

As the Blues celebrate 125 years, we mark the milestone by starting a countdown of their finest-ever footballers

25

greatest Linfield players of all time

LINFIELD are celebrating their 125th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, the Belfast Telegraph decided it would be a worthwhile and thought provoking exercise to attempt to name the 25 greatest Linfield players of all time.

Given how many top class footballers Linfield have had over the past 125 years, it was not an easy task.

A judging panel was required — people with experience, knowledge, insight and a great passion for the game — to come up with the top 25.

Respected Linfield chairman Jim Kerr, the Irish League's and Linfield's most successful manager Roy Coyle, lifelong Blueman Jonathan Lamont, legendary football writer Malcolm Brodie all agreed to debate and determine the list with Belfast Telegraph Sports Editor Steven Beacom chairing the panel.

It was difficult limiting the all-time greats list to just 25, so to put them in order was extremely tough.

Finally, after much discussion and scratching of heads, we got there.

The panel were asked to consider the ability of the players, their contribution to the club, their relationship with the fans, star quality and honours collected at Windsor Park.

Starting today and continuing all week we reveal the 25 men voted as Linfield's greatest ever players. The number one will be named in Saturday's newspaper.

**Tomorrow: we continue
the countdown from
numbers 20 to 16**



Expert views: Judging panel Steven Beacom, Jonathan Lamont, Malcolm Brodie, Roy Coyle and Jim Kerr at the Park Avenue hotel to pick Linfield's top 25 players
PRESSEYE

25 DESSIE GORMAN 1992-1997

DESSIE Gorman broke the mould at Linfield.

When Trevor Anderson signed the forward from Shelbourne in the winter of 1992, Gorman (*main picture*) became the first high profile Roman Catholic in decades to join the Blues.

It was a stunning transfer in many ways because Anderson had never seen Gorman play.

No-one need have worried as Gorman became an instant hit with the Linfield faithful, who nicknamed him "the Dundalk Hawk".

With his all action



style and ability to score crucial goals, Gorman became the terrace darling of Windsor Park, helping the Blues to back-to-back titles.

His first touch in a Linfield shirt gave an indication of the excitement to come — it was an overhead kick to keep a ball in play. He was different to any player the Blues had at the time and in many ways changed the way the played.

Dessie's success paved the way for other Catholics to join Linfield. He wasn't just popular on the pitch — he was a star off it dealing with a potentially tricky situation during troubled times with his easy going and humorous nature.

A hugely influential figure in Linfield's modern history — he has had a trophy named after him, the Dessie Gorman Cup, which the Linfield and Dundalk youth teams contest.

24 DAVY WALSH 1943-1946

WATERFORD-born Davy Walsh, now 88, was a dual international — he played for the Irish FA and FAI international sides — and made a decisive impact with the Blues from 1943-46.

That was an era of many quality players at Windsor Park.

Solid and dapper, Walsh had spells with Limerick and Shelbourne before being signed by the Blues.

Nobody was more deadly in front of goal than Walsh, who later established himself at West Bromwich Albion, Aston Villa and Worcester City. He was a class act.

Walsh, still residing in England, said: "Linfield was a great club — that was the happiest period of my career.

"I was made totally welcome, part of the family and never experienced problems on any issue."



23 BILLY MCCLEERY 1927-1935

ASK any Linfield old-timer the club's greatest half-back line and they'll recite the names of Billy McCleery, Jack Jones and Tommy Sloan — the middle of the Ireland team which beat Wales 7-0 in 1930, Joe Bambrick scoring six.

Multi-talented McCleery, developed his football at Cliftonville

and Queen's Island, winning an Irish Cup medal with them, the first of six, the others coming, of course, at Linfield.

Retiring in 1935, he became boss of Linfield in 1939, but the Second World War prevented him continuing for long. Instead he focused in later years on cricket, playing in 14 Irish Senior Cup finals with Woodvale between 1929-52.

He represented the Irish League seven times, won 10 senior IFA caps and his proudest moment was managing the Irish League side which defeated the English League 5-2 at Windsor in 1956.

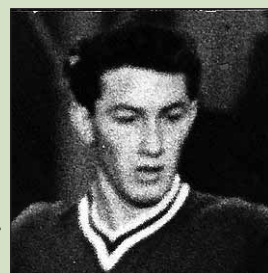


22 JOHN PARKE 1954-1963

JOHN Parke was a brilliant full-back who joined Linfield from Cliftonville in 1954, moving to Scotland with Hibs in 1963.

He made only 23 appearances for Hibs before Sunderland spotted him and within a short period had obtained his signature. He became a Roker Park favourite, playing in 85 matches over four years.

Then he opted to enter European football, spending three seasons with the Belgian club KV Mechelen before retiring and returning to live in Northern Ireland where he had a spell in management. He was capped by Northern Ireland 14 times — the first in a 2-1 win over Scotland in 1963 — an immaculate performance in keeping with how he played for the Blues.



21 PHIL SCOTT 1958-1962/1963-1973

PHIL Scott, a classical inside forward, possessing skill, vision and an enormous work-rate, he was snapped up by Linfield from Distillery

He left because he couldn't get regular football, but returned to develop a glittering career.

He played in 15 European matches, scoring five goals, and was a member of the squad that met CSKA Sofia in the quarter-final — a remarkable achievement for a part-time professional. club.

Phil, a Shankill Road man, got two goals in the 1970 Irish Cup win against Ballymena United and hit 220 goals in 400 Linfield matches, a commendable ratio for a player who would have graced any side on the highest cross-channel level.



Words: Steven Beacom and Malcolm Brodie

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Yesterday we started with numbers 25 to 21 and continue today and all week until Saturday when we will reveal Linfield's number one.

Already the list has been the subject of huge debate on the Irish League Forums website. Below is a sample of thoughts from the fans.

From my era, Peter Rafferty, Georgie Dunlop, Noel Bailie, Glenn Ferguson and Martin McCaughey should all be nailed on for the list. Dessie Gorman is a worthy inclusion. **DAVID**

In my 20 years watching Irish League, I would say Bailie and Ferguson spring to mind, always feared Tony Gorman and his free kicks, although clearly Gorman is not going to be in the top 25. I always thought Tommy McDonald was a steady player, Haylock is another top player, just a few names to throw into the mix. **EAST BELFAST DANNY** *Glentoran supporter*

EAST BELFAST DANNY *Glentoran supporter*

Look forward to following this in the Telegraph, although I suspect, like all these lists, it will be massively biased towards post-war players, simply because nobody's memory goes back further than that.

MOORETWIN, *Crusaders fan*

I don't think you have to have seen a player in the flesh to appreciate his contribution to the club's history, Joe Bambrick being a perfect example. **GAZZA**

Tomorrow: We continue the countdown from numbers 15 to 11

20 DICK KEITH 1950-1956

For style and panache, it would be difficult to find an equal of the late Dick Keith, who made over 400 appearances for the Blues, climaxed by his 1956 selection as Ulster Footballer of the Year.

Newcastle United, who eventually appointed him captain, got an £8,000 bargain – the start of a wonderful St James' Park partnership with fellow Ulsterman Alfie McMichael. He won 23 caps, including those in the 1958 Sweden World Cup series.

Dick, 33, was killed in February 1967 when he fractured his skull working in a builders' merchant at Bournemouth. He had been dismantling an automatic garage door when struck on the head by a spring-loaded cantilever.

Keith and McMichael ranked as Northern Ireland's finest full-backs since the era of Bertie Fulton (Belfast Celtic).



19 ALFIE McMICHAEL 1945-1949

Captain of Ireland. Nobody was more proud of that title than Alfie McMichael, who became a Linfield player in 1945 four years before his transfer with inside-forward George Hannah to Newcastle United for £30,000.

He linked up with a number of superstars there – Jackie Milburn, Joe Harvey, Tommy Walker, Frank Brennan, Ernie Taylor, George Robledo and Bobby Mitchell. He made 40 appearances for Northern Ireland and was a member of the 1953 seven weeks coast-to-coast USA and Canadian tour party. Was described by Sir Stanley Matthews as "one of the best backs I have ever played against". He won an FA Cup Winners medal with Newcastle and then missed a repeat a year later because of knee trouble.



From the moment he broke into the Linfield senior squad it was apparent he would become top-drawer. His positional sense was unsurpassed. His leadership qualities, too. He was a class act for the Blues.

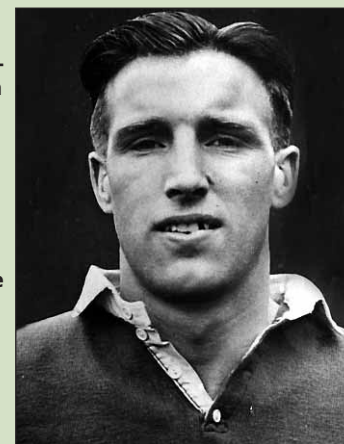
18 BILLY SIMPSON 1947-1950

Billy Simpson could be described as one of the most accomplished Linfield strikers, who was transferred in 1950 to Rangers for £11,500, spending nine years at Ibrox, making 239 appearances, scoring 163 goals.

With Linfield, the club he had followed as a schoolboy, Billy, one of nature's gentlemen, won two Irish League and two Irish Cup medals. Famously he scored four goals in a 6-0 win over Glentoran in the 1949/50 Gold Cup.

Simpson won three titles and one Cup gong at Rangers, who inducted him into their Hall of Fame.

He left Ibrox in 1959 and spent the remaining years before retirement with Stirling Albion, Partick Thistle and Oxford United. He made 12 Northern Ireland appearances, travelled with the 1958 squad to Sweden, picked up an injury in training and never figured in a game. That was his major regret of an illustrious career.



17 GEORGE DUNLOP 1977-1990

George Dunlop (*main picture*) was a goalkeeper supreme, winning four full caps between 1984-89, four at schoolboy level and representing the Irish League on 14 occasions.

With the Blues he collected nine Irish League Championship medals, two Irish Cups and virtually every honour in the domestic game.

While a part-time footballer, he worked as a riveter at Shorts and signed as a teenager for Manchester City. His only involvement was as an unused sub in the 1972 UEFA Cup tie against Valencia.

Dunlop, a member of the World Cup, Spain '82 squad, played more than 500 games for Linfield and was among the top goalkeepers in Ireland during the 1980s. He later became Bangor development officer and manager.

An ebullient personality, he could be the life and soul of the party. A wonderful tourist.

16 SAMMY PAVIS 1965-1970

Goalscorers have always been legends at Windsor Park – none more so than Sammy Pavis. He started his career with Distillery, joined Scunthorpe as an apprentice, came back to Crusaders and then had three seasons at the Oval, scoring 49 goals in one of them, a then record for a winger.

Glentoran manager Gibby Mackenzie asked him to move to Bangor but he declined and in stepped Linfield where he became a legend.

He scored 63 goals in the 1965-66 season and around 180 during his spell at "The Park" where he was nicknamed "Sammy Save Us" and "Sammy Snatchit". Pavis, from an East Belfast footballing family, was a predator in the box. In fact, throughout his career he hit more than 400 goals and in 1968 came fourth to Eusebio (Benfica) in the European Golden Boot Award to the top marksman. A former Northern Ireland Professional Footballers Association chairman, he rarely attends games these days. His interest is snooker in which he became a champion. He was an asset to any team. How some Irish League managers today could use a player with his goal-getting ability.



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My old uncle who played the game in 1905 maintained Marshall McEwan was the best he had seen, Gerry Morgan a close second. My judgement, I will take from when I was around as a 16/17-year-old in the war years starting about 1943.

Goalkeeper: Tommy Breen, always rated with Frank Swift as the best in Britain.

Right back: Dick Keith, Newcastle, Ireland
Left back: Alf McMichael, also Newcastle and Ireland.

Right half: Walter McMillen, Man United and Ireland.

Centre half: Billy Mould, Stoke City — even ahead of my favourite Bun Hamill.

Left half: Tommy Brolly, Millwall. Most feared in Britain.

Outside right: Davy Cochrane, a freak sent to us by the Lord to lift our spirits.

Inside right: Stan Pearson, Man United idol.

Centre forward: Wor Jackie Milburn, Newcastle and England idol.

Inside Left: Alex Ormston, Stoke City — the silver ghost.

Outside left: Billy Liddell, Liverpool and rated Scotland's best.

There are many I have sadly left out over the time I have followed Linfield from the end of the Bambrick era 1936 until the 1970s.

REAL McCOY

Tomorrow: We continue the countdown from 10 to 6

11 DAVY COCHRANE 1942-1945

Who says size matters? Davy Cochrane, arguably one of Northern Ireland's finest outside rights, was only five foot four — so small that on arrival at Leeds United in 1937 they thought he was an Irish jockey.

He made 33 pre-War appearances for Leeds, returned home in 1939, and joined Portadown who opted out of football in May 1941, so he moved to Shamrock Rovers.

A year later, Davy Emerson coaxed him back to Linfield with whom he remained until 1945 — in one season scoring 45 goals.

His performances for the Blues are embedded in the club's folklore — two wartime League titles, two Irish Cup Final appearances and goals galore.

Capped 12 times — the first as an 18-year-old in 1938 — he re-joined Leeds and was on their books until the 1950-51 season when, to the surprise of many, he quit football aged 35 to concentrate on a business. "I wanted to finish at the top," he explained.

He died in 2000 at his home in Leeds.



12 BOBBY BRAITHWAITE 1957-1963

They called him Gento — a tribute to his skill on the wing resembling the world-renowned Real Madrid superstar Francisco Gento.

Crusaders developed him as a teenager before joining Linfield and he appeared in five Irish Cup finals in six years.

Robert Munn Braithwaite became a Linfield immortal as a goalscorer in the 1962 seven-trophy team. He left Windsor Park in 1963 and his job in the shipyard to become a full-time professional with Middlesbrough, and after a number of failed comeback injuries he joined Durban City, South Africa and also for a period managed Bloemfontein City, occasionally playing for them. He currently resides at Port Elizabeth.

A natural left-winger, capped ten times, he was the nearest approach as a successor to Peter McParland, the Sweden '58 World Cup hero.



15 ISAAC ANDREWS 1960-1972

If anybody ever epitomised the traditional fighting spirit and qualities which is part of the Linfield heritage, it was Isaac Andrews, another member of the 1962 seven-trophy team.

This was the tribute Northern Ireland manager Peter Doherty paid him: "He is my type of player. He has speed, guile, positional sense and tackles strongly."

He was once labelled the Billy Bremner of Ulster and Wilbur Cush Mark II.

Another Shankill Road man, his workrate was phenomenal — an attribute noticed when he went on trial as a teenager at Manchester United. He was not re-



tained, joined Distillery, but then made his debut as a 17-year-old amateur with Linfield — the start of a glorious era.

He had gained six Northern Ireland amateur caps, three Irish League and was unfortunate not to get senior recognition.

Isaac, born in 1943, was a role model for the Linfield type of player who battled to the end, in every match. A true Blue.

14 TOMMY PRIESTLY 1932-1933

One of the most controversial figures in 1930s football, Tommy could not be mistaken on the field for he wore a rugby-type skull cap to obscure his premature baldness.

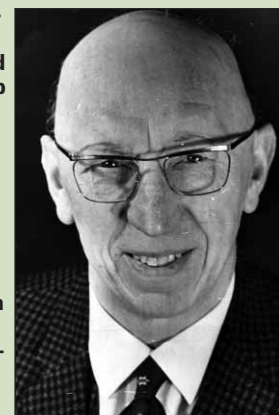
His career began at Coleraine but he left them for a year at Windsor Park and was transferred in 1933 for £3,000 to Chelsea after rejecting offers from several clubs including Rangers.

Tommy always hit out at officialdom when he felt it was necessary and championed many causes. His career was colourful, his talent unlimited.

He was twice capped by Ireland in 1932 and 1933 and there should have been many more in the pipeline, however they never materialised.

He became a principal of a school at Lambeg where his academic qualities and leadership earned him high reputation. He attended Irish League matches most Saturdays as a guest in the Press box until his sudden death after an operation at the Royal Victoria Hospital on July 28, 1985.

Thomas James Montgomery Priestley, 74, was a one-off, a man of dignity and principle.



13 MARTIN MCGAUGHEY 1977-1993

MARTIN McGaughey is regarded as one of Linfield's finest-ever strikers.

He signed as a youth team player in 1977, and made his first team breakthrough during the 1980-81 season.

Initially he took some stick from the terraces but once he started scoring, that stopped and hero worship from the Kop began.

He was prolific throughout his Linfield career scoring over 317 goals in 533 matches — a magnificent record — helping the Blues win six

titles in the process. It's widely acknowledged that his greatest season was in 1984-85 when he finished second in the race to win the European Golden Shoe, just losing out to Porto's Fernando Gomes.

In total that year McGaughey (*main picture*), nicknamed 'Buckets', scored a remarkable 57 goals.

He left Linfield and eventually finished his career at Ards, having won one international cap for Northern Ireland.



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Not sure about making the top 25 of all time, but from my time (1988 onwards) there'd be the likes of: Bailie, McGaughey, Dornan (Alan), Easton, Doherty, Murphy, Gorman (both Tony & Dessie), Haylock, Ferguson, Thompson, Fenlon, Peebles, Beatty.

Also seen the great Peter Rafferty once, so he'd obviously be in there. CAINESS

There's been plenty of 'princes', even some 'kings', to wear the royal blue, but the No.1 is sure to be The Duke. BLUE TIL I DIE

None of us would have watched Bob Milne but his club/ international career would probably be the best of any Linfield player. Should be an automatic selection. THE CAT

Tommy Leishman, wasn't a tall player but was a giant when he pulled on the royal Blue. TOM VALLANCE

Tomorrow: We complete the countdown from 5 to 1

6 BILLY MURRAY 1977-1988

A true genius who was given the label "there is only one Billy Murray".

He had 11 seasons at Windsor Park under Roy Coyle in the 1980s, becoming the scourge of full-backs. He played for Portadown at outside left but his heart was with Linfield as a member of the Belmont Supporters Club from the age of 11. His signing was a Coyle masterstroke.

He was a natural, sprinting past defenders, floating balls into the box and the king of set pieces. He could turn a match in a second. He was the superstar in a team of superstars.

"After I left Linfield I joined Ballyclare Comrades but my heart was not really in it when I hung up the blue shirt," he said.

Billy held the record of being the first out of the dressing room at the end of matches. "He would be going through the door showered and changed and the others were just coming off the pitch," quipped Coyle.

"Yes, he was one of the true greats."



7 BOB MILNE 1890-1910

A Scot from Forfar the well-built Milne joined the Gordon Highlanders which was stationed in Belfast where they formed a regimental team which Milne captained to an Irish Cup Final 3-1 success over Cliftonville.

He brought himself out of the army and signed for the Blues in 1890, taking over the captaincy in 1903 from Sam Torrance.

Only 20, he helped the Blues win the Irish Cup — and eventually collected nine of the precious winners medals.

Add to that eight Irish League Championship and 27 Ireland caps, although he was a Scot. The number of caps is remarkable given in those days internationals were only staged between the four British Associations.

The seven years residency rule in those days made him eligible.

He died in 1954, leaving a legacy as one of Linfield's outstanding players and the type who established the club's reputation in worldwide football.



8 MARSHALL McEWAN 1911-1916

Never capped by Scotland, Marshall McEwan frequently visited Northern Ireland with his parents on summer holiday and like all Glaswegians was a football fanatic. He played for Everton, Blackpool, Bolton and Chelsea and under complex rules moved to Linfield through the "open door" as no transfer agreements existed between the various associations.

His performance in the 1913 Irish Cup Final against Glentoran was described as the most amazing for years — incredible artistry, real Roy of the Rovers stuff. Old timers say he was something else as a footballer. Pure class.

McEwan won all the Irish honours, remained in Belfast and opened several businesses, but died in an old people's home at Newtownabbey visited by members of the Linfield supporters organisations. He died in January 1966 and with no close relatives was buried by the Belfast Welfare Authority at the City Cemetery.



9 PETER RAFFERTY 1973-1982



The Raf — what a character. Peter Rafferty is a Linfield stalwart, yet it was at Distillery where he established himself as a centre-half and throughout his career occupied every position including goalkeeper.

He made 260 appearances for the Whites, scoring 36 goals before starting his Linfield career in December 1973.

Nicknamed "Bald Eagle", Rafferty played 331 games in the blue jersey, scoring 42 goals — primarily as a centre-back.

His medal collection includes five Irish League, three Irish Cup and one All Ireland.

He quit in 1982 to join Ards and then Crusaders. He was the newspaperman's dream. He could provide a story in an instant.

In one match with Linfield leading 4-1 he sat on the ball in his own six yard area and motioned Glentoran players to come to him.

He made one Northern Ireland appearance against England in 1979 but his forte was the Irish League in which he made such a huge impact.

10 GLENN FERGUSON 1998-2009

When Glenn Ferguson retires at the end of the season he will do so as a Linfield legend and an Irish League legend. After starting out at Ards, he made his name as a sensational striker at Glenavon, prompting Linfield to sign him in 1998 for a record £55,000.

It proved to be one of the best bargains ever for the Blues.

Ferguson won every domestic trophy going at Windsor Park, several times over, including playing a hugely influential role in the modern day Grand Slam success. The man known as "Spike" was also the inspiration behind Linfield's Setanta Cup victory in 2005.

Not just an extraordinary scorer he created goals galore before moving to Lisburn Distillery in 2009.

He is second behind the iconic Jimmy Jones in terms of goals scored here — at the time of writing Spike, who won five Northern Ireland caps, has netted over 560 times. Brilliant.



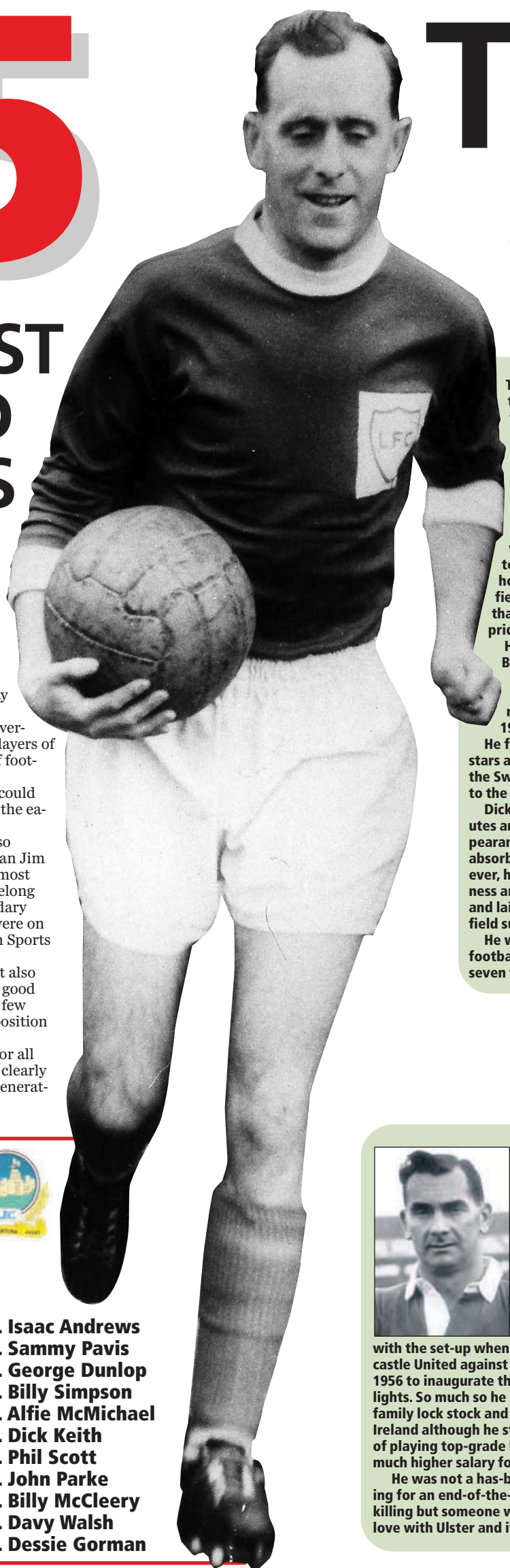
The countdown that has had everyone talking concludes today...

and there are no prizes for guessing who the illustrious winner is

25 GREATEST LINFIELD PLAYERS OF ALL TIME

The Duke

takes top spot



1 TOMMY DICKSON 1948-1949, 1965

They called Tommy Dickson the Duke of Windsor and fans rated him as the ultimate Blueman who had a stunning impact on Irish League football, irresistible claims to be the greatest of them all.

He was a bantamweight, pencil-slim inside-forward with an impish, petulant temperament, whose boyhood dream of playing for Linfield came true. Nobody wore that blue shirt with greater pride than The Duke.

He rejected an offer from Belfast Celtic manager Elisha Scott to join Celtic when he was with Brantwood and arrived at Windsor Park in 1948-49.

He found himself in a galaxy of stars and had to graduate through the Swifts before he was called up to the first team.

Dickson possessed all the attributes and despite his frail-like appearance he tackled hard and absorbed punishment. It was, however, his immense skill, inventiveness and vision which impressed and laid the basis of so much Linfield success.

He won every honour in local football, led the squad to the seven trophy clean sweep in 1962

and gained one cap in November 1956 when Scotland defeated Northern Ireland 1-0 at Hampden Park.

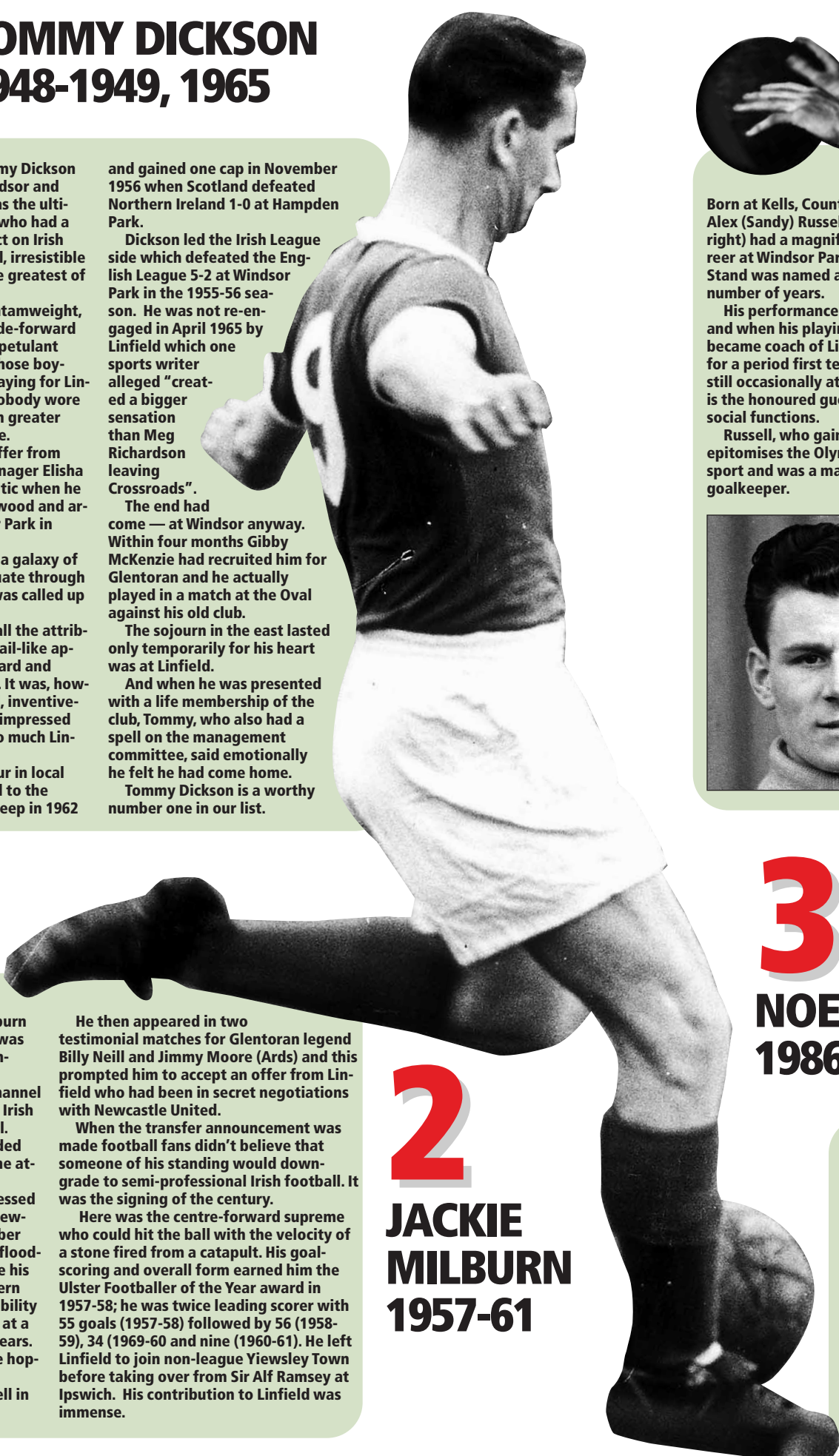
Dickson led the Irish League side which defeated the English League 5-2 at Windsor Park in the 1955-56 season. He was not re-engaged in April 1965 by Linfield which one sports writer alleged "created a bigger sensation than Meg Richardson leaving Crossroads".

The end had come — at Windsor anyway. Within four months Gibby McKenzie had recruited him for Glentoran and he actually played in a match at the Oval against his old club.

The sojourn in the east lasted only temporarily for his heart was at Linfield.

And when he was presented with a life membership of the club, Tommy, who also had a spell on the management committee, said emotionally he felt he had come home.

Tommy Dickson is a worthy number one in our list.



2 JACKIE MILBURN 1957-61



Without question Jackie Milburn (left and right) was the most accomplished, crowd-pulling cross-channel player to grace Irish League football.

His name added thousands to the attendances.

He was impressed with the set-up when he played for Newcastle United against Linfield in October 1956 to inaugurate the Windsor Park floodlights. So much so he decided to move his family lock stock and barrel to Northern Ireland although he still had the capability of playing top-grade English football at a much higher salary for another few years.

He was not a has-been or someone hoping for an end-of-the-career financial killing but someone who genuinely fell in love with Ulster and its way of life.

He then appeared in two testimonial matches for Glentoran legend Billy Neill and Jimmy Moore (Ards) and this prompted him to accept an offer from Linfield who had been in secret negotiations with Newcastle United.

When the transfer announcement was made football fans didn't believe that someone of his standing would downgrade to semi-professional Irish football. It was the signing of the century.

Here was the centre-forward supreme who could hit the ball with the velocity of a stone fired from a catapult. His goal-scoring and overall form earned him the Ulster Footballer of the Year award in 1957-58; he was twice leading scorer with 55 goals (1957-58) followed by 56 (1958-59), 34 (1960-61) and nine (1960-61). He left Linfield to join non-league Yiewsley Town before taking over from Sir Alf Ramsey at Ipswich. His contribution to Linfield was immense.

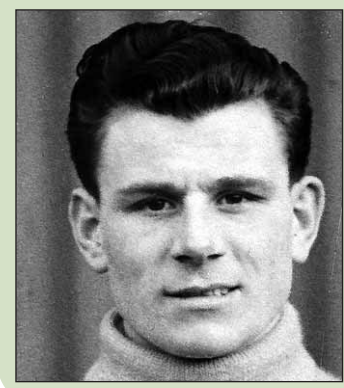


5 ALEX RUSSELL 1944-45, 1959-60

Born at Kells, County Antrim in 1923, Alex (Sandy) Russell (below and right) had a magnificent playing career at Windsor Park where the Kop Stand was named after him for a number of years.

His performances were consistent and when his playing days ended he became coach of Linfield Swifts and for a period first team trainer. He still occasionally attends games and is the honoured guest at Linfield social functions.

Russell, who gained one cap, epitomises the Olympian spirit of sport and was a marvellous goalkeeper.



3 NOEL BAILIE 1986-2011

Noel Bailie, retiring at the end of the season, has the respect of everyone for what he has achieved in over 20 years at Windsor Park.

He has won the lot and has so many medals, he has lost count. Regarded as a wonderful defender, capable of reading the game like few others in the modern era, it is amazing to think that 40-year-old Bailie started out as a left winger.

Not just a magnificent player, he also became an outstanding skipper, leading the team to glory year after year. Amazingly he has

played over 1000 games for the Blues. The club will never see his like again.

As Linfield manager David Jeffrey says: "Noel is a man who has dedicated himself to serving Linfield Football Club and in my time, there has not been a better or greater Linfield player than Noel Bailie."

4 JOE BAMBRICK 1927-35



The description legend is often misused but not in the case of Joe Bambrick (above and right) who scored goals with the head, heel or toe.

He won an Ireland amateur international cap with Glentoran in 1927 and at the end of that year moved to Windsor Park to start a never-to-be-forgotten era.

His goal blitz began in the 1929-30 season when he established a record with 94 — beaten the following season by Glentoran's Fred Roberts who improved on that figure by two.

Joe is renowned for the six goals scored in Ireland's 7-0 win over Wales in 1930, a record which still stands.

He hit 183 goals in 286 games for Linfield. Capped 11 times.



story so far

Just a reminder who our panel chose as greatest 25 players to play for Linfield

- 1. Tommy Dickson
- 2. Jackie Milburn
- 3. Noel Bailie
- 4. Joe Bambrick
- 5. Alex Russell
- 6. Billy Murray
- 7. Bob Milne
- 8. Marshall McEwan
- 9. Peter Rafferty
- 10. Glenn Ferguson
- 11. Davy Cochrane
- 12. Bobby Braithwaite
- 13. Martin McGaughey
- 14. Tommy Priestly



- 15. Isaac Andrews
- 16. Sammy Davis
- 17. George Dunlop
- 18. Billy Simpson
- 19. Alfie McMichael
- 20. Dick Keith
- 21. Phil Scott
- 22. John Parke
- 23. Billy McCleery
- 24. Davy Walsh
- 25. Dessie Gorman

ONLINE

It's the list everyone's talking about ... did you agree with our panel? Who would wear the Number 1 shirt in your Linfield line-up? Join the great debate on www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion