

No.23 Herbert John Nicholls

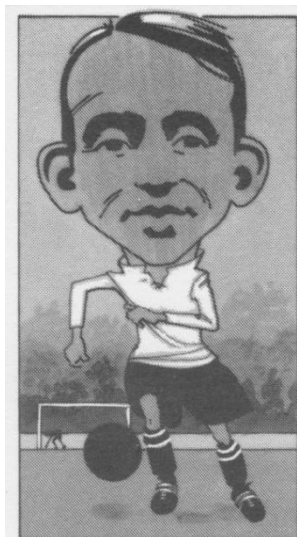
When Amos Lloyd left Hednesford Town for West Bromwich Albion in 1910, Jack Nicholls was just the lad to fill his left-wing position. He was also destined to follow Amos to the Hawthorns.

Born in Walsall Wood, 18 June 1891, Jack began kicking a ball for Lichfield Road Junior & Shelfield Senior Schools (Walsall) before progressing through Walsall Wood, Clayhanger Villa and Lichfield Road Juniors, arriving at Hednesford Town in July 1911.

He made his debut for us on Monday 2 September 1912, along with Charlie Crossley who would leave us, at about the same time as Jack Nicholls, for Walsall, Sunderland, Everton and West Ham. Together, both players were costing Hednesford a total of £1.25 per game!

Jack cost Albion £150 when he signed for them in November 1913, making his League debut away at Burnley in Division One, 27 December 1913 in a 0-0 draw. He deputised for Ben Shearman in four games that season but played mainly in the second team waiting for his chance to come. It never came and he was out of League Football at Cannock Town in May 1914, moving to Rushall Olympic in 1915.

When League Football resumed in 1919, Jack was with Shireoak Saints, retiring in May 1921 and working for a short time as a pit labourer before his death in Walsall later that year, aged just 30.



From a set of 24 by Dave Shaw



Jack Nicholls with the Albion squad prior to the start of the 1914-15 season. Former Hednesford Town team-mate, Tod Bowen, is the tall lad standing at the back.