

8 Walter John (Jack) Baggett Professional footballer d 21 July 1978



Born Potterspurty 29 May 1902 Near Towcester, Northants
 Died Barrow 21 July 1978
 Played for Wolverhampton Wanderers (never made 1st team) 1922/3;
 Bolton Wanderers 1923/4 – 1926/7 (no appearances 1924/5);
 Reading 1927/8 – 1931/2.
 106 career appearances; 31 goals.
 Position: Inside Forward.

Where is the grave?

Walk up the main path past the Crematorium. At the Catholic chapel, turn right and right again. It is a few steps along on the left, but not directly next to the path.

The (Barrow) Evening Mail's sports pages on Monday 24 July 1978 read:

'Gentleman' Jack Baggett

One of Barrow's best loved football personalities, Mr Jack Baggett, a former trainer at Holker Street, died on Saturday in North Lonsdale Hospital.

Mr Baggett, 76, of Dundas Street, was admitted to the hospital 12 weeks ago following a stroke.

A former professional footballer, Mr Baggett played for Bolton Wanderers in the 1920s. And while he rarely talked about his football achievements one of the biggest disappointments of his life was being left out of the Bolton side that won the famous "Policeman on a White Horse" FA Cup Final of 1923.

Jack played in the earlier rounds and in the semi-final but was named as a reserve for the Final (*sic. This was before substitutes were allowed, so he would only have played in the case of injury/illness before the game*) once the great David Jack had recovered from injury and was fit to play.

dies, 76

"They could not leave him out" Jack used to recall under pressure. "And he got the goal that put us on the way to a 2 – 0 win over West Ham."

Coached abroad

Football later took Jack to Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, training and coaching players in the 1930s. He was working as a coach in Greece when he had to escape from the German forces in 1941.

He moved to join Barrow in 1954 when they were in the Third Division North. Later he looked after the treatment of injuries and he only finished his service with the club last Boxing Day after acting

as the Holker Street odd job man for a spell.

A close friend of Mr Baggett, former Barrow secretary Wilf Livingston, said: "He was always regarded as a gentleman by everyone who came into contact with him. He was a friend to all and helped many young players with their football careers."

Don McEvoy, who had two spells as manager at Holker Street, said: "He was a real gentleman - the best I ever came to know in my years in football. You could not find a more sincere person.

"He was devoted to the Barrow club." Jack's health suffered after the death of his first wife. He remarried over a year ago and leaves a widow, Mary.

A requiem mass will be held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Barrow at 9.00 a. m. on Wednesday.

The story in the local paper appears to be entirely mythical: he wasn't even at Bolton at the time of the 'White Horse Final', and only made 2 appearances in the following season. He didn't play in the 1925/6 Final, which Bolton won.

Peter Holme from the *National Football Museum* kindly replied to my enquiry: The only Baggett we have in the record books (Football League players by Michael Joyce) is Walter John ("Bill") Baggett who I assume is the same man as he played for Bolton and Reading and died in 1978. I attach his full playing record, from 1923 to 1932, including all League games played and goals scored, taken with kind permission from the online English National Football Archive, www.enfa.co.uk.

He played at inside right or inside left and was born in Potterspurty (Northants) on 29th May 1902. He first played for Victoria Ironworks (I cannot say where that is) then Wolverhampton Wanderers, but he played no first team games for them. He transferred to Bolton Wanderers and played for 4 seasons in Division 1 and then on to Reading for 5 seasons, playing in divisions 2 & 3 (south). In between he may have played an odd game for non-league Colwyn Bay. After Reading he played for non-league Tunbridge Wells Rangers.