	King's Park
Bo'ness	East Fife
Broxburn United	St Johnstone
Clackmannan	Stenhousemuir
Cowdenbeath	

West of Scotland League

Johnstone
Vale of Leven

Scottish Alliance

Arbroath
Forfar Athletic

1920-21

8 June

Dumbarton	Re-elected	Scottish League
St Mirren	Re-elected	Scottish League

Dunfermline Athletic's application for election didn't find a seconder and stayed as members of the re-formed Second Division.

At the next League AGM on 16 May 1922, a proposal by Airdrieonians to maintain the 22-20 divisions which would have saved Queen's Park from relegation and Dundee Hibernian from dropping out of the League altogether failed. Thus the latter plus Clackmannan were consigned to the Scottish Alliance and Eastern League respectively after finishing in the last two places in the Second Division.

Re-elections were reintroduced in 1923 but suspended again until 1926 after the formation of, and subsequent collapse, of the Third Division.

1922-23

17 May

First ballot

Arbroath	29	Re-elected	Second Division
East Stirlingshire	19	To second ballot	Second Division
Dundee Hibernian	17	To second ballot	Scottish Alliance
Arthurlie	8	Not elected	West of Scotland League
Queen of the South		Not elected	West of Scotland League
Clackmannan		Not elected	Eastern League
Leith Athletic		Not elected	Eastern League

Second ballot

Dundee Hibernian	23	Elected	Scottish Alliance
East Stirlingshire	15	Not re-elected	Second Division

The formation of the Third Division was debated at a Management Committee meeting on 18 June 1923 and ratified on 28 June. Eighteen clubs were invited but three of those didn't reply; Helensburgh (who did eventually join), Hurlford (who were practically defunct) and Leith Athletic (who didn't join until 1924). Arbroath Athletic were interested, but the League refused their application as Arbroath already had a League club despite Dumbarton, a town of similar size, now having two clubs.

Apart from Hurlford (see above) and Queen's Park Strollers, the entire West of Scotland League membership joined the new division while three clubs came from the Eastern League. These two leagues therefore became defunct. One club came from the Southern Counties League while East Stirlingshire, who dropped down after failing re-election, made up the numbers.

The Third Division therefore consisted of Arthurlie, Beith, Brechin City, Clackmannan, Dumbarton Harp, Dykehead, East Stirlingshire, Galston, Helensburgh, Mid-Annandale, Montrose, Nithsdale Wanderers, Peebles Rovers, Queen of the South, Royal Albert and Solway Star.

At a League meeting on 26 June 1924, Leith Athletic were admitted to the Third Division. This meant an increase to seventeen clubs but this was reduced again to 16 when Dumbarton Harp resigned because of financial difficulties on 10 January 1925. This was accepted by the League on 4 February when it was decided to expunge their results.

In April 1926, Galston intimated their intention to resign but were urged to continue. They hadn't actually completed any fixtures after 9 January and in any case the whole division collapsed at the end of the season. Beith, Brechin City, Clackmannan, Dykehead, Forfar Athletic, Helensburgh, Johnstone, Leith Athletic, Lochgelly United, Mid-Annandale, Montrose, Peebles Rovers, Royal Albert, Solway Star and Vale of Leven all eventually lost their membership and were taken into an expanded Scottish Alliance.

With no relegation taking place, the bottom two clubs therefore stood to apply for re-election.

1925-26

20 May

First ballot

Leith Athletic	19	To second ballot	Ex-Third Division
Forfar Athletic	18	To second ballot	Ex-Third Division
Bathgate	18	To second ballot	Second Division
Dykehead		Not elected	Ex-Third Division
Helensburgh		Not elected	Ex-Third Division
Broxburn United		Not re-elected	Second Division

Second ballot

Bathgate	23	Re-elected	Second Division
Forfar Athletic	21	To third ballot	Ex-Third Division
Leith Athletic	20	To third ballot	Ex-Third Division

Third ballot

Forfar Athletic	17	Elected	Ex-Third Division
Leith Athletic	16	Not elected	Ex-Third Division

Forfar won on the Chairman's casting vote after the clubs tied on 16 votes apiece.

1926-27

26 May

Arbroath	33	Re-elected	Second Division
Leith Athletic	27	Elected	Scottish Alliance
Nithsdale Wanderers	12	Not re-elected	Second Division

1927-28

17 May

First ballot

Bathgate	28	Re-elected	Second Division
Armadale	22	To second ballot	Second Division
Nithsdale Wanderers	11	To second ballot	Scottish Alliance
Brechin City	8	To second ballot	N/A
Montrose	7	To second ballot	N/A

Second ballot

Armadale	17	To third ballot	Second Division
Nithsdale Wanderers	12	To third ballot	Scottish Alliance
Brechin City	4	Not elected	N/A
Montrose	4	Not elected	N/A

Third ballot

Armadale	23	Re-elected	Second Division
Nithsdale Wanderers	14	Not elected	Scottish Alliance

1928-29

During 1928-29, two Second Division clubs resigned mid-season. Bathgate left in January 1929, their record being expunged on 12 March, while although Arthurlie resigned on 17 April, their record was allowed to stand as they had actually completed their fixtures against the leading clubs. No re-elections took place at the AGM on 23 May, instead two clubs were voted in to fill the vacancies.

1929 Ballot for replacements for Arthurlie and Bathgate

Montrose	31	Elected	Scottish Alliance
Brechin City	24	Elected	Scottish Alliance
Nithsdale Wanderers	17	Not elected	Scottish Alliance

1929-30

29 May

Alloa		Re-elected	Second Division
Brechin City		Re-elected	Second Division
Nithsdale Wanderers		Not elected	Scottish Alliance

1930-31

27 May

Bo'ness		Re-elected	Second Division
Clydebank		Re-elected	Second Division
Nithsdale Wanderers		Not elected	Southern Counties League
Edinburgh City		Not elected	Edinburgh & District League

Clydebank subsequently disbanded on 26 June 1931, so another ballot was taken on 17 July to replace them.

1931 Ballot for replacement for Clydebank

Edinburgh City	25	Elected	Edinburgh & District League
Nithsdale Wanderers	7	Not elected	Southern Counties League

1931-32

25 May

Edinburgh City	36	Re-elected	Second Division
Brechin City	33	Re-elected	Second Division
Nithsdale Wanderers	6	Not elected	Southern Counties League

1932-33

24 May

Montrose		Re-elected	Second Division
Edinburgh City		Re-elected	Second Division

No other clubs applied.

Bo'ness (on 12 November 1932) and Armadale (on 3 December 1932) were both expelled during the season for not meeting the gate guarantee. Their records were expunged on 5 April 1933 and it was decided to reduce the Second Division to 18 clubs.

1933-34

31 May

Dundee United		Re-elected	Second Division
Edinburgh City		Re-elected	Second Division

No other clubs applied.

1934-35

29 May

Edinburgh City		Re-elected	Second Division
Montrose		Re-elected	Second Division

No other clubs applied.

1935-36

27 May

Dumbarton		Re-elected	Second Division
Raith Rovers		Re-elected	Second Division

No other clubs applied.

1936-37

26 May

Edinburgh City	Re-elected	Second Division
King's Park	Re-elected	Second Division

No other clubs applied.

1937-38

25 May

Brechin City	Re-elected	Second Division
Edinburgh City	Re-elected	Second Division

No other clubs applied.

1938-39

24 May

East Stirlingshire	Re-elected	Second Division
Edinburgh City	Re-elected	Second Division

An application from Bo'ness was refused as the AGM saw no beneficial reason for a change.

World War Two saw the suspension of the football season for a time, but in October 1939 the League restarted with two regional divisions of 16 clubs apiece. Edinburgh City, Montrose, Brechin City, Forfar Athletic, East Stirlingshire and Leith Athletic were not included in the new setup. Cowdenbeath had to resign just after New Year but as they had played each of the other clubs one, their record was allowed to stand. At the end of the season, the League suspended its competition until it restarted in 1946. Its member clubs were allowed to form their own leagues in the interim, namely the Southern League and North Eastern League.

1946-47

Upon its restart in 1946, the Scottish League had a new divisional set-up. There would be two sections, A and B with 16 and 14 clubs respectively and a third division, C, consisting of the remainder plus the reserve sides of a number of A and B clubs. Two clubs failed to survive the War; St Bernard's and King's Park, the latter's ground being destroyed during a bombing raid. They were replaced by Stirling Albion.

At the end of the season, 1946-47, Stirling Albion as Division C champions were promoted to Division B. They should have replaced Cowdenbeath who had finished bottom but it had already been decided to expand Division B to 16 clubs. Edinburgh City moved that Cowdenbeath were re-elected to the second tier and this was unanimously accepted. To decide the sixteenth club, a ballot was taken with five clubs in competition.

30 June

Leith Athletic	25	Elected	Division C
East Stirlingshire	9	Not elected	Division C
Montrose	2	Not elected	Division C
Edinburgh City	1	Not elected	Division C
Brechin City	0	Not elected	Division C

In 1948 and 1949, there was no re-elections held with the bottom club in Division B being replaced by the Division C champions in both seasons.

However it was decided to admit Stranraer into an expanded Division C, South & West Section at the AGM on 24 May 1949.

There were two further re-elections to Division B held in 1950 and 1951.

1949-50

12 June

Alloa		Re-elected	Division B
Dumbarton		Re-elected	Division B

A motion put by East Stirlingshire that they, along with Brechin City, Leith Athletic and Montrose be admitted to Division B was defeated by 22 votes to 15. Note that there was no mention of a place for Stranraer.

1950-51

4 June

Stenhousemuir	30	Re-elected	Division B
Alloa	29	Re-elected	Division B
Leith Athletic	6	Not elected	Division C
Brechin City	4	Not elected	Division C
East Stirlingshire	3	Not elected	Division C
Montrose	2	Not elected	Division C
Berwick Rangers	0	Not elected	East of Scotland League

This was the last re-election vote taken by the Scottish League.

At the same meeting, the League decided to admit another club to Division C, Berwick Rangers joining the North & East Section after Newton Stewart of the South of Scotland League failed to get a proposer.

Thereafter, the only changes in membership came from resignations, expulsions or elections to fill vacancies. These are all listed below.

1953-54

On 28 August 1953, Leith Athletic were expelled after refusing to fulfill their Division C fixtures. They were protesting at the refusal of the League to expand Division B to include the Division C clubs, they were not replaced.

1959-60

Against admission	32		
Clachnacuddin	5	Not elected	Highland League

1964-65

In 1964 East Stirlingshire moved from Falkirk to Clydebank and merged with the local Junior club. After a legal challenge this move was aborted and after 'de-merging', East Stirlingshire returned to Falkirk. The new Clydebank club then applied for a League place and a vote was taken. Despite there being an odd number of clubs in membership at this time, only 19 were in favour, with 18 against. As a two-thirds majority was needed, Clydebank failed to gain admission.

Against admission	19		
Clydebank	18	Not elected	N/A

Common sense prevailed a year later when a vote was taken to even up the Second Division to twenty clubs.

1965-66

Clydebank		Elected	Combined Reserve League
Gala Fairydean		Not elected	East of Scotland League
Hawick Royal Albert		Not elected	East of Scotland League

However the disbanding of Third Lanark at the end of 1966-67 saw the Second Division reduced again to 19 clubs.

1973-74

To prepare for the reconstruction of the League into Premier, First and Second Divisions, it was necessary to elect a 38th member for the 1974-75 season. At a meeting of the League on 24 May 1974, the proposal to elect an additional club was passed by 20 votes to 16 (the Forfar Athletic delegate was late and missed the vote).

First ballot

Ferranti Thistle	13	To second ballot	East of Scotland League
Inverness Thistle	13	To second ballot	Highland League
Gateshead United	7	Not elected	Northern Premier League
Elgin City	1	Not elected	Highland League
Forres Mechanics	1	Not elected	Highland League
Hawick Royal Albert	1	Not elected	East of Scotland League
Ross County	1	Not elected	Highland League

Second ballot

Ferranti Thistle	21	Elected	East of Scotland League
Inverness Thistle	16	Not elected	Highland League

Edinburgh club Ferranti Thistle were renamed Meadowbank Thistle before the start of the new season. They later moved to, and were renamed, Livingston.

English club Gateshead United were called South Shields until the end of 1973-74 season

1993-94

In 1994 League was being re-organized from three into four divisions and it was necessary to admit two more clubs.

Caledonian Thistle	68	Elected	Highland League
Ross County	57	Elected	Highland League
Gala Fairydean	35	Not elected	East of Scotland League
Elgin City	10	Not elected	Highland League
Gretna	2	Not elected	Northern Premier League

1999-2000

In 1998, the Scottish Premier League was formed by ten clubs. When this was increased to twelve in 2000, the Scottish League had to admit two more clubs to enable it to continue with three divisions of ten clubs each.

First ballot

Peterhead		Elected	Highland League
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Second ballot

Elgin City	16	Elected	Highland League
Annan Athletic		Not elected	East of Scotland League
Cove Rangers		Not elected	Highland League
Gala Fairydean		Not elected	East of Scotland League
Gretna		Not elected	Northern Premier League
Preston Athletic		Not elected	East of Scotland League

Peterhead were elected on the first ballot. Elgin City gained 16 of the 23 votes available on the second ballot.

2001-02

At the end of 2001-02 season Airdrieonians disbanded and a vote was taken to replace them.

Gretna	16	Elected	Northern Premier League
Airdrie United	11	Not elected	N/A
Cove Rangers		Not elected	Highland League
Edinburgh City		Not elected	East of Scotland League
Gala Fairydean		Not elected	East of Scotland League
Huntly		Not elected	Highland League
Preston Athletic		Not elected	East of Scotland League

Gretna beat Airdrie United on the second ballot.

The owners of Airdrie United then proceeded to buy the homeless, playerless and cashless Clydebank, moved the club to Airdrie and renamed it Airdrie United. Whereas Gretna had to start their League career in the Third Division, Airdrie United took over Clydebank's Second Division place.

2007-08

On 3 June 2008, Gretna disbanded and a ballot was taken to fill the vacancy.

2008

First ballot

Annan Athletic	14	To second ballot	East of Scotland League
Cove Rangers	8	To second ballot	Highland League
Spartans	5	To second ballot	East of Scotland League
Edinburgh City	1	Not elected	East of Scotland League
Preston Athletic	1	Not elected	East of Scotland League

Second ballot

Annan Athletic	14	To third ballot	East of Scotland League
Cove Rangers	9	To third ballot	Highland League
Spartans	6	Not elected	East of Scotland League

Third ballot

Annan Athletic	17	Elected	East of Scotland League
Cove Rangers	12	Not elected	Highland League

Applications for re-election

Between 1891 and 1951, the following clubs all applied for re-election to the League.

Note that between 1916 and 1920, in 1922, 1924 and 1925 and from 1946 to 1949, there were no re-elections held due to the particular League setup that was operating. Also, because of resignations in 1894 (Thistle), 1900 (Linthouse), 1910 (Ayr Parkhouse), 1911 (Port-Glasgow Athletic) and 1929 (both Arthurlie and Bathgate), the number of clubs having to seek readmission was reduced by one in 1894, 1900, 1910 and 1911, and to none in 1929.

Abercorn 1893, 1895, 1899, 1902, 1905
Airdrieonians 1898, 1900
Albion Rovers 1912
Alloa 1930, 1950, 1951
Arbroath 1923, 1927
Armadale 1928
Arthurlie 1904, 1908, 1909, 1913, 1915
Ayr Parkhouse 1904, 1907
Bathgate 1926, 1928
Bo'ness 1931
Brechin City 1930, 1932, 1938
Broxburn United 1926
Cambuslang 1892
Clyde 1893, 1902, 1903
Clydebank 1931
Cowdenbeath 1908, 1909, 1910
Cowlairs 1891, 1895
Dumbarton 1897, 1921, 1936, 1950
Dundee United 1934
Dundee Wanderers 1895

East Stirlingshire 1906, 1907, 1923, 1939
Edinburgh City 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1939
Hamilton Academical 1898, 1901
Johnstone 1914
King's Park 1937
Leith 1901, 1913
Linthouse 1899
Montrose 1933, 1935
Morton 1894, 1896
Motherwell 1896, 1897, 1898, 1901
Nithsdale Wanderers 1927
Northern 1894
Northern 1896
Port-Glasgow Athletic 1897
Raith Rovers 1903, 1936
Renton 1893
St Bernard's 1905
St Mirren 1891, 1892, 1921
Stenhousemuir 1951
Vale of Leven 1891, 1892, 1906, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1915

Most applications have come from Edinburgh City and Vale of Leven with seven each, Edinburgh's all coming in the 1930s. During this decade there was a lack of other applicants with the result being the bottom clubs were virtually guaranteed to be re-elected.

Consecutive applications for re-election

Edinburgh City are also holders for the record of most consecutive applications, four times in 1932-1933-1934-1935. They also applied in 1937-1938-1939. Motherwell applied in three consecutive years 1896-1897-1898 as did Cowdenbeath 1908-1909-1910.

Vale of Leven applied four times in five seasons 1911-1912-1914-1915.

Failed applications for election

Most of the clubs which have applied for a League place have eventually been elected at one time or another. The formation of the Second and Third Divisions in the 1920s saw many of the formerly excluded clubs join. However there is a small group of clubs that have been denied a place over the years.

Clachnacuddin of Inverness failed in their application in 1960.

Cove Rangers of Aberdeen have applied three times, 2000, 2002 and 2008.

Dumfries applied in 1905. They merged with KOSB and Arrol Johnston in 1919 to form Queen of the South.

Edinburgh City, a different club from the one that existed from the 1930s to 1950s, have failed to be elected twice, 2002 and 2008.

Forres Mechanics applied for the vacant slot in 1974 but lost out.

Gala Fairydean have made the most applications of these clubs, four in total, 1966, 1994, 2000 and 2002.

Gateshead United are the odd ones out, being an English club. They were originally known as South Shields until 1974 when they made their bid.

Hawick Royal Albert tried and failed in 1966 and 1974.

Huntly, another Highland League club, made one attempt, in 2002.

Inverness Thistle also applied in 1974 but lost out to Ferranti Thistle (later Meadowbank Thistle, later Livingston) after a deciding ballot. In 1994 they merged with local rivals Caledonian to form Caledonian Thistle and be successfully elected into the Third Division.

Kirkcaldy United was the Lang Toun's other club but their 1913 application had no chance of success, Raith Rovers were Scottish Cup finalists and First Division members.

Mossend Swifts unsuccessfully applied for a place at the first election held in 1891.

Preston Athletic from Prestonpans in East Lothian have applied three times, 2000, 2002 and 2008.

Spartans given the esteem they are held in non-league circles, have surprisingly only applied once, in 2008.

Wishaw Thistle, not the club which entered the Third Division in 1923, this one existed in the 19th century and tried twice, 1895 and 1896.

Three other clubs tried to join in the 1890s, but were denied the opportunity when they couldn't find a seconder; Dundee County were formed in May 1896 after an upheaval at Dundee FC brought a complete change in the club's management structure. This prompted members of other clubs towards forming a new club. Dundee Wanderers had also shown a desire to include the old Dundee men. An application was made for admission to the 1896 AGM but when they failed to find a seconder for election they subsequently 'disbanded' without ever playing a game.

The two Aberdeen clubs, Victoria United (1897) and Orion (1899) both failed in their attempts, but after a three way merger in 1903, the city eventually had a League member in the shape of Aberdeen FC.