

No.55 John Benjamin Thomas Shelton

Jack Shelton (junior) was born in Wollaston, 9 November 1912, beginning his football life with Chase Terrace United prior to his departure to Wolves, 17 December 1932. However, Jack was unable to break into their First Division squad and he moved to Hednesford Town in 1933.

Playing in either full-back position, although he felt equally at home in attack, Jack managed games for the Pitmen ahead of his transfer to Walsall, 1 August 1934, where 13 games in his first season brought him three goals. In all, he made 124 outings for Walsall before the outbreak of the Second World War, scoring seven times.

With competitive football on a hold, Jack became a police officer but still found time to represent Walsall in more than 30 games, in friendly games and in the Wartime league, captaining the side on many occasions.

When the hostilities were over, Jack was back full-time at Walsall, playing alongside future Wolves' stars: Hancocks and Wilshaw, now under the captaincy of former Hednesford man, Les Talbot.

Jack ended his association with League Football when he moved to Worcester City in 1947. He died in 1992 having represented Walsall before, during and after World War Two, in a total of 193 senior games.

As a matter of interest, Jack's father (also named Jack), born in 1884, played 83 games for Wolves between 1907 and 1909, gaining an FA Cup winner's medal following Wolves' 3-1 victory over Newcastle in 1908. What's more, after Jack senior's early death 'in action' in 1918, his widow had married Jack Needham, another Wolves' player (named Jack) who, after the Second World War, kept a public house in Cannock for many years. Thus, Mrs Shelton-Needham had the unique record of having two husbands and one son, all of whom signed for Wolves.



Walsall's 1937-38 squad: Jack Shelton is sitting third from the left, third row. His former Hednesford Town colleague, Bill Evans, sits next to him.