



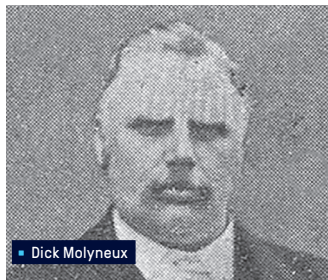
# RICHARD 'DICK' MOLYNEUX: THE PIPE SMOKER WHO DELIVERED EVERTON'S FIRST LEAGUE TITLE AT ANFIELD

By Paul McParlan

It seems increasingly likely that Dick Molyneux will remain forever in the annals of Everton history as the only person who has led the Club to both a league title and a move to a new stadium.

Later, when he was at Brentford, he oversaw their 1904 move to Griffin Park, which was to be the west London club's home until 2021. Nevertheless, his reign at both clubs was courted by controversy.

Richard 'Dick' Molyneux was born in January 1858. Everton was his passion and he became the Club's secretary-manager on 23 August 1889, replacing William Barclay. He strengthened the team, which had finished second the previous season, by recruiting six new players and they helped Everton win the Football League in 1890/91. This was



▪ Dick Molyneux

when the Blues were based at Anfield and their main rivals for city dominance were Bootle FC. Molyneux was the first manager to receive a trophy for winning the League - previously the champions were awarded a certificate and prize money.

The Everton boss, a larger-than-life character easily identifiable by the ever-present pipe in his mouth, was an advocate of the move to Goodison Park in 1892. The *Liverpool Mercury* reported

that his new office was 'where Mr Molyneux can either sit to write cheques in his easy chair or keep his eye on the uttermost extent of his vast dominion'.

But despite reaching two FA Cup finals, further honours did not follow. The directors became increasingly concerned about Molyneux's ability to perform the role after receiving a report that he was allegedly found in his office under the influence of alcohol. This resulted in his dismissal in 1901. Nevertheless, he remained as the Club's second largest shareholder but disillusioned by his experience, he severed his connections with the game and became a successful coal merchant.

Brentford, then in the Southern League, enticed him back to football in September 1903. His appointment was a coup for the Bees. The club faced a goalkeeping crisis in early 1904 so Molyneux brought in a serving soldier from the Scots Guards, John Bishop, to solve the problem. Bishop was an amateur and by paying him a wage, Molyneux had contravened FA regulations and was suspended from his post for one month.

In December 1905, Dick's health suddenly deteriorated and he spent a sustained period at the National Paralysis Hospital in London. With his condition showing no signs of improvement, he was transferred to Liverpool to be closer to his family. He died in June 1906 and was buried at Anfield cemetery, close to his beloved Goodison.



▪ Everton, League champions 1890/91