

No.26 Charles William Moore

An early newspaper appraisal of Charlie Moore considered him to be "A very likely lad who has all the right physical qualifications to back him up."

Charlie, who had been born in Cheslyn Hay, 3 June 1898, joined Hednesford Town in 1918 – the first season following the closure of World War One and, like most young Hednesford players of his time, one season was enough for the Football League scouts to spot Charlie's potential.

He was signed by Division One's Manchester United in May 1919, debuting at right-back against Derby County 30 August the same year. At the beginning of the 1920-21 season Hednesford Town Beat Manchester United in a friendly (perhaps the game was arranged as part of the transfer deal); Tosh Griffiths bagged a hat-trick in that game.

After making 64 appearances in his first two seasons, Charlie met an early set-back in the shape of a serious ankle injury. His career appeared to be finished and he was released by the club, actually being granted insurance money.

Twelve months later he surprised everyone by turning up at Old Trafford and asking for a trial in the reserves, apparently fit again. The happy sequel was that he played on for another eight seasons developing into one of the safest and most dependable full-backs in the entire League and one of United's top players of the era between the two wars.

Charlie never received international recognition, a puzzling oversight in a decade when England had a problem finding a consistent right-back.

In a career notable for his gentlemanly play, Charlie was uncharacteristically sent off at Leicester City in September 1929 for retaliation. A great humorist with a happy disposition, it was the first time he had let his temper get the best of him. Even one Leicester official was quoted as saying that United's full-back was "More sinned against than sinning." He only received a caution from the FA who considered that he had been much provoked. Also, his clean record extending over eleven years moved the FA to leniency.

Charlie retired in June 1931 and became a licensee near to Brooks's Bar, Manchester. He had made 328 first-team appearances (including 19 in the FA Cup), over a twelve year period, without scoring a goal.

Charlie died 9 March 1966.



Charlie Moore, standing extreme left with his Manchester United colleagues in 1919.

