

No.36 John W. Harrington

Jack, who was born in Hednesford, 22 October 1897, had been well-known as a sprinter before making his mark in football and, although it was claimed at times that he was 'too fast for the ball', games were never dull when long balls were pumped up field for him to chase.

He was yet another of Hednesford's long stream of crowd-pleasing wingers; there were few more exciting than Jack. He made his Hednesford debut in 1921-22, playing on either wing.

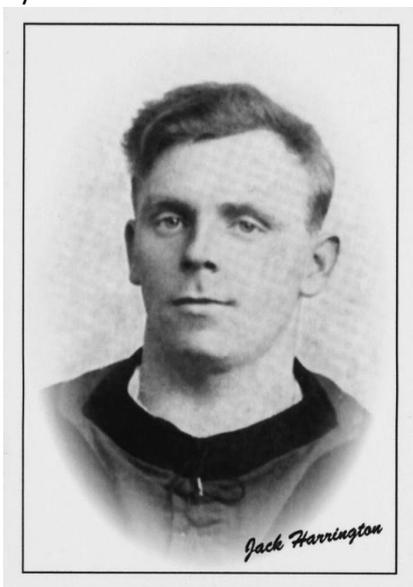
Jack was at the Keys for just two seasons before moving to Molineux around the same time as Harold Shaw; Teddy Bowen and Alec Talbot had moved to Villa Park during the same season and Sam Clancey to West Brom.

Grand players though they were, it must be remembered that they spent only a comparatively short time with Hednesford before their great talent and the need to balance the club's books combined to make their transfers to League clubs inevitable.

Jack Harrington made his Wolves debut away at Chesterfield, 23 August 1923, on the same day as Harold Shaw in a team that included former Hednesford goalkeeper, Noel George; and centre-forward Albert Legge who, although born in Hednesford, did not play for us until 1932, when his League career was over.

With a goal to his credit in only his third game, followed by two more later in the season, Jack was proving his worth; His first campaign ended with 30 appearances and by the end of 1927 he had played 117 senior games for Wolves and scored ten times.

Northampton Town took him south for the 1928-29 seasons where he played only eight games in Division 3 (South) before moving back to non-league football with Brierley Hill. Jack died in 1976.



The 1923-24 Wolves line-up. Jack is sitting second left. Former Hednesford colleagues are Harold Shaw sitting far right, and goalkeeper, Noel George. Other local born players are Bill Caddick, standing left of Noel and Albert Legge, first in the same row.

From the Dave Shaw archive.