



Arthur the Cricketer

The longest record of Arthur's sporting activity is in cricket which he played for at least 34 years.

In those days, it was not unusual for footballers to play cricket in the summer season, and some clubs ran both football and cricket teams - including Darlington Cricket and Football Club, which Arthur joined at the beginning of his sporting career in 1885.

Arthur first played cricket professionally for Greasbrough in 1889 at the age of 23 while with Rotherham Town Football Club. He played on and off for 6 years and also played for other local teams including Rawmarsh and Rotherham Borough Police. While playing football for Stalybridge, he played cricket professionally for them during the 1896 season.

After retiring from football in 1902, Arthur continued playing cricket for Rotherham Town in 1907 at the age of 40. Here, Arthur is recorded to have delivered one of his greatest games against Denaby, when he scored 86 not out. The Rotherham Advertiser, (10/8/1907), said:

"...the 'coloured gentleman'...played a wonderful innings of forceful cricket... he put on 16 runs in one over, and he hit two successive balls out of the ground, for six each...I never thought Arthur could hit so hard, and play such sound and merry cricket".

In 1914, he was offered a job as a cricket coach in County Durham, but he sadly declined it as it didn't pay a living wage and no other work was available. Even when he became a miner, he continued to play for his local mining teams, Denaby Main and Yorkshire Main Colliery until at least 1916.

Cricket c.1882-1916

1882 - 84	Cannock Town CC
1885	Darlington C&FC
1885 - 95	Greasbrough CC
1892	Rawmarsh CC
1893 - 94	Rotherham Borough Police CC
1895	Rawmarsh CC
1896	Stalybridge CC
1897	Ashton CC
1907	Rotherham Town CC
Various	Colliery teams