

No.49 Arthur Buttery

Arthur was born in Hednesford, 20 December 1908, and began his football career as a goalkeeper with St. Peter's Church team in the 1920s.

It was, however, as an inside-forward that he came to the Keys, along with his brother Harold, and over a year before he got his chance in the first-team. When that chance came, he began by bagging 18 goals in seven games; Football League Clubs began to take an interest.

Bristol Rovers were first to take a look, but it was Wolverhampton Wanderers who snapped him up, in November 1929, for a £450 fee, with Arthur netting £80 from the deal; his father thought the money had been stolen, strapping Arthur with his heavily buckled belt and sending him to bed; brother Harold returned home to explain the problem away.

Arthur's wages with Second Division 'Wolves' were £4 a week as a full-time professional, compared with 13/3 (66p) which he had been picking up from 'The Pit', supplemented by between 2/6 and 4/- (12.5p and 20p) with Hednesford Town.

After waiting almost two years his Wolves senior debut came in a home game with Chesterfield, 12 September 1931, when Arthur bagged the first goal in a 6-0 win; he also scored in Wolves' next two games, ending the Championship season with six goals from 10 games. Arthur also had the satisfaction of receiving a Central League Championship medal (one of eleven received during his career).

Early in 1932, Arthur was transferred to Bury for £1,000 where he played alongside one of his former Hednesford colleagues, Arthur Eggleston. He celebrated the end of his first season by netting his first Football League hat-trick in a 5-1 win over Millwall; in a happy 4½-years Arthur enjoyed one spell as captain and featured in several FACup games, including a twice-played affair against Bristol City.

Having scored four goals in 56 senior games, Arthur moved to Bradford City, in 1936, for an 18-month stay before returning to the Midlands with Walsall and a year later to Bristol Rovers. However, after just three games, war was declared.

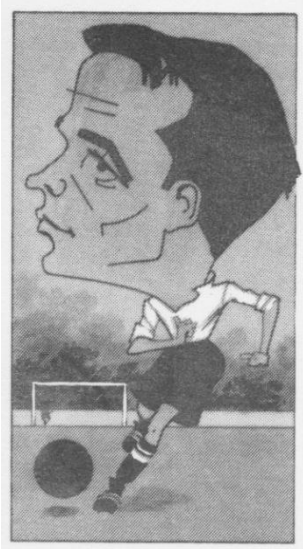
Arthur guested several times for Wolves, alongside Stan Cullis; at the end of hostilities, he had a spell with Stafford Rangers as their player-coach.

Following his retirement from the game, Arthur kept in touch by scouting for Bury; one of his rave reports recommended a young Hednesford lad, named Gerry Hitchens, then with Kidderminster Harriers. The club's delay cost them dearly when Gerry was snapped-up by Aston Villa; the lad went on to play for England and take his talents to Italy.

Arthur died in 1990 having scored 64 goals in 177 Football League and FACup games.



The Hednesford team in 1930: Bethel (trainer), Fred Galley, Nardell, Bradley, Sam Smith, Hicken and George Wilding; Len Gooch, Charlie Evans, George Fereday, Arthur Buttery, Frank Aldritt and Lyons.



From a set of 24 by Dave Shaw