



Arthur the Sprinter

In 1886, while still at Cleveland College, Arthur set the world record for the 100 yard sprint at the Amateur Athletic Association's Championship (AAA) at Stamford Bridge, London. He ran it in an incredible ten seconds flat - 'even time'.

The following year he defended his title and came first yet again. Many papers commented on Arthur's unusual running style. He was said to run bent forward on the flat of his foot.

"He has neither system nor style, but he runs like an express engine with full steam on from first to last with a result that makes both system and style unnecessary".

(Darlington & Stockton Times, 5/6/1886)

In 1888, he moved to Sheffield to become a 'pedestrian', that is, a professional runner. At the time, Sheffield was a renowned centre for pedestrianism (which also referred to race-walking). In those days, the best athletes had to run with a 'handicap', meaning their slower opponents were given a head start.

Gambling on races was common among spectators with huge amounts being wagered. Arthur's achievements included winning the Sheffield Handicap - one of the top national pedestrian events of the year - at the Queen's Ground, Hillsborough, in September 1888, in front of around 4,000 spectators. At the time, the Sheffield Daily Telegraph, described him as "travelling like a racehorse".

Arthur retired from professional running in 1890 to concentrate on his football career.

Athletics known dates

1885-86	Darlington C&FC
1886	Birchfield Harriers
1886-87	100 Yard World Record
1887	Cleveland College
1888	Professional - Sheffield