

No.10 Frederic Shinton

Fred Shinton was born in Wednesbury, 7 March 1883. He attended St. James' School, Wednesbury before joining Hawthorn Villa, aged 15, in 1898. A year later he moved to Moxley White Star and then Wednesbury Old Athletic in 1900.

August 1903 saw him at Hednesford Town for just eighteen months before West Bromwich Albion signed him in April 1905. This was the season which had seen our move to the old Cross Keys ground which would be our home for the next 94 years.

Six players had been tried in the centre-forward position for Albion that season, Fred fitted in a treat and became a huge hit with the fans with an excellent debut against Bolton Wanderers, 22 April 1905.

Fred had perhaps one of the best overall Albion scoring records in terms of goals-per-game, with better than two every three games. In the first half of the 1906-07 campaign he registered 26 goals in 21 matches, including three 'fours' helped, maybe, by his tall 14s 7lb frame.

Nicknamed 'Tickler' and 'Appleyard' by his Baggies colleagues, Fred was by now a deadly marksman, but at the same time a very sporting character who played with dash and tenacity; a never-say-die attitude and thoroughly enjoyed scoring goals! When he left the Hawthorns, several hundred supporters were so upset that they rebelled outside the ground. He had scored 46 goals in 68 appearances and it took Albion two years to replace their 'star'.

A move, for £150, to Leicester Fosse, also in the second division and hunting promotion, in November 1907, did nothing to halt the 'goal machine', with 10 from 24 helping Leicester to the number one finishing spot. Injuries were taking their toll and Fred's contribution of 10 from 16 was not enough to keep the club in the top tier. But the 1909-10 season saw him at his best again with 31 goals in 38 outings to top the Division's goal-scoring chart.

The following August saw a £1000 move to Bolton Wanderers, but only five months later he was back at Fosse for £750. At the end of the campaign, rather than serve for a second term, Fred returned to Wednesbury to feature in the club's Wednesbury Charity Cup winning side against Darlaston in March 1912. In May 1912, Fred retired through ill health and died in Lancaster, 11 April 1923.

Fred Shinton had scored a total of 106 goals in 176 games for three Football League clubs over a seven-year period.



Fred Shinton, seated second left middle row, with his Albion colleagues in 1906.