

AMATEUR INTERNATIONALS IN THE EDWARDIAN ERA

Leading on from the article about Arthur Berry and his international appearances, it is interesting to discover just how many Oxford City players represented their country in that far off period before World War 1. Here are just a few notes about those players. Some of them were regulars for City over many seasons, while others played only a few games for the club. It seems to have been common practice for some of the prominent clubs to draft in top names on a short term basis.

Fred.T. Ansell came from the north east, and played for Stockton in the Amateur Cup Final of 1911. He had previously been at Bishop Auckland, West Hartlepool and other local clubs. Quickly becoming established in City colours at left-back, he picked up four England caps in 1912/13, as well as appearing in City's Amateur Cup Final team in 1913.

Arthur Berry started his international career while still at Oxford University. A forward, he gained 27 caps between 1908 and 1913 (as well as one full international cap against Ireland in 1909), and was one of only two players to pick up double gold in the 1908 and 1912 Olympic Games football tournaments. He played for Oxford City between 1911 and 1913, including the replay of the 1913 Amateur Cup Final.

Frederick Williams Chapman came to City from the South Notts club in 1908, just before the Olympic tournament. He gained 19 caps between 1908 and 1911. He played regularly for City in the 1910/11 and 1911/12 seasons as captain of the side.

Edward George Davis, a local teacher, gained one cap against Germany in 1909 (played on the White House Ground). He joined City around 1906, featuring at left wing in the historic Cup-winning side, and stayed until 1910, when he left to join the local A.F.A side.

Kenneth Reginald Gunnery Hunt, who richly deserves a whole article to himself, was a product of Oxford University and an ordained Anglican priest. He played for City occasionally (mostly the Reserves side) between 1907 and 1908, but was more famous for being a member of the Wolves' FA Cup-winning side of 1908. In that year he also gained Olympic Gold. He was awarded 16 amateur caps for England between 1907 and 1920, and also played twice in 1911 for the full England side. Also a member of the Corinthians and the Old Carthusians teams, he played many times for City up to 1914, and was in the 1913 Amateur Cup Final side.

W.C. Jordan, of whom little is known except that he was a University man and on the books of West Bromwich Albion, played for City between 1908 and 1910, and gained two caps, in 1907/08 and 1909/10.

Arthur H.G.Kerry, another local lad and University graduate, played three times for England in 1909/10 whilst a member of the City club, for whom he played between 1907 and 1910. He also left to join the A.F.A. side, but rejoined City in 1913.

Albert Edward Scothern, like Chapman, hailed from Nottinghamshire, and attended Oxford University. A City player from 1903 to 1911, he was in the 1906 Cup-winning team. He was capped four times between 1908 and 1910.

Herbert Smith, whose name will recur many times in this series of articles, originally joined Oxford City from Witney FC in 1899 along with his brother William. In his first spell with the club he was part of the side which took Stockton to a replay in the 1903 Amateur Cup Final, before leaving to join Reading and Stoke City. In 1905 and 1906 he played a total of four games for the full England team, in 1906 playing against a Welsh squad which included two former City players (Leigh Richmond Roose and Hugh Morgan-Owen). Herbert also gained 14 amateur caps between 1907 and 1910 and was in the 1908 Olympic team. He rejoined Oxford City in 1909, playing on an occasional basis.

E.G.D. Wright had one of the briefest ever City careers, being elected a member in 1910 and playing just the one game for the club, at a time when they were short-handed. A regular in Hull City colours, he was capped 19 times for England between 1908 and 1913, and was a member of the Olympic Gold Medal squad in 1912.

These players it seems were mostly recruited by personal recommendation, either by one or other of the players or the club Committee, who between them had many contacts in the game, and the size of the University contingent shows that the game was still flourishing among the 'dreaming spires'.