

= Billy Liddell =

William Beveridge " Billy " Liddell (10 January 1922 ? 3 July 2001) was a Scottish footballer , who played his entire professional career with Liverpool . He signed with the club as a teenager in 1938 and retired in 1961 , having scored 228 goals in 534 appearances (placing Liddell fourth and 12th in the respective club rankings as of August 2010) . He was Liverpool 's leading goalscorer in the league in eight out of nine seasons from 1949 ? 50 to 1957 ? 58 , and surpassed Elisha Scott 's club record for most league appearances in 1957 .

With Liverpool , Liddell won a league championship in 1947 and featured in the club 's 1950 FA Cup Final defeat by Arsenal . He represented Scotland at international level on 29 occasions . While serving as a Royal Air Force navigator during the Second World War , Liddell continued his career by appearing in unofficial games for Liverpool and guesting for various teams in the United Kingdom and Canada . After his retirement from football , in 1961 , Liddell occupied himself as a Justice of the Peace (from 1958) , bursar of Liverpool University , and voluntary worker . He died in 2001 .

Primarily a left winger , Liddell 's versatility enabled him to play comfortably on the opposite wing and as a striker , at centre and inside forward . Liddell became noted for his strong physique , acceleration , powerful shot , professionalism , and good conduct on the pitch . Such was his influence and popularity that the club acquired the contemporary nickname " Liddellpool " . Posthumous recognition has included a plaque unveiled in 2004 at Anfield and sixth place in a poll of Liverpool fans , conducted in 2006 under the title " 100 Players Who Shook The Kop " . He was inducted into the Scottish Football Hall of Fame in November 2008 .

= = Early life = =

Born in Townhill , near Dunfermline , Liddell was the eldest of coal miner James and wife Montgomery 's six children . During his childhood , Liddell experienced austerity and poverty , with his family often having to subsist on bread , kail , and salt porridge . His parents became determined that he would not become a miner and helped him to decide a future career . He did not originally consider football as a viable profession , eventually choosing accountancy in preference to the civil service and church . His interest in football developed at a young age , which persuaded his parents , despite financial difficulties , to buy him a pair of football boots as a Christmas present when he asked for them aged seven . Liddell 's participation in organised football began at age eight when he joined his school team , which had an average age of ten .

As a pupil at Dunfermline High School , Liddell studied chemistry , mathematics , physics , English and two other languages . He became a reluctant rugby player , under the guidance of retired Welsh international Ronnie Boon , while playing football for local teams and Scotland Schoolboys . By the age of 16 , Liddell had progressed sufficiently to earn a contract with Lochgelly Violet football club and be sought after by Liverpool , Hamilton Academical , and Partick Thistle . Liverpool manager George Kay became interested in signing Liddell on the recommendation of the club 's Scottish defender Matt Busby , who learned of the teenager from Manchester City 's Alex Herd while on a golf trip . Herd had forwent one of their rounds to take Willie McAndrew , manager of Hamilton , to watch Liddell play for Lochgelly . When Busby queried him about his absence and Liddell , Herd told him that a contract had not been agreed because limited resources prevented Hamilton from offering Liddell the assurances his parents insisted upon . Instead , Liddell signed for Liverpool as an amateur on 27 July 1938 and became a professional in 1939 on a weekly wage of £ 3 . Negotiations between his parents and the club guaranteed , as a pre @-@ requisite to acceptance , that Liverpool would permit Liddell to continue his accountancy studies , be housed in suitable accommodation , and be employed part @-@ time an accountant at a company in the club 's city .

Liddell entered the youth team on his arrival in 1938 . Before he established himself in the side , Liddell had been frustrated at the frequent rotation of players until trainer Albert Shelley advised him to be patient . An injury incurred against Blackburn Rovers threatened to end his career prematurely . He had struck his knee against concrete near the corner flag after being challenged while running with the ball . Doctors informed him of the extent of tissue damage , causing Liddell anxiety about

his future . He remained in Blackburn for two weeks , living in the family home of a colleague , before returning to Liverpool to continue his recovery . The Second World War precluded an official debut for Liddell , as the Football Association suspended competitive football from the abandoned 1939 ? 1940 season and instituted a regional system in its place . Until the cessation of hostilities in 1945 , Liddell guested for various domestic sides when unavailable for Liverpool and represented select teams , including a Football Association XI and Scottish Services XI . Liddell was capped eight times for Scotland during the war , scoring on his debut in a 5 ? 4 win over England in 1942 .

With Liverpool , Liddell competed in the various regional leagues that the FA assigned the club to and scored 82 goals in 152 matches between 1940 and 1946 . He debuted on 1 January 1940 against Crewe Alexandra , scoring after two minutes in a 7 ? 3 win . In his formative years , Liddell credited Matt Busby and Berry Nieuwenhuys as significant influences . He volunteered for the Royal Air Force and , despite wanting to qualify as a pilot , was trained as a navigator because of his proficiency at mathematics . After being mobilised in December 1942 , Liddell guested with Chelsea and Cambridge Town . He broke his leg in a friendly kickabout while stationed in Bridgnorth , which required admission to the RAF Remedial Centre at Blackpool .

Following his recovery , Liddell travelled to Canada to complete a course at the Central Navigation School and became a pilot officer navigator . While on leave , he was used as a substitute by the Toronto Scottish under an assumed name and scored twice in a semi @-@ final play @-@ off . He was recalled to Moncton , New Brunswick , before the final . After some seven months in Canada , Liddell returned to Britain and , when based in Perth in 1944 , accepted an offer to guest for his boyhood favourites Dunfermline Athletic . He subsequently moved to Northern Ireland for further training , where he declined an offer from former Liverpool goalkeeper Elisha Scott to guest for Belfast Celtic because of a prior agreement to play for Linfield . By the end of the war , Liddell had been assigned to 617 Squadron , helping to transport Allied soldiers back to Britain on leave from Italy .

= = Career = =

= = = Domestic = = =

= = = = 1946 ? 1954 = = = =

Liddell 's official debut for Liverpool came in the third round of the FA Cup , the first competitive football tournament to be organised in post @-@ war England . He started in the first leg against Chester City on 5 January 1946 and scored in the 30th minute . The match ended in a 2 ? 0 win and featured several additional debutants , including Bob Paisley , who would forge a chemistry with Liddell as a left half . League football completed its first full season under the provisional North and South divisional system , which facilitated the restoration of national football for the 1946 ? 47 season . Although he established himself in the North League , scoring 17 goals in 42 matches , Liddell had yet to be discharged from the RAF and did not accompany Liverpool during its post @-@ season tour of North America in May 1946 . His unavailability extended to pre @-@ season training and the first two matches of the 1946 ? 47 season . On 7 September , Liddell registered his first official league appearance and scored twice in a 7 ? 4 defeat of Chelsea .

In his inaugural season of competitive football , Liddell confirmed his status as a regular and contributed to Liverpool 's first championship since 1923 . Positioned on the left wing , he appeared in 34 matches , scored seven goals , and supplied strikers Albert Stubbins and Jack Balmer with numerous assists . Severe conditions in the winter disrupted the league 's schedule and Liverpool did not secure the title until 14 June 1947 . The club won its final game away against Wolves 2 @-@ 1 , with Liddell setting up one of the goals , but the championship was decided by Sheffield United defeating contenders Stoke in the season 's last fixture . The game coincided with the Senior Cup Final between Liverpool and Everton at Anfield , where tannoys announced the result during the

match . As a strict teetotaler , Liddell refrained from accepting glasses of champagne to celebrate the success .

The club was unable to replicate its form in the 1947 ? 48 season , occupying 11th place on its conclusion in May 1948 . Despite that , Liddell reached double figures with a total of 11 goals . He accompanied the club when it embarked on its second exhibition tour of North America . His displays against Sweden 's Djurgården , played at the Brooklyn Dodgers ' Ebbets Field , and North American teams earned him praise from journalists and gained him 13 goals in 11 matches . In the 1948 ? 49 season , Liddell occupied left back and four forward positions . During his career , he would fill all ten outfield roles , mostly because of injuries to other players . His brother , Tom , became a teammate in 1949 after Liverpool signed him from Lochore Welfare . He never represented the club as a senior . The club finished in eighth in the 1949 ? 50 season , going undefeated for a post @-@ First World War record of 19 consecutive matches . Liddell scored ten goals in seven of those matches , including three braces .

Liverpool reached the FA Cup Final , making its first appearance at Wembley Stadium . Liddell had played in all seven matches during the club 's progression , scoring critical goals against Blackpool and Everton . Demand for tickets far exceeded supply , with more than 100 @,@ 000 applications being made for Liverpool 's allocation of only 8 @,@ 000 . Liddell recalled being inundated with requests from friends , family , and Liverpoolians in general . Some 100 @,@ 000 spectators witnessed Arsenal defeat Liverpool 2 ? 0 on 29 April . Constant marking by Alex Forbes contained Liddell for much of the 90 minutes , and a tackle executed early in the game caused the winger pain . Journalist Brian Glanville questioned Arsenal 's tactics and recalled being told by Liddell that he had been unable to put his jacket on the next day . Subsequent match reports by the media accused Forbes of acting with malice in his marking , which Liddell and Arsenal 's Wally Barnes refuted . Liddell , who had scored 20 goals in all competitions , returned to Liverpool with his club after a trip to Brighton , to be greeted by thousands of supporters .

In 1950 , Liddell became one of many players to be offered a transfer to Colombia by agents representing Independiente Santa Fe and Club Deportivo Los Millonarios . The clubs belonged to the DIMAYOR , unrecognised by FIFA because of a dispute between the league and the domestic governing body . Restrictions in England limited the weekly wage (£ 12 in the season and £ 10 during the summer) and impeded a player 's ability to transfer to another club , which caused much discontent in British football until the system was reformed in the 1960s . Liddell chose to reject the contract offer , reportedly estimated at £ 12 @,@ 000 . His wife Phyllis , whom he married in 1946 , later attributed the decision to club loyalty and the recent birth of twins . He later recalled that the proposal had been tempting , acknowledging that the decision would have been more challenging had it not been for the births . Many footballers did agree to contracts , including Alfredo Di Stefano , Neil Franklin , Charlie Mitten , and Hector Rial .

Manager George Kay resigned in January 1951 because of declining health and was replaced by former guest player Don Welsh . Before Kay 's resignation , Liverpool failed to record a win in ten matches between September and November . Liddell ended the sequence in December with the deciding goal in a 1 ? 0 defeat of Chelsea . The inconsistency continued for the rest of the season and Liverpool lost 3 ? 1 to Third Division South Norwich City in the FA Cup third round . The club again underperformed in the 1951 ? 52 season , in which Liddell scored a goal against Huddersfield Town described by contemporary media as the " shot of a lifetime " and reported in detail by the Liverpool Echo . When awarded a free kick outside the penalty box , Liverpool opted to have Kevin Baron take it instead of Liddell as was usual . Baron passed it to Liddell , who struck the ball with such force , after a momentary pause , that the shot surprised the Huddersfield defence and goalkeeper Harry Mills , and silenced spectators . Still played as a winger , Liddell finished the season with 19 goals in 40 league appearances . Liverpool only avoided relegation in the 1952 ? 53 season by defeating Chelsea in the club 's final fixture , in April 1953 .

== == 1954 ? 1961 == ==

Liverpool 's decline culminated in relegation to the Second Division in the 1953 ? 54 season ,

finishing last with 28 points to end 50 seasons in the top division . The club had conceded 97 goals and failed to record an away win in 24 consecutive matches over a period of 14 months . Liddell , like the rest of his teammates , struggled for form , scoring just seven goals and missing a penalty in a 1 @-@ 0 loss to Cardiff that confirmed relegation . Despite the club 's descent , Liddell elected to stay rather than accept a transfer elsewhere .

The prospect of a second relegation , rather than promotion , dominated the club 's thoughts at one stage in the 1954 ? 55 season , yet a productive partnership formed . Liddell moved to centre forward , scoring 30 goals in 40 league appearances , one more than teammate John Evans . He scored Liverpool 's solitary goal in its record 9 @-@ 1 loss to Birmingham on 11 December 1954 . To confound the sporting media , Liverpool went on to defeat Everton 4 ? 0 in January , in an FA Cup fourth round fixture at Goodison Park before a crowd of 72 @,@ 000 . Goals from Liddell , A 'Court , and Evans overcame the match favourites , with Liddell being characterised by the Liverpool Echo as " inspirational " . The club was eliminated in the next round and finished 11th at the end of the season - its lowest ever finish .

Liddell assumed the captaincy in the 1955 ? 56 season , in succession to Laurie Hughes . Although the club challenged for promotion , finishing third , the directors decided to dismiss Don Welsh and appoint former player Phil Taylor . Liddell scored 32 goals in the league and cup , including a hat @-@ trick against Nottingham Forest . He could have had one more against Manchester City in an FA Cup fifth round replay at Anfield that Liverpool lost 2 ? 1 . Seconds before full @-@ time , Liverpool dispossessed City and Liddell advanced from the halfway line to Bert Trautmann 's goal , striking in the penalty box , reportedly just as the referee signalled to end the match . Along with Trautmann and many other players , Liddell had been unaware of the full @-@ time whistle and Liverpool 's supporters stayed in expectation of extra time until an announcement informed them of the scoreline .

In the following season , Liverpool finished a single point behind second @-@ placed Nottingham Forest . While injuries to Louis Bimpson and Brian Jackson meant Liddell played much of the season as a right winger and inside right , he retained his place as the club 's leading scorer , with 21 goals . Promotion again eluded the club in the 1957 ? 58 season , while Liddell surpassed Elisha Scott 's record of 430 league appearances (then erroneously believed to be 429) in November 1957 to acclaim . In recalling the match against Notts County , which it transpired only equalled the record , Liddell confessed to having felt self @-@ conscious because of the attention that he received , while appreciative of the respect shown to his achievement , especially from his opponents , managed by friend Tommy Lawton .

As he approached the twilight of his career , Liddell slowed as a player and his appearances from the 1958 ? 59 season became infrequent . He sought to mitigate his declining pace by adopting a deeper approach , with a " more thoughtful passing game " . His omission from the lineup for the match against Fulham , in which Bimpson replaced him , provoked criticism from supporters , with some opposition being expressed via letters to local newspapers . Bimpson scored and Liddell 's confinement to the reserves attracted the interest of Mersey neighbours New Brighton . The non @-@ leaguers approached Liddell with an offer to become player @-@ manager , which he and the club rejected . After one start in November , Liddell returned to the senior squad in March 1959 for his 466th league appearance , which the footballing community believed would surpass Ted Sagar 's Merseyside record of 465 . Liddell scored two goals in a 3 ? 2 win over Barnsley at Anfield , but later learnt that Sagar 's accepted total had been erroneous (463 being the correct figure) . During his absence , Liverpool unexpectedly succumbed to part @-@ time Worcester City in the third round of the FA Cup . Liddell had played in 40 consecutive cup fixtures , but his involvement in the 2 ? 1 defeat had been limited to the studding of his colleagues ' boots .

Having missed the 1959 ? 60 season opener in August , Liddell replaced Bimpson for the match against Bristol City and scored a brace in a 4 ? 2 win . He had numerous chances to complete a hat @-@ trick , including two disallowed goals and a penalty taken by Jimmy Melia which the crowd had urged Liddell to take . He retained his place until an injury sustained in September granted Roger Hunt the opportunity to score on his league debut against Scunthorpe . Recurring injury further disrupted Liddell 's season after his return against Middlesbrough and damage to knee ligaments in

October rendered him unavailable for four months . Phil Taylor resigned in December due to deteriorating performances and was succeeded by Huddersfield 's Bill Shankly . After Liddell recovered , Shankly selected him to play against Derby County in February , but the match had to be abandoned because of fog . He completed the next match , against Plymouth Argyle , and played in ten successive games , scoring his final goal for the club in a 5 ? 1 defeat of Stoke in March .

For the match against Bristol Rovers in April , Shankly favoured an 18 @-@ year @-@ old Ian Callaghan , considered by Liddell to be his successor . He received a standing ovation at the end of the match and ultimately broke Liddell 's appearances record . Liddell 's last league game came in the 1960 ? 61 season , in a 1 ? 0 defeat to Southampton . The match gave him the distinction of being the oldest footballer to play for the club in a post @-@ war senior match (at 38 years and 224 days) until Kenny Dalglish in 1990 . To recognise Liddell 's 22 @-@ year service , Liverpool organised a testimonial in September between the club and an International XI at Anfield . The game had an attendance of 38 @,@ 789 and generated £ 6 @,@ 340 in revenue , enabling Liddell to purchase a home . He ended his career in the reserves and made his final appearance on 29 April 1961 , scoring one of his side 's five goals against Blackburn .

His influence gained the club the nickname " Liddellpool " , but a retired Liddell insisted that he had never carried the team . In remembering Liddell in his " 50 greatest Liverpool players " , The Times ' Tony Evans noted that he had been a leader who had inspired hope amongst the club 's support in " bleak times " . As of August 2010 , Liddell remains the oldest player to score for Liverpool (at 38 years and 55 days) , and is ranked as the club 's fourth highest goalscorer , bettered only by Ian Rush (346 goals) , Roger Hunt (286 goals) , and Gordon Hodgson (241 goals) .

= = = International = = =

Liddell debuted for Scotland in a 5 ? 4 wartime win over England at Hampden Park , equalising Tommy Lawton 's opening goal . He gained several more wartime caps . He gained his first full cap against Switzerland scoring twice in a 3 @-@ 1 win at Hampden Park on 15 May 1946 At international level , Liddell played predominantly as an outside left , in competition with Scotland @-@ based Lawrie Reilly and Willie Ormond . The Scottish Football Association (SFA) denied Liddell and his teammates the opportunity to participate in the 1950 World Cup , hosted by Brazil , because of an earlier decision not to sanction involvement as British Home Championship runners @-@ up . The decision meant qualification depended on the final match against England on 25 May 1950 , which Scotland lost 1 @-@ 0 when joint @-@ first needed only a draw . Despite pressure from players , the SFA maintained its position .

In 1951 , Scotland won the Home Championship , with Liddell scoring twice . His goal against England in a 3 @-@ 2 win followed a clash of heads with Wilf Mannion that fractured the English player 's cheek bone . For the 1954 World Cup , the SFA decided to authorise World Cup participation regardless of placement . After a 3 @-@ 3 draw with Wales , the SFA omitted Liddell from the starting lineup and he did not accompany the team to Switzerland . Scotland struggled in the World Cup and lost their two matches 1 ? 0 and 7 ? 0 to Austria and Uruguay , respectively . The team 's first manager , Andy Beattie , resigned in protest because of SFA interference in the selection process .

Having been overlooked for four matches that followed , Liddell was re @-@ called by the SFA after a 7 ? 2 loss to England at Wembley . He returned as an outside left and scored one of Scotland 's three goals against Portugal on 4 May 1955 . His involvement in the tour of Yugoslavia , Austria and Hungary later in the month proved eventful . In a 2 ? 2 draw with Yugoslavia , Liddell received a black eye when accidentally punched by goalkeeper Vladimir Beara while attempting a header . He scored his last goal for Scotland in an ill @-@ tempered 4 ? 1 win over Austria at Praterstadion , where a brief pitch invasion involving large numbers of supporters reportedly resulted in altercations between players and fans . Late in the match against Hungary , Liddell missed his second penalty for Scotland while the side were losing 3 ? 1 to the " Golden Team " . During his career with Liverpool , Liddell converted 34 of his 41 penalties .

Liddell gained two additional caps representing a Great Britain XI against the Rest of Europe in 1947 and 1955 . He became one of only two players (the other being Stanley Matthews) to twice be selected . The first exhibition had been arranged to celebrate FIFA 's readmission of the four Home Nations . Promoted as the " Match of the Century " and watched by 135 @, @ 000 spectators , the game ended in an emphatic 6 @-@ 1 victory for Britain . Liddell sustained a pulled muscle , which severely impaired his movement on the pitch and forced him out of two domestic matches . In the second match , organised to observe the 75th anniversary of the Irish FA 's creation , the Rest of Europe won decisively by a scoreline of 4 ? 1 .

= = Later life and legacy = =

Liddell settled in Liverpool with Phyllis and their twin sons , residing in Merseyside until his death . When his father died in January 1951 , Liddell arranged for his mother , sister , and younger brothers to relocate to the city , concentrating his family in the region . While still a player , Liddell was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Liverpool in 1958 and contributed a column to the Echo 's football edition . He became occupied with voluntary work , which entailed him being an occasional disc jockey for the Women 's Voluntary Service at Alder Hey Children 's Hospital , working for local youth clubs , and teaching at a Sunday school . Although religious , Liddell had not been a lay preacher as some believed . His wife dismissed it as a misapprehension , recalling that , while Liddell had abstained from drinking and smoking , he had not objected to others doing so in his presence and never " rammed any of his views down people 's throats . " After retiring in 1961 , Liddell served as assistant permanent secretary and bursar to the University of Liverpool until 1984 , and authored a memoir , titled " My Soccer Story " .

While he had no desire to be a manager , Liddell , as a shareholder , had wanted to become a Liverpool director ; however , his repeated applications to board elections were unsuccessful . He continued to play football for a magistrates ' team until he decided to focus on tennis after breaking a cheek bone . In 1967 , Liddell and other footballing personalities appeared in a charity match to generate funds for Bankfield House Community Centre . More than 10 @, @ 000 people watched Liddell play opposite retired Hungarian international Ferenc Puskás at South Liverpool 's Holly Park ground , raising £ 1 @, @ 100 in the process . He later became chairman of Littlewoods ' Spot the Ball panel and president of the Liverpool FC Supporters Club . After being diagnosed with Parkinson 's disease in the early 1990s , Liddell resigned from the panel on the insistence of Phyllis . His wife had first noticed atypical behaviour on a visit to Anfield following the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 , when he did not appear able to register what had happened in Sheffield . When his condition worsened , Liddell moved to a nursing home in Mossley Hill . He died on 3 July 2001 , within a week of the deaths of former Liverpool manager Joe Fagan and director Tom Saunders .

In 2002 , former Liverpool Reserve player Jimmy Rolfe loaned to Anfield Museum a No. 11 shirt believed to be the only surviving example worn by Liddell in the league . He had acquired it from trainer Albert Shelley on leaving for Chester in 1953 . On 4 November 2004 , widow Phyllis and Ian Callaghan unveiled a commemorative plaque adjacent to the museum . Liddell 's biographer John Keith , who also presented on BBC Radio Merseyside , had proposed the memorial to then chairman David Moores and chief executive Rick Parry . Further recognition came in 2006 when Liddell attained sixth place in a poll of more than 110 @, @ 000 people conducted by Liverpool 's official website to determine a list of " 100 Players Who Shook The Kop " . When Liverpool approached former players to identify their personal favourites as a complement to the list , Ian Callaghan , Tommy Smith , David Johnson , and Roy Evans included Liddell in their " top five " . The Football League included Liddell in a 1998 list of notable players , titled the " 100 Legends " .

The Billy Liddell Memorial Group formed in 2007 to advocate further recognition for Liddell , specifically in his home village of Townhill , and secure induction into the Scottish FA 's Hall of Fame . A petition to the Scottish Parliament , to have Liddell inducted , succeeded in November 2008 when he became one of eight players admitted . His village renamed its sports complex in his honour and completed a memorial garden , with cairn , in May 2010 . The Deputy Provost of Fife Council , Councillor Lizz Mogg , officially unveiled the cairn on the 22nd in the presence of Liddell 's

widow and other relatives . The memorial group announced its intention to disband in July , citing the success of its campaign .

= = Honours = =

Liverpool
English First Division (1) : 1946 ? 47
FA Cup Runners @-@ up (1) : 1949 ? 50

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Domestic = = =

= = = International goals = = =

Scores and results list Scotland 's goal tally first .