

No.47 Henry “Chubby” Lane

Harry Lane became the second Hednesford Town player, in as many years, to join Birmingham City when he signed for them, via Bloxwich Strollers, 12 January 1929.

Inside forward, Harry, managed only two games for First Division Blues (debuting in a 2-0 defeat at Bolton Wanderers on 29 November 1930) before joining Third Division South’s Southend United, 5 January 1933. He was their leading scorer in the 1935-36 season with 17 goals, and followed up with another 17 the next season, including two hat-tricks; His 177 outings brought him 58 goals during a four-year stay with them.

Impressed by his Southend performances, Plymouth Argyle took Harry into the second tier of the English game by signing him, 3 January 1938, where he managed to score eight goals in 50 games before WWII put a stop to all competitive League football midway through the 1939-40 season.

Harry played alongside other professional players in Hednesford’s wartime team, during the hostilities, helping them to the final of the Wednesbury Charity Cup when they shared the trophy with Darlaston following a 2-2 score line.

It seemed that, like many of his contemporaries, his career was at an end by the time League Football resumed some six years later. However, the Hednesford man was made of sterner stuff when, 5 January 1946, he signed (for the second time) for Southend United who were still operating in the southern section of Division Three.

Harry finally ran out of steam, after two years at Southend, but not before knocking-in a further 21 goals from 75 outings for them; He was now 40-years old and, although he had had a six-year interruption due to war, had played 297 Football League games.

Following his retirement, he remained active in football as a coach, including working in the Netherlands during the 1970s. Harry had been born in Hednesford, 21 March 1909; he died in 1977.



Harry pictured second from the right, front row, in one of the many Hednesford wartime teams, with the Wednesbury Charity Cup in 1940.