

**Blackburn Rovers Players From 1880's to 1990's**  
**Rovers Players During the 1950's**

**CHRIS ANDERSON**



Born in Wemyss, Fife, in Scotland in 1929 he first played for Lochore Welfare before joining the Rovers in 1950 for £150. A utility right-winger who mostly played in the Rovers Reserves although a tricky player. In total he only made 13 first team appearances scoring only one goal before asking for a transfer, with other wingers signed, and moving to Stockport County in 1953 then Southport in 1954 then on to local Blackburn Combination sides.

**JIM APPLEBY**



Born at Shotton Colliery in 1934 he first played for Burnley who he had joined in 1953 and moved to the Rovers in 1958. At Ewood he was a rugged utility centre-half and was kept in the Central League side by the form of Matt Woods. He only made two first team appearances before leaving to join Southport in 1961 and then Chester City in 1962

**ERIC BINNS**



Born in Halifax, Yorkshire in 1934 he first played for Huddersfield Town, then Halifax Town in 1946 until 1949 then onto Burnley before joining the Rovers in 1955. There he played centre-half signed by Johnny Carey as he tried to build the side for a promotion to the First Division. However, he only made limited progress and was kept in the reserves due to a lack of speed and mobility. He played only 23 first team appearances before moving on to Runcorn in 1957.

#### **TOMMY BRIGGS**



Born in Chesterfield in 1923 he first played Royal Navy football then joined Plymouth Argyle as an amateur in 1945 but left Home Park for a free without scoring a goal as centre-forward. He later moved on to Grimsby Town in 1947, Coventry in 1951, then Birmingham and joined the Rovers in 1952 his fourth club in two years. The brawny six-foot ex-Navy sailor signed in 1952 costing £15,000. Once at the Rovers few could match his goal scoring of 143 in 204 first team games, a club record that stood for 30 years. An old-fashioned centre-forward who needed others to provide him with chances he could convert consistently. In four seasons running he netted more than 30 goals, his most memorable was his feat of scoring seven goals on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1953, in a game against Bristol Rovers who were thrashed 8-3 with six of them scored in the second half. However, he only earned one international cap for the England B side. His goals almost got Rovers promotion but when they did go up in 1958 the 35-year-old had left to join Grimsby Town for £2,000. Later he moved to Ireland as player-manager of Glentorian in 1959.

#### **RONNIE CAIRNS**



Born in Chopwell in 1934 he first joined Consett as a forward and was signed by Johnny Carey in 1953 as a utility player as he built up the team. At the Rovers he played inside-right but mostly in the reserves due to Dobing and Vernon's form, making only 26 first team

appearances scoring seven goals before leaving in 1959 to join Rochdale, then Southport in 1964, Wigan Athletic in 1965 and then Darwen in 1967 where he later became manager in 1970.

#### **FRANK CHADWICK**



Born in Blackburn in 1927 he joined the Rovers from a local Junior Team as an amateur. He was always a part-time player as he was a plumber with W. Sumner at Mill Hill. As right-half he was understudy to Jimmy Baldwin and Jackie Campbell therefore only a few senior appearances except in 1953 when he got an extended role when Campbell moved to the wing. During the war he played war time "B" matches and turned professional in 1947. A hard-working tireless wing-half who was a very reliable utility player staying nine years who made 11 first team appearances before moving to York City in 1955 till 1956 and retiring to his plumbing role and taking over W. Sumner's business.

#### **RONNIE CLAYTON**



Born in 1934 he joined Rovers straight from school in 1949 as an amateur and played his first senior game in April 1951 at the age of 16 against Queens Park Rangers. He was a perfect club professional who was loved by the fans. As a powerful wing-half he was a dominant player in the 1957/58 promotion winning team forming a regular partnership with his brother Ken in the half-back line. Brought in by Bestall he proved strong in the tackle and good in the air as an outstanding defender that enabled him to drive the team forward from midfield. Towards the end of his Rovers career, he dropped back into the centre of the back four successfully. Whilst at the Rovers he made 663 first team appearances scoring 16 goals, a club record for appearances. He also captained the team and made 35 England International appearances as wing-half and captained the side. He finally left the club in

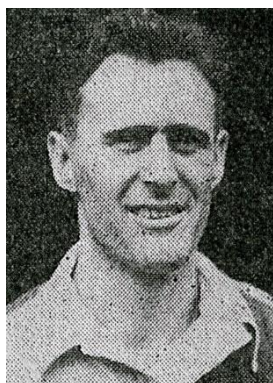
1969, 20 years later from his arrival to join Morecambe as player manager. After retiring he ran his successful newsagents and became a Rovers Ambassador.

#### **KEN CLAYTON**



Like his brother he was born in Preston in 1933 and signed by the Rovers straight from school as an amateur in 1949. At the Rovers he turned professional and played left-half initially till 1955 in the Central League and then alongside his brother was a member of the 1957/58 Championship winning side moving back into the First Division. His Ewood career was stopped by a bad broken leg in 1957, then leaving in 1961 after he had made 77 first team appearances. He then moved onto play for Ashton United.

#### **TOMMY CLINTON**



Born in Dublin in 1926 he first joined Dundalk, then Everton in 1948 before his transfer to the Rovers in 1955 for a nominal fee. An experienced right or left full back he was used as a utility player signed by Johnny Carey who had played in the same Eire International team against Norway in Oslo four years earlier. He had played over 70 First Team games for Everton and was recognised as a penalty kick specialist. However, he only made eight first team appearances for the Rovers before leaving to join Tranmere Rovers in 1956, staying till 1957.

### **EDDIE CROSSAN**



Born in Londonderry, Ireland, in 1925 he first joined Derry City before his transfer as a young player to Ewood in 1947 for £3,000. He was encouraged by Jack Bruton and became a regular in the team before they were relegated to Division Two. A quality inside forward with brilliant close control and a good dribbler which left many an opponent in his wake. His game however could frustrate fans despite great goals as he often missed short range chances. His skills were adopted by Johnny Carey and was at his peak in the 1954/55 season. When he left the club at the start of the 1957/58 season, a season when the Rovers gained promotion back to Division One. At the Rovers he won 3 Northern Ireland caps, made 302 first team appearances and scored 74 goals before joining Tranmere Rovers in 1957 then Cork Hibernians in 1958.

### **PADDY DALY**



Born in Manchester in 1941 he was signed as an amateur straight from school by the Rovers in 1957, having played for Manchester Boys and turning professional in 1958. He had the ability to make opportunities for others as a forward but the other good players in the first team limited his opportunities. He stayed at the club for five years. This utility player only made three first team appearances during his time at the Rovers before leaving to join Southport in 1962, then Runcorn, Witton Albion in 1964, Rhyl 1966 and finally back to Witton Albion.

### **PETER DOBING**



Born in Manchester in 1938 he first joined Crewe Rangers before joining the Rovers in 1955 aged 16 and turning professional aged 17. His debut game for the Rovers seniors was against Bristol City in September 1956. As a young player he was well built and energetic with pace and power at inside right. He enjoyed running at defenders and wasn't frightened of shooting. It didn't matter if he played either inside-right or left or centre forward. He was still young when he scored 20 goals in 34 games in the promotion season 1957/58 and coped well in Division One scoring 24 goals in 40 matches. He also managed to cope with National Service and playing professional football. During his Rovers career he won seven England Under 23 caps and made 205 first team appearances scoring 104 goals before leaving at just 22 to join Manchester City in 1961 for £37,000 scoring 31 goals in 81 appearances, then on to Stoke City in 1963 staying for 10 years scoring 80 goals in 303 games.

### **BRYAN DOUGLAS**



Born in Blackburn in 1934 he first joined Lower Darwen Youth Club and played for Blackburn schoolboys then signed for the Rovers in 1952 as a youth player and signed professional. He made his debut against Notts county in 1954. Growing up close to Ewood his ambition was to play for the club and in fact became one of its most famous players. During his time at the club, he made 36 England and five Under 23 caps. The fans called him Duggie because of his artistry as a winger or inside forward. His ball control and ability to hoodwink defenders was legendary. In his day he was regarded highly for his dribbling skills which he took on with a poker face giving nothing away. He also had the ability as inside left to spray the ball about and create openings. He was very important for his team and in total he made 502 first team appearances scoring 115 goals. Duggie left the Rovers in 1969 to join Great Harwood and continued to live close to the ground.

### **REG ELVY**



Reg was born in Churwell in 1920 and he first joined Halifax Town as an amateur in 1944 then moved to Bolton wanderers in 1947 before being signed by the Rovers in 1951 aged 31 years by Jackie Bestall along with Eddie Quigley creating a revival in the team's fortunes with both signings costing the club a substantial sum. Reg was a goalkeeper who was tall and able to dominate the penalty area for crosses especially as he had long arms and big hands and was a very consistent player. He went on to make 156 consecutive appearances between 1951 and 1955. A very effective and dependable goalkeeper who made many notable saves going on to make 208 first team appearances before leaving in 1956 to join Northampton Town.

### **ALEC GLOVER**



Alec was born in Glasgow in 1922 and first joined Partick Thistle in 1943 then Bradford City in 1948 before joining Luton Town in 1949 then moved to the Rovers in 1951, signed by Jackie Bestall as a winger as he could play on either wing plus give extra pace to the attack. He started at the Rovers playing on the right wing then moved to the left-wing. However, he found it difficult to break into the first team especially after the return of Bobby Langton. Alec went on to make 71 first team appearances scoring five goals before his transfer in 1954 to Barrow.

### **JOE HARRIS**



Joe was born in Belfast 1929 he first joined Larne and was then signed by Jackie Bestall for the Rovers along with others to build a new squad in 1951 and cost £3300. As a centre-forward he broke his leg on two occasions in the two years he was trying to get into the first team as injuries limited his progress. As a forward he made 36 first team appearances scoring 14 goals before moving on in 1953 to join Oldham Athletic then later Belfast Crusaders in 1954.

### **BILL HOLMES**



Bill was born in Hunslet in 1926 and first joined Morecambe in 1947 then he moved to Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1948 and Doncaster Rovers in 1950 still as an amateur then joined the Rovers in 1952 as an amateur. Bill had been an England Amateur International and had been a Physical Education student at Leeds University and a Physical Education Teacher at Morecambe when he approached the Rovers for a game. As a result, he was taken on and played in various Rovers' teams including a mid-week side and the reserves where he scored freely as a centre-forward. He made his first team debut as a stand in for Eddie Quigley against Queens Park Rangers but failed to make many first team appearances playing mostly in the reserves. In total he made only 25 first team appearances for the Rovers scoring an impressive 19 goals but left the club in 1953 to return to Morecambe after losing his place to Tommy Briggs and later moved on to Bradford City the same year and then Southport in 1954.

### **LEN HUGHES**



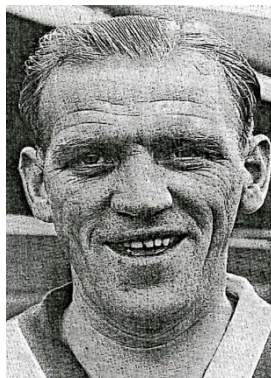
Len was born in Blackburn and taken on by the Rovers as an amateur in the 1950's. By 1957 he was the captain of the Rovers Colts as a defender. However, he failed to make the grade at first team level.

### **ROY ISHERWOOD**



Roy was born in Blackburn in 1934 and was signed by the Rovers from local Junior football in 1956 by Johnny Carey the manager as a non-contract player. He went on to turn professional and spent a long period playing in the reserves as a right-winger and understudy to the first team winger namely Brian Douglas, so his opportunities only came due to injuries. Roy had an opportunity when Brian Douglas moved to play inside-forward but failed to make a mark. In total he made 57 first team appearances for the Rovers and scored nine goals. He left the club in 1962 to join Chelmsford City.

### **TOM JOHNSTON**



Born in Loanhead, near Aberdeen in 1927 he first joined Peebles Rovers in 1949, then Kilmarnock the same year, Darlington in 1951, Oldham Athletic in 1952, Norwich City 1952,

Newport County in 1954 and Leyton Orient 1956 for £6,000. Johnny Carey signed him from Leyton Orient in 1958 for a fee of £15,000 as he attempted to upgrade his squad with a seasoned pro at centre forward. In his two years with Leyton Orient he had scored 63 goals as centre forward. He scored two goals in his debut game, although now in the latter stages of his career, and gave hope to Rovers push for promotion. Tommy was a similar player to Tommy Briggs, but Carey used him to become an attacking general to help the other forwards. He was part of the side who were runners up in the Second Division after their final game at Chorlton Athletic gained them promotion back to the First Division. Although he only stayed for one year, he made 38 first team appearances scoring 23 goals before leaving in 1959 to re-join Leyton Orient for £7,500, then on to Gillingham in 1961 for £3,000 and then player-coach at Folkestone Town in 1962.

#### **WILLIE KELLY**



Born in Hill O' Beath, Cowdenbeath in Scotland in 1922 he first joined Rovers from Aidrie. He was signed in 1951 along with 5 others by Jack Bestall to revive Rovers flagging fortunes and used to fill the vacant centre-half post. Willie was a strong, rugged, and dour player of their transformation missing few games. A formidable centre-half who dominated the opposition attackers and organised the defence giving it a great boost and stability. In total he made 202 first team appearances before demanding a transfer to return to Scotland when displaced by a new signing namely Eric Binns and left to join Mossley in 1957 then Accrington Stanley the same year and Darwen in 1958.

#### **FRANK KIRKUP**



Lancashire born he first played for Spennymoor Juniors and joined the Rovers in 1957 as an amateur. He went on to make 30 reserve and Central Leage appearances for the club as a winger before transferring to Workington town in 1959.

#### **DEREK LEAVER**



Born in Blackburn in 1930 he signed for the Rovers from a local amateur club in 1949. He was hoping to emulate his uncle, Walter Crook by becoming a senior player as an inside-forward/right wing. Derek mostly played for youth and central league teams but in total made 14 first team appearances scoring five goals before his transfer to Bournemouth in 1955 and later Crewe Alexander in 1956.

#### **HARRY LEYLAND**



Born in Liverpool in 1930 he first joined Everton in 1950 but was released and joined Tonbridge in 1956 from whom the Rovers signed him in 1956 to replace goalkeeper Reg Elvey. After his arrival he made 100 consecutive league and cup appearances in the 1956/57 season. Under Carey and Dally Duncan, he saw plenty of success being part of the Rovers promotion team in 1958 and in the team that made it to the F.A. Cup final in 1960. Although small and stocky he proved to be an agile keeper whose confidence grew as the defence improved. A very effective stopper and great asset to the defence. Injuries in the 1960/61 season led to his first team form dropping and him leaving the club. In total he made 188 first team league appearances before leaving in 1961 to join Tranmere Rovers and then Wigan Athletic as player-manager.

### **THE CLUB MASCOT**



This young man was the club mascot for the season 1954/55 in the Rovers kit.

### **MICK MCGRATH**



Born in Dublin in 1936 he first joined Home Farm in the Republic of Ireland before being signed by Johnny Carey in 1954. He was brought in to provide more defensive cover at half-back and link with Ronnie Clayton and Matt Woods on the Rovers half back line. Mick was a former Eire Youth International and made his debut taking over the left half position from the injured Ken Clayton. He was a hard tackling half-back who liked to push forward to link with all the forwards and played regularly in the Republic of Ireland International Team. He was a good club man who always gave of his best. A member of the 1958 league promotion and 1960 Cup Final teams making 312 first team league appearances before moving on to join Bradford in 1966 and then Bangor City.

### **ALLY MACLEOD**



Born in Glasgow in 1931 he first joined Third Lanark then St Mirren in Scotland in 1955 before being signed by Johnny Carey in 1956. He was signed for the left wing to replace the

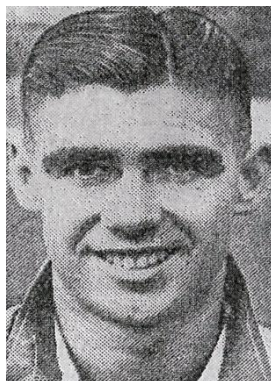
aging legs of Bobby Langton and joined a number of new signings to boost the forward line and proved a real asset. A rather tall speedy winger who could seek goal scoring opportunities. A member of the 1958 promotion team to the First Division and the F.A. Cup final team. In total he made 218 first team league appearances scoring 53 goals before his transfer to Hibernian in 1961, then on to Third Lanark in 1963 and then player-coach of Ayr United in 1965, then manager in 1966, Aberdeen manager in 1975 and Scotland manager in 1977. His nickname was Noddy due to nodding his head when running.

#### **FRANK MOONEY**



Born in Fouldhouse in 1932 he first joined Manchester United in 1949 as a young player and after Johnny Carey became Rovers manager having played for United, he managed to sign him for the club as a major acquisition to play on the right-wing apposite Langton on the left. During his first season 1954/55 he scored 16 goals as the club moved up to 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Second Division. When he arrived, he had just completed two years R.A.F. service in Rhodesia aged 21. Well-built and speedy and able to provide good crosses for Tommy Briggs. In total he made 59 first team appearances scoring 19 goals before leaving to join Carlisle United in 1956.

#### **ALBERT NIGHTINGALE**



Born in 1923 in Thryberg near Rotherham, Yorkshire, he first joined Sheffield Juniors before joining Sheffield United team as an amateur in 1941 that won the league North Championship in 1945/56 and then moving to Huddersfield Town in 1948. Rovers' manager Jackie Bestall persuaded him to join the Rovers for a fee of £15,000 in 1951 to help provide more guile as an inside left for our attack. Practically all his football had been in the First Division where he had played in all the forward positions. A good golfer as well but he never fully settled at the Rovers and found it difficult to regularly make the first team. Albert asked

for a transfer after losing his place and so only made a total of 42 first team appearances scoring 8 goals before moving on to Leeds United in 1952 for £10,000.

#### **EDDIE QUIGLEY**



Born in Bury in 1921 he first joined Bury in 1941, Sheffield Wednesday in 1947 for £12,000 and then Preston North End for £26,000 as an inside forward. He was signed by the Rovers manager Jackie Bestall in 1951 when he was approaching the veteran stage of his career and rather overweight. However, the manager wanted his experience to pep up the forward line and he did just that starting the club on a revival. However, a year later he was at loggerheads with the club over the need for a suitable house and at the end of 1952 he was put on the transfer list but there were no suitable offers. So, he continued in the reserves until an injury to Bill Smith meant he was needed at inside-left against Leicester City, and he scored two goals and didn't look back. As a player he had a remarkable brain and was a wily tactician, a big broad player and super playmaker allowing him to make long accurate Crossfield passes. He could unlock defences and had a powerful shot and in the 1954/55 season scored 28 goals in 40 appearances. In 1956 he left after making 166 first team league appearances and scoring 95 goals to join Mossley as their manager, then Bury as a coach and then Stockport County as manager before returning to the Rovers in 1966 to become Assistant Manager to Jack Marshall and in the next year was Caretaker Manager and in 1967 became the club's manager. He left the club in 1971 but returned in 1979 as chief scout which he continued till 1981.

#### **BARRIE RATCLIFFE**



Born in Blackburn in 1941 he first joined Bolton Wanderers and was signed by the Rovers in 1958 as an amateur. A young player, he came through the Rovers ranks to feature in the First team in the late 1950s early 1960s. He was a member of Rovers 1959 F.A. Youth Cup winning

side that beat West Ham United whose side included Geoff Hurst and Bobby Moore. His position was mostly left winger and although turning out for the reserves he was given a chance by Jack Marshall he achieved 50 first team league appearances scoring eight goals before leaving to join Scunthorpe United in 1964 for £4,000 then Rochdale in 1965.

#### **BILL SMITH**



Born in Plymouth in 1926, he first signed for Plymouth Argyle in 1945, then Reading in 1947, Northampton Town 1948 and Birmingham City in 1950. He joined the Rovers in 1952 as part of two signings from the club. He played mostly at right-half for the Rovers as a hard tackler with good positional play but moved regularly to defence and forward positions to cover for absent players. As a utility forward, mostly an inside forward, he made 128 first team league appearances for the Rovers scoring 12 goals before leaving to join Accrington Stanley in 1960 as player coach.

#### **ROY STEPHENSON**



Born in Crook in 1932 he first joined Burnley in 1948, then Rotherham United in 1956 before he was transferred to the Rovers in 1957. He was an inside-forward and winger and often played in the reserves as a utility player. Started for the Rovers as inside-left then moved to outside-right. In total he made 27 first team league appearances including playing in the 1958 F.A. Cup semi-final and scoring five goals. In 1959 he left the Rovers to join Leicester City for £8,000 then on to Ipswich Town in 1960 and finally Lowestoft Town in 1965.

### **RON STUART**



Born in Kendal in 1920 he first joined Blackpool in 1939 before his first transfer to the Rovers in 1949 signed by Jackie Bestall. Initially he played a general role in defence starting at centre-half before establishing himself as a right-back. Ron read the game well and had good timing making him a good full-back and reliable. He was at the Rovers for six years after signing for a five-figure transfer making 18 first team league and cup appearances. Ron left in 1955 to become the new player manager of Wigan Athletic, a progressive Lancashire Combination Club who had been trying to join the league for years. He then became manager of Scunthorpe United in 1956, Blackpool manager in 1958, Chelsea assistant manager in 1967 and then manager in 1974.

### **JACK SWINDELLS**



Born in Manchester in 1937 he was an ex-army cook and then printer in Manchester and joined Manchester City as an amateur. A former England Youth International, he signed professional forms for the Rovers in 1957 following his demob from the army. At first, he was deputy to Ally McLeod on the left wing but played more in the reserves where he was a prolific goal scorer both as centre-forward and winger. In total he only made nine first team league appearances scoring one goal before joining Accrington Stanley in 1959 for £1,200, then on to Barnsley in 1961, Workington in 1962, Torquay United 1963, Newport County 1964 and then Altringham in 1965.

### **KEN TAYLOR**



Born in South Shields in 1931 he first joined South Shields Lads Club and after five years was signed by the Rovers in 1950 as a utility defender for five years in the Central League. He was signed as a professional and slowly made the right-back position his own. A reliable defender and safe who made the most of his first team appearances in the 1957/58 season but always up against good first team defenders. Over the 14 years at the Rovers, he made 233 first team league appearances before leaving to join Morecambe in 1964.

### **PAUL TODD**



Born in Middlesbrough in 1920 he first joined R.A.F. football then joined Doncaster Rovers in 1945, the former club of Rovers manager Jackie Bestall who signed him for the Rovers in 1945 for £10,000. He was a tall scheming-type inside-left who was regarded as a very useful player with a good eye for a goal having scored 51 goals in 160 appearances for Doncaster. As part of signing, he was allowed to continue his sports business in Doncaster and train with Doncaster Rovers. He made a good start in his first season at Ewood but then lost his place to new arrivals and in total made 46 first team league appearances scoring 13 goals before moving on to Hull City in 1951 for £6,500 then Kings Lynn player manager in 1953.

### **ROY VERNON**



Born in Ffynnongroyw, Wales in 1937 and first played for Mostyn Y.M.C.A. before signing for the Rovers in 1954 as an amateur. He made his debut in the league against Liverpool in 1955 and proved to be a very talented inside-forward who responded well to his manager Johnny Carey. Thin in stature he had plenty of energy and could be predator or playmaker. He was a very gifted player with high level skills, creative, and famed for his shooting skills especially from dead balls very powerfully. Whilst at Blackburn he gained an Under-23 Welsh cap and nine full Welsh caps. His time at the Rovers falters after the manager moved to Everton and he clashed with the new manager Dally Duncan. In total he made 144 first team league appearances and scored 52 goals before leaving to join Carey at Everton in 1960.

### **JACKIE WHARTON**



Born in Bolton in 1920, he first joined Plymouth Argyl as an amateur in 1935 and then Preston North End in 1937, after the war he joined Manchester city in 1947 for £5,000 before he moved on to the Rovers in 1948 signed by new manager, Bruton, as a left-winger. A much-travelled player who could play either wing, an enthusiastic and plucky player. He played both in the reserves and first team with his best season in the first team being 1950/51, in total making 16 first team appearances and scoring 20 goals before his transfer to Newport County in 1953 moving on to Wigan in 1955.

### **DAVE WHELAN**



Born in Bradford in 1936 he first joined Wigan Boys Club and became a Lance Bombardier in the army at Oswestry. He joined the Rovers in 1953 signed by Johnny Carey as a nineteen year old to play right-back. Initially playing in the reserves and stand in for injured players he eventually became a permanent right-back in the late 1950s. He was a strong competitive full back and was a member of the Rovers 1960 F.A. Cup Final team but broke his leg and couldn't finish the game. After the injury he returned to the first team as left full-back and in total he made 87 first team league appearances before leaving to join Crewe Alexander, then he became a market trader in Wigan that led him to owning a chain of supermarkets, then sold up and later opened sport shops that led to forming J.D. sports and owning Wigan F.C.

### **JOHN WILLIS**



Born in Boldon, Durham in 1934 he joined the Rovers, as a 20-year-old aircraftman and dental technician on Tyneside in 1954, as a utility player by Johnny Carey. The form of the other players stopped him from earning a first team place and he played his only first team league game in 1955 before leaving to join Accrington Stanley in 1957.

## MATT WOODS



Born in Skelmersdale in 1931 he first joined Everton as an amateur in 1947 turning professional in 1949 before Johnny Carey persuaded him to join the Rovers in November 1956 to fill the vacancy at left-half formerly held by Kelly. He made his debut against Middlesborough and must rank as one of the club's best buys at £6,000 as he became the clubs dominant centre-half and popular with the fans. A fearless lynchpin of the famous half-back line of Clayton, Woods and McGrath. An ever present in the promotion team of 1958 and regarded as one of the best un-capped centre-halves of the period. His strengths included well-turned tackles, good heading ability and positional play. He dominated forwards by making himself felt as he never held back in the tackle. He eventually lost his place to Mike England so left the club. In total he made 307 first team appearances before retiring from the English game aged 32 and emigrating to Australia in 1963 to play for Hakoah club. He moved back to play for Luton Town in 1965, then Stockport County in 1966 before becoming trainer and manager there in 1970 finishing as Southport coach in 1974.