

Blackburn Rovers Players From 1880's to 1990's
Rovers Players During the 1920's

THOMAS BAXTER



Born in Blackburn in 1907 he became prominent in local football since he had been in Blackburn C of E Central School team and captained Blackburn school boys' team. He then joined Blackburn Corinthians. Thomas joined the Rovers in 1927 playing first in the "A" team then the reserves. He was also apprenticed in the engineering trade and hoped to achieve an engineering degree. A hard working right full back who could pass the ball well from defence. His career at the Rovers was dogged by injuries and a knee injury forced his retirement and he joined Blackburn Police. In total he made 40 First Team appearances for the Rovers before retiring from the game in 1932.

JACK BRUTON



Born in West Houghton, Near Bolton in 1903 he first signed for Burnley in 1925 and transferred to the Rovers for £6,500 in 1929. This was three days after Burnley put their entire team on the transfer list. Jack was a right-winger and made three international appearances for England whilst at Burnley. A former miner he was very consistent at the Rovers missing few games and received a benefit from the club in 1935. A speedy winger and good reader of the game plus a consistent goal-scorer. As an outside-right he made a total of 345 first team appearances for the club scoring 117 goals. He left the club in 1943 and retired from the game. On finishing playing football he joined the back-room staff as a trainer later becoming manager of Bournemouth.

LES BRUTON



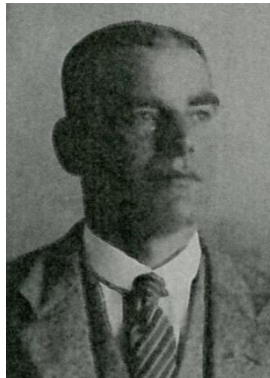
Born in Foleshill, Scotland he joined the Rovers from Raith Rovers in 1929. He first joined Peterborough, then Southampton in 1922 for £15 and then Peterborough in 1926 and finally Raith Rovers in 1928 where he scored 31 goals in 27 appearances. He could also play in a forward position with a strong robust game with a good eye for the goal and as a forward he made 42 first team appearances and scored 28 goals. He left the Rovers in 1932 to join Liverpool.

AUSSIE CAMPBELL



Born in Hamsterley, Durham area in 1901 he first played for Leadgate Park before joining the Rovers in 1923 as a hard-working left-half back. He was a real left-footed player, well built and a good tackler but also liked to drive forward to supply the forwards. A skilled player who was good at positional play and using anticipation. Aussie won two England caps whilst at the Rovers and made a battling performance in the 1928 Cup Final win against Huddersfield. In total he made 184 first team appearances for the Rovers scoring nine goals before he left in 1929 to join Huddersfield Town. He later joined Hull City (1935) then Darwen (1936-8).

JACK CARR



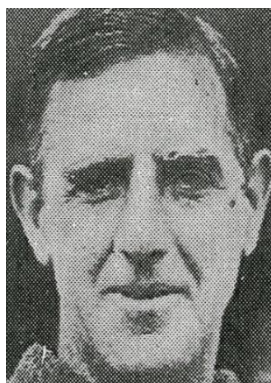
After the death of the club Chairman and benefactor, Lawrence Cotton, the club were forced to re-group. In February 1922 the directors decided on appointing a full-time manager. They chose a vastly experienced former Newcastle United and England International who had spent many years in the backroom staff at St. James Park, namely Jack Carr. The directors pledged to back him with financial support. In 1925 the club secretary Robert Middleton died and asked Jack to take on secretarial as well as managerial duties.

JESSIE CARVER



Born in Liverpool he joined the Rovers in 1927 as an amateur from Liverpool Juniors. He made his league debut in a 3-0 win against Sunderland at Ewood on the 20th of September 1930. He was a centre-half with a powerful physique. He showed good positional sense and despite a lack of height he dominated in the centre of defence. In the 1933/34 season the Rovers had an unbeaten home record, and he was the only player with maximum number of appearances. He went on to make 146 first team appearances for the club before he left to join Newcastle United in 1935 for £12,500 after a dispute over his benefit match which was promised but the club couldn't provide as they were in debt. He became coach of the Dutch F.A. in 1947 on a wage of £1,000 per annum.

ARTHUR COWELL



Born in Blackburn he joined the Rovers in 1905 as a junior from Nelson who he had joined in 1904. In total he made 321 first team appearances including 26 in the F.A. Cup. He became one of the Rovers best full-backs in the 1920s and 30s forming a great partnership with Bob Crompton. Arthur gained an England Cap in 1910 and was a member of the team winning the First Division Championship in 1911/12 and 1913/14. When he left the club he retired from the game and became a member of the Rovers training staff and first team trainer during 1933-1937. He then moved on to Wrexham as trainer then manager.

JOCK CRAWFORD



Born in Stirling, Scotland in 1902. He joined the Rovers from Alloa Athletic in 1925. Rovers manager Bob Crompton put him in the team as a goalkeeper. He was firmly established in the first Team in 1927/28 season as his skills with crosses improved. He was a member of the F.A. Cup winning team of 1928 and represented the Anglo-Scots team. Whilst at the Rovers he was an active member of Blackburn Amateur Dramatic and Music Society. In total he made 173 appearances for the club before leaving to join East Stirling in 1932. Prior to this he lost confidence and form and illness meant he lost his place in the first team.

JACK CRISP



Born in Hampstead, Birmingham in 1894 he joined the Rovers on the 8th of March 1923 from West Bromwich Albion, when he was an amateur there before the First World War for a fee of £3,175, a club he had won the championship with in 1910/20. In total he made 108 First Team appearances for the club scoring 19 goals. He scored on each of his first three games for the Rovers and was a nippy outside-right standing only 5ft 5 in. His usual position was outside-right but could play on either wing and played in many forward positions. A rather plucky player who could cross the ball accurately into the box. He left the club in 1927 to join Coventry City.

JIMMY FORREST



Born in Blackburn he joined the Rovers in 1920 from local side Tramways as a youngster. He was the son of former Rovers player and club director also called Jimmy. Game skills showed best as full-back but mostly in reserves. As a half-back and full-back he showed promise with a powerful kick, good judgement and over time developed. In total he made 18 first team appearances before being released in 1927.

ARTHUR GROVES



Born in Killamarsh, Yorkshire in 1907 he joined the Rovers in 1928 from Halifax town whom he had joined in 1927 as a utility inside left. A playmaker with a good eye for a goal with a good turn of speed. In total he made 68 first team appearances and scored 26 goals. He left the Rovers in 1933 to join Derby County for a fee of £550. He later moved to Portsmouth 1936 and Stockport County 1939.

TED HARPER



Born in Sheerness, Kent in 1901 he was signed as an untried youngster as a gamble to replace the veteran centre-forward Percy Dawson in 1923. He scored 18 goals in his first season helping Rovers to eighth position. However, in the 1925/26 season he broke the club's goal scoring record by scoring 43 goals with five in one match against Newcastle United. His goals in just 37 league appearances set a new record for the football league. In 1926 he gained one England Cap. A courageous player with a knack of being in the right place at the right time. In the next season he scored 35 goals in 39 league games. Ted left the Rovers in 1927 to join Sheffield Wednesday and later broke the goal scoring record for Tottenham Hotspur and Preston North End with 36 and 37 goals. He returned to Ewood from Preston in 1933 and in total made 177 first team appearances for the Rovers and scored 122 goals before retiring from the game in 1935.

HARRY HEALLESS



Born in Blackburn in 1893 he joined the Rovers from Blackburn Trinity as an amateur at a time in 1915 when the Football League was suspended due to the First World War. A number of Rovers players opted to play for Trinity in the Lancashire Combination League which resulted in Harry joining the Rovers as an amateur before becoming professional in 1919. He was a right half-back and the only Blackburn born player in the F.A. Cup winning team of 1928 which he captained. A very hard-working player who tackled hard and was a strong runner and good in the air. In total he made 399 first team appearances for the club and scored 14 goals. Harry played his last game for the club in December 1932 and retired. In 1935 he was appointed football coach to the Almelo Club in Holland.

PETER HOLLAND



Born in Hindley 1898 he joined the Rovers from Hull City in 1919 after the completion of the First World War when the club started a period of reconstruction. During this first season 39 players were used in the post-war period. Peter was a forward and a small player who gave loyal service to the Rovers and was a hardworking, versatile player who played in a number of positions for the club and made a total of 134 first team appearances scoring 26 goals before he left the club in 1928 to join Watford for a fee of £1,250 then joining West Ham United in 1930

RONALD HAWORTH



Born in Lower Darwen in 1901 he first played for St. James C of E School, then as a teenager for Lower Darwen Juniors in the Blackburn Amateur League. He progressed quickly from junior football to appearing for the Rovers first team joining in 1922 as an amateur. Although favouring inside forward, he started at centre-forward as stand in for Percy Dawson. He scored in his first match at Cardiff but found it difficult to score goals so spent more time in the reserves. In total he made 25 first team appearances scoring two goals before leaving in 1924 to join Hull City.

JOE HULME



Born in Stafford in 1904 he first played for York City, joining them in 1923. He joined the Rovers in 1924 and made his debut against Blackpool on the 28th of February 1924, his first League game was against Aston Villa on the 1st of March 1924. A fast tricky outside-right he made 82 first team appearances scoring eight goals. He made nine appearances for the Rovers in the F.A. Cup before leaving to join Arsenal. He became assistant secretary to Tottenham Hotspur in February 1944 and assistant manager in October 1945 to 1949.

JOCK HUTTON



Born in Daiziel, Motherwell, Scotland in 1898 he joined the Rovers in 1926 from Aberdeen. Earlier he had played for Motherwell, Hearts and joined Aberdeen in 1919. His debut game was against Burnley on 16th of October 1926. He was a robust, hard tackling, talented full-back of stocky stature and was a member of Rovers 1928 F.A. Cup winning side and was a Scottish international. In total he played 146 senior games for the Rovers and retired from the game in 1933. He joined the Gordon Highlanders during the war.

BILL IMRIE



Born in Methil, Scotland in 1908 he joined the Rovers in 1929 from St Johnstone for £4,475. A good keen competitor who had good defensive skills but liked to go forward. As a right-half he made a total of 176 first team appearances scoring 24 goals before leaving the club to join Newcastle United in 1934 for £6,500 and later Swansea and then Swindon Town.

HERBERT (TAFFY) JONES



Born in Blackpool in 1896 he first played for Victoria School, then joined Fleetwood in 1920 before moving to Blackpool in 1922 where he was the only local player. He joined the Rovers in 1925 for £3,850 as an established full-back. Although slightly built he was speedy and a good tackler and could play off either foot. During the First World War he was a physical trainer and played regularly with the Lancashire Regimental team. A member of the 1928 F.A. Cup winning team. He was a plumber in Fleetwood, played 262 games for the Rovers and gained England International honours before leaving in 1934 to join Brighton and Hove Albion then Fleetwood in 1935.

WILLIAM McCALL



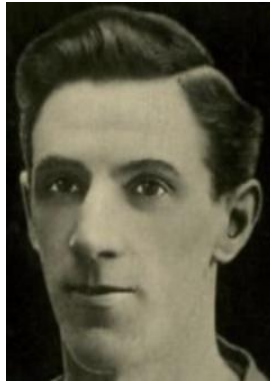
Born in Scotland he joined the Rovers in 1920 from Queen of the South Wanderers. A swift right-winger but kept out of the first team by the form of others. He also played outside left. He made a total of 11 first team appearances before leaving in 1922 to join Wolverhampton Wanderers and then Southampton in 1923.

JOHN McDONALD



Born in Glasgow he started his playing career with junior clubs round Dunbarton. He joined the A.S.C. Regiment in the WWI and was drafted to Dunblane where he played in service international games for Scotland. John then joined Linfield F.C. and won the Irish Cup. He joined the Rovers in 1920 persuaded by David Rollo and played inside-left completing three senior games scoring seven goals. Was skilled at making chances for other forwards. A serious knee injury restricted his progress as he lost form. John left the Rovers in 1922 to join Dundee United staying 1922 staying till 1925.

JOHNNY McINTYRE



Born in Glasgow in 1895. He was an experienced inside-forward who had first learnt his trade north of the border with Partick Thistle before moving south to join Fulham in 1917 and then Sheffield Wednesday in 1919 scoring 38 goals for them. He moved to the Rovers in 1922. Johnny was a scheming inside forward and played on the left wing but later moved to left half and had a good eye for scoring goals. Soon after joining arriving at the Rovers, he scored four goals in five minutes against Everton at Ewood on 16th of September 1922. In total he made 194 first team appearances for the club scoring 38 goals. He left the club in 1928 to join Blackpool.

JOCK McKAY



Born in Glasgow he started his career with junior clubs especially the Boys Brigade Team who were successful. At age 18 he was signed by St. Anthony and stayed for a year showing extremely good footwork as an inside-forward. This led to him being secured by Glasgow Celtic, however the youngster was kept out of the first team playing with the reserves. He signed for the Rovers on the 11th of November 1921 making his debut against Huddersfield town scoring one of the goals that led to victory. As inside-right he was regarded as one of the cleverest forwards in England with superb ball control. Made 161 first team appearances for the club scoring 45 goals. He was selected to play for Scotland. His departure in March 1927 was sensational as he left to join the Second Division side Middlesborough who paid a hefty fee for him of £3,750.

JIMMY McKINNELL



Born in Dalbeattie, Dumfries, Scotland, in 1895, and joined the Rovers in 1920 from Queen of the South who he had joined in 1919. He was one of many new players signed by the club as they re-structured. Jimmy was a youthful left half-back showing considerable zest, he also played as an inside forward but played most of his games at left-half being a hard tackling and clever player on the ball. In total he made 124 first team appearances for the club before he left in 1926 to join Darlington.

TOMMY McLEAN



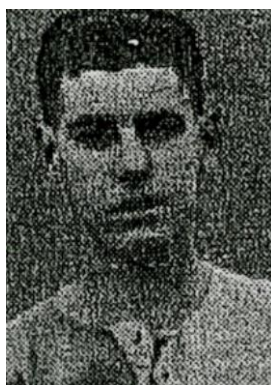
Born in Lochgelly in Scotland in 1903, he began his career with St. Johnstone who he joined in 1925. He was one of the first signings for Rovers new manager, Bob Crompton, who wanted to strengthen his side in 1927. Tommy was an inside-forward and an unorthodox wizard on the pitch being difficult to mark as he was quick thinking and a good dribbler. He missed the 1928 F.A. Cup final win due to injury and in total he made 275 first team appearances scoring 49 goals. He left to join Exeter City in 1935

TOM MITCHELL



Born in Trimdon Grange he joined the Rovers in 1926 as an outside-left. However, although big and strong on arrival from Stockport County, who he had joined in 1924 he tended to lack aggression in the position reducing the number of first team appearances. Tried in the centre-forward position when he couldn't get in the team as a winger. He played and scored in the 1928 F.A. Cup but was not chosen for the final. In total he made 82 first team appearances scoring 31 goals before moving on in 1929 to Lincoln City.

PETER O'DOWD



Born in Halifax in 1908 he joined the Rovers in 1926 from Bradford City aged 22. He played at centre-half and left-half for the Rovers and made 51 first team appearances for the club before moving on to Burnley in 1930 for a fee of £3,000, then joined Chelsea in 1931 for £5,250.

SYD PUDDEFOOT



Born in 1894 in West Ham, London the famous inside-right started as a clerk in an accountant's office, then signed for West Ham United as a clever inside forward where he was under contract for nine years. He moved to Falkirk in Scotland for a fee of £5,000 and was there for three years. At Falkirk he gained the Scottish experience and became a lethal centre-forward. The Rovers then signed him in 1925 at the age of 30 for a fee of £5,000 which turned out to be a shrewd move as he reverted to inside-forward. He revitalised the Rovers attack as a great schemer, was cunning of feet and head, was a fast dribbler and had a great shot. He gained a reputation as a footballer, cricketer and runner gaining many trophies. A keen sea swimmer he visited Blackpool twice a week for a swim and a ten mile walk along the extended sea front. A skilful cricketer with bat and ball and played for Essex County. Whilst at the Rovers he played twice for England at centre-forward. A change in the offside law enabled him to create chances galore for Ted Harper in his record breaking 1925/26 season and enabled him to score 10 goals in that year. He was a key member of Rovers 1928 F.A. Cup winning team and gave excellent service to the club over seven years. Syd left the Rovers in 1932 to re-join West Ham United aged 37. He became manager of Northampton for a time.

BERT RALPHS



Born in Handsworth, London in 1896 he joined the Rovers in 1921 from Nuneaton for a fee of £1,500. A product of the club director's progressive policy of buying promising young players to speed up the play of the team. He was an active right-winger who could play with either foot. He had a good reputation in non-league football. He went on to make 41 First Team appearances scoring six goals. He lost form in the 1921/22 season and only stayed one year before his transfer to Stoke in 1922. He moved to Chesterfield in 1926 and then Crewe Alexander in 1927.

BILL RANKIN



Born in a cottage close to Dunbarton Castle, Scotland. He attended St. James Public School in Glasgow, playing football for the school as an inside right. He then joined a junior club, Eastern Greenfield and then Vale of Clyde. He joined Dundee in 1924 and then in 1927 joined the Rovers for £4,000. On arrival he formed part of the half-back line as centre-half, a tall weighty defender who effectively blocked opposing attackers. At the Rovers he towered over the other players. A real leader of his side and a captain courageous. A fighter as a player, every game was a challenge, a giant in heart and strength with enormous will power. He went on to complete 162 First Team appearances and was a member of the Rovers 1928 F.A. Cup winning team. He lost his place due to injury leading to his departure and he moved on from the Rovers in 1932 to join Charlton Athletic for a fee of £2,650 and later became manager of Burton Town.

FRANK REILLY



Born in Perth, Scotland in 1895 he joined Falkirk in 1912/13 from a Perth Junior club for nothing and became a sound investment as a left-half then on to centre-half. He joined the Rovers in 1919 for £500 from Falkirk. He proved to be a strong defender, rugged tackler and a fiercely competitive centre-half at the heart of Blackburn Rovers defence. In total he made 138 first team appearances scoring nine goals. Frank served in the Black Watch in both France and Germany and was involved in heavy fighting but escaped unharmed. He left the Rovers in 1923 to join Llanelli then Weymouth in 1924.

ARTHUR RIGBY



Born in Chorlton (Manchester) in 1900 he first played for Crewe Alexander in 1919 and then Bradford City in 1921 for £1,200. He started his career as a goalkeeper but learnt he had more power in his left foot and developed speed as a winger. He joined the Rovers in 1925 from Bradford City for £2,500. For the Rovers he was an active, hardworking left winger who could supply dangerous crosses. He then reverted to inside left a position he had played in seven Internationals, five when at Rovers. Arthur was an active forager with abundant energy and a powerful shot. He left the Rovers in 1929 to join Everton after completing 169 First Team appearances and scoring 44 goals. He later moved to Middlesbrough and then Crewe Alexander in 1935.

PATRICK ROBINSON



Born in Belfast in 1892 he first played for Belfast Celtic Second Eleven and then Baron both of whom played in the Irish Second Division. He then moved to Cliftonville F.C. before finally joining Belfast Distillery F.C. playing at outside right and gaining Irish International status. Robinson served four years in the forces mostly with the Royal Naval Air Service. He joined the Rovers in 1920 but only made eighteen first team appearances scoring two goals. He signed to play outside-right position that was available but failed to make it his own, so he was put on the transfer list in 1920 and left in 1921 to join Caerphilly.

NORMAN RODGERS



Born in Hooley Hill, Stockport in 1891 he joined Stockport County aged 18 in 1911 and stayed for 10 years earning a benefit match. Whilst there he played at inside right and was one of the top scorers in the Second Division. He also played at centre-forward so when he signed for the Rovers in 1920, he could play more than one position in the forward line. A bustling type of player who made his own openings and was a good marksman. In his first season he ended with two hat-tricks. In total he played 48 games for the Rovers scoring 24 goals. A serious injury held his play back and although not a long career but was always given credit for saving them from relegation. When he left the Rovers in 1924, retiring from the game.

JACK ROSCAMP



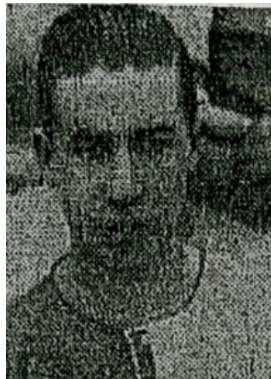
Jack was born in Blaydon in 1901 and joined the Rovers in 1922 from Wallsend. For most of his Ewood career he played as a wing-half. A physical player who always used his strength well. Prior to the rovers 1928 F.A. Cup Final he was moved to centre-forward as an experiment. In the Cup Final, with less than 60 seconds on the clock he charged the goalkeeper causing him to lose his grip on the ball which went over the line for a goal. He then added another goal later to allow the Rovers as underdogs to beat Huddersfield the red-hot favourites. Eventually his versatility worked against him as he was continually moved around the team. In total he made 250 first team appearances for the club scoring 44 goals before leaving in 1932 to join Bradford City then later Shrewsbury Town in 1934.

LEVY THORPE



Levy was born in Seaham harbour in 1889 and first joined Blackpool where he had the unusual distinction of playing 100 league games in succession. He was discovered by Blackpool in the north-east where he worked in a coal mine. As Blackpool were then in the lower league they had to sell players to make ends meet. He had been a regular in the Blackpool first team in 1914/15 but joined the Rovers in 1920 and was the only player to play in all 42 league games in the 1920/21 season. Levy became the captain of the Rovers First Team and played at right-half making a total of 92 before leaving to join Lincoln City in 1922 and later moving to Rochdale in 1924.

THOMAS TURNER



Thomas was born in Glasgow in 1905 and first joined Raith Rovers before joining the Rovers in 1929. As an outside-left he was a skilled winger with good dribbling skills but lacked pace. He was small in stature but had a strong shot. During his time at the Rovers he was kept in the reserves for three years by the existing winger (Cunliffe). However, in total he made 115 appearances in the first team before he was transferred to Arbroath in 1936.

TOM WILLIAMSON



Tom was born in Dalmuir (Glasgow) in 1901 and joined the Rovers in 1922 from Kirkintilloch Rob Roy as a 21-year-old after much effort in the negotiations. He was the 15th Scot signed by the club during its re-structure of its team. His signature was secured as a very promising centre-half and he made a good debut against Burnley but contracted blood poisoning in his first season. Tom was a regular in the 1923/4 season playing at both right and left-half positions. In total he made only 19 first team appearances before leaving the club in 1924 to join Third Lanark then later Stoke City in 1926 and Norwich in 1931.

TOM WYLIE



Tom was born in Darvel, Dumfries in Scotland 1899 and joined the Rovers in 1921 from Queen of the South. He was a very enthusiastic small left-full back with lots of guts shirking nothing and formed a good full-back duo with David Rollo. In total he made 191 first team appearances and at one stage made 145 appearances out of 150. Tom left the club in 1926 to join non-league Darwen for a short time then joined Swindon Town in 1926.