

No.61 Benjamin Westwood

Ben was born in Hednesford in 1919, joined Hednesford Town from Brownhills Albion in 1936, and made his debut in a 3-1 defeat at home to Worcester City, 3 April 1937.

He made 34 appearances in the inside-right position prior to his move to West Bromwich Albion immediately before the outbreak of WWII. Unfortunately, his stay at the Hawthorns would be short lived as the Second World War blew away his dreams of a senior career in League Football.

Nevertheless, Ben was back at 'the Keys' in 1946, but his six-year absence from the game had decimated his hopes of a life in football.



Ben Westwood

No.62 Edward Hayward

Ted partnered Ben Westwood, playing at outside-right, during our 1938-39 campaign. He too had been born in 1919, making his Hednesford Town debut, 15 October 1938.

With only 19 outings under his belt, Third Division Aldershot took him south in April 1939, to make just one appearance before World War Two ended any aspirations he may of had for his future... Yet another promising career was over before it had begun.

Ben Westwood and Ted Hayward were the last players to head for the bright lights of League Football from Hednesford Town Football Club. Hednesford Town phase one that is.

At the turn of the year, 1937-38, the club was in such financial stress, that the £20 cost of their journey to Oswestry, for the forthcoming league fixture, could not be found and a letter of resignation, 24 January, was sent to the Birmingham League.

Undoubtedly, the long journeys involved in travelling to play games, in the now expanded Birmingham League, had played a major part in this disaster. Already St Georges, Bilston and Cannock Town had dropped out of the league. Cannock Town, which had been formed in 1868, never recovered, Hednesford Town did, and now renamed 'Hednesford Football Club', were back the following season.

However, events of the time took over and the Birmingham League continued its fixtures for one final pre World War Two campaign.

No.63 'Billy' Jones

I have very few details on Billy, but I do know that he played for us during the Second World War, at a time when 'official' league programmes had closed down.

Our legendary centre-forward, John Griffiths, scored a double hat-trick against Wolves in 1920 and it took 26-years for the feat to be repeated. Billy Jones got his six (three in each half) in a Birmingham Combination league game against Tamworth, 13 April 1946.

News spreads fast, and he stayed with us for only a short spell before joining West Bromwich Albion where he spent three post-war seasons in their second and third teams, but did not progress into their first-team squad.

Billy joined Brierley Hill in 1949.