

No.68 Ronald Russon

Black Country boy, Ron Russon, born in Wednesbury, 10 December 1928, signed for First Division Wolverhampton Wanderers, 1 April 1946. Wolves would end that season in third position and, with an established first-team squad, were unable to find a place for an up-and-coming 18-year old.

Fortunately, Ron was just what we needed and he immediately established himself in the heart of our defence from his opening game, 23 August 1947, at home in a 4-2 defeat against West Brom. Reserves.

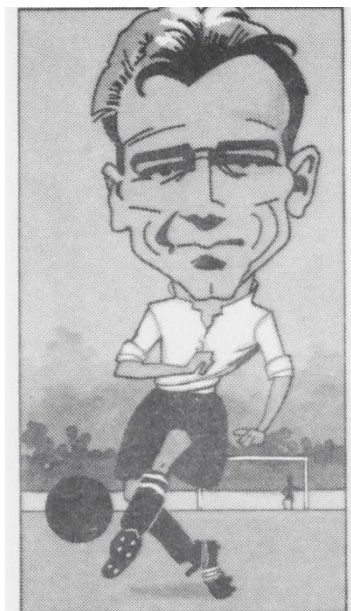
Even at such a young age and in such a responsible position, Ron's performances showed that he was heading for a higher grade of football. It was not surprising that after only nine games in our first-team Walsall took him to Fellows Park, 1 May 1948. In the transfer deal, Walsall paid £300, with the club receiving £270 and Ron pocketing £30. He made his debut in their Third Division team at left-half against Aldershot in March 1949, as deputy for 'Nutty' Newman who himself had turned out for us during the war years.

Eight games came Ron's way in the 1948-49 season and 27 in the following season (including his one and only goal in League Football).

He cemented his place at centre-half from 1950 onwards, playing alongside former Hednesford men George Heseltine, Phil Giles, Jack Maund, Jack Shelton, Peter Billingham and Norman Allsop. Another team-mate was future Wolves and England star, Dennis Wilshaw, who was beginning his career on the left side of Walsall's forward-line.

In the course of his seven seasons at Fellows Park Ron played in 145 League games and four FACup-ties and was often the key figure in a defence which, it seemed, was under continuous pressure and at a time when Walsall were making four successive re-election applications.

He moved into non-league football in 1955 and during the 1950s often lined-up again at 'The Keys' for Brierley Hill, giving them several years good service. Ron died in 1981.



From a set of 24 by Dave Shaw