

No.25 James Lyons

In the thirty years between 1902 and 1932 there had been at least one member of Hednesford's Lyons' family representing them in the Football League. Inside forward, James, was simply continuing a family tradition.

Jim Lyons was born in Hednesford, 27 September 1897 and was making his mark playing for Hednesford Town immediately after the First World War, figuring prominently alongside his elder brother Bill in our side, which reached the first round proper of the FA Cup, for the first time, in 1919-1920.

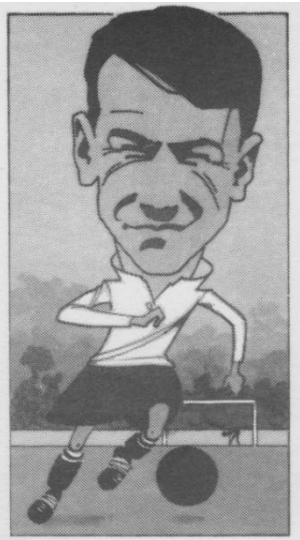
Soon after the defeat at Castleford, Jim was transferred to First Division Derby County for a 4-figure fee, the first local player to reach what was an extremely high fee in those days.

He scored twice in his opening game for County against Sheffield United, topping the Rams' scoring list in 1921-22 and again in 1922-23, coming near to that momentous first ever Wembley FA Cup final in 1923, being in the side which lost 5-2 to West Ham in the semi-final at Stamford Bridge. Nevertheless, in December of that year, following several training infringements, Derby and the FA gave Jim a sine die sentence.

He had scored 33 goals in 86 league and cup games for Derby over a four-year period when, in 1925, he was transferred to Wrexham and had a short spell with them in Division Three (North).

Charlie Buchan, a great inside forward in his day and later a well-known broadcaster, went on record as describing Jim as a great inside forward and one of the most sporting players he had ever met.

After scoring 13 goals in 35 League and cup games for Wrexham in 1925-26, Jim came back to Hednesford Town the following season. He later helped Stourbridge in 1927 and Cannock Town in 1928. Jim died in 1970.



From a set of 24 by Dave Shaw



The 1922-23 Derby County team with Jim Lyons sitting extreme right of the third row.

From the Dave Shaw archive.