

Words: By Rob Sawyer

# Jason Scott-Lee



**L**ittle-known Liverpoolian Jason Scott-Lee holds the distinction of being the first footballer with Chinese heritage to play for today's visitors and is second only to Frank Soo in representing Everton. It would be another 60 years before Li Tie and Li Weifeng arrived at Goodison Park linked to a shirt sponsorship deal.

One-time Liverpool Schoolboy player, Soo, played for Stoke City, earned wartime England international caps and guested for the Toffees in a wartime cup defeat of Manchester City in October 1942.

But what of Scott-Lee?

Chan Chin Lee came to Liverpool in 1911 and married Gwenllian Ward. Their son Jason, born in 1921, was adept at music, dancing and sport. He joined Manchester United on amateur forms during the 1940/41 season and was called-up to the senior team on 6 December 1941. Positioned on the left wing, alongside future Everton manager Johnny Carey, Scott-Lee contributed to a 10-3 rout of Wrexham at Maine Road (Old Trafford having suffered bomb damage). He retained his place for the return fixture at the Racecourse Ground a week later, a 2-2 draw, and was also selected for a New Year's Day draw with Bolton Wanderers.

Theo Kelly secured Scott-Lee's services for Everton, on loan from United, for the 1942/43 season and the local press reported: 'The lad has the makings of a tip-top centre-forward.'

He debuted for the Blues' A team in September 1942 and combined appearances for the A and reserve sides with occasional outings for Manchester United. His seventh, and final, Red Devils game came on 2 January 1943, in a 4-1 loss to Chester.



An injury to Gordon Watson elevated Scott-Lee to the Toffees' first team for the visit of Burnley in October 1943. Pilot (Liverpool Evening Express) wrote: 'There were some delightful touches by Scott-Lee, as Everton proceeded to call the tune.'

A week later he struggled in a 6-4 home defeat to Liverpool, although in mitigation the nimble forward was being asked to fulfil a largely defensive role at left-half. He would return to the Everton reserve and A teams with regularity until early in 1944 and he also played for Tranmere Rovers in wartime fixtures but never made a Football League appearance.

Post-war, he focused on his passion for ballroom dancing - winning numerous competitions and designing and making the costumes for his



partner (and future wife) Anne. Living in Rhyl, the couple had four children. Scott-Lee ran a taxi company and, in later life, worked in education for children with disabilities. He was still dancing until close to his death on 29 October 2002, aged 81. The family talent for performance was passed on to his granddaughter, Lisa Scott-Lee, who enjoyed chart success with the pop group Steps.

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