LEICESTER CITY LANDLORDS

Throughout the history of the professional game, players have faced the problem of what to do when they hang up their boots. Many Leicester Fosse and Leicester City players took over pubs, several of which have now disappeared. This season we will be rediscovering and revisiting these 'Players' Pubs' and uncovering the stories about them and about the landlords who ran them.

The Player: Arthur Lochhead

By all accounts, Edinburgh-born Arthur Lochhead, who played over 300 games for Leicester City between 1925 and 1934, before becoming the team's manager, was an impressive character.

His talents spread far beyond football.

During the First World War, he served on the Western Front with the Royal Garrison Artillery, played Army football and played for Hearts, who were famous at the time for raising a battalion of footballers known as McCrae's Battalion.

After the war he signed for Manchester United. At the same time, he qualified as a teacher. In 1925, he was in the United team which was promoted to the old First Division as runners-up to Leicester City, who signed him soon afterwards for a club record fee of £3,300.

Over the next nine years he was a key figure in the Leicester City side which scaled unprecedented heights in the late 1920s.

When Leicester City's manager Peter Hodge died unexpectedly during the 1934 close season, Arthur's tactical knowhow, intelligence and experience made him the Board's choice as new manager.

Despite the emergence of the brilliant young Sep Smith, (who incidentally rated Arthur as one of the best footballers he had ever played with), the City were relegated at the end of Arthur's first season. He started to build for the future but fell out with the board and resigned in August 1936 despite winning his last game 5-0.

As the advert illustrated here indicates, for a while Arthur and his brother ran a Wireless, Musical and Record shop in Leicester's Loseby Lane but he soon returned north to take over an inn and hotel in the Scottish Borders.

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The Pub: The Border Hotel, Kirk Yeltholme

Arthur's inn was called the Border Hotel. It was on the village green of Kirk Yeltholme, not far from Kelso, a Border town on the River Tweed. It was well situated for customers, as it provided a resting place at the northern end of the Pennine Walk. It also had many cyclists, golfers and anglers amongst its clientele. Originally known as the Grey Horse, the establishment had changed its name to the Border Inn in the 1890s, before it was extended to become the Border Hotel by the turn of the century.

When Arthur took it over it was a substantial property, but the money he had made from football and his shop together with his business acumen meant that he was in a good position to take it over.

Arthur was only just 69 when he died, but he had certainly lived life to the full. The hotel still exists today.