

Blackburn Rovers Players From 1880's to 1990's
Blackburn Rovers Players Prior to 1900

GEORGE ANDERSON



A former captain of the Leith Athletic F.C. and one of several young men brought down from Scotland to play for the Rovers. He joined Rovers in 1892 and soon became an inspirational centre-half and captain of the team. George was a fearless determined and skilful defender who occasionally played full-back and as forward. In total he made 200 league and cup appearances before leaving to join New Brighton in 1897 before later re-joining the Rovers.

"HERBY" ARTHUR



Herby arrived at Ewood in 1880 from The Kings Own and became a famous goalkeeper and held a unique record of being part of three F.A. Cup winning teams and played in seven International matches plus representing Lancashire. Herby left the club for Southport Central but returned in 1891 then retiring in 1892. He first started his career as a wing-half but became first choice goalkeeper. By the time the Football League formed he was past his prime.

GEORGE AVERY



George was born in High Wycombe and joined the Rovers in 1879 from Queens Own. He was a member of the Rovers first F.A. Cup winning side of 1883/4 and was a small stocky forward who was a regular scorer in the early 1880.s. After retiring he became the landlord of the Leamington Hotel in Blackburn.

JACK BALDWIN



Born in Blackburn in the Mill Hill area he started his career playing for Mill Hill St. Peters and played for the Rovers in the 1878/9 season.

JOHN (JACK) BARTON



John was born in Blackburn and first played for Blackburn West End in 1887 and went on to make 52 appearances for the Rovers before retiring in 1891. He was a right-half who won two F.A. Cup medals with the Rovers and was English International. Before joining the Rovers, he played for Blackburn Olympic.

JOE BEVERLEY



Joe was born in Blackburn he first joined local teams as a schoolboy and later became a founding member of Blackburn Olympic F.C. before leaving them in 1882 to join Blackburn Rovers. He was

mostly an attacker playing either right-wing or centre forward. Whilst at the Rovers he was in the team that won the F.A. Cup in the 1883/4 season but then left to re-join Blackburn Olympic in 1884. In 1886 he returned to the Rovers and retired from the game in 1889 having made a total of 22 appearances in the new Football League.

RICHARD BIRTWISTLE



Richard was born in Great Harwood, Blackburn in 1853 and first joined Turton F.C. before joining the Rovers in 1875. He was a member of the Birtwistle family who established a large cotton manufacturing business locally with a number of mills and was one of seventeen men who decided to form Blackburn Rovers at the St. Ledger Hotel in Blackburn. As a forward he was a member of the club's first F.A. Cup win and scored their first goal in their first game after formation and after playing became the club's umpire in 1883/84.

FRED BLACKBURN



Fred was born in Mellor, Blackburn in 1877 and played as an inside-forward for his village team before joining the Rovers in 1897. There he established himself as a clever left-winger who could cross accurate balls into the penalty area. At the Rovers he made a total of 192 league appearances and twelve in the F.A. Cup scoring a total of 31 goals. Fred also made three international appearances for England before leaving the club to join West Ham United in 1905. His brother Arthur also played for the Rovers as a defender.

JACK "CHARLIE" BOWDLER



Jack was born in Shrewsbury in 1868 and attended Shrewsbury Public School where an early form of the game was probably played. He first joined Shrewsbury Town from 1885 to 1890 then moved to Wolverhampton Rovers before joining the Rovers in 1892. As a player he was a speedy left-winger who had good ball control and a strong shot and made a total of 27 league appearances scoring seven goals before leaving to join Shrewsbury Town in 1893 and later became a solicitor after retiring.

TOM BRANDON



Tom was born in Kilbirnie in 1869 and first joined St. Mirren and developed into one of the famous Scottish players renowned for playing right full-back that the Rovers attracted to the club with his signing in 1889 aged twenty. He was a hard tackling full-back as he was both big and burly who could use his physique to great advantage. During his time at the Rovers, he gained a Scottish International Cap and was a member of the Rovers F.A. Cup winning side of 1891. He then left the Rovers in 1891 to join Sheffield Wednesday but then returned to the club in 1893 from local club Nelson who he had joined from Sheffield and finally left the Rovers in 1900 having made a total of 245 League appearances to re-join his original club St Mirren.

THOMAS "CHIP" BRIERCLIFFE



Thomas was born in Blackburn and first joined Clitheroe F.C. before joining the Rovers in 1897. At the club he gained distinction as an outside-right winger being both strong and speedy making him an effective wide player and made a total of sixty League appearances scoring eleven goals before he left to join Stalybridge Rovers in 1900. Later he became a prominent player for Woolwich Arsenal when the club gained promotion to the First Division which extended his playing career to 15 years.

JIMMY BROWN



Jimmy was born in Blackburn and after playing for local sides he joined the Rovers in 1876. Before the League was formed, he played regularly for the club but only played 36 times in the new League and Cup games. He was a brilliant centre-forward and became the team captain and led the club to three successive Cup Finals scoring in each of them. One of his Cup Final goals against West Bromwich Albion amazed the crowd as he dribbled the ball almost the entire length of the pitch before scoring one of the twenty-nine goals he scored for the club. He left the Rovers in 1886 to retire but in 1888 he was persuaded to play again before finally retiring in 1889.

HARRY CAMPBELL



Harry was born in Cardross in Renton, Scotland in 1867 and first joined Renton F.C. before joining the Rovers in 1889. He was a talented inside-right who could read the game well and therefore lead the attack who used the short and accurate passing style to good effect making him popular with the fans. A member of the two Rovers F.A. Cup Final wins adding to the Scottish Cup winning medal he had won at Renton and Scottish International caps. He left the Rovers in 1894 to retire.

EDGAR CHADWICK



Edgar was born in Blackburn in 1869 and first joined Blackburn Olympic in 1886 before moving on to Blackburn Rovers in 1887. He was a talented inside left and formed a good partnership with Milward in the attack. During his time at Rovers, he was a regular goal scorer who had the talent to be able to shoot with either foot throughout his season with the team and scored a goal against his former team Blackburn Olympic knocking them out of the F.A. Cup. As the Rovers awaited their first season in the new Football League his father scouted better opportunities with Everton, so he left in 1888.

HARRY CHIPPENDALE



Harry was born in Blackburn in 1870 and first joined Nelson F.C. before joining the Rovers in 1891. He had a bulky frame but was a speedy winger who could cross accurately into the box and stand up

to defenders. Whilst at Blackburn he also worked at Hornby's Brookhouse Cotton Mill where he later became a manager. During his time at the Rovers, he played on both left and right wings and gained international honours with England. In total he made 147 appearances and scored 52 goals before retiring in 1897.

THOMAS CLEGHORN



Thomas was born in Leith Edinburgh, Scotland in 1871 and joined the Rovers in 1894 from Leith Athletic. He played at left-half and was a busy hard working half-back, demon tackler and extremely popular with the fans. In total he made 48 appearances for the Rovers and scored three goals before leaving the club for Liverpool in 1896.

GEORGE DEWER



George was born in Dumbarton in 1867 and was another player brought down from Scotland to play for the Rovers. He joined the Rovers in 1889 signed from his hometown team. An effective centre-half who was speedy, strong and a hard tackling player. By trade he was an upholsterer and found work in the town. George was also a stylish full-back and secured three Scottish caps before joining the Rovers. In total he made 195 appearances for the Rovers and scored 10 goals before leaving the club in 1897 to join New Brighton Town.

JIMMY DOUGLAS



Jimmy was born in Renfrew, Scotland in 1859 and joined the Rovers in 1880 from Barrow Rangers. He was a right-half back who although lacking in height and physique was a tough little player who even played centre-half. Originally before playing for the Rovers, he had played at inside-right and his trade was in textiles as a pattern maker. In total he made 76 appearances for the club scoring eight goals and was a member of the Rovers first F.A. Cup final win. In 1892 Jimmy left the Rovers and retired from the game.

JOHNNY DUCKWORTH



Johnny was born in Blackburn in 1858 and joined the Rovers from a local club in 1878. He was a member of the original Rovers team and appeared in their 1882 F.A. Cup Final team. As a player he was a goal-scoring winger and scored two goals in their first F.A. Cup game. In total he made 13 official appearances for the Rovers all in the F.A. Cup as the Football League hadn't formed and he retired from the game before the Rovers gained F.A. Cup glory in 1883.

WILLIAM DUCKWORTH



An early Rovers player as identified by his club strip plus hat in the photo. Later he became the club's secretary and umpire. William was the brother of Alderman J. Duckworth of Shear bank Road Blackburn.

HERBERT FECITT



Herbert was born in Blackburn in 1865 and first joined the Rovers in 1889 from the military Kings Own force team. He was an inside left. He was famed for being a good creator of chances for his team members and himself as he had a good eye for goal. In Rovers opening fixture of the new Football League he scored a late goal to earn Rovers a point in a drawn game in total he made 44 official appearances for the club scoring 26 goals and also collected two F.A. Cup Final winning medals including the drawn game against West Bromwich Albion at the Oval that the Rovers won in a replay. In 1887 he left the Rovers to join Accrington Stanley but returned in 1888 and left again in 1892 to join Northwich Victoria.

JOHNNY FORBES



Johnny was born in Bonhill, (Dumbarton) in Scotland in 1862 and joined the Rovers from Scottish side Vale of Leven in 1889. He was a stylish left full back who went on to win two

F.A. Cup Final winning medals for 1889/90 and 1890/91. Johnny was also the team captain and a Scottish international and had been famous in Scotland before joining the Rovers appearing in both the 1883 and 1885 Scottish Cup Finals. He left the Rovers in 1894 to retire from the game and later went on to become a club director. When he first joined the Rovers, he set up a gentleman's outfitters in Blackburn which continued as a sports outfitter till 1973.

JIMMY FORREST



Jimmy was born in Blackburn in 1864 and joined the Rovers in 1883 from local side Witton. Before joining the Rovers, he was a tape-sizer in the local Cotton textile Industry. He was a hard-working left-half who could make incisive passes as he read the game well and also played at full-back and centre half being an excellent defender. Aged at just 19 he played the first of his 12 England International matches and additionally he was the winner of five F.A. Cup winning medals equalling the record set up by Lord Kinnaird. Jimmy was still in his prime when the Football League first formed. In total he made 195 official appearances for the Rovers and scored seven goals. He actually left the Rovers in 1895 after a dispute with the club probably over pay and joined local side Darwen. Whilst at the Rovers he was reportedly paid £1 per game and in 1890 a benefit match for him raised £100. Jimmy eventually returned to the rovers as a director of the club and his son James played eighteen time for the Rovers in the 1920's.

DOC (HAYDOCK) GREENWOOD



Doc was born in Blackburn in 1860 and joined the Rovers from an unknown local side in 1875. He was a member of a wealthy family and attended public school Malvern College and was a true amateur learning the game whist at college. Doc made 10 F.A. Cup appearances and being at the club before the Football League was formed made no official appearances. Whilst playing he was a powerful full back who partnered Fergie Suter and in 1883, he left the club to join the Corinthians. He was one of seven brothers with Thomas and Henry also playing for the Rovers.

COOM HALL



Coom was born in North Leith, Edinburgh Scotland in 1872 and joined the Rovers in 1890 from Edinburgh St. Bernard's. Whilst at the club he was known as the "pocket Hercules" as he was both small and powerful as an inside-left but was also a versatile player who could play at full-back or centre-half. In total he made 88 official appearances for the club and scored thirty goals and helped the club retain the F.A. Cup in 1890. In 1895 he left the club to rejoin St. Bernards in Edinburgh.

J. HAWORTH



He played for the Rovers in the 1878/79 season and can be wearing the original team strip complete with cap. As a result, he played for the team before the official Football League was formed. He played for the East Lancashire Cricket Club for a time in the early days.

FRED HARGREAVES



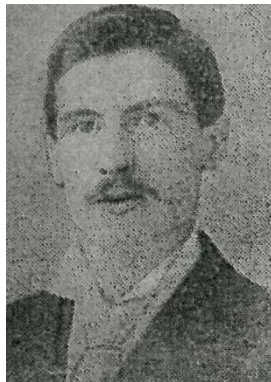
Fred was born in Blackburn in 1858 and like his brother John joined the Rovers from the Public-School Malvern College in 1877 a year earlier than his brother. He was a half-back defender who played a rugged style and liked to drive forward which made him popular with the fans. In 1880 he played his first international game for England against Wales at Wrexham. He retired from the game in 1882 after being in the F.A. Cup Final and losing by a single goal.

JOHN HARGREAVES



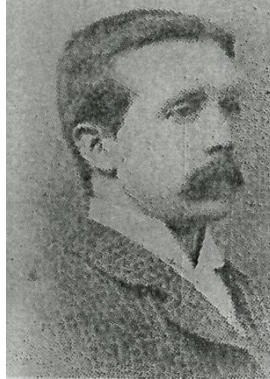
John was born in Blackburn in 1860 and joined the Rovers from the Public-School Malvern College where football was first started in 1878. He was an attacker for the club before the Football League was first started and a regular member of the team between 1878 and 1884 and like his brother Fred won England International honours. John made 11 appearances in the F. A. Cup scoring five goals and was in the first cup winning team. Away from the game he practiced as a solicitor.

JAMIE HAYDOCK



Jamie was born in Blackburn in 1873 and joined the Rovers in 1890 from Borough Road College. He was an attacker who could play anywhere in the forward line but favoured the right-wing and proved himself to be a brilliant forward and marksman. Jamie made a total of 66 League appearances and an additional thirteen in the F.A. Cup scoring a total of 79 goals. In 1890 he retired from the game but then suffered an early death. During his life he was a schoolteacher at Furthergate School Blackburn.

JACK HORNE



Jack was born in Huncoat, Accrington in 1862 and joined the Rovers from Accrington F.C. in 1890 when he retired from being a Chemist to help them out when they had a goalkeeping crisis. As a goalkeeper he kept goal for them in a F.A. Cup Final against Sheffield Wednesday whom they beat. He also became an England International but left the club at the end of the season he joined to return to Accrington.

JOE HEYES



Joe was born in Blackburn and joined the club from an unknown local side in 1885. He was a young half-back and enjoyed his best run in the first team during the 1885/6 and 1887/8 seasons. Joe made twelve appearances in the F.A. Cup for the Rovers and appeared at the Kennington Oval for one final and also played in the F.A. Cup Final draw against West Bromwich Albion in 1886 but was dropped for the winning replay due to a poor performance. He left the club in 1889.

ROGER HOWARTH



Roger was born in Blackburn in 1859 and joined the Rovers in 1879 from an unknown local side. He was a goalkeeper who was well-built with a strong kick and showed athletic skills. In total he made twelve appearances in the F.A. Cup and played before the Football League was formed. Joe left the

club in 1884 to join Blackburn Olympic. His family were in the textile industry locally as heald and reed manufacturers.

JOHN HUNTER



John was born in the Blackburn area where he first played and became involved in the game before becoming the Rovers first-team Trainer in 1892/3.

H. IBBOTSON



He was born and worked in the Blackburn area and became the clubs football Umpire in 1878/9 before the Football League was formed.

JOHN LEWIS



John was born in Market Drayton in 1885 and was one of the 17 men who met in the St. Ledger Hotel in Blackburn in 1875, all of whom were from the mostly upper/middle classes who decided to form Blackburn Rovers F.C. Their Public School resulted in modelling the club's colours on those of Old Malvernian's quartered shirt. As a result, he soon became the club's Treasurer. In his playing days for the club in its very formative years he played as a forward and played in three F.A. Cup matches scoring one goal. He left the club as a player in 1880 due to injury and became a referee of

high standing covering three F.A. Cup Finals and was the founding member of the Lancashire Football Association. Later he became involved in helping to formulate the Football League which began in 1888.

JOE LOFTHOUSE



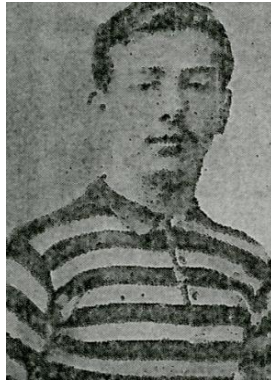
Joe was born in Blackburn in 1865 and joined the Rovers in 1882 from the military Kings Own F.C. As a player he was an outside right who was both swift and a skilled dribbler who could cross the ball accurately into the penalty box. In total he made 83 appearances for the Rovers scoring 30 and was a member of two F.A. Cup Final wins in 1889/90 and 1890/91. He was also an English International with two caps to his name. He had two spells at the Rovers first from 1882-1887 before moving to Accrington F.C. then returning in 1889 before leaving again to join Darwen F.C. then Walsall F.C. before becoming a football coach in Hungary in 1902.

HUGH Mc INTYRE



Hugh was born in Glasgow Scotland in 1885 and joined the Rovers in 1879 from Glasgow Rangers before the Football league was formed. He played at both half-back, centre-half and full-back and being an all-round athlete became the wicket keeper for Lancashire. In total he made 34 appearances in the F.A. Cup scoring four goals and was a member of the Rovers first F.A. Cup Final win in the 1883/4 season. Joe left the Rovers in 1886 and retired from the game and became a successful hotelier.

BILLY Mc OWEN



Billy was born in Darwen in 1871 and as a schoolboy became a goalkeeper for Blackburn Olympic before joining the Rovers in 1887. As a goalkeeper for the Rovers, he was a hero in many exciting games including 16 League matches and 20 F.A. Cup matches. Although small in stature, he showed great bravery and athletic ability as a keeper but lost his position when Jack Horne arrived as the keeper. Billy left the club in 1890 to join Darwen and later became Liverpool F.C. first goalkeeper and later went on to his previous career as a dentist.

GEORGE MANN



George was born in Scotland in 1873 and joined the Rovers from East Stirlingshire in 1892. He played as an outside right and was a player who could kick the ball with either foot. He made two appearances in the league and scored one goal before leaving the Rovers in 1894 to join Manchester City where his form improved and gained more success before later moving on to Bristol City.

HARRY MARSHALL



Harry was born in Portobello, Edinburgh in 1872 and was known as "Portobello Boatman" as he owned and operated a boat there and first joined Heart of Midlothian from whom the Rovers signed him in 1892. He became a Scottish International gaining two caps playing at left-half and made 62

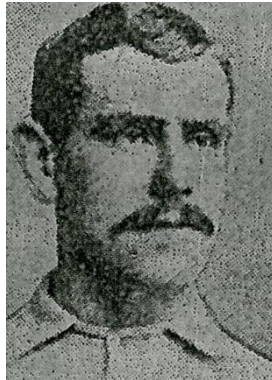
appearances for the Rovers and scored two goals. However, in 1896 he moved back to Heart of Midlothian after a serious leg injury hindered his progress at the Rovers. In 1898 he returned to the Rovers as centre-half to help them avoid relegation then in 1899 left again to join Celtic.

E. MURRAY



He was born locally and became the Rovers trainer in the early 1890's.

JOHNNY MURRAY



Johnny was born in Strathblane, Scotland in 1865 and first joined Vale of Leven as a half-back before joining Sunderland in 1890 before leaving to join the Rovers in 1892. He was a burly and athletic defender who used his build and enthusiasm to intimidate opposing forwards and for four seasons he was a tower of strength in the Rovers defence as a full-back. In total he made 122 appearances for the Rovers before retiring in 1896 to go in business in textiles as for the whole of his career he was employed in Calico printing.

ADAM OGILVIE



Adam was born in Scotland in 1867 and first joined Grimsby Town from whom the Rovers signed him in 1893 as a goalkeeper. As a keeper he totally dominated the penalty area being both tall and well-built he was unfazed by opponents and was never injured therefore popular with the fans and became the Rovers best keeper since the start of the football league. In total he made 120 appearances for the Rovers before leaving in 1897 to join Shrewsbury Town.

ROWLAND PENNINGTON



Rowland was born in St. Helens in 1870 and joined the Rovers from Whiston in 1890. He was a goalkeeper who was a joiner by trade who was an athlete, well-built and had strong arms and hands so he could cope with the hardest of shots. In total he made 10 league appearances for the Rovers and was called up to play in the 1891 F.A. Cup Final before leaving the club in 1893 to join Northwich Victoria.

BILL SAWERS



Bill was born in Bridgetown, Glasgow in 1871 and first joined Clyde in 1888 before he joined the Rovers in 1892 as a forward. He was a physical player who was hard to dispossess and had a

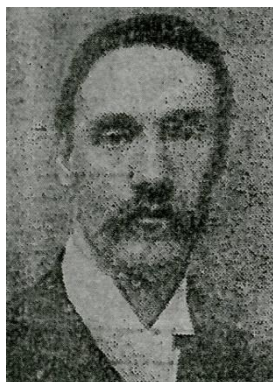
powerful shot becoming the club's leading goal scorer in season 1892/93. In total he made 28 league appearances for the Rovers scoring 14 goals before he left to join Stoke city in 1893.

HARRY SHARPLES



Harry was born locally and joined the Rovers in 1880 from an unknown local club. He was a half-back and made four appearances for the club in the F.A. Cup scoring one goal being a team member of the first team to represent the club in a F.A. Cup Final in 1882. However, he made little impact at the club except in the F.A. Cup and left the club in 1883 to join an unknown club.

JACK SOUTHWORTH



Jack was born in Blackburn in 1866 being one of seven brothers and first joined Brookhouse Rangers a local club and then moved on to Blackburn Olympic in 1883. He joined the Rovers from Olympic in 1887 and became a prolific scoring centre-forward and English International with three caps between 1890 and 1891. Jack led the forwards and was a speedy player who dodged opponents and had an accurate shot and was a member of two Rovers F.A. Cup Final wins in 1890 and 1891. In total he made 132 appearances for the club scoring 121 goals playing just one game in the newly formed Football League in 1893. He left the Rovers in 1893 to join Everton. As a keen musician he took a job in Chester Theatre during his playing days and on leaving the rovers became a professional violinist.

JAMES SOUTHWORTH



He was the brother of Jack and born in Blackburn who joined the Rovers like his brother from Blackburn Olympic in 1887 and formed a good partnership at full-back with Joe Beverley in 1887/8 and played for the club in their first season in the Football League making 27 appearances. He was a very athletic player even faster than his brother, a good header and had a powerful kick winning many prizes on the running track. James left the Rovers for an unknown destination in 1892.

JOE SOWERBUTTS



Joe was born in Blackburn in 1864 and joined the Rovers from an unknown local side in 1881. He was an attacker who played in three successive F.A. Cup Final wins from 1883-1886 and scored the opening goal in the F.A. Cup Final replay against West Bromwich Albion at the County Cricket Ground at Derby. In total he made 20 F.A. Cup appearances scoring 16 goals and a regular member of the team in the 1880's. Joe left the Rovers in 1887 to retire from the game.

TOT STRACHON



Born in Blackburn in 1860 he joined the Rovers from local club Witton in 1880. An attacker he made twenty-one appearances in F.A. cup matches scoring six goals and he scored in several friendly matches prior to the football league forming. He left the club in 1886 to join Darwen. A regular

member of Rovers team during the early 1800's and member of the F.A. Cup Final losing team in 1882 but was in the team that won the 1886 F.A. Cup Final.

FERGIE SUTER



Born in Blythswood, Glasgow in Scotland and became a stonemason and first played for Glasgow Rangers and Partick Thistle. He moved south to play for Darwen and left them to play for Rovers in 1880. Fergie was attracted by an offer as a sizer in a Blackburn cotton mill to avoid the rules on professionalism! A very talented left back, both tall and strong physically and appeared for the Rovers in four F.A. Cup Finals winning three. He enjoyed a fullback partnership with Doc Greenwood in the early 1880's, then with Beverley. Regarded as one of the best full backs in the country and a Scottish international Fergie made 38 appearances in the F.A. Cup and only one official league appearance as his career was almost over when the league formed in 1888. Retired from the game in 1889.

BILLY TOWNLEY



Born in Blackburn in 1866 and joined the Rovers from Blackburn Olympic in 1886. A schoolmaster by profession he was a very talented outside left. He established a record for the F.A. Cup Final by scoring three goals in the Rovers 6-1 win against Sheffield Wednesday in 1890 at Kennington Oval. Billy also made two appearances for England against Wales and Ireland. He played for Rovers from 1886 to 1892 leaving to play for Stockton returning in 1893 and then leaving in 1894 to join Darwen and Manchester City in 1896. In total, he made 123 appearances for the Rovers scoring 51 goals. He was well known for his speed and being a classic winger forming a good partnership with Nat Walton. He could deliver pinpoint crosses and was a dangerous marksman. After retiring from the game, he went coaching football in Germany, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland but mostly Germany between 1909 and 1934.

PETER TURNBULL



Born in Languhar, Scotland in 1875 he first joined Glasgow Rangers then moved to Burnley and joined the Rovers in 1895 from Burnley but left in 1896 for Glasgow Rangers to re-join in 1898 but then leave at the end of the season again for Glasgow Rangers. In total he made 27 appearances for the club scoring eight goals as a centre-forward and he was a former inside-forward. He was skilled at controlling the ball at speed and hard to get the ball off and was a proven goal scorer.

NAT WALTON



Born in Preston in 1867 Nat joined the Rovers from Witton F.C. in 1884. He was an inside forward and goalkeeper when requested who was talented enough to play in many positions but favoured the inside left. Whilst at the Rovers he made 139 appearances scoring 49 goals. Nat gained F.A. Cup final wins with the Rovers in 1886 and 1890 and played for England. In 1892/93 he took over as goalkeeper from Pennington who had become less agile. In 1893 he left to join Nelson and later became Rover's trainer from 1898-1906. A very reliable player and combined well on the left with Billy Townley.

JAMES WHITEHEAD



Born in Church in 1870 he joined the Rovers from Accrington in 1893 who he had joined in 1890 where he had scored 23 goals in 73 games. As an attacking inside-right he made ninety-three appearances scoring 24 goals. He left the club in 1897 to sign for Manchester City and later joined Accrington Stanley in 1899. He gained one England cap whilst at the Rovers. In build he was short and stocky and could challenge well and could use the ball well to open up defences and a good tackler.

ARNOLD WHITTAKER



Born in Blackburn 1880 he joined the Rovers from Accrington Stanley in 1899 having first played for Queens Park in 1898. He was a fast-dashing right-winger who scored a hat-trick for the Rovers in his debut match. In total he made 265 appearances for the club scoring 57 goals. Arnold left the Rovers in 1908 to return to Accrington Stanley. He was the fastest man at Ewood and had good dribbling skills and a powerful shot making him a dangerous attacker.