

No.34 Norman Whitfield

Norman was 17 years old when he signed for Second Division Leicester Fosse (known today as Leicester City). Born in Prudhoe, 30 April 1896, he honed his prodigious skills at Prudhoe Celtic Juniors and Jarrow Croft prior to joining Leicester's senior club in 1913.

Little did he know that, along with all players of his generation, World War One was about to blow a great hole in his career. Nevertheless, 1913-14 and 1914-15 would see Norman make four and twelve appearances respectively, scoring four goals from his inside-left position.

The coming of peace and the return to 'normality' in 1919 saw 'Fosse' change their name to 'City' and, still operating in Division Two, gave Norman eight outings before Hednesford Town stepped in, bringing him to the Cross Keys for what would be a most eventful two years.

Hednesford Town had been admitted to the prestigious Birmingham League which contained the reserve sides of premier West Midland clubs Wolves, Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion.

Wolves and Albion were trounced 9-0 and 5-1 respectively with Norman ending his first season on 27 league goals and his second season on 39, from 34 games per season. It's worth noting that those 39 league goals are, maybe, still a club record. Strike partner 'Tosh' Griffiths had bagged 30 goals each season during the same period.

It was too good to last and with the club having to 'sell to survive' Norman was only one of thirteen players shipped out to Football League clubs during the next three seasons when he joined Third Division South's Chesterfield in 1922. He was to spend the next five years playing in 131 games and netting 66 times. His total Football League career stats read: played 147, goals scored 70.

Norman moved out of League Football in 1927 to join, firstly, Worcester City then Nuneaton Town and finally Hinkley United. He died in 1970, aged 74.



Norman Whitfield, seated second from the right, with his Leicester Fosse team-mates in 1914.