

No.40 Frank Burnett Searle

Another of our local, versatile defenders of the 1920s and 30s, Frank was born in Hednesford, 30 January 1906, joining Hednesford Town in 1924. Five of our youngest and finest ever players had gone to Football League Clubs the previous season and Frank was amongst their replacements; slightly built, standing just over 5' 9" and weighing 11st 7lb, but with strength and determination which belied his size.

Second Division Stoke City signed Frank in 1924, but released him a year later, without giving him a run in their senior side, to non-league Willenhall.

However, The Second Division again took note in 1927 when Bristol City acquired him to make one senior appearance (although he did win a Western league medal with them) before Third Division Charlton Athletic stepped –in to give Frank three outings that year.

In 1928, Charlton Athletic finally gave him the chance he deserved when he joined them in Division Three, as they headed for promotion at the end of that campaign. Games were hard to come by and five seasons later, and with 70 first team games under his belt, Frank signed for Chester, then Watford in 1933 and finally Clapton Orient a year later, where he made 136 first class appearances before hanging up his boots prior to the outbreak of World War Two.

Throughout his professional career, Frank scored three goals in 213 first team games for six Football League Clubs over a 13-year period. He died in 1977 at the age of 71.



Hednesford Town, 1924-25. Dunning, Johnson, Maiden, Bishop, Bethel (trainer), Fletcher, Lyons; Blakewell, Lennith, Paterson, Searle, Edwards and Perks.

Autograph taken from the 1935 issue of 'The Football Who's Who'.