

**NELSON FC
IN THE
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

*A Complete Record
1921-31*

Garth Dykes

A SoccerData Publication

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4 Adrian Close, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 6FL.
Telephone 0115 973 6086. E-mail soccer@innotts.co.uk
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Cover design by Bob Budd.

DEDICATION

In loving memory of Arthur Woodcock (1919-2001), a family friend and former player with Nelson FC, who kindly took me, when a schoolboy, to Seedhill to watch him play in season 1946-47.



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AUTHOR'S PREFACE

My earliest memories of football include a visit to Seedhill in season 1946-47. I was just twelve years old at the time, and staying during school holidays with my grandparents at nearby Colne. Sadly, Nelson's opponents – whose name eludes me but who played in white shirts and dark shorts – managed to frustrate the best efforts of Nelson's fair-haired inside-forward, Arthur Woodcock, as I looked on from behind the goals, hoping for a successful strike from my much admired 'Uncle Arthur'.

It was not until many years later that I came to realise that Nelson F.C. had once been a Football League club, and I was grateful to Tony Brown of Soccerdata Publications, for sharing my enthusiasm for the concept of a book to chronicle the club's decade of League membership, told mainly through the careers of the 166 players who made a first team appearance between 1921–31.

Given the length of time since Nelson enjoyed membership of the Football League, and the wealth of detail required for each player's entry, it would be surprising if the odd error has not crept in, and for any that have, I apologise in advance. Researches into our national game are ongoing, and amplification of information on any of the players who have qualified for inclusion in this book will be warmly welcomed. I can be contacted via the publisher.

Garth Dykes
Leicester
October 2009.



The Nelson Division Three (North) Champions of 1922-23. Players only – standing: C Rigg, E Braidwood, J Birds, D Wilson, JE Broadhead. Seated: SJ Hoad, R Lilley, MJ McCulloch, J Eddleston, A Wolstenholme, R Hutchinson.

NELSON FC

The town of Nelson was sparsely populated in the year 1881, but enthusiasm for football quickly took root. Although early records of the local club have been lost in the mists of antiquity, dates and details emerged when, eight years later, they became founder members of the Lancashire League, and finished in fourth place in their first season. One of the early founders of the club was Mr Joe Snowden, who, despite taking no active part in the management of the club in his later years, took a very keen interest up to the time of his death in the late 1920s.

The story might have ended before the dawn of the twentieth century, when the first of many struggling days saw the club disband in mid-season 1898-99, following a suspension imposed by the Football Association. Happily, the club was re-born during the close season and their faltering path continued, initially as members of the North East Lancashire Combination.

Despite days of struggle, by 1905, the team moved to their new ground, Seedhill. Although average wages for a professional footballer in those far off days were half a crown a week (equivalent to twelve and a half pence in today's money), many were the times when Committee members had to go round with the hat to publicans and tradesmen on a Friday night to raise money to convey the team to an away match. It is also on record that a creditor put the bailiffs in. The only saleable asset was the old grandstand, but a kindly benefactor, Mr Joseph Wooliscroft, bought the stand and gave it back to the Nelson club. It was subsequently dismantled and sold to Barnoldswick Town in 1923.

For several seasons prior to the First World War, Nelson had a good team. In season 1910-11 they fielded several players who had plenty of experience of good-class football before joining the Seedhill ranks. These included Frank Corvan, Johnny Low, "Fran" Burton and "Cobbler" Hodgkinson, a dashing, free-scoring centre-forward. At that time, Colne were in the same league as Nelson, and the "Derby" matches featured local rivalry at its most intense. In two matches during the season, one a Combination fixture and one a Cup-tie, receipts on each occasion were close to £100 – a goodly sum, considering that the price of admission was only 4d.

Nelson finished third in the Lancashire Combination in 1912-13, but, for the second time in their history, they ceased to function after completing a season of wartime football in the Supplementary Competitions of 1915-16. After a lapse of over four years, football was resumed. A new Management Committee succeeded in clearing debts of over £1,500, and commenced operations in a new sphere. Having, for a lengthy period, been members of the Lancashire Combination, they gained admission to the Central League, an improvement in status as the league comprised mainly of the reserve teams of Football League clubs.

The 1919-20 season featured many returning soldiers. Outside-right J. Rigby had played for four years with the 1/2nd East Lancashire Field Ambulance team and also assisted the Brussels Racing Club. Wing-half Edgar Jacques had spent over two years as a prisoner of war, happily being released on his birthday in November 1918. Another returning soldier, H. Broadley, whose only pre-war experience was obtained in the Burnley Sunday School League, nevertheless started by scoring both goals in a 2-1 win against Everton Reserves at Seedhill on the opening day. He went on to score in each of his first nine matches, scoring 12 of the team's first 22 goals.

Other players signed after the reconstruction included Sam Wadsworth and Harry Hargreaves. Both were later sold for substantial fees to other clubs. Wadsworth joined Huddersfield Town in March 1921 for a fee of £1,600. He went on to win nine England caps, three consecutive Football League championships, and the FA Cup in 1922. Harry Hargreaves went on to star with Wolverhampton Wanderers, Tottenham Hotspur and Burnley.

After just one more season of Central League football, Nelson gained admittance to the newly formed Northern Section of the Third Division. League status brought an upsurge in interest and greatly increased "gates" were attracted to Seedhill. Receipts amounting to £569 were taken from the visit of Accrington Stanley on October 15th, 1921. With a shrewd player-manager in David Wilson, the former Scottish international, rapid progress was made. In their second season as a Football League club, Nelson won the championship of the Third Division North. Every position in the team was capably filled, and there were efficient reserves available in the case of emergencies.

Arguably the best team that Nelson ever had lined up as follows: Birds; Lilley, Rigg; D. Wilson, Braidwood, Broadhead; Hoad, Wolstenholme, Eddleston, McCulloch and Hutchinson.

In preparation for life in Division Two, a close season tour of Spain was undertaken. Six matches were played, the outstanding result being a 4–2 victory against Real Madrid. During the same close season the Directors proceeded with an ambitious ground improvement and extension scheme. A new stand was erected on the Carr Road side of the ground, bringing the capacity to 25,000. The playing pitch was considerably enlarged, adding a further 2,000 square yards to the surface. A crowd of approximately 12,000 attended the season's opener against Clapton Orient at Seedhill and a 1–1 draw ensued. A pattern of draws at home and defeats away was halted when Stoke were beaten 2–0 at Seedhill on 29th October, the side's first win in nine matches. Even at this early stage, it was apparent that the team were in for a difficult season and although faint hopes survived throughout, the bitter disappointment of relegation was finally sealed on the last day of the season. This despite a 3–1 home win against the season's champions, Leeds United. Results elsewhere condemned Nelson to the dreaded drop, after just one season in the Second Division.

During the close season, player-manager David Wilson made several new signings, and a large number of promising amateurs from local football were added to the playing staff. Chief interest was focused on Ellerington and W. Bottrill from Middlesbrough, and O'Beirne, the former Burnley inside-left. Among the departed were old favourites Black and McCulloch, and former player Jacques was appointed assistant trainer and groundsman. The team was considered a stronger one than that which won promotion two seasons ago, and they came within a whisker of regaining their Second Division status. Spearheaded by Joe Eddleston, who scored 26 League and Cup goals during the campaign, promotion was very much on the cards until the final month of the season, when only two wins were obtained from the final nine matches. Darlington took the title, with Nelson and New Brighton five points adrift. Nelson taking the runners-up position with a better goal average.

The new season commenced in August 1925, and in the final pre-season trial, the Reserves scored four goals in the first twelve minutes, as the first team defence struggled to come to terms with the new off-side rule, which required two players between the attacking player and the goal, rather than the previous requirement of three. A glut of goals was expected, and in this case delivered, as the first team rallied to win 6–4, but it took some time for the side to settle when the serious business began, one win in the first seven matches being anything but promotion form. The Director's bold step in paying a record fee for George Wilson, the Sheffield Wednesday and England international centre-half, was an unqualified success, as his outstanding displays in both defence and attack eventually rallied his colleagues and although the side again ran out of steam in the final weeks of the season, eighth position in the final table was a respectable placing. The team scored 89



Player-manager David Wilson

League goals, highlights being consecutive 7–0 home wins against Tranmere Rovers and Wigan Borough in December, and the side remained unbeaten at Seedhill until the very last match, when Rochdale spoiled the record with a 3–1 win.

Despite the disappointment of losing leading goal scorer Joe Eddleston in the close season – he refused terms and was transferred to Swindon Town – a worthy replacement was waiting in the wings. Youthful centre-forward Jimmy Hampson improved with every match, and finished his first season in senior football with 25 goals in 37 League and Cup matches. Close season recruitment had been concentrated on the half-back line. Although George Wilson was always a power at centre-half, the flank positions were strengthened by the recruitment of J.W. Baker, the former captain of Leeds United, and R. Mitchell, the former Hull City player. Another key signing was Kenny Sharp, a well-built inside-left from Leicester City, who scored 24 League and Cup goals during the season. An eleven-match unbeaten run that commenced with a 4–0 win against Ashington on 13th September 1926, concluded with a 7–1 thrashing of Crewe Alexandra on 13th November. A 3–2 defeat



Jimmy Hampson

at Hartlepoons ended the sequence, but five of the following six matches were won to take Nelson up to second place in the table. The club was still in contention until Easter, but the now familiar failings returned, and the season ended with a run of six consecutive defeats. Fifth place in the table with 104 League goals scored and 75 conceded might have suggested an enjoyable spectacle overall, but home gates fell to an average of just under 6,000, and the season's workings revealed a loss in excess of £1,000.

Numerous changes were the order of the day as the club prepared for season 1927-28. Mr. P.J. Smith, the secretary-manager departed to Bury. His assistant, Mr E. Crabtree took over secretarial duties. Nine professional players were released. These included Abbott, goalkeeper for the past four seasons, who signed with Luton Town. Fred Broadhurst, the veteran back, signed for Chorley. Keers moved to Boston United and Mitchell to Bristol Rovers. A completely new defence was signed – and considering that the side were to concede a staggering 136 League goals during the season, none of the newcomers exactly covered themselves in glory. Best of the bunch was 35 year-old veteran Joe Halliwell, the former Preston North End and Barnsley right-half, who stayed for two seasons and made 74 League appearances. The season commenced with a 1–4 home defeat by Accrington Stanley at Seedhill and a 1–0 reverse at Rochdale. Four consecutive victories followed, but this was followed by six matches without a win. November saw the side humiliated by Manchester City, who thrashed Nelson 10–2 in the Lancashire Senior Cup, while in the League match at Bradford City, Nelson suffered another humiliating reverse by nine goals to one. The sale of star centre-forward Jimmy Hampson to Blackpool in the previous month had disappointed all the club's supporters, although Bernard Radford proved a capable replacement with 17 goals in 20 League matches, the main failings were in defence. Finishing at the foot of the table, Nelson were re-elected, but their companions in distress, Durham City, who finished in 21st place, were not. Carlisle United being elected as their replacement.

A new manager, Mr Jack English, the old Sheffield United and Preston North End full-back and former Darlington manager was appointed for the start of the 1928-29 season, and practically a clean sweep of the playing staff was made. Only six of the previous season's players



Gerard Kelly

remained and new recruits included J. Metcalfe (Preston North End), G. Kelly (Sunderland), T. Wilkinson (Everton) and H. Ridley (Aldershot). Just one defeat after six matches was followed by six successive defeats, and the yo-yo pattern persisted throughout, away form being particularly dismal. A high scoring encounter at Accrington Stanley (4–4) wound up the season with Nelson in 15th place. Despite a significant increase in average home attendances, the club's directors let it be known that losses were mounting, and that they could not be expected to go on indefinitely finding money to carry the club along.

As the Nelson Supporters' Club looked forward to the new season, they were quoted as saying: "Summer time is quite nice and very welcome to everyone, but to the ordinary football enthusiast the last Saturday in August is the day most looked forward to". A team with four new faces (Fairhurst, Ferrari, McLaughlan and Hedley) opened the season with a 2–2 draw against Southport at Seedhill, but three defeats followed. In each of the first four matches of the season, a new goalkeeper was fielded. Warhurst, Mangham and Botto were followed by Shevlin, who retained the position for all but two matches in the rest of the season. The team scored 51 League goals and conceded 80 and finished in nineteenth place in the table. The customary end-of-season slump was again in evidence, all six of the final League matches ending in defeat. A serious injury to captain George Wilson restricted the veteran centre-half to just twelve matches throughout the campaign, and enforced his retirement in the close season.

With finances again a matter of grave concern, the Supporters' Club centred their efforts on clearing the debt on the new stand as quickly as possible. Their latest novelty offering was a "Good class lead pencil, with the first team's home fixtures printed on in club colours". Local industry was also enlisted, weavers William Uttley & Sons Ltd, donating a welcome two guineas, in celebration of winning a local cricket competition. The trade depression sadly played havoc with attendances across all Divisions of the Football League, and a season that commenced in a heat wave ended in atrocious playing conditions, heavy snow restricting the attendance at several matches to a figure below 2,000 spectators.

Manager English's new recruits for the 1930-31 season were mainly young and relatively inexperienced players, the only signing with a significant top flight pedigree being Arthur Hawes, the former Norwich City, South Shields, Sunderland, Bradford Park Avenue and Accrington Stanley inside forward. Eight players who had been awarded free transfers were still not fixed up with new clubs by late August. Arthur Bate, one of the newcomers, led the line in the season's opener at Rochdale. In weather more suited to cricket than soccer he marked his debut in the Football League by netting a hat-trick. Sadly, it was not enough to earn a winning bonus as the home side won a thrilling, end-to-end encounter, by five goals to four. Another two goals from Bate and one from Archie Howarth accounted for Darlington in the third match of the season, but a subsequent run of eight League matches without a win left the side well adrift. It seemed ironic that the Nelson Football Club was in such dire straits, while their immediate neighbours, the Nelson Cricket Club, were prospering. The cricket club's results, announced in December 1930, revealed that they had made a profit of £352 on the year. Gate money had totalled £1,328, and members – who totalled 1,564 – had paid £878. Their was,

however, no upturn for Nelson's long suffering football supporters at the turn of the year, as the team were soundly thrashed 8–1 at Southport on New Years' Day, and a six-match winless streak in February and March included another 8–1 reverse, at Carlisle United. Six defeats in succession ended Nelson's worst-ever season.

With a record of just six wins and 19 points from 42 matches, the club was marooned at the foot of the table, eleven points behind Rochdale, fellow applicants for re-election. While Rochdale were re-elected, polling forty votes, Nelson tied with Chester on twenty-seven votes. This necessitated a second ballot, which Chester won by a margin of eight votes. So ended Nelson's up-and-down decade as a Football League club. The highlights of which included the Third Division North championship in 1923, and a season in Division Two that included famous victories against Manchester United at Old Trafford, and against Leeds United, the season's champions, at Seedhill. The summer tour to Spain in 1923 that included victories against Real Madrid and Racing Club Santander was another happy highlight. For three seasons following relegation from Division Two, the team enjoyed a degree of success, finishing runners-up in the Northern Section in 1924-25, eighth in 1925-26 and fifth in 1926-27. The last four seasons, however, saw the side in terminal decline, with two re-election applications, and finishes of fifteenth and nineteenth in between.

Sadly, when World War Two suspended football activities, Nelson had already dropped out of the Lancashire Combination and had been wound up. A new team, Nelson Town, operating from the Seedhill ground, entered the Nelson, Colne and District Amateur League for season 1936-37 and they enjoyed initial success by winning the Amos Nelson Cup. In the following season they joined the Lancashire Amateur League, but their upward progress was halted after just two matches in the West Lancashire League in 1939-40, when the competition was aborted on the outbreak of hostilities. On Tuesday 16th October 1939 a Committee meeting of the Nelson Town club confirmed that, in view of the financial obligations that would be entailed by carrying on, they had reluctantly concluded that it would be unwise to continue. Chairman Mr J. Crabtree adding that any members who had already paid their subscription could apply to have the money refunded.

Post war soccer was welcomed back to Seedhill in season 1946-47 when another Nelson FC was launched. They took the lead within five minutes of the kick-off in their opener against Rossendale United, but lost 2–1 to a goal scored in the dying moments. Despite unseasonable weather, a crowd of around 5,000 spectators witnessed the match. Nelson's first post war line up was: Bentley; Bannister, Arnold; Sunter, Holmes, Walton; Livesey, Heyes, Hillen, Maudsley, Whalley. A mid table finish was achieved, the team scoring exactly 100 goals, and there was no shortage of goals throughout the early post war years as the team enjoyed great success, winning two Combination championships in 1950 and 1952, and finishing as runners-up in 1948 and 1951. The Combination Cup was also won in successive seasons, 1950 and 1951. As the reserve team were runners-up in Division Two of the Combination in 1948 and 1952, the squad available would doubtless have more than held their own in Third Division football had they managed to gain re-election to the Football League.

The club were runners-up again in the Combination in 1961 but relegation to Division Two followed in 1966, with 121 goals conceded in 42 matches. In 1982-83, Nelson were a founder member of the North West Counties League. Apart from four seasons in the West Lancashire League, the club has continued in membership of the North West Counties League, winning promotion to Division One (now renamed as the Premier Division) in 2006.



Another picture of the 1922-23 championship winning team. Standing, left to right: R Lilley (partially obscured), Mr W. Hartley (Chairman), JH Steel, C Rigg, J Birds, E Braidwood, JE Broadhead, MJ McCulloch, SJ Hoad, H Smith (trainer). Front: JR Black, J Eddleston, A Wolstenholme, D Wilson (player-manager), RL Crawshaw, R Hutchinson.



Seedhill in the 1960s



A goalkeeper's lot is not a happy one. Nelson's Harry Abbott looks forward to diving into the mud, 1924

NOTES ON THE TEXT

For each player I have attempted to provide the following information: full names, recognised playing position, height and weight, date and place of birth, and date and place of death. It should be mentioned here that the dates of birth and death of some players have been culled from registers that only record such events in three-month periods. Hence the use – for instance – of 'January quarter 1923' – denotes a span of January/February/March of that year. Also included are each player's Nelson debut, full career and biographical details, and a breakdown of appearances made and goals scored. Every player who appeared in a Football League match or an FA Cup-tie has been included.

ABBREVIATIONS

These have been kept to a minimum and are those in general use in works of this type:

App/s	Appearance/s
cs	close season
gl/s	goal/s
q.v. (quod vide)	denoting a cross reference
FA	The Football Association
FL	The Football League
WW1	The First World War (1919-18)
WW2	The Second World War (1939-45)

ABBOTT, Henry 'Harry'



Goalkeeper
5' 9 ½" 12st 7lbs
Born: Preston, July quarter 1897
Died: Preston, April quarter 1968
Career: Lancaster Town 1914. Portsmouth May 1922. NELSON March 1923, fee £15. Luton Town July 1927. Exeter City (trial) August 1929. Lancaster Town September 1929. Rochdale August 1931. Wigan Athletic July 1932.
Debut v Walsall (h) 28.4.23, won 3–0
Signed from Portsmouth towards the close of the 1922-23 promotion season, highly competent goalkeeper Harry Abbott took over from Joe Birds for the two concluding matches. In the following term he quickly established himself as first choice and was rarely absent for four seasons, enjoying a run of 89 consecutive League appearances between 29th March 1924 and 17th April 1926. At the outset of his career his form in a local medal competition in his native Preston led to his joining Lancaster Town. In 1914-15, his first season at the Giant Axe, he appeared in every match, assisting his side to the runners-up position in Division Two of the Lancashire Combination. In the 1921-22 season he was a key member of the team who won the championship of the Combination First Division, being one of just two players to figure in every match during the successful campaign. He had in fact completed three seasons in which he was only once out of the side, and that was when he represented the Lancashire Combination against the Central League at Tranmere in April 1921. After departing Seedhill, Abbott spent two seasons with Luton Town, a Third Division South side at that

time. His name remains in the Hatters' record books to this day, as he played in the team's record FA Cup victory, a 9–0 demolition of non-League Clapton at Kenilworth Road on 30th November 1927. His final season of League football was an unhappy one. Rochdale finished at the foot of the Third Division Northern Section, having taken only 11 points from 40 League matches, conceding a staggering 135 goals. In 32 League outings the serious overworked Abbott conceded 92 goals, but his understudy, Bert Welch, fared even worse being beaten 43 times in just eight first team outings.

Appearances: FL: 154 apps 0 gls FAC: 7 apps 0 gls
Total: 161 apps 0 gls

ALLEN, Frank



Inside-forward
5' 9" 11st 10lbs
Born: Altofts, Normanton, 5 May 1901
Died: Ravenshead, Nottingham, 30 October 1989
Career: Altofts WRC circa 1919. Castleford Town 1925. Barnsley February 1926. Bangor City August 1928. Clapton Orient February 1929. Southport June 1929. NELSON August 1930. Barrow January 1931. New Brighton August 1933. Le Havre, France, June 1935. Ollerton Colliery August 1937.
Debut v Rochdale (a) 30.8.30, lost 4–5
One of soccer's happy wanderers, who was once described as "An industrious 90-minute trier", former collier Frank Allen spent only five months at Seedhill, departing the sinking ship in mid term of Nelson's final season in the Football League. Equally at home at inside-right or in the middle line his sojourn began in thrilling fashion. In an afternoon of all-out attack at Rochdale, Nelson's

centre-forward Arthur Bate scored a hat-trick on his debut but, despite his sterling efforts, still finished on the losing side. On leaving Seedhill, Allen blossomed out as a very useful wing-half during his two-plus seasons with Barrow, assisting them to ninth place in the Northern Section in 1932-33 and to fifth in 1933-34. In later years he enjoyed a round of golf and was a keen gardener who enjoyed entering flower shows. He died of pneumonia at the age of 88.

Appearances: FL: 14 apps 0 gls FAC: 3 apps 1 gl
Total: 17 apps 1 gl

ANDREWS, Harold Edgar Ramsden



Inside-right
5' 9½" 11st 0lbs
Born: Earby, Lancs, 8 June 1897
Died: Daventry, 20 May 1984

Career: St Cuthbert's FC. Burnley 'A' Team. NELSON professional at the age of 17, registered for FL matches August 1921. Bury August 1922. Luton Town April 1923. Rushden Town August

1923. Chorley October 1924. Torquay United July 1926. Exeter City August 1927. Merthyr Town May 1928. Bath City March 1929. Tunbridge Wells Rangers July 1929. Greens Norton FC Committee October 1948.

Debut v Wigan Borough (h) 27.8.21, lost 1-2

Andrews was born at Earby, but left when only a few months old and grew up in Nelson. Mainly a reserve team player throughout his career, he nevertheless scored prolifically at this level and in non-League circles. He scored 40 goals for Rushden Town in 1923-24, and netted 26 Southern League goals for Torquay United in 1926-27. During his spell with Exeter City, he was reported as playing "A dashing game, neglecting no chance of a shot at goal." He was the Grecian's reserve team leading scorer with 37 goals in Southern and Western League matches in 1927-28. His totals included five against Bath City and four against Torquay United and Salisbury City, and he additionally completed a unique hat-trick (all headers) in a 5-3 win against Aberdare Athletic. He was last traced during a one-month trial with Bath City. He scored one against Exeter City reserves in a 5-0 win and had scored five in his first four matches for his new club. Perhaps his lack of senior action was because he was too individualistic, a not untypical match report contained the following: "Andrews scored a fine

goal, but he did not link up with other forwards any too well."

Appearances: FL: 8 apps 1 gl Total: 8 apps 1 gl

BAILEY, Frank



Right-half
5' 7" 10st 6lbs
Born: Burnley, 2 August 1907
Died: Burnley, April quarter 1969
Career: Knowlewood FC. Burnley amateur June 1924. NELSON amateur March, professional October 1926 to January 1928. Great Harwood cs 1929. Lancaster Town July 1930. Rossendale United March

1931. Morecambe August 1934.

Debut v Tranmere Rovers (a) 1.5.26, lost 2-4

Frank Bailey's selections for first team duty could almost be considered an afterthought. He made his debut in the last match of season 1925-26, and his next three appearances came in the final three matches of the following season. Although the side finished in fifth place in the league they ran out of steam in the final run-in, taking only one point from the final seven League matches. Considered a player of great promise on arrival at Seedhill, Bailey failed to rise above reserve team level but subsequently captained Great Harwood and enjoyed a successful career in Lancashire Combination football.

Appearances: FL: 4 apps 0 gls Total: 4 apps 0 gls

BAIRD, Richard

Outside-right
Born: Nelson, 20 February 1892
Died: Nelson, 27 February 1977
Career: NELSON August 1920. Bacup Borough August 1921. Rossendale United July 1921. NELSON January 1922. Chorley May 1922. Rossendale United. Great Harwood September 1923. Colne Carltons FC. Colne Town August 1925. Debut v Hartlepool United (a) 28.1.22, lost 1-6
Richard Baird scored twice for Nelson in Central League matches against Stalybridge Celtic and Tranmere Rovers in season 1920-21, but when Nelson commenced in League football in the following term, Baird had departed and was assisting Rossendale United. Recalled to Seedhill in mid season, he was followed, two days later, by Syd Hoard the amateur international outside-right. It was Hoard who subsequently dominated the position and Baird departed after the briefest of stays. Joining Chorley, he assisted them, for the

second time since the war, to win the championship of the Lancashire Combination. Appearances: FL: 2 apps 0 gls Total: 2 apps 0 gls

BAKER, James William 'Jim'



Wing-half
5' 9" 12st 7lbs
Born: Ilkeston, 15
November 1891
Died: Leeds, 13
December 1966
Career: Eastwood Rangers.
Ilkeston Town. Derby
County amateur December
1910. Portsmouth
September 1912.
Hartlepool United
July 1912. Huddersfield
Town May 1914. Leeds

United May 1920. NELSON June 1926, fee £125.
Colne Valley.

Debut v Wigan Borough (a) 28.8.26, lost 1-2
Jim Baker arrived at Seedhill with a big reputation, possessing long and varied experience with Huddersfield Town and Leeds United. He was captain of Leeds when they won the championship of the Second Division in season 1923-24. One of a trio of brothers who played League football, Aaron also assisted Leeds United before joining Sheffield Wednesday. Alf appeared in over 350 first team matches for Arsenal between 1919 and 1931, won one England cap and was an FA Cup winner in 1930. Prior to joining the Seedhill ranks, Jim appeared in exactly 200 League matches for Leeds United. Affectionately dubbed "Th'owd War Horse", his absence from the team in late season effectively ended the club's promotion push. One match report during the season gave a clear insight to his value to the side: "Baker was the embodiment of efficiency and, as usual, extracted the side from some difficult situations. Throughout the season he has saved many goals by his judgment and anticipation, frequently springing up 'from nowhere' to save what looked like certain goals." Baker was later a publican in Leeds and Chapeltown, and became a director of Leeds United from July 1958 to 1961.

Appearances: FL: 28 apps 6 gls FAC: 2 apps 0 gls
Total: 30 apps 6 gls

Honours: Leeds United Division Two champions 1924.

BAKER, Lawrence Henry

Half-back 5' 10" 12st 0lbs
Born: Sheffield, 18 November 1897
Died: Barnsley, January quarter 1979
Career: Darnell Old Boys. Beighton. Blackpool
August 1919. Leeds United May 1923. Barnsley

March 1925. Rochdale May 1929. Nelson August 1930 to 27th March 1931, when contract cancelled.

Debut v Hull City (a) 2.9.30, lost 0-2

The son of a Somerset-born Policeman, Lawrie Baker began with Blackpool in Division Two, making his debut in a 1-0 win against Bury on 2nd April 1920. After 19 appearances he joined Leeds United, following his manager Bill Norman to Elland Road. He was a West Riding Cup winner in 1923 and a finalist in 1924 but played in only 11 League matches before joining Barnsley, where he finally enjoyed lengthy spells of first team football (78 League matches). A season with Rochdale (34 League matches) preceded his final season with Nelson in which he failed to hold his place and was released at the end of March.

Appearances: FL: 7 apps 0 gls Total: 7 apps 0 gls

BALDWIN, Joseph

Inside-right 5' 10" 11st 7lbs

Born: Blackburn

Career: Thought to have been an amateur on Blackburn Rover's books prior to joining NELSON as an amateur July 1929

Debut v Darlington (h) 11.9.30, lost 0-1

Reserve team forward Joe Baldwin was introduced to League action in a team showing wholesale changes for the midweek visit of Darlington to Seedhill. A spate of early season injuries had sidelined Kelly, Metcalfe and Ferguson, but it was a surprise when another new goalkeeper, Shevlin, who had been signed on the morning of the match, became the fourth new custodian of the season - after just four matches! In delightful weather and before a "gate" of 4,002 spectators, Darlington proved to be the much cleverer side and might have won by a higher margin. Baldwin, clearly out of his class, was seldom seen throughout the game, and returned to reserve team football.

Appearances: FL: 1 app 0 gls Total: 1 app 0 gls

BATE, Arthur

Centre-forward or Outside-right 5' 8½"
12st 0lbs

Born: Little Hulton, 14 October 1908

Died: Lancaster, February 1993

Career: Walkden P.M. Bury (trial). Little Hulton United. Winsford United (trial) August 1929. Chorley October 1929. Nelson July 1930 to May 1931. Chorley January 1932. Bacup Borough September 1932. Fleetwood September 1934. Bacup Borough November 1934.

Debut v Rochdale (a) 30.8.30, lost 4-5 (scored a hat-trick)

It would not be difficult to imagine Arthur Bate's mixed feelings after he had scored a hat-trick on his debut at Rochdale but still finished on the

losing side. Inside two minutes Bate had neatly lobbed the ball over the head of Rochdale's advancing goalkeeper, Jack Prince. Rochdale quickly fought back and were in front on twelve minutes before Tom Carmedy found the net for Nelson with a low drive after 16 minutes. The glut of goals continued, Bate flicking the ball into the net from close range after 24 minutes. In a game rich with hectic goalmouth melees, Rochdale led 4-3 on the hour, but Bate was again on hand to score after 70 minutes. Despite heroics from Nelson's goalkeeper Shevlin, Rochdale went in front for the last time through Tippett with five minutes remaining. One week later, Arthur Bate scored twice in a 3-1 victory against Darlington, but the goals dried up and he was out of the side for two months in mid season, returning for a spell at outside-right before reverting to centre-forward for his, and the club's, final four matches in the Football League.

Appearances: FL: 24 apps 6 gls FAC: 2 apps 0 gls
Total: 26 apps 6 gls

BEDFORD, Lewis 'Lew'



Outside-left 5' 6" 10st 7lbs
Born: Aston, July quarter 1899
Died: Birmingham, 29 June 1966
Career: Icknield Street School. West Bromwich Albion amateur November 1920, professional March 1921. Walsall June 1922. Sheffield Wednesday August 1925, fee £575. Walsall September 1926, fee £200. Nelson March 1927. Walsall February 1928. Luton Town April 1928. Walsall December 1929. Bloxwich Strollers 1931. Walsall Wood to June 1940.
Debut v Accrington Stanley (a) 12.3.27, won 7-0, (scored two.)

Lew Bedford obviously had a strong affection for Walsall FC and the club for him when one considers the number of occasions that he found employment with the Saddlers. In four separate spells the sprightly little wingman amassed 147 League and Cup appearances and scored 13 goals. He began with West Bromwich Albion but made only three first team appearances before embarking on his travels, a highlight along the way being his 11 appearances and two goals for Sheffield Wednesday in their Division Two championship side of 1925-26. He made an immediate impact on arrival at Seedhill, scoring twice in the season's best victory, 7-0 against Accrington Stanley. In the following season, the sale of Jimmy Hampson to Blackpool after nine matches saw the team's fortunes in steep decline, and Bedford returned to Walsall before the end of the season. In a Luton Town side that also featured two other ex-Nelson players, Harry Abbott and John Black, Bedford scored on his debut and netted 13 goals in 40 League and Cup matches in 1928-29. A final spell with his first love, Walsall, preceded his move into non-League circles, initially with Bloxwich Strollers. Outside of football, Bedford worked as a foreman in a Midlands based mineral water company.

Appearances: FL: 32 apps 7 gls Total: 32 apps 7 gls

BENNETT, William



Inside-right
5' 10½" 12st 0lbs
Born: Leyland, 1896
Career: Leyland Motors. Sheffield United February 1921. Leyland Motors January 1922. Chorley March 1922. NELSON June 1922. Leyland Motors March 1923.

Lytham September 1924. Leyland Motors by December 1925.

Debut v Rochdale (h) 25.11.22, lost 1-2

A keen overnight frost made playing conditions difficult on a hard and slippery surface, but Rochdale proved to be the more capable side in the top of the table clash at Seedhill that marked the debut of William Bennett, introduced in place of the injured Arthur Wolstenholme. Nelson's forwards seldom moved in unison, despite a re-arrangement in the second half that featured Eddlestone at outside-right, Black inside, and Bennett at centre-forward. Said to have shown "little initiative", Bennett was not the only forward to disappoint, Parkes, the big Rochdale centre-half proving a massive stumbling block throughout.

Appearances: FL: 1 app 0 gls Total: 1 app 0 gls

BENNIE, John

Centre-forward

Born: Polmont, Stirlingshire, 30 November 1896

Career: Slammanan. Falkirk 1919-20. Bo'ness May 1921. NELSON amateur October, professional December 1921. Bo'ness May 1922.

Debut v Chesterfield (a) 22.10.21, won 2-1

John Bennie began with Falkirk but played in only 14 matches in two seasons. Dropping down a division, he did much better with Bo'ness. The West Lothian side moved up from the Central League to commence in Division Two of the Scottish League from season 1921-22, and Bennie's displays came to the attention of Nelson's scouts, leading to his recruitment, initially on amateur forms, in October of Nelson's first season in the Football League. The Scottish attack leader largely failed to realise expectations, although his preference for taking the shortest route to goal led to a respectable scoring rate. In the close season he returned homewards to Newton Park, resuming his career with Bo'ness.

Appearances: FL: 12 apps 6 gls FAC: 2 apps 0 gls

Total: 14 apps 6 gls

BIRDS, Joseph



Goalkeeper

5' 9" 11st 9lbs

Born: Youlgreave, Derbyshire, 29 October 1887

Died: Stockport, 28 April 1966

Career: Manchester Schoolboys. Hazel Grove. Macclesfield Town. Stockport County amateur September 1910, professional August 1911. Wartime guest player with Manchester City. Stockport County

1919. Macclesfield Town. Nelson June 1922 to cs 1924.

Debut v Bradford Park Avenue (a) 26.8.22, lost 2-6

Joe Birds began in Division Two with Stockport County, making his debut at Huddersfield Town in a 4-1 defeat on 14th January 1911. At either side of World War One he made 38 League and Cup appearances. Recruited by Nelson for their second season as a Football League club, he missed only two matches throughout the successful campaign, conceding only 36 goals in the same number of matches as Nelson won the championship of the Third Division North. Described as a cool and clever goalkeeper, he was certainly lacking in

height for his position, but he was extremely agile and a good shot-stopper. He was eventually replaced by Harry Abbott, the former Portsmouth goalkeeper, who held his position in the League side throughout the following relegation season.

Appearances: 40 apps 0 gls FAC: 2 apps 0 gls
Total: 42 apps 0 gls

Honours: NELSON, Third Division North champions 1923.

BLACK, John Ross



Utility

5' 7 1/2" 10st 8lbs

Born: Dunipace, Stirlingshire, 26 May 1900

Died: Scunthorpe, December 1993

Career: Gordon Highlanders. Denny Hibernian. Sunderland amateur April, professional August 1921. NELSON August 1922. Accrington Stanley February 1924.

Chesterfield June 1924, fee £25. Luton Town June 1926. Bristol Rovers October 1930 to 1932.

Debut v Southport (h) 23.9.22, won 2-0

Red-haired John Black was a player of considerable value if only for his versatility. During Nelson's championship winning side of 1922-23 he played in four forward positions and also as a half-back and full-back. The young Scotsman won junior international honours and went on to appear in all four divisions of the Football League. In his second season with Chesterfield, a broken leg sidelined him for most of the season but he made a complete recovery and later made nearly a century of appearances for Luton Town. Elder brother Adam Black, the well known, long-serving (1920-35) full-back of Leicester City.

Appearances: FL: 29 apps 5 gls FAC: 2 apps 0 gls
Total: 31 apps 5 gls

Honours: Scotland Junior International. NELSON: Third Division North champions 1923.

BOSSONS, William Horace

Goalkeeper

Born: Lowton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, April 1901

Died: Lowton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, January quarter 1970

Career: Stockport County March 1925. Macclesfield Town November 1925. NELSON amateur September 1927 to February 1928. Whitchurch 1928-29. Winsford United July 1929. Oswestry Town October 1930.

Debut v Chesterfield (h) 8.10.27, drawn 3–3
 Bossons' first appearance was with Nelson Reserves against Darwen in a Lancashire Combination fixture at Seedhill on 27th September 1927. Initially on trial from Macclesfield, his Seedhill debut was a relatively quiet one in a 3–2 victory. Nelson used four goalkeepers in Football League matches during the course of the 1927-28 season, when Nelson sought re-election for the first time, conceding 136 goals in 42 League engagements. Bossons' four first team matches resulted in one win, one draw and two defeats, with nine goals scored and fourteen conceded.
 Appearances: FL: 4 apps 0 gls Total: 4 apps 0 gls

BOTTO, Lewis Anthony



Goalkeeper
 5' 8" 11st 6lbs
 Born: Jarrow, 12 July 1898
 Died: Jarrow, 4 June 1953
 Career: Jarrow Rangers. Hebburn Colliery amateur July 1923. Durham City amateur August, professional October 1923. Shildon Athletic loan August 1925. Durham City July 1926. Wolverhampton

Wanderers August 1927. Norwich City October 1928. NELSON September 1929. Jarrow November 1929.

Debut v Crewe Alexandra (a) 7.10.29, lost 0–4
 A confident and workmanlike goalkeeper, if on the short side for his position, Lewis Botto made 82 league appearances for Durham City in two separate spells, but played in little first team football thereafter. In 16 matches for the Wolves he was beaten 26 times, and although he was unbeaten on his Norwich City debut he played only once more before joining Nelson. Incidentally, his Norwich City debut was made under the pseudonym of G.O. Alie, and he first appeared in the local press as L. Blotto! He was one of four different goalkeepers fielded by Nelson in the first four matches of season 1929-30 (which must constitute some sort of a record!). His debut, in the season's third match, proved to be his last in League football, as the arrival of Peter Shevlin from South Shields finally solved the problems in the last line of Nelson's defence.

Appearances: FL: 1 app 0 gls Total: 1 app 0 gls

BOTTRILL, Allan

Outside-left

Born: Eston, Yorkshire, January quarter 1905

Died: Eston, Yorkshire, 29 November 1929

Career: Whitby Town. Middlesbrough amateur August, professional October 1921. NELSON January 1925. York City October 1926. South Bank East End September 1927.

Debut v Durham City (a) 29.4.25, lost 1–3

The younger brother of Nelson's Billy Bottrill, and the fourth of seven children, Allan joined Middlesbrough at the same time as his brother, but failed to graduate beyond reserve team football. He was similarly unsuccessful when he rejoined his elder brother at Seedhill. After spending his time in Nelson's Lancashire Combination side, he was handed a Football League debut in the season's final fixture. It was the only occasion that the brothers had appeared together in a League match, but Durham City spoilt their day by winning 3–1. Outside of football, Allan worked as a plater's helper in a shipyard. Tragically, he was only 24 years when he died from acute pneumonia.

Appearances: FL: 1 app 0 gls Total: 1 app 0 gls

BOTTRILL, Walter Gibson 'Billy'



Inside-right

5' 10" 11st 7lbs

Born: Eston, Yorkshire, 8 January 1903

Died: Eston, Yorkshire, 29 September 1976

Career: South Bank. Middlesbrough amateur May, professional October 1921. NELSON June 1924, fee £250.

Rotherham United July 1928. York City August 1929.

Wolverhampton Wanderers May

1930. Huddersfield Town May 1933. Chesterfield October 1934.

Debut v Southport (a) 30.8.24, lost 0–1

Once described as: "A clever and adaptable schemer with a powerful shot, but at times prone to over-elaborate when in sight of goal". Billy Bottrill began as an outside-right with Middlesbrough, making his debut in Division One against local rivals Newcastle United on Boxing Day 1922. After 18 League and Cup matches he was transferred to Nelson, and for the next four seasons he was the most conspicuous member of

the team's attack. He was immediately switched to inside-right at Seedhill and successfully partnered Syd Hoad until he sustained a serious injury at Grimsby Town on 14th March and missed eleven matches. He recovered in time to play in the season's last two matches, and in the following term he scored 16 goals in 38 League games. He passed the milestone of 100 League appearances for Nelson in season 1927-28, alternating between inside and outside-right during the campaign. On leaving Seedhill, he enjoyed success with both Rotherham United (30 matches, 11 goals) and York City (39 matches, 18 goals). A move to the Wolves in May 1930 brought him a Division Two championship medal in 1932 and an overall contribution of 101 League appearances and 42 goals. He appeared infrequently with Huddersfield Town and Chesterfield, but ended his career with an outstanding career aggregate of 336 League matches and 112 goals.

Appearances: FL: 121 apps 35 gls FAC: 6 apps 0 gls
Total: 127 apps 35 gls

Honours: Wolverhampton Wanderers, Division Two champions 1932

BRAIDWOOD, Ernest



Centre-half
6' 0" 12st 0lbs
Born: Heywood, 14
April 1895
Died: Heywood, 16 July
1968
Career: York Street
Congregational
(Heywood).
Chesterfield Municipal
February 1920. Oldham
Athletic amateur June,
professional August
1920. NELSON May
1922. Rochdale March
1926. Great Harwood

February 1930. New Mills September 1930.
Debut v Bradford Park Avenue (a) 26.8.22,
lost 2-6

Footballers standing six feet tall were very much a minority in the 1920s, and during his Oldham Athletic days, the popular cartoonist 'ASM' loved to depict the centre-half in skyscraper proportions. Nine First Division outings and one goal, the winner against Derby County, was an encouraging start with the Latics, but a change of manager saw him selected only once for first team duty in 1921-22. In the close season he joined forces with former team-mate David Wilson, player-manager of Nelson. Ideally built for a centre-half, he rarely had an off day and enjoyed a most successful spell at Seedhill, which included

the championship success of 1923, and the runners-up spot two years later. In both of the successful campaigns he recorded maximum appearances. Braidwood subsequently came close to winning a second Third Division North championship medal with Rochdale, who finished as runners-up to Stoke in season 1926-27. A bricklayer by trade, and cousin of James Pearson (q.v.), Ernie was a member of the Central League team that played the North Eastern League in season 1920-21.

Appearances: FL: 128 apps 10 gls FAC: 7 apps 1 gl
Total: 135 apps 11 gls

Honours: NELSON, Third Division North champions 1923.

BROADHEAD, James Edward



Left-half
5' 10½" 11st 7lbs
Born: Rotherham, 25
August 1894
Died: Whiston, near
Prescot, 4 May 1955.
Career:
Kimberworth Old
Boys 1912.
Rotherham County
1913. Norwich City
May 1919. South
Shields May 1920.
Scunthorpe &
Lindsay United
January 1921.
NELSON May 1922.
Barnoldswick Town

July 1926. NELSON, reserve team player-coach
May 1927. Horwich RMI 1928. Morecambe July
1930. NELSON trainer. Southampton coaching
staff August 1935.

Debut v Bradford Park Avenue (a) 26.8.22, lost 2-6

Ted Broadhead joined Nelson from Scunthorpe & Lindsay United, signing off his career with the "Nuts" by scoring in the season's final Midland League fixture, a 1-1 draw against Harrogate. He had commenced with Rotherham County before the Great War and joined Norwich City for their resumption in the Southern League in 1919-20. Operating at either inside-right or centre-forward, he netted eight goals in 31 matches. Failing to make a first team appearance during his sojourn with South Shields, he was transferred in mid season to Scunthorpe & Lindsay United, joining Nelson for their second season in the Football League. The tall, fair-haired wing-half was a tireless worker who made particularly good use of the ground pass. He served Nelson wholeheartedly as a player, coach and trainer in a lengthy association, the highlights being his

involvement in two championship-winning sides. He missed only two matches in the Third Division North championship side of 1922-23, and three years later, he captained the reserve team to the championship of the Lancashire Combination, after making a successful recovery from a knee injury. Ted Broadhead settled at Whiston, near Prescot and worked for Littlewoods of Liverpool. The two medals that he won during his Nelson career were recently sold by Sportingold Ltd, the Saunderton-based auctioneers of football and sport memorabilia.

Appearances: FL: 67 apps 1 gl FAC: 2 apps 0 gls
Total: 69 apps 1 gl

Honours: NELSON, Third Division North champions 1923.

BROADHURST, Fred



Right-back 5' 8½" 11st 6lbs

Born: Hindley, 30 November 1888

Died: Aspull, 9 May 1953

Career: Hindley Central. Preston North End amateur April, professional May 1910. Hindley Central (loan) March 1913. Stalybridge Celtic June 1922. Stockport County May 1923. Barrow June 1924. NELSON July 1925. Chorley July 1927.

Debut v Crewe Alexandra (h) 29.8.25, won 2-1

Despite being well into the veteran stage when signed, Fred Broadhurst gave extremely good value during two seasons at Seedhill, being particularly impressive during a run of 37 consecutive appearances in his first season. Resolute first-time tackling and well placed clearances being a feature of his game. He began with Preston North End and in a lengthy stay at Deepdale completed 115 League and Cup appearances and was awarded £400 in lieu of a benefit in season 1919-20. He subsequently made

36 appearances for Stalybridge Celtic in their second season in the Football League, but played in only four matches for Stockport County before joining Barrow. In an excellent season at Holker Street the veteran defender recorded 47 League and Cup appearances before winding-up his senior career with Nelson. His overall career figures amounted to 246 League matches and three goals.

Appearances: FL: 61 apps 0 gls FAC: 3 apps 0 gls
Total: 64 apps 0 gls

BROOKS, John 'Jack'

Right-back 5' 10" 12st 10lbs

Born: Stockton-on-Tees, 13 March 1904

Died: Stockton-on-Tees, 30 March 1973

Career: Stillington St John's. Fulham May 1924. Darlington June 1926. NELSON March 1929. York City August 1929 to February 1932. Bacup Borough September 1934. ICI - General Chemicals of Durham - reinstated amateur October 1936.

Debut v Wigan Borough (h) 16.3.29, won 2-1

Burly full-back Jack Brooks made his League debut with Fulham in a 1-0 away win at Port Vale on 8th September 1924. He made only six League appearances in two years at Craven Cottage, and six in his first season with Darlington, who were relegated from Division Two. He established himself at right-back in the following season, however, appearing in 36 League and three FA Cup matches. He joined Nelson in March of the following season, but in the summer was released and joined York City. The Minstermen had an eventful first season in the Football League, finishing in sixth place in the Northern Section and enjoying a memorable run in the FA Cup, only losing after a replay against First Division opponents Newcastle United, after they had held them to a 1-1 draw at St James' Park in round three. After 93 League and Cup matches he left Bootham Crescent, ending his playing days in the Lancashire Combination with Bacup Borough. During his spell with Fulham Brooks was awarded a gold medal after giving blood at the scene of a crash when travelling to White Hart Lane for a reserve team match against Tottenham Hotspur. His prompt and selfless action saved the life of Fulham's trainer, Elijah Morse, whose severe injuries resulted in the loss of an arm.

Appearances: FL: 6 apps 0 gls Total: 6 apps 0 gls

BROWN, Alfred

Left-half 5' 8" 11st 7lbs

Born: Sheffield, 27 December 1898

Career: Sheffield Schoolboys. Carbrook Reform. Sheffield United April 1918. Rotherham Town July 1919. Blackpool May 1921. Barnsley May 1923. Swindon Town August 1926. NELSON (trial) September-October 1927. Barnsley (trial). Hurst. Manchester Central November 1929. Stalybridge Celtic June 1932

Debut v Durham City (h) 24 September 1927, won 2-1

Said to have played vigorously on his debut, but without any constructiveness in his work, the hard-to-please local correspondent also observed that wing half-back Alf Brown, on trial from Swindon Town, "Frequently booted the ball like a full-back." The 2-1 victory against Durham City also marked the debuts of goalkeeper Sam Warhurst, a local lad, and left-back David McClure, who was unfortunately debited with an own-goal on his first appearance. Alf Brown played once more for Nelson, in a 3-1 defeat at Barrow, before being released on 17th October.

Appearances: FL: 2 apps 0 gls Total: 2 apps 0 gls

BROWN, John



Outside-right
5' 7" 11st 10lbs
Born: Glasgow
Career: Broxburn.
Armada. Shawfield.
East Stirlingshire
August 1921. St
Johnstone (trial).
Brechin City. Morton
1925-26. Burnley
(trial) January 1927.
NELSON (trial)
February to March
1927. Manchester
Central.
Debut v Bradford
Park Avenue (h)

12.2.27, won 1-0

Nelson had to reconstruct their forward line for the visit of Bradford Park Avenue in February 1927. Due to the absence of Sharp, who was down with flu, Stevenson went to inside-left, Bottrill to inside-right, and John Brown made his Football League debut at outside-right. Overnight frost had made the pitch very hard and difficult for the players, but the best home "gate" of the season (12,415) witnessed an exciting game, won by a single goal scored after just two minutes play. Baker's weak shot struck Bradford's captain, Fell, goalkeeper Clough slipped in the treacherous goalmouth and the diverted ball found the back of

the net. Newcomer Brown was said to be very speedy and persistent, but his centring was poor and it was thought that he might have been more effective in different conditions. In Scottish football, Brown completed 21 first team appearances for Morton and scored seven goals. Following Morton's relegation from Division One in 1927, he spent a month on trial with both Burnley and Nelson, but failed to secure a permanent engagement.

Appearances: FL: 2 apps 0 gls Total: 2 apps 0 gls

BRUCE, Robert Fotheringham

Goalkeeper 5' 10"

Born: Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire, 1895

Career: Cowie Wanderers. Kirkintilloch Rob Roy. Raith Rovers 1916. Partick Thistle February 1917 to April 1918. Alloa Athletic May 1919. Kirkintilloch Rob Roy 1920. NELSON October 1921, Plean cs 1922. Stenhousemuir. Broxburn United.

Debut v Chesterfield (a) 22.10.21, won 2-1

Robert Bruce's best spell in Scottish senior football came with Partick Thistle, for whom he made his debut in a 1-0 home win against Clyde on 9th April 1916. Living at that time in Cowie, his contract was for £1 per week and 4 shillings and six pence travelling expenses. In the following season he played in 16 First Division matches and in the Glasgow Charity Cup Final at Hampden Park, won 2-0 by Celtic. In post war football he was a Scottish Junior Cup winner with Kirkintilloch Rob Roy before joining Nelson in October 1921. His ten first team appearances were made consecutively and commenced in promising fashion with a 'double' against Chesterfield, 2-1 at Saltergate and 2-0 at Seedhill one week later. He lost his place after a disappointing 5-3 home defeat by Durham City on Boxing Day and did not reappear in the League side, returning to Scotland in the close season.

Appearances: FL: 7 apps 0 gls FAC: 3 apps 0 gls
Total: 10 apps 0 gls

BUCHANAN, James



Inside-right
5' 9" 11st 7lbs
Born: Kirkliston, near
Winchburgh, West
Lothian, 10 October
1898
Career: Bellstone Birds.
Winchburgh Violet.
Broxburn United.
Aberdeen (trial)
November 1920.
Hibernian December
1920. Bournemouth &
Boscombe Athletic May
1924. Raith Rovers
(loan) June 1925. East

Stirlingshire August 1928. NELSON September
1928. Ashton National (trial) August 1930.
Clitheroe August 1930. Accrington Stanley
October-December 1930. Bray Unknowns.
Shamrock Rovers August 1932. Bangor (Northern
Ireland) August 1935 to May 1936.
Debut v Barrow (h) 13.10.28, lost 3-4
*Jim Buchanan began as a centre-forward with
Broxburn United, but it was soon found that he
was more suited to the outside-right position. An
extremely clever player with a good burst of
speed, he was signed by Hibernian as understudy
to H.G. Ritchie, the Scottish international. He
spent a little over three seasons with the Hibs and
won a string of minor honours that included the
East of Scotland Shield, the Wilson Cup, the
Dunedin Cup and the Rosebery Charity Cup. He
first crossed the border in May 1924 when he
joined Bournemouth on a free transfer. At the
time he received a number of offers, the lowest
being from Bournemouth, who were not in a
position to offer such good terms as other clubs.
His wife, however, made the decision for him,
considering that Bournemouth would be a nice
place to live! After 75 League and Cup
appearances he returned briefly to Scotland to
sign for East Stirlingshire before joining Nelson
following a successful trial. Considering that
Nelson fielded an almost totally re-constructed
team from that that finished at the foot of the
table in 1927-28, an advance to 15th position was
considered a satisfactory performance. In 32
consecutive appearances at inside-right
Buchanan supplied much of the ammunition for
Bernard Radford's successful goal-scoring return
of 24 in 35 League matches. Retained for a further
season, Buchanan scored nine goals in 34 League
matches but could do little to halt a slump that
saw the side win only once in the season's final
twelve fixtures.*
Appearances: FL: 66 apps 15 gls FAC: 1 app 0 gls
Total: 67 apps 15 gls

BUTTERWORTH, Herbert



Left-half 5' 10"
11st 4lbs
Born: Higham,
Lancashire, July
quarter 1902
Career: Higham FC.
Wolverhampton
Wanderers November
1920. NELSON
amateur August 1923,
professional January
1925. Colne Town
August 1926. Great
Harwood December
1926. Wellington
Town August 1927.
Colne Town. C.P.R.

Calgury (Canada) May 1929. Trent Motors (Derby)
amateur October 1936.

Debut v Tranmere Rovers (h) 7.2.25, won 4-1
*A weaver by profession, Herbert Butterworth
began in Padiham & District League football and
won the championship with the Higham club in
1923. Shortly after signing professional forms
with Nelson, he made his League debut and held
his place for seven consecutive matches, the first
five of which yielded maximum points. During the
successful run he was reported to have played a
"blinder" against New Brighton and "was the best
half-back on the field". Despite the promising
start, he was almost exclusively a reserve team
player in 1925-26 when the team won the
Lancashire Combination championship and were
finalists in the Combination Cup. On 8th March
1929 he sailed to Halifax, Canada, on the White
Star liner Regina.*

Appearances: FL: 9 apps 0 gls Total: 9 apps 0 gls

CAINE, James



Centre-half
5' 9½" 11st 6lbs
Born: Brierfield, 24
June 1908
Died: Walton Lane,
Nelson, 9 May 1971
Career: Brierfield
R.C. Brierfield
Schoolboys. Burnley
December 1927.
NELSON September
1929. Brierfield R.C.
Bury August 1931.
Barnoldswick Town.
William Fell & Co.
(Nelson) amateur
January 1935.
Debut v Doncaster