

BURTON-ON-TRENT F.C.  
70<sup>TH</sup> SEASON



1870 — 1940

CELEBRATIONS  
PROGRAMME  
SEPTEMBER • 30 • 1939



## FOREWORD

---

*THIS SHORT HISTORY of the Burton Rugby Football Club has been compiled by Lieut. J. R. Pennington and I feel sure that all those who read it will appreciate the trouble he has taken and be grateful to him for what he has done.*

*It was written in commemoration of the Club's 70th Season, which it was intended to celebrate this year.*

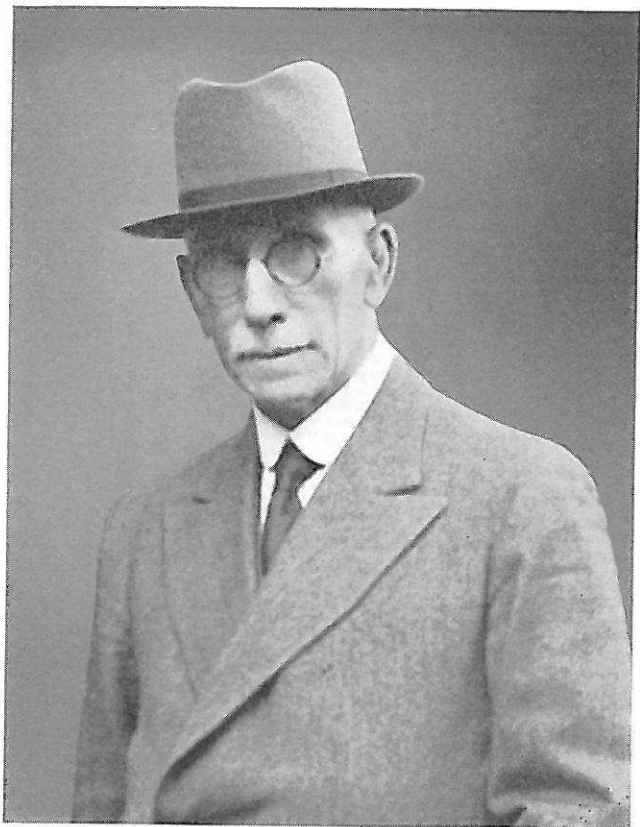
*The outbreak of another Great War has rendered it necessary to cancel the celebration proceedings, but it is felt that, as this little book was already in the printer's hands, its publication should be proceeded with.*

*It is a record of which every one interested in the Club may justifiably be proud and I hope it will, in the years to come, have the effect of inducing many others to take their part in maintaining the traditions of the Club.*

FRANK EVERSLED,

President.

1939.



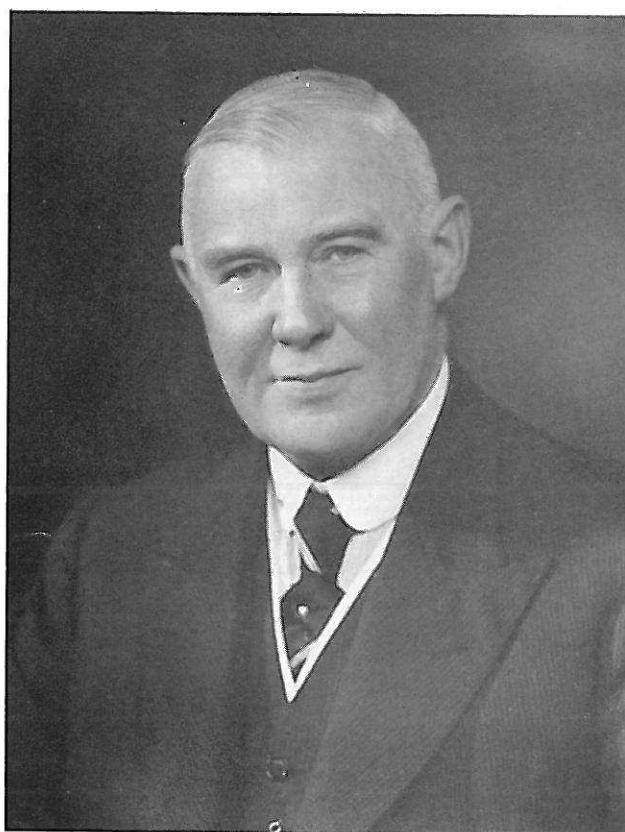
MR. FRANK EVERSLED  
*English International Rugby Player*  
*President, Burton R.F.C.*



SIR HERBERT EVERSLED  
*President, Burton R.F.C. 1904-1936*



MR. C. FRAZER STONE  
*Hon. Secretary, Burton R.F.C. 1908-1933*



MR. F. NEWTON HUSBANDS  
*Hon. Treasurer, Burton R.F.C. 1900-*

# Burton-on-Trent F.C. Officials, 1870—1939

Burton-on-Trent F.C. Officials, 1890-1939—continued

Year	President	Treasurer	Secretary	Captain
1870.				
1.		Offices of	W. F. Warren	H. Trafford Nadin
2.		Secretary and Treasurer combined during these years	H. T. Nadin	T. C. Kemp
3.	Guy Nadin		J. J. Bell	C. E. R. Isherwood
4.	Ditto		H. Moody	H. T. Nadin
5.	Ditto		Ditto	C. E. R. Isherwood
6.	Ditto		J. W. Parsons	A. Moody
7.	Ditto		H. Moody	G. H. Colmore
8.	Ditto		P. Evershed	F. Jennings
9.	Ditto		A. H. Rowdon	Ditto
1880.	Sy. Evershed	H. Slaton	Ditto	F. W. Fellowes
		Ditto	Ditto	F. W. Fellowes and A. H. Rowdon
1.	Ditto	Ditto	Adams	S. H. Evershed
2.	Ditto	Ditto	E. S. J. Christopher	Ditto
3.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	J. C. Gorton and W. M. Richards
4.	Ditto	Ditto	F. Thompson	S. H. Evershed
5.	Ditto	Ditto	F. Thompson and J. C. Gorton	J. C. Gorton and W. M. Richards
6.	Ditto	Ditto	T. E. Lowe and F. Thompson	W. M. Richards
7.	Ditto	Ditto	T. E. Lowe	S. H. Evershed and W. S. Eadie
8.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
9.	Ditto	Ditto	A. G. Jennings	Ditto
1890.	Ditto	F. Thompson	S. H. Evershed	F. Evershed
1.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	W. S. Lowe
2.	Ditto	Ditto	J. P. Ward	Ditto
3.	Ditto	Ditto	H. Beck	N. Robinson
4.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	F. Evershed
5.	Ditto	S. H. Evershed	Hy. Beck and L. S. Salt	C. W. Lowe
6.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	J. Robinson
7.	Ditto	Ditto	Hy. Beck	Ditto
8.	Ditto	Ditto	W. S. Lowe	R. Kenward
9.	Ditto	Ditto	W. S. Lowe and H. Robinson	Ditto
1900.	Ditto	S. H. Evershed and F. Newton Husbands	H. Robinson and R. A. Aury	B. C. Newbold
1.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
2.	Ditto	Ditto	H. Robinson and J. L. Chumley	Ditto
3.	Ditto	Ditto	F. T. Lake	J. Lathbury
4.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1920.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
1930.				
1.				





BURTON FOOTBALL TEAM. SEASON 1887-8  
WINNERS OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES CHALLENGE CUP

T. C. Eastwood	W. S. Eadie (Vice-Captain)	T. H. Richardson	F. Evershed	J. L. Mayger	F. J. Richardson
A. G. Jennings (Umpire)	F. C. Duckworth	E. A. Surtees	S. H. Evershed (Captain)	R. P. H. Hacker	J. Auber
		F. R. Bell	A. Sulley	E. Wright	T. E. Lowe (Hon. Sec.)

## International and County Matches

The President of the Burton Club, Mr. Frank Evershed, was "capped" for England on several occasions. Other Burton players to be selected were J. J. Robinson and E. M. Baker.

The Final English International Trial was in early days The North v. The South. Burton was for some years included in The North, and S. H. Evershed played for The North on two or three occasions, and was picked reserve for England once. Burton was afterwards included in The South, and J. L. Mayger played for the South and was also picked reserve for England. A. Sulley also received an international trial.

Previous to 1920 the Midland Rugby Football Clubs came under the jurisdiction of the Midland Counties R.F.U. Many Burton players were selected to play for the Midland Counties. Among Burton players thus honoured were:—

S. H. Evershed	E. H. Colmore
F. Evershed	J. L. Mayger
A. W. Gorton	J. J. Robinson
A. Sulley	J. P. Ward
W. S. Eadie	G. A. Marsden
T. Richardson	— Taylor
F. W. Fellowes	E. M. Baker

The following Burton players have represented the North Midlands in County Championship matches—

W. J. Adams*	J. Franey
C. R. Bamford*	G. German
I. Baker*	G. Lawton
V. Baker*	R. Orme
H. E. Beesley	J. A. Richardson
H. T. N. Christal	K. B. Smith
F. C. Dent*	F. C. Souster
A. E. Eydin*	J. H. Stone
D. Ferguson*	A. C. Tomlinson*

\* Awarded Caps

## Burton-on-Trent Football Club

1870

October 5th.

"Proposed by Mr. Moxon, seconded by Mr. G. Lathbury: that all gentlemen here present namely:—W. W. Blest; Cole; Goodburn; T. C. Kemp; J. Kemp; R. Lathbury; G. Lathbury; R. Moxon; H. T. Nadin; H. R. Nadin; O'Sullivan; G. W. Parsons; W. F. Warner; form a Club, to be called the Burton-on-Trent Football Club."<sup>1</sup>

Thus, the founding of the Club is recorded. The membership quickly mounted and at the end of the first season "a balance in hand of £1 0s. 10d. was unanimously adopted."<sup>2</sup> The first colours worn by the players were Black and Red stripes, and the first ground, the Burton Cricket Club Ground.

On the fixture list for Season 1871-72 were Derby Grammar School; Spondon School; Derwent Rowing Club F.C.; Stoke-on-Trent; St. Andrew's Club, Derby; Ockbrook Church Union; Trinity F.C. Derby; and Shrewsbury.

In August, 1874, the opinion was expressed that "seeing the number of members in the Club, a second team might very well be started."<sup>3</sup> This was done and Mr. F. E. Taylor elected Captain. At the same time "It was suggested that there should be a Committee, and the following were duly elected:—H. T. Nadin; G. M. Day; A. Adams; V. Rollison; and W. Walters; the other officers being members ex-officio."<sup>3</sup> It was also decided to play to the Sheffield code of Rules. This was a very necessary step, as all the other teams in the district played according to those rules.

For the first six seasons, as teams playing under Rugby rules were few, the Club played both Rugby and Association Football. The former code proved more popular, and the Captain, H. Moody, resigned in the middle of the 1875-6 season because he could not "get men to play in Association matches, F. Jennings being appointed to take these matches in hand. It was evident that the Club was falling between two stools, and at the Annual General Meeting of 1876, the rules of the Rugby Union were adopted, and the Club became purely a Rugby Football Organisation."<sup>4</sup>

In 1875 the black and red jersey had been replaced by a quartered one of Light Blue and Chocolate. These colours proved unsatisfactory and at the Annual General Meeting held in 1877 "it was resolved to adopt white jerseys with one diagonal black stripe over the shoulder and under the opposite arm like a sash."<sup>5</sup>

1. Club Minutes, 5-10-1870.
2. Minutes, 18-10-1871.
3. Minutes, 28-8-1874.
4. The Early History of Burton F.C. (G.M. Day).
5. Minutes, 7-9-1877.

1878-9 was a good season, only two matches being lost. The next season was even better, both financially and from the playing point of view. Gate money was taken for the first time, and the balance at the end of the Season was £9 0s. 0d. while "12 matches having been played, 10 were won; 1 drawn and 1 lost; 19 goals were gained and 18 tries, while against us 1 goal and 3 tries were obtained, placing us in the proud position of second to none in the Midland Counties."<sup>1</sup> Regular players in this very successful team included:—F. Jennings (Captain); E. H. Colmore; S. H. Evershed; F. W. Fellowes; E. A. Jennings; C. F. Skilton; F. W. Porter; P. Evershed; J. F. Hunt; A. Adams; A. H. Rowdon; J. Bracewell; F. Lott; M. Taylor and A. Jennings.

In those days Burton and Moseley were keen rivals for recognition as the champion club of the Midlands. Burton achieved this position in 1883, when it won the Midland Counties Challenge Cup, beating Moseley in the final. This was the second time that Moseley had been beaten by Burton that season, the former being "marked by an episode that is seen perhaps once in a decade, if as often, a drop kicked by our captain, S. H. Evershed, from our side of the half way flag. It was a kick that has rarely been equalled, never surpassed."<sup>2</sup>

The season 1884-5 was only a fair one, 8 matches were won and 7 lost. However, at the Annual General Meeting in 1885 it was said "though we have to regret the loss of many old players, the number of young ones coming out leaves us no cause for despondancy."<sup>3</sup> This forecast was not justified, for, in January, 1886, a Special Meeting was called stating that "teams could not be got together to fulfil the Club engagements, and to consider the advisability of winding up the Club." However, "certain members having promised to support the captain, it was unanimously decided that the Club must not be wound up, and every effort must be made to carry out the fixtures."<sup>4</sup> An improvement immediately became noticeable and that same season the team reached the Semi-Final of the Midland Counties Cup, being narrowly defeated by Rugby.

The Club's affairs improved from that time, so that in November, 1886, a second team was again formed, and in May, 1887, it was resolved "that in the interests of the Burton Football Club, club matches be arranged with strong clubs outside the Midlands." Matches were fixed with Manchester and Leeds St. John's, and a challenge from Cardiff was taken up. By 1888 so strong was the Club that a review of the match versus Moseley stated that "whatever may be the result of the cup-ties, now that Burton has beaten the Cup holders twice in one season, it has certainly earned the position of premier Midland Club for 1887-8."<sup>5</sup> This was a true word, for the result of the Cup-ties was that Burton beat Coventry in the final, putting out Leicester and Rugby in earlier rounds.

1. Minutes, 29-7-1880.
2. Minutes, 12-9-1883.
3. Minutes, 28-8-1885.
4. Minutes, January, 1886.
5. Press Report.



In 1888 the Club was transferred to Peel Croft, and the ground was opened with a match against Runcom, the Cheshire Champions, who won by two goals and 6 minors to 4 minors. The press in a cutting criticism said "Before our local team can be considered first class, they will have to pay more attention to condition, so that they can constantly follow up all through the game."<sup>1</sup>

This was an unfortunate remark, for the next week the Club beat the Maori Touring Side on the Croft, by a goal and a try to a goal. The teams in this match were:—

**Maori:** Nihua (back); Madigan, McCausland (Captain) and Gage (three-quarter backs); Keogh, F. Warbrick and Elliott (half-backs); Ellison, Taitaroa, Arthur Warbrick, Alfred Warbrick, Webster Lee, Anderson and Maynard (Forwards).

**Burton:** W. S. Eadie (back); S. H. Evershed (Captain), A. Sulley and J. D. Marsden (three-quarter backs); F. C. Duckworth, and E. A. Surtrees (half-backs); F. Evershed, F. R. Bell, J. L. Mayer, T. Richardson, E. Wright, R. P. Hacker, F. Richardson, J. R. Deykin and J. Falkner (forwards).

The Maoris were entertained to dinner at the "White Hart Hotel," Mr. S. Evershed, M.P. presiding. In his speech Mr. Scott, Manager of the Tourists, said "There was no doubt they had been beaten by a team that would hold its own in any part of the United Kingdom."<sup>2</sup> Mr. Holmes (Moseley) said, "Two Midland Teams had now accomplished what the crack teams of the South had failed to do, hence he hoped that in future their London friends would be convinced that they could play Rugby Football in the Midlands and would accordingly select some of their players to take part in the International Contests. Mr. Sulley was one of the finest three-quarters he had ever seen in England and was certainly deserving of International honours."<sup>3</sup>

That same season our President, Mr. Frank Evershed, then a playing member of the club, was selected to play for England against the Maoris. The following year he was again selected for the English team. Commenting on the match versus Scotland in a review of the week's sport, a critic wrote "The English pack, however, did sterling work, and while Evershed was undoubtedly the most brilliant forward on the field, not a weak man could be mentioned."

Such doings brought the Club a national reputation, and the fixture list now included Richmond, Blackheath, Cardiff and Oxford University, a list "sufficient to make the executive of the strongest club in England a bit anxious."

The Club's first stay on the Croft was only short, for in 1890 it went to play on the Crescent. In October of that Season the Burton team went to open the new Gloucester Ground, and experimenting with the four three-quarter formation, was heavily defeated. This was the first of many serious defeats, the press remarking that "they have lost matches against Coventry, Old Edwardians and Manchester; teams that might be beaten if Burton are to hold their own among the foremost clubs of England."<sup>4</sup> However, in December, Leicester was defeated and in January, 1892, Bradford, a team considered "the strongest of any in the three kingdoms," visited the Crescent. They were "The Undeclared Lions of the North"; "a team with a record only surpassed by one club in the kingdom viz. Newport."<sup>5</sup> They were beaten 17-2 at Burton "the biggest score that has been put on against them since Runcom beat them in 1889."<sup>6</sup> The Athletic News said, "The Bradford copy book has been long in getting smudged, but there is no mistake about a blot when it does appear."

In 1894 the Rugby Union took a strong line against professionalism and a Committee meeting of the Club in November decided "to support the Union in its efforts to put down professionalism."<sup>7</sup> Again in September, 1895, it was resolved, "That this Club records its support of the Rugby Union in condemning the payment to players for broken time, and in any legislation it may adopt to stamp out anything conducive to professionalism."<sup>8</sup>

In 1896 the Club moved to Ind Coope's ground near the Station, and fixtures included Birkenhead Park, Leicester, Northampton, Bedford and Coventry. The stay at the Station ground was short and in 1899 the Albion Hotel became the Club's Headquarters.

At the end of the Season 1903-4 the question of the formation of a Schools' Rugby Union was brought up. In 1905 it was resolved that "In view of the interest being shown by the boys in Burton Schools, the Club should arrange a match for them against Denstone College."<sup>9</sup> At the same time a Subcommittee was formed to meet the Burton School Masters and to discuss the possibilities of forming a Schools' Union.

In 1908 the Committee met "to see if by some means the play of the teams could not be improved."<sup>10</sup> During the decade 1900-1910 some very poor seasons were experienced. In 1903-4 only three matches were won out of 23. 10 out of 24 in 1904-5 and 10 out of 26 in 1905-6, showed an improvement, but it is not pleasant to note the Annual Report of 1910 remarking that, "it is a long time since Burton recorded eleven victories."

1. The "Evening News and Post," 3-3-1890.  
2. Press Report.  
3. Press Report.  
4. Minutes, 13-1-1894.  
5. Minutes, 6-9-1895.  
6. Minutes, 8-12-1905.  
7. Minutes, 26-10-1908.  
8. Press Report.

In 1910 the Club returned to the Peel Croft, and has played there ever since. During the same season an amalgamation with the other Rugby Club in the town (St. Modwens) was effected and a third team formed. This was altogether an important year for Burton Rugby, for at that time "Mr. Newton Husbands kindly promised to provide a shield to be called the Newton Husbands Challenge Shield for competition among the local schools. Mr. Harry Newton kindly promised to give medals to the finalists and runners up."<sup>1</sup> This encouraged an interest in Rugby Football from which the Club has since benefited considerably.

In 1914, at the Annual General Meeting, the President, Mr. S. H. Evershed, moved a proposition, "that this Committee is of the opinion, in view of the national crisis, that duty comes before pleasure and sport, and that all the Burton Football Club's matches for the Season 1914-15 be cancelled, but the Schools' Rugby Union and Old Boys' Rugby Union be encouraged."<sup>2</sup> Fixture cards were sent out as usual "with a notice *re* abandonment of matches printed across in red."<sup>2</sup>

At the Annual General Meeting held in December, 1915, Mr. F. Evershed submitted the following proposition, "That in view of the fact that considerably over 175 of our members have gone to their country's help in the great war, it behoves the members who are at home to do what is in their power to carry on the Club, in order that when our absent members return on the conclusion of the war, they will find the affairs of the Club in as satisfactory and as sound a condition as when they left."<sup>3</sup> This resolution was carried annually until the end of the war.

In the spring of 1919, responding to an invitation from Moseley, the Club again put a team in the field and six games were played, 3 being won. This was a satisfactory start after such a serious gap in the Club's playing activities.

In 1914 the Warwickshire Clubs had held a meeting in Birmingham with the view to dividing up the Midland Counties Union. This project was held over during the war period, but took effect in 1920, when the present division of Midland Counties was adopted, and the Burton Club commenced to play under the auspices of the North Midlands Union.

In this year too, the Jubilee of the Club's existence was suitably marked by record performances by the first and "A" fifteens, which had the following results for the Season—

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points For	Against
1st XV	29	21	6	2	345	100
"A" XV	26	24	1	1	532	57

<sup>1</sup>. Minutes, 24-7-1911.  
<sup>2</sup>. Minutes, 31-8-1914.  
<sup>3</sup>. Minutes, 10-12-1915.

1920 was indeed a fitting Jubilee Year, for in the same season Peel Croft Sports Company was formed by gentlemen of the Rugby Club for the purpose of purchasing Peel Croft, and thereby insuring the reservation of that fine ground for Sport and Rugby Football in Burton.

On February 11th, 1922, the President unveiled the War Memorial on the Pavilion, which commemorated the supreme sacrifice of forty-one members of the Club.

In 1924 Mr. C. Frazer Stone, who had already acted as secretary for 16 years and was to serve for 10 years more, was given a handsome testimonial in the form of a gold watch, in recognition of his invaluable services to the Club.

In seasons 1924-7 the Club had the good fortune to have Mr. Guy German, an Oxford Blue, as captain. During these years play reached a high standard as is demonstrated by the fact that in 1926 Swansea were entertained on the Croft and beaten 8-6. Tries for Burton were scored by F. C. Souster and A. E. Eyden who were both to be outstanding as players and captains in the next few years.

The Burton Club has, during the 70 seasons of its existence, frequently had cause to be grateful for the interest and co-operation of its lady supporters. This was never more obvious than in 1927, when "it was announced that the lady supporters had paid the sum of £86 7s. 6d. into the Club's banking account as a result of the Rummage Sale, Dance and Whist Drive organised by them."<sup>1</sup>

G. T. Barker acted as Captain of the Club for five successive seasons, a club record. Under his leadership the Club had its best season of recent years when the 1st XV had the following record—

Played 32, Won 26, Lost 5, Drawn 1, Points 504 For, Against 155.

The team will be remembered by all supporters of the Club as: E. G. Bishop; G. T. Barker, G. Starbuck, H. T. N. Christal, C. R. Bamford; A. E. Eyden, D. Lewis; L. G. Rogers, A. E. C. Hardwick, R. Orme, L. Hart, J. Baker, V. Baker, R. Waggott and P. A. D. Langhorne.

In 1935, Peel Croft Social Club was formed for the purpose of entertaining visiting teams after games. This Club has been a valuable asset to the Rugby Club both socially and financially. Since its formation the Club has benefited from an annual donation of about £40, while the hospitality and good fellowship to be had in the Clubroom is eagerly anticipated by visiting teams. For the formation and running of this club, the Rugby Club will always be grateful to Mr. G. T. Barker.

<sup>1</sup>. Minutes, 18-3-1927.



In 1936 Peel Croft was sold to Mr. E. J. Manners, who had offered "to purchase the ground and to hold it for the use and benefit of the Club so long as it carried on the game on lines similar to those that have hitherto prevailed."<sup>1</sup> Peel Croft Sports Company was consequently wound up, and many shareholders generously made gifts of the whole or part of the amounts they received for their shares into a Trust Fund for the benefit of the Club. Over £2,300 was thus paid into the fund which will, in the event of the Club being wound up, be handed over to the Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary.

This guarantee of the tenancy of Peel Croft, together with such a fine monetary gift placed the Club in a sound and fortunate position. Everyone connected with the Club will be grateful to the committee for its foresight in accepting these offers, and particularly to Sir Herbert Evershed, Mr. F. Evershed, Mr. F. Newton Husbands and Mr. F. C. Souster for their hard work, in negotiating and making an agreement so beneficial to the Club's interest.

This was the last of Sir Herbert Evershed's many good turns done to, and for Rugby Football, for at the end of that same season (1937-8) the Club suffered a sad loss in his death. As a player, captain, treasurer and president, he had served the Club for over 50 years. During that time he had done much to help to maintain the Club in a distinguished position in the Rugby Union. We were fortunate in having Mr. Frank Evershed, an English International player and past Captain of the Club to be the new President.

In the next season (1937-8) the Club colours were modified, the Annual General Meeting passing a proposition "that the colours of the Club will be a black and white jersey diagonally halved, together with black shorts."<sup>2</sup>

The seasons following 1933 suffered in comparison with such a record season. Key men retired from the game and their places could not be adequately filled. In 1937-8 the Club reached its nadir, only 8 matches out of 30 being won.

Last season 1938-39, an encouraging revival was noticeable and the record was—

Played 31, Won 15, Lost 15, Drawn 1, For 322 points against 275.

Both supporters and members feel this to be a sign of better Seasons. Several young and promising players appeared for the first time in the 1st fifteen and it is reasonably anticipated that the season will be one to put Burton again among the foremost Midland Clubs.

1. Extract from letter sent to Shareholders in Peel Croft Sports Company.

2. Minutes, 24-8-1937.