

NUNEATON FOOTBALL HERITAGE HEROES

No. 1

Charles Henry Williams



Charles Henry Williams was born in Chilvers Coton in 1868 to Thomas and Eliza Williams, who were greengrocers by trade.

Charlie played for Nuneaton True Blues in the 1880s and then helped to form Nuneaton Rangers, but was not involved from the outset with Nuneaton St. Nicholas.

Charlie's name appears in a report of Nuneaton Rangers v Coventry Rudge Reserves at Arbury Road on October 5th 1889, in which he played right half, shortly after Nuneaton St Nicholas had been formed. The following season Williams, Reader and Lingard had joined the 'Nicks' from Nuneaton Rangers and Charlie became Secretary for the 1891-92 season.

In 1891, Charlie aged 23, who worked as a felt hat finisher, was married at Coventry to Mary Ann Lester. After living with his parents and their child Henry Archie (1) at 15, Victoria Street, Charlie and his family moved to 205 Arbury Road.

In 1894 St Nicholas became Nuneaton Town and had to make the step up from playing friendlies and charity cup matches to league football. Charlie's role as club secretary must have been crucial in that transition to league football.

Mr. Williams was Secretary until about 1898, but when the club closed down in 1900 it was a Mr Stockley who held the position of secretary.

Charlie was a founder member of Nuneaton and District Football League in 1898, but died fairly young at 38, passing away in 1906 at Bedworth. He left behind his wife, Mary Ann and four children - Henry Archie, Ernest John, Charles George and Doris Ann.