

HARRY W BOLTON



Harry was born in Blind Lane, Keyworth on the first of January 1873, the son of Henry & Caroline Bolton. His first job was as a framework knitter and he married Elizabeth Mary Goddard, a seamstress in 1894. He played for the club between 1890 and 1928 and often bowled in tandem with his brother Herbert Bolton (born 1879) which threw confusion on the scorecards as sometimes one or the other had their name spelt as 'Boulton' instead of 'Bolton'.

Harry (pictured left in bowling action) stood only 5ft 8ins tall but had powerful shoulders and genuinely quick in pace he gained selection to play for Nottinghamshire Colts against the County team at Trent Bridge in 1895 but failed to win the opportunity to join William 'Dick' Attewell to whom he was related through marriage, on the professional staff. Harry was a right arm bowler and the only KCC player ever to take 10 wickets in an innings, a feat he achieved against Chilwell ROF CC on 14 June 1919. He also took 9 wickets for 17 runs in a match against Shepshed CC on September 24th 1904 and 8 wickets for 16 runs against Notts Harrington CC 2nds on August the 7th 1909 and grabbed a haul of

5 wickets in an innings on a total of twelve occasions and in all took over 300 wickets for Keyworth and had a top score of 81 not out and also turned out on rare occasions for local rivals, Plumtree CC.

In a friendly match against Forest Wanderers CC on 14th September 1901, Harry featured in an opening partnership with Alfred Pike which put on 139 runs before the fall of a wicket. This stood as a club record for the first wicket until being surpassed in 1985.

He did the 'double' in a South Notts League match against Tollerton CC on June 17th 1922 scoring 50 runs and taking 6 wickets for 13 runs and was the spearhead of the bowling attack in the League Championship winning team of that season.

All the above performances were during his frequent returns to Keyworth, when not away playing as a club professional. On the recommendation of William 'Dick' Attewell he played for Clackmannon County CC at Alloa in Scotland in 1893 before on the recommendation of former Keyworth player Mat Wright, spending part of the 1894 season at High Wycombe CC where he took 76 wickets. He returned to Clackmannon and stayed with them until 1897, taking 258 wickets over the four seasons including all ten wickets in a match against Heritonians CC during the 1895 season. Harry joined Aberdeenshire CC at Mannofield for the 1898 & 1899 seasons and amassed 162 wickets for them before joining Llandudno CC in Wales for the 1900 season and was then appointed the professional at Helensburgh CC in 1901 on the wage of two pounds and fifteen shillings a week and so began a long association with this Scottish club based on the north shore of the Firth of Clyde and in that first season against Crookston CC he became the first Helensburgh player ever to score a century and in ten seasons with the club until 1910 he scored 2637 runs and took 713 wickets at 6.3 runs per wicket. He usually bowled unchanged throughout an opposition innings and in the 1907 season had the remarkable record of 268.2 overs, 111 maidens and 82 wickets at a cost of 4.39 runs per wicket and achieved ten wickets in a match for Helensburgh against Milngavie & Bearsden CC.

HARRY BOLTON continued

Harry, between 1890 and 1905 was a commanding figure at the centre of defence for Keyworth Football Club during the 'winter' seasons it should be noted.

Harry returned to Helensburgh CC in 1921 and his wage had risen to four pounds fifteen shillings which included a contribution from Ardencaple Tennis Club whose courts Harry maintained along with preparing the cricket wicket and selling soft drinks in the pavilion. His second term with Helensburgh lasted until he retired in 1934 when he had scored 4837 runs and taken 1613 wickets over the 23 seasons he had served the club.

Harry (pictured right) was 60 years old during his last season and still managed to take 46 wickets to bring his total for club's north of the border to 2080 wickets which is a Scottish record!

Among many tributes paid to him in Scotland, the President of Helensburgh CC in the 1924 season, Provost John F Duncan at an AGM claimed that "no cricket club in Scotland had a more painstaking professional" however at this same meeting Harry's wage was reduced to four pounds ten shillings a week.

The Helensburgh & Gareloch Times recalled in pre-season times "the sight of Harry Bolton, a figure scything away in the long grass (no mowers in those days) wearing an old Panama hat - a somewhat taciturn figure, not given to unbending and not encouraging to small fry but full of character and goodwill"

The Glasgow Citizen newspaper on Harry's retirement paid tribute to "his skills as a cricketer and a coach at the Larchfield School and his sterling work in improving the Helensburgh 'ground' over the years"



The photo above shows Harry Bolton (fourth from the left) receiving a presentation from the Helensburgh Club President in February 1935 in recognition of his retirement. His playing days over, Harry returned to Keyworth and became the Cricket Club Groundsman between 1935 and 1948.

Harry died in Keyworth on 14 September 1952 and was recognised by the famous Wisden cricket annual through an 'obituary' in their 1953 edition.

Harry Bolton's Keyworth career statistics...

	Mat	Inns	NO	HS	Runs	Ave	6's	Ovrs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Ct	St
1 st XI	135	118	11	81*	1280	11.96		897	227	3149	324	9.72	29	
2 nd XI	4	4	0	16	38	9.50		36	7	93	9	10.33		
CAREER	139	122	11	81*	1318	11.87		933	234	3242	333	9.74	29	