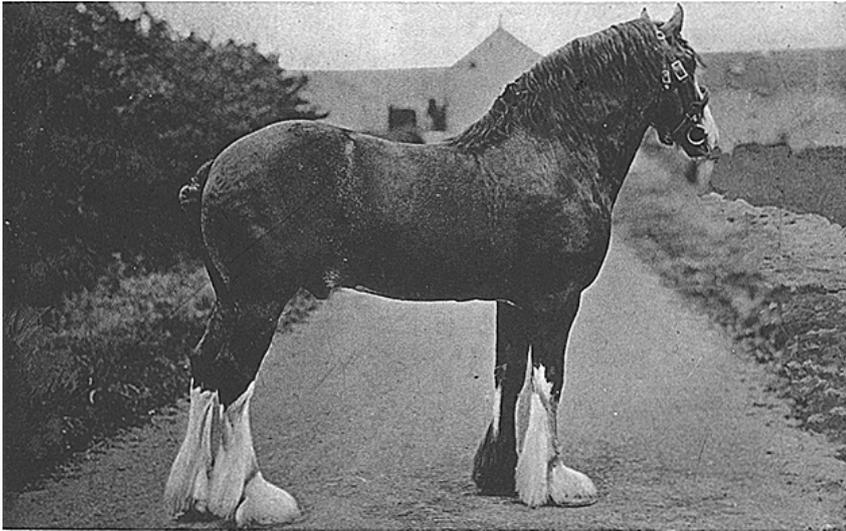


## **“The Baron” - *Baron of Buchlyvie***

*Clydesdale Stallion, foaled 16 May 1900, bred by William McKeich,  
Sold by public auction December 1911 for 9500gns. Died 30 June 1914*



*Above, the Baron of Buchlyvie, pictured after winning 1st in open class of aged stallions, H. & A.S. show, Scotland, 1908'*

lions and a fine brood mare with which he established Dunure Mains as a stud. From then on he devoted himself to buying and selling and exhibiting horses and travelling the length and breadth of Britain in his quest for outstanding stock.

He was recognised as an excellent judge of Clydesdales and within ten years his horses were winning the breed's major honours. James Kilpatrick, another clydesdale breeder, and William Dunlop were keen rivals but good friends.

They competed against each other in business and in the show ring but each respected the other's knowledge of horses.

In 1901, Kilpatrick saw a gangling yearling Clydesdale being exhibited by William McKeich of Buchlyvie. The young horse was Baron of Buchlyvie.

He was thought by many to be far from impressive in its conformation and action but the experienced Kilpatrick recognised its potential and tried to buy it.



*Above, a silver statue of *The Baron*  
Details next page*

AT 21 shillings to the guinea, 9500 guineas was a considerable sum, and set a world record price at the time for the sale of a horse.

Auctions were conducted with sale price in guineas, so that the seller received the nominated amount in pounds, while the auctioneer kept the extra shilling per pound as commission.

BUT, let's step back a few years in the story, to consider the Scot, William Dunlop...

William had been involved with Clydesdales since his boyhood and in 1897 he bought two good mature stal-

lions and a fine brood mare with which he established Dunure Mains as a stud. From then on he devoted himself to buying and selling and exhibiting horses and travelling the length and breadth of Britain in his quest for outstanding stock.

He was recognised as an excellent judge of Clydesdales and within ten years his horses were winning the breed's major honours. James Kilpatrick, another clydesdale breeder, and William Dunlop were keen rivals but good friends. They competed against each other in business and in the show ring but each respected the other's knowledge of horses. In 1901, Kilpatrick saw a gangling yearling Clydesdale being exhibited by William McKeich of Buchlyvie. The young horse was Baron of Buchlyvie. He was thought by many to be far from impressive in its conformation and action but the experienced Kilpatrick recognised its potential and tried to buy it. McKeich was also aware of his animal's worth and refused to sell and rejecting a second, improved offer of £200 a few weeks later.

Eventually, in 1902, McKeich took him to the Aberdeen Highland Show, gaining third place, and he then agreed to sell The Baron to James Kilpatrick for £700, with a gelding 'thrown in for luck'. £700 was a considerable sum as at that time a good yearling could be bought for between £400 and £500. At that juncture, an odd thing occurred.

In spite of his admiration for Baron of Buchlyvie, and having been so keen to purchase it, Kilpatrick sold a half share in the horse to his rival, William Dunlop. He claimed later that he had done so for the reason that a few months earlier he had sold a stallion (named Royal Carrick) to Dunlop which had died at the beginning of

his first season, and that his motive had been to compensate Dunlop for his loss.

Whatever the reason for the sharing of the horse and the two men kept their transaction-secret and for many months Kilpatrick was thought to be still the sole owner.  
e stallion.

Baron of Buchlyvie was kept at Craigie Mains and as a three year old was exhibited as being owned by James Kilpatrick. With the stud's expert preparation and the horse won prizes at Ayr, Kilmarnock and Glasgow horse shows.

Although a late developer, he began to take on the size and conformation of an excellent Clydesdale stallion. The Baron stood at stud at Craigie and half of his earnings were paid to William Dunlop and the sleeping partner.

Late in 1903, Dunlop asked Kilpatrick to sell him his half-share in the Baron so that he, Dunlop, could be sole owner. At first Kilpatrick refused but eventually, and surprisingly, he agreed to sell.

The story of the figure varies a bit, depending on whether you read Kilpatrick's memoirs published in 1949, or Dunlop's address to the society in 1935, but it seems that Kilpatrick asked £2000 for the share, and Dunlop figured that £2000 was the full price so half that, or £1000 was correct for his share. The horse had been delivered to Dunure Mains, Dunlop's property, and with the 'confusion' over the balance of £1000, Kilpatrick decided to call the deal off, but Dunlop refused. In the stalemate, the profits from service fees for the following couple of seasons were shared equally.

In 1908, the boil reached a head-this was also the year that The Baron's most famous son, Dunure Footprint was foaled. Dunlop claimed he had already paid Kilpatrick, but Kilpatrick denied this, stating the payments were shares from service owed, not payment for the horse. Litigation followed, creating tremendous interest amongst the clydesdale community, and the subsequent auction wherein the horse would be sold, created even more interest.

A crowd estimated at between 4000 and 5000 attended the sale of the Baron of Buchlyvie, now aged almost 12 years. Each 'owner' was entitled to bid, but the full price was to be paid to the auctioneer, before the winner could take delivery. The sale was well documented, and began with an opening bid of £3000 from a well-known hackney breeder of the day, rising in £100 increments. Dunlop and Kilpatrick entered the bidding in the low and mid £4000s. Kilpatrick appeared the winner at £7000 as Dunlop seemed to have withdrawn, but a stranger in the gallery joined in then, and the bids climbed to £8000 with Kilpatrick in the lead once again...

After a pause and some jostling and joking, the figures swept up, finally peaking at £9500 with The Baron being sold to the stranger in the gallery.

After the excitement finally died, the auctioneer announced that the final bid came from a bidder acting for Mr Dunlop. (as explained, the bid was £9500, but the bill was actually 9500 guineas or £9975) Thus the Baron of Buchlyvie returned to Dunure mains, and James Kilpatrick took home a cheque for half of that world record bid. To add to that, James Kilpatrick was owed his share of several years of unpaid service fee profits- as ordered by the court, and upheld in a House of Lords appeal.

Baron of Buchlyvie survived that hectic auction by almost 2-1/2 years and allegedly had his leg broken by a kick from a mare, so was destroyed. His body was buried in the rose garden at Dunure Mains. Some years later (and with Dunlop's permission ) his body was exhumed and sent to the museum at Kelvingrove, Glasgow and rebuilt in memorium of the breed and the auction.

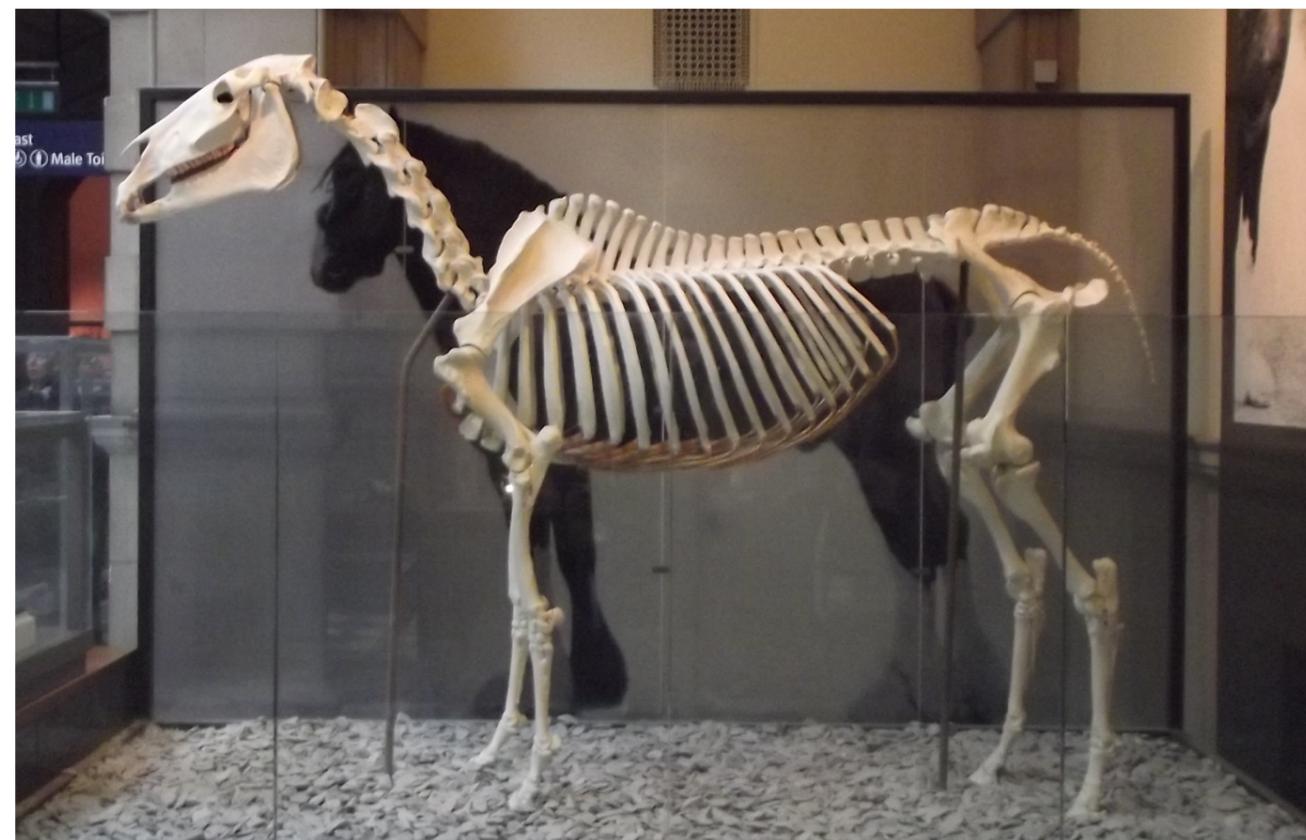
Dunure Footprint, The Baron's most celebrated son which made Mr Dunlop's fortune was foaled in 1908 and died in 1930 - but that is another story.

A silver statue (pictured here) of the Baron of Buchlyvie was created by G Halliday in memorium of the significant occasion and world record price, and was given to Mr Dunlop at a special dinner in Ayr in 1912. The silver statue, some medals, and the letter of request to exhume the bones are on display beside the recreated skeleton of the Baron of Buchlyvie in the Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow.



Along with the broken humerus bone in the near foreleg, another interesting aspect is the fact that in all the show photos, The Baron was pictured as a horse with a docked tail, yet the skeleton has a full set of tail bones! Looking closely, you can see where the 'ring-in' occurred, and the false extension to the tail which is on show, came from a different horse which was a little smaller!

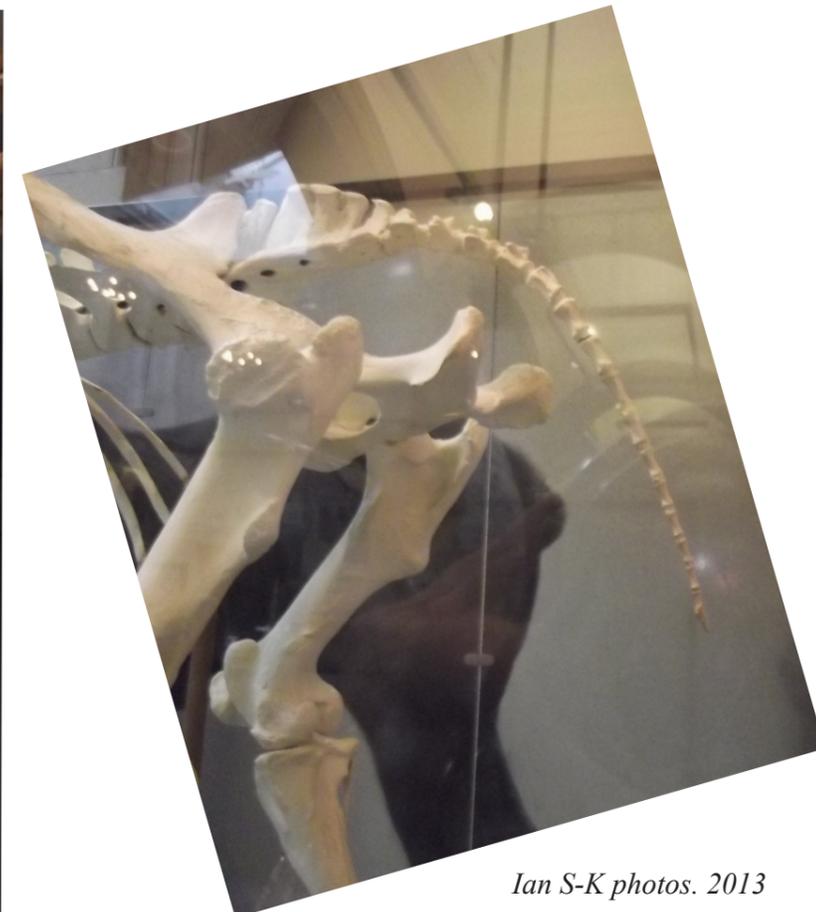
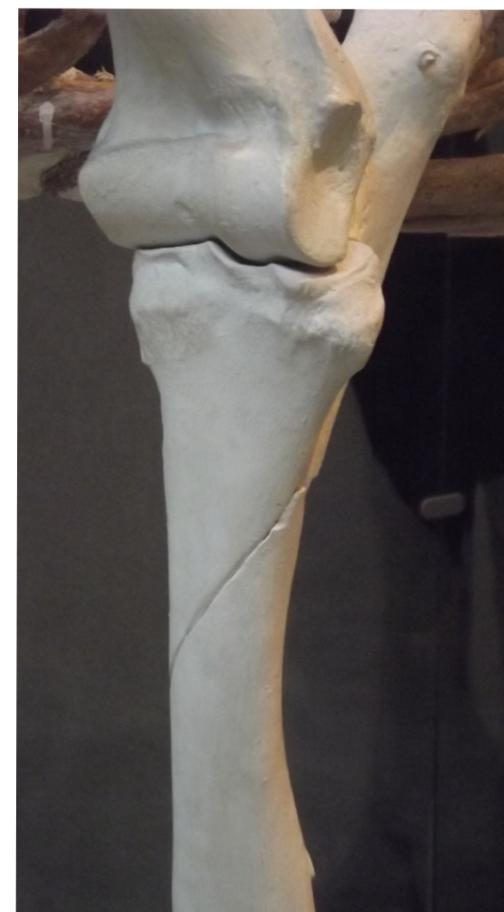
Ian Stewart-Koster



Above, the reassembled skeleton of *The Baron of Buchlyvie*, beside a life-size reversed or flipped photo of him. (He had a dark nearside front leg, but the photo on the wall shows the offside leg dark)

Below left, a closeup of the nearside humerus showing the break allegedly caused by a mare's kick.

Below right, The full tail of the skeleton showing the photo of him with a plaited docked tail in the background



Ian S-K photos. 2013

The pedigree of **Baron of Buchlyvie**

BARON O BUCHLYVIE b 1900 CLYDESDALE	BARONS PRIDE br 1890 CLYDESDALE	SIR EVERARD 1885 CLYDESDALE	TOP GALLANT GB 1877 CLYDESDALE	DARNLEY b 1872	CONQUEROR GB	dkb/br 1868	
			BY LONDON PRINCE CLYDESDALE	BELL DARLING blk (GB) 1869	KEIR PEGGY	b dk 1860	
				LONDON PRINCE br 1870	CAMPSIE	blk 1858	
			FOREST QUEEN GB ~1880 CLYDESDALE	SPRINGHILL DARNLEY br 1880 CLYDESDALE	A BUTE MARE	MR WEIRS BLACK MARE	~1859
					LONDON PRINCE br 1870	PRINCE OF WALES	1866
		FOREST MALLIE CLYDESDALE		A BUTE MARE	LONDON MAGGIE		
				DARNLEY b 1872	GENERAL WILLIAMS	1853	
				SKERBLIN br 1873	BY ROUND ROBIN		
		YOUNG MAYBLOOM 1889 CLYDESDALE	KNIGHT ERRANT CLYDESDALE	PRETENDER GB 1869	YOUNG CAMPSIE	1862	
				MALL	MAGGIE BY SURPRISE	~1865	
	MAYBLOOM ~1880 CLYDESDALE		WHAT CARE I b 1873 CLYDESDALE	MALL	CLYDESDALE TOM	1855	
			PRINCE OF WALES br 1866	Edit			
				JANE GB	Edit		
			BLOOMING HEATHER 1863	GENERAL MORTONS	1862		
				DARLING BY LOGANS TWIN	~1855		
			BLOOM GB ~1870 CLYDESDALE	BLOOMING HEATHER 1863	ECLIPSE		
				WARDELL ~1865	BLOOMING HEATHER	1858	
				BY MERRY FARMER			