

No.13 William Craig Young

The Hednesford and Cannock Chase Collieries of the first part of the twentieth century was where many a young man began, and expected to end, his working life. Then came football.

Bill 'Cree' Young was one of them, born in Chadsmoor, 12 September 1884, he began his career in local football with Chadsmoor Celtic and Hednesford Victoria, finding himself at Hednesford Town in April 1905.

Playing at right-half, his endless store of energy and splendid recovery speed caught the eye of West Bromwich Albion and by May 1907 he was on their books, where he was to stay for the next three years.

But the consistent form of embedded half-backs Baddeley, Timmins and Manners limited Bill's first-team appearances. Nevertheless, he made his debut away at Blackpool in Division Two, 9 September 1907, going on to play in 22 League and FA Cup games and scoring two goals in the same team as former Hednesford team-mate Fred Shinton.

By August 1910 he was back at Hednesford (being one of only a few Albion players to return to his former club, when he was transferred to Hednesford) giving excellent service during the next two seasons before moving out to Worcester City in April 1913.

Bill retired through ill-health in May 1916 and died in Evesham, 13 October the following year. Much too young at 32.