

Football History

I used to love listening to my Grandfather regaling stories of his youth spent playing football. He used to recount how the team would get the ball and shout "Pass it to Billy, they shouted that as they knew I was a fast runner and could get the ball up the field like lightning." My Grandfather's name was Billy Stewart. He played for Magherafelt Reds and later went on to sign for Coleraine, he didn't stay too long with Coleraine as he was very young and after a season returned to his good old red jersey back at his home team. Here is my Grandfather pictured with his team 'Magherafelt Reds', he is the second on the left in the back row. His older brother Jim, is also in the photo holding the league trophy.



George Best

A footballing legend signs for Tobermore United! 1984 saw George Best sign for Tobermore United and come to play at Fortwilliam Park. The crowds were crazy that day, my dad remembers, as everyone wanted to get a glimpse of the Manchester United Star and Northern Ireland's footballing hero! Sadly, it wasn't to be a victorious day for Tobermore as they were beaten 7-0 by a strong Ballymena side. But this didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the several thousand fans who came to see Best.

In the photo below it shows George taking a corner, but for me personally, I love this photo as it shows my Father, Grandfather (Billy Stewart from the Magherafelt Reds) my uncles and cousins who all managed to get a perfect front row viewing of the One and Only Georgie Best.



Nicola Mallon