

John Cameron – of Spurs and Everton

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The early links between Everton and our visitors Tottenham Hotspur were strong due to several players who left Merseyside to try their luck with the North London club. Perhaps the most celebrated of these was John Cameron.

Born in Ayr in 1872, he began work as clerk with the Cunard Shipping Line in Glasgow where he played for the local Queens Park club. In 1895 he was transferred to the company's head office in Liverpool but soon left its employ to become a professional footballer with Everton. He scored on his debut – netting the second goal in a 5-0 win over Sheffield United – and appeared fairly regularly at centre-forward and inside-forward. In all he made 48 Football League and FA Cup appearances for the Toffees, scoring 15 goals. He also made his solitary appearance for Scotland during his time at Everton, playing in a 3-3 draw against Ireland at Cliftonville in March 1896.

An advocate for the unionisation of footballers, Cameron walked away from Everton to join Tottenham Hotspur in May 1898. After one season at Northumberland Park, he became player-manager – juggling this with the club's secretarial duties. Cameron oversaw the arrangements when Spurs moved to a new home at White Hart Lane in 1899 and led them to the Southern League Championship in 1900. His greatest moment, however, came in 1901 when Spurs



● John Cameron

became the first side from outside the Football League to lift the FA Cup – he scored in a 3-1 victory over Sheffield United in the final replay at Burnden Park, Bolton. He remained with Spurs until 1907, having played around 300 games, before retiring to work as a journalist. He first settled

at Rochford but later returned to his native Ayrshire.

When World War One was declared, Cameron was coaching in Dresden. The authorities allowed his wife to return home but Cameron was detained and confined in the civilian prison camp at Rhuleben. It was there, in 1915, that he was told that his wife had died. Following his release, Cameron became manager of Ayr United but, with no appetite left for the game, he resigned after one season. He later settled in Edinburgh where he spent the final years of his life working as a shipping clerk. John Cameron was living at 303 Easter Road when, in April 1935, he died and was cremated at Warriston Crematorium.



● John Cameron (Middle row, left – 1901 FA Cup Winners)

