

Harry Berry



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The Story of Bob Crompton,
Blackburn's Most Famous Son



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*Broad-limbed Bob, a captain bold,
Renowned the wide world over,
The Rover who from Blackburn's fold,
Has never been a Rover.*

'The Buff, 1915'

Beginnings

THE DAY of 26 September 1879 was a not untypical autumn day in Blackburn. South-west winds buffeted Lancashire, often becoming squally with outbreaks of rain. There was nothing propitious in the day to suggest the imminent arrival of someone who was to become Blackburn's most famous citizen. At 1 Harwood Street, a mile from the town centre, Alice Crompton delivered a strong, sturdy youngster, her third son, who was named after his father, Robert. He was to become England's greatest footballer, captain of his country and a legend of the game, the definitive full-back recognised by unanimous acclaim. Oddly, he was not to be the first man living in Harwood Street to play for his country, nor indeed the first full-back.

Harwood Street is located north of Blackburn Town Hall. It links Furthergate to Stanley Street and is in the district known as Little Harwood. It was not until 1856 that the council allocated the money to lay sets on the street and, even then, there were objections that the traffic did not justify such expenditure. There was nothing exceptional

about Harwood Street. It was like many Lancashire streets of the time. There were few men unemployed and, although most worked in the cotton industry, there were engineers, bookkeepers, clerks and a police constable (William Nuttall), among the others. At number 31 was William Edward Lee, three years older than Crompton and destined for the mills, but a man who was to be a playing colleague of Crompton at Blackburn Trinity. There was an ample provision of the usual shops (grocer, baker, newsagent) but a strange preponderance of licensed victuallers (including Crompton's father), one such establishment for every shop, which requires some explanation. The street of some 125 residences had the following active beer sellers: Robert Crompton (1), Joseph Edwards (3), George Strong (12–14), James Thompson (17–19), Richard Dunn (71) and Lawrence Moulden (141).

The town had the highest proportion of liquor licences to dwelling houses in the country, one for every 34 houses. It was a consequence of being at the hub of the industrial revolution. At one time 40 per cent of the country's cotton exports came from the looms in Blackburn. Housing was poor and insanitary. A quarter of the children born did not reach their fifth birthday. Working hours were long, dangerous, and tedious. Alcohol was widely available and was used by the men as an antidote to their harsh lives. When there is a demand, there is usually a supplier, and many Blackburn men seized the chance to avoid the mills and become more prosperous.

A few continued their upward momentum. William Greenwood had started his family on the route to financial security when he owned the White Bull at Salford Bridge. His son Richard had the foresight to see that selling liquor

was a competitive business and might ultimately have its limits. He moved into the cotton trade and soon had a mill employing 280 people. He had five sons, William, Richard, Thomas, Henry and Doctor, all of whom were able to enjoy the good life so much that they were able to attend Windermere College or Malvern College and retire at an early age. Three of the five played for Blackburn Rovers and Doc Greenwood preceded Crompton in the England right-back shirt.

Of course, location was everything and an inn in Little Harwood was never going to be as remunerative as one at Salford Bridge in the centre of the town. Away from the town centre, licensees needed to be resourceful. Fate gifted the elder Crompton an unusual opportunity. Close to his premises was a pond which resulted from mining activities. Four men were killed in December 1819 in an underground explosion and a row of cottages nearby became known as 'Blow Up Cottages', as a grisly reminder. The pond was acquired by a group of Scottish expatriates who turned it into a curling rink.

Blackburn had acquired a large Scottish population. At the vanguard of the Caledonian influx were the Scottish drapers. From the start of the 19th century Scots came from the Border towns such as Annan, Dumfries and Wigtown, and settled in Blackburn. They traded in drapery and tea and sold door to door, on weekly credit. The town was convenient for them to cover the whole of north Lancashire and they spent most of their working lives on the road. So great were their numbers that in 1837 they formed the Blackburn Scottish Travellers' Association for the Better Protection of the Trade. Their chief aim was to reduce the bad debts they occurred by

means of sharing information about their customers. Many of them became pillars of Blackburn society, the best-known being John Rutherford.

Rutherford was born in the town, the son of an itinerant draper from Rigg, near Gretna, who had entered into partnership with Henry Shaw in the Salford Breweries. Beer made the family rich. After starting his education at Lower Bank Academy in Dukes Brow, Rutherford moved on to Annan Academy (where his father had the family estate), Lancaster Grammar School and Glasgow University. He returned to Blackburn, but his father died in 1878 and Rutherford took over as manager at the brewery. He was to be elected mayor of the town in 1888, served for 27 years in parliament as MP for Darwen, during which he won six elections, and was subsequently knighted. He also won the St Leger in 1925 with his horse Solario. Despite his estate in Scotland, he kept house in Blackburn, constructing the Beardwood Mansion off Preston New Road.

William Thom was the son of a draper from Annan. He was born in John Street in 1842, where most residents were Scots, and went on to form the engineering company Foster, Yates and Thom which supplied mill engines and steam boilers to the developing world.

The Jardine brothers, William and John, came from Annan and established their drapery business on Ainsworth Street. William's son, Joseph, worked as an agent but is best remembered for being the most prominent member of the Blackburn poets' movement. It was John who introduced curling to the town, forming the Blackburn Caledonian Society, which played at Audley. They contested games against teams from Preston and Southport, but fixtures were limited by the weather and depended on freezing

conditions on Saturdays. In those days, winters were harder so games were not uncommon, but it helped to have opposition in town and as a consequence the Rose and Thistle Curling team was formed, although most of the members held dual membership with the Caledonian Curling Club. John Rutherford, who was to prove a benefactor to Crompton later, became president of the Rose and Thistle team.

At their best, Rose and Thistle's hopes of winning both the Lancashire and FA Cup, expressed at their general meeting, were not met with disbelief. In April 1886 they came third in the Holden Challenge Cup at the Southport Glaciarium, beating Shettleston 17-11, Blackburn Caledonians 15-14 and Liverpool 24-14. John Jardine's son, also John, qualified as a solicitor, was captain of the town's rugby union side and later moved back to Annan to take up the post of Provost.

Other Scottish draper families were the Geddes and Wells clans from John Street, the Hyslops from Inkerman Street, the McKies from Victoria Street, and the Bells from Brook Street. An occasional player was the famous Rovers defender Hugh McIntyre. Although the participants were predominately Scottish there was the odd English player. The Yorkshire-born landlord of the Waterloo Hotel in Penny Street, Francis Prest, was one of the most skilled exponents of the game.

The Cromptons' inn, in Greenbank, had been named the Rose and Thistle Inn by Rutherford, whose company Henry Shaw & Co. owned it. It was christened in deference to his origins in two countries. Having the owner of the brewery frequently attend his hostelry socially helped Crompton in his struggle for survival against the glut

of beer houses in town. Rutherford took him under his wing and when his company acquired the grocer's shop at 143–145 Harwood Street, which had been run by Robert Lupton, and turned it into an inn, Crompton became the tenant. Transferred with him was the name of his previous inn. Henry Shaw & Co. was a rival to the other brewery chains, Thwaites, Duttons and Nuttalls. It owned many inns in town, among them the Sun Inn, Astley Gate, Nelson Inn, Park Road, Gardener's Arms Inn, Great Bolton Street, Montague Arms, King Street and General Wolfe Inn, Northgate.

Curling was not the only sport that had adherents at the Rose and Thistle. They also had a football team. Historically in Blackburn they played cricket in the summer varied with occasional athletic sports but just before Crompton's birth a new game called association football, which was developing through a variant of rugby called Harrow rules, had started. In 1872 a club was established in the nearby village of Turton but in town there were only a handful of games, almost all at the instigation of a man called Albert Hornby. The Hornbys had played a huge part in the development of the town. It was Albert's grandfather John who started the dynasty, entering the cotton trade with such effect that he was able to build himself a mansion on King Street. His son William Henry (born 1805) was to further the empire. A marriage to the sole heiress of Edward Birley of Kirkham helped enhance the family prospects and his business interests prospered to the point where his mills employed 1,400 people, with Brookhouse Mill his largest. In addition, he entered politics, became chairman of the Blackburn Conservative Party at the age of 27, the town's first mayor in 1851 and with sufficient

children (11) to look after the business was elected as one of the town's two MPs, serving from 1857 to 1867.

Albert was sent to Malvern College where he excelled in all sports, being so small and agile when he took up cricket that they nicknamed him 'Monkey', which remained with him all his life. Around the time that Turton was forming a football club, Albert was working in his father's mills, being groomed for a managerial role. Ever keen to indulge in sport he encouraged the workers to kick a ball around in their brief breaks or after work.

It was a brave move for the son of the boss to play with the weavers and tacklers. Conditions in the mill were hard and there were many who held grudges against the owner. Hornby proved that he could match the toughest, was totally unafraid and won a grudging acceptance from the workers. His father had possessed the same ability to command respect. In 1835, following the parliamentary election in which the Conservative candidate defeated the reform candidate, he had taken a celebratory drink at the Bay Horse and on leaving was passing over Salford Bridge when a mob spied him and decided to avenge their defeat. They threw him over the parapet so that he landed in the mud on the east side. Rescued by some of the Conservative faithful he laughed off the assault, asking his helpers merely for an escort to the local hatters to replace the one which had floated off downstream. When Albert Hornby asked the mill workers to form a football team they agreed. Hornby undertook to provide the opposition.

He recruited these from his circle of friends. His brother Harry, who later followed his father into parliament and was subsequently knighted, was ever keen for a sporting challenge. Whenever the town staged a sports

day the names of Albert and Harry were always on the entry sheet. Naturally enough Harry played for Albert's team. So did Arthur Appleby, son of an Enfield mill owner and subsequently a Lancashire cricketer, and Joseph Law, the town's bookseller who subsequently set up business in London. There were also John Pickering, the shuttle maker, and John Baynes, the first person to enrol at the reopened Blackburn Grammar School, who became a man of the cloth. The Hornbys called their team the 'Rovers' and they took part in several encounters with the workers from the Hornby mills. Their most difficult opponents were the Brookhouse team, captained by Albert. A team of the time contained William Hill (blacksmith), William Graham (labourer), William Leeming (weaver), Stephen Fawcett, Ralph Duxbury (spinner), William Little (spinner), John Farren, Thurston Hesketh (foreman), Henry Cottam (weaver) and John Eastham (weaver).

Later the games ceased as Albert moved on. He started to live in Cheshire and the development of football in east Lancashire passed to Darwen, who were situated just over the moor from Turton. The initiative to form the Lancashire FA came from Darwen, in 1878, and within the next few years football clubs shot up all over east Lancashire, particularly in Blackburn. Teams were formed by members of existing cricket clubs, churches, public houses or simply from groups of streets. Interest around the Rose and Thistle was so great that they were able to run a reserve team. A field was secured, at nearby Whitebirk, for their games and by 1881 their results were reported in the local press. Sam Bleasdale, a weaver from Charlotte Street, led the attack. It is impossible to know how good they were but on 3 December 1881 they beat Excelsior 10-0. It is not known

if Robert Crompton senior took part in games but as he had turned 30 it is doubtful if he would have done so. Indeed, it is known that he was opposed to his son taking up the game and once burnt his boots so that he could not play. The team remained in existence until about 1895, playing in the Blackburn League which became the North-East Lancashire League. By then young Robert had commenced to appear for them.

The young Robert attended Moss Street School. It was located just up the road from Harwood Street, in Clinton Street. Not being a free school, parents had either to pay themselves or apply to the board of guardians for their fees to be met. In 1891 the membership of the school was 174 boys, 134 girls and 307 infants. By virtue of the fact that it was not a free school, there were always vacancies and at the time it had 81. St Stephen's, situated less than 200 yards away, had 186 vacancies. When Crompton was a schoolboy there was little organised school football in town. It was not until 1897 that local schoolmasters started to organise interschool competition, for a cup provided by a local entrepreneur, Harry Boyle.

In June 1891 there was a significant appointment that altered the emphasis of the school to the sport, although it was too late to affect Crompton, who had moved on to the Parish Higher Grade School. A local man, Henry Ashton, was appointed headmaster at a salary of £150 per year. A champion of all sports, he encouraged football and athletics and became chairman of several local bodies connected with sport in schools. At the time of his application for the job he was teaching in Brafferton in Yorkshire but had commenced as a pupil teacher at St Thomas's North School. When he was 17, in 1879, he had started playing at left-

half for Rovers' reserves but his time at the club was cut short when he went to teacher training college at Culham in Oxfordshire. He was one of several pupil teachers (Dilworth Hartley and William Waring were others) who the Rovers signed at a time when they had to make the transition from being a club for the sons of mill owners and successful tradesmen, to operating on more democratic lines. They had no desire to incorporate the working men from the Blackburn mills into the team and sought to bring in the pupil teachers, trainee solicitors, accountants and bank employees as a means of avoiding turning the club into an egalitarian society. At the Higher Grade School Crompton played in the school football team alongside a boy named John Sweeting. Sweeting started work as a clerk at the Salford New Brewery, owned by Henry Shaw & Co., in 1894 and retired in 1939, as the assistant manager of Daniel Thwaites & Co., which had merged with Henry Shaw during this time. He also became a referee in the Lancashire Combination.

Crompton had already been subject to proximity with a footballing influence. At number 21, ten doors down from the house where he was born, lived the Ward family. Joe Ward, his wife Ellen and his four children (John Robert, Jane, James Henry, and Ellen) were all weavers in the cotton mills. They were a boisterous family who lived life to the full, particularly Jim Ward, who was a robust, athletic young man. The family were accustomed to spending time in the ale houses, eating well and gambling, which were the pleasures of the period for working-class Blackburnians. In young Jim they had the perfect vehicle for wagers. He could run as fast as anyone in town (he beat a local pedestrian Chippendale

for a substantial bet), once leapt the nearby Leeds and Liverpool Canal (another bet in a contest with a local jumper, Aulty) and was a champion at a game, almost unknown elsewhere, called buck, as the following report from the *Blackburn Standard* of 10 April 1886 indicates:

‘A great buck match for £30 took place between James H. Ward of Blackburn and John Catlow of Wilpshire, in a field at Whitebirk on Saturday afternoon. Great interest was taken in the event which attracted between 500 and 600 persons. Both men are well-known players, but they have never met before. The match, which was a single-handed one, was played with 4in bucks and round-headed sticks. Each player had 21 rises and during the progress of the match considerable betting was made. Ward was decidedly the favourite and 6-4 was freely laid on him. On the first rise Catlow took the lead but Ward immediately overtook him and finally won easily by 230 yards. The scoring was Ward 2,400 and Catlow 2,170 yards. The best hit made by each player was 140 yards.’

The game was played in Blackburn between 1850 and 1900 and was also known as ‘tip cat’ or ‘guinea pig’. It was a dangerous game and countless locals were prosecuted for playing it in the streets. Basically, the game consisted of hitting a buck with a 2ft-long stick. The stakes depended on the quality of the players but for men like Ward (who defeated the previous champion, Smalley) the money was high and the associated gambling huge.

It was on the football field that Ward was best known. Football supremacy in the town had polarised into a straight contest between Blackburn Rovers and Blackburn Olympic. The differences between the clubs were not just sporting but social. Rovers had been founded by the sons of the

town's mill owners and they had ensured that their members only came from the upper social circles. As a consequence, the working-class players gravitated to Olympic, formed from the amalgamation of two of the ad hoc clubs who had mushroomed in the town, Black Star and James Street.

Blackburn had in the previous 50 years been transformed by the invention of the loom. Factories had sprung up everywhere and a handful of men with initial resources and acumen had become enormously rich. Most were local men who had taken their newfound wealth and built or bought huge mansions on the edge of the town. They flaunted their wealth and dabbled in politics to ensure that the status quo was preserved. Their sons did not even work like their fathers and often retired at an early age having done little work. In 1901 Doc Greenwood, one of the early Rovers, did not even use the standard 'living on own means' to describe his occupation in the Census but without a hint of irony merely described himself as gentleman. In a short period of time Blackburn had seen more people become millionaires than any town in the country. Their money was made at the expense of the workforce, who lived in insanitary conditions, worked long hours in an injurious environment and received bare minimum wages. Life expectancy was poor, infant mortality appalling and the continuity of employment hazardous as the ebb and flow of the cotton industry frequently resulted in workers being laid off.

In 1842 and 1878 the labour force had rebelled. Sparking the first was the general election of 1841 when two Tory mill owners, William Fielden and Harry Hornby, were opposed by the Whig, William Turner, for the two seats available. The most popular of the trio was Turner but his

support was strongest among people who had no vote, being disenfranchised because of lack of means. Unrest was in the air. The Corn Laws kept the price of corn artificially high by limiting foreign imports. The Chartists were agitating for one man, one vote but were being rebuffed by parliament, which wished to limit democracy to men of means. When Turner lost by a single vote, rioting broke out and was swiftly put down. A year later discontent still simmered. Chartists were surging through towns, stopping factories and halting production. In August a group of them arrived in Blackburn from Accrington, closing mills and having their numbers swelled by the workers. In Blackburn, the magistrate John Fowden-Hindle gathered his forces, the police under Superintendent Sheppard and a detachment of 72nd Highlanders under Colonel Arbuthnot. By the time the mob arrived in Darwen Street, having closed the mills en route by pulling the plug that let the steam from the boilers, the authorities were waiting and some of the ringleaders were arrested. As they were being loaded into a coach to take them to Preston an effort was made to release them. In the chaos that followed the order was given to fire and several were wounded. Within days the mills were back to full production, the ringleaders imprisoned and the workers had lost.

The workers were subdued until 1878 when after years of restricted working a cut of ten per cent in workers' wages was enforced. This was agreed by the Cotton Masters Association, whose chairman was a Blackburn mill owner named Robert Raynsford Jackson. In a summer of sporadic skirmishes mills were vandalised but the Cotton Masters ignored them. In desperation a mob descended on Jackson's house in Salesbury, looted it and burnt it to the ground.

Again, the action achieved nothing. The ringleaders were jailed, and the pay decreases stood.

This history of working-class struggle explains how Rovers and Olympic were so polarised. By the time Rovers realised that their reliance on the sons of the wealthy might be self-defeating, the die had been cast. Initially Rovers were superior because their players had been better nourished from childhood, were taller, stronger and could make their physical superiority count. This was countered by the superior ability of the working men, who actually tried to improve their skills in contrast to the gentlemen who never accepted the disciplines of regular training and would often not turn up in inclement weather.

In 1882 Rovers had reached the final of the FA Cup, where they lost to Old Etonians. Hoping to strengthen the side they utilised their greatest asset, the wealth of the members, and sought to undermine the Olympic by enticing their players with financial rewards. They had previously managed to lure the winger John Duckworth, but the rest of the Olympic players remained true to their class allegiances and turned down the greater rewards offered them until the little full-back, Joe Beverley, succumbed to the magic of cup dreams and defected to Rovers. The defection of Beverley had symbolic meaning to the working men who supported the Olympic. Yet Beverley, although born and bred in Blackburn, had little understanding of the depth of feeling. His father was a Chelsea pensioner, originally from Derbyshire, who had served all over the world. His mother, a Dorset midwife had trained in Dublin. His elder brothers were born in Newfoundland and Chatham. However, the man who was the alpha male in the dressing pavilion was Tommy

Gibson. Beverley had crossed the line in the sand when he joined the Rovers, but Gibson, whose services were coveted by the Rovers, treated their offers with disdain and the players to a man followed his lead.

Beverley's replacement was Jim Ward who was at the time only 17 but knew all about local working-class solidarity. He settled into the side alongside Squire Warbuton and brought a zest and athleticism that actually improved the Olympic side. Under the direction of the veteran English international Jack Hunter, who had fled from Sheffield football amid charges of professionalism, Olympic reached the FA Cup Final. The previous year, Rovers had been taken aback by the force and vigour of Old Etonians and for a time Olympic almost succumbed. That they did not was due to the directions of Hunter, who found in his hour of need that no one responded better than Ward, who could match the Etonians for vigour and had a fire in his belly. Ultimately Olympic rallied, won the game and became the first provincial winners of the FA Cup.

In March 1885 Ward became the first Olympian to play for his country. In Little Harwood his participation was the subject of long celebrations. If Crompton had a role model in sport, Ward did not provide a role model in life. Olympic assisted him in obtaining the tenancy of the Prince of Wales in Furthergate but the larger clubs were sniffing around. Accrington offered him a piano for the snug if he would transfer to them and Ward accepted, only to be intercepted by his father and brother who marched him back to the Hole i'th Wall ground of Olympic. In 1886 he finally left Olympic for Rovers, but he was never happy in a blue-and-white shirt and left the club. He had married and had a young son but neither his marriage nor his business

survived, and he moved to Brierfield, where he worked in the Duxbury Arms. His attitude to the game was at best tenuous. *Athletic News* censured him for smoking while keeping goal and his career ended in December 1889 in unusual circumstances. A great trencherman, he indulged heavily with both knife and fork and tankard, made one wager too many (that he could clear a bar room table), failed and injured himself so badly that he never played again. He died young and forgotten before the turn of the century.

Apart from the close presence of Ward, Crompton grew up in a small town immersed in football. The success of Olympic in the FA Cup was immediately followed by three consecutive FA Cup wins by Rovers, which meant that for four years Blackburn was the home of the trophy. In addition, a succession of Blackburn men represented England. Doc Greenwood, the Hargreaves brothers, Jim Forrest, Jim Brown, Joe Lofthouse, Herby Arthur, Nat Walton, Jack Yates, Edgar Chadwick, Bill Townley made for a dazzling array of talent, all of whom could be encountered on the local streets. There can have been few local lads who were not inspired, and the local Sunday School football leagues were competitive breeding grounds for blossoming talent.

Despite his liking for the game, Crompton made no rapid progress. Part of the reason was that he was probably a more talented swimmer than a footballer and spent more time in the water than kicking a ball. He learned to swim at the Corporation Baths in Freckleton Street, where the superintendent was a namesake, George Crompton. Born in Wiltshire, George Crompton had once had a cotton manufacturing business in Lune Street. Once prosperous,

it became a victim of the economic climate and in March 1878 he filed for bankruptcy, owing £1,700 and having assets of only £600. Edward Rushton was appointed as receiver for the business and Crompton and his wife were among 59 applicants for the posts of superintendent and matron of the public baths and wash houses a few months later. In July four were shortlisted with the recommendation that the post be given to Crompton who clearly had friends among the businessmen who ran affairs in the town.

Bob Crompton is first recorded in swimming competition at the Blackburn Gala of 1895 when he finished third in the 60 yards behind J.W. Coe (Osborne) and H. Gillow (Accrington). In the Blackburn Gala of 1898, Crompton was the most handicapped of the Blackburn entrants, with a handicap of nine yards. He won through to the final where he finished third, behind Walter Chadwick, one of the four footballing Chadwick brothers who included another English football international, Edgar. Chadwick had three yards' advantage over Crompton on the handicap, but the pair were beaten by W. Platts of Bolton.

It was, however, as a water polo player that Crompton made the most impact. The *Lancashire Daily Post* of 9 September 1898, reporting on a game between Blackburn and Darwen, stated, 'Blackburn played as seldom before and won by seven goals to two. The best man in the water was R. Crompton, the Blackburn half-back, who excelled himself. His shooting for goal was most accurate and his defensive work of the most determined description.' The Blackburn water polo team of the time was: J. Morgan/J. Bell (goalkeeper), J. Atkinson and J.G. Kay (backs), Crompton/J. Robertson (half-back), J. Redfern, H. Ward/F. Jones, G. Brown (forwards). Proof that Crompton was something of

a local celebrity can be gathered by the fact that only he ever had his Christian name included in reports.

The other star of the team was Joe Kay, a hairdresser from Fielden Street who ran the swimming club. At the turn of the century he was appointed swimming instructor to Blackburn Corporation. In 1906 his views on mixed bathing were solicited and his opinion that he thought it could be advantageous caused local controversy. Alderman Law objected, claiming, 'It would lower the morals of our boys and girls.' Kay's female counterpart at the Corporation, Miss Hodgson, stated, 'Not for Blackburn. It would never do.' Bishop Thornton refused to believe that mixed bathing was immoral but thought for practical reasons it would be inexpedient. The Rev J.P. Wilson, president of the Free Church Council, 'failed to see that anything would be gained by it'. Support came only from an unexpected source. Mrs Lewis, the temperance advocate and sister of Rovers founder, John Lewis, stated, 'At first sight the proposal had a repugnant appearance to me, but I must frankly confess that when the subject is examined, we can hardly find much objection to it.'

Kay's nephew, Harry, became a champion long-distance swimmer who in 1906 beat the well-known American Carl Michelsen over five miles of the Acushnet River. George Brown, a utility player who later took Crompton's place at half-back, became the first Blackburn water polo player to play for Lancashire, when he played against Western Counties in 1904. The same year he came sixth in the Mersey mile. He joined Blackburn Swimming Club in 1892 and played with the water polo team until 1906, when he accepted the position of swimming instructor at the newly built Belper Street baths. In doing so he forfeited his amateur status and was lost to the game.