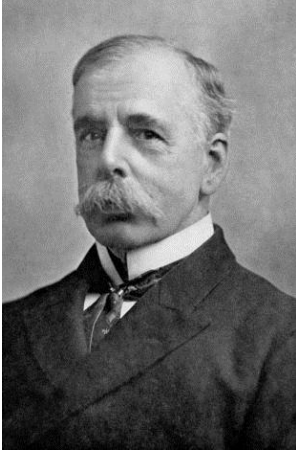


INITIAL FINDINGS ON CHARLES WILLIAM ALCOCK (1842-1907)



Charles William Alcock was born in Sunderland in 1842 to Charles Alcock (1807-1881) – a ship-owner and ship-broker – and Elizabeth Forster (1825-1891). He was the second child of 9 (his elder brother John Forster Alcock was also one of the founding fathers of football) and the family lived on Norfolk Street (otherwise known as Sunnyside), Sunderland, the same street as an uncle who headed the Alcock family's upholstery business.

The Alcock family relocated prior to the 1861 census to the London area, and both Charles William Alcock and John Forster Alcock (his older brother) attended Harrow School.

Initially Charles William Alcock worked as a ship merchant, but having founded Forest Football Club in 1859, the evidently keen sportsman became involved in the administration and organisation of both association football and County Cricket.

He worked as a sports journalist and writer, – launching the Football Annual in 1868 and founding and editing both Football and Cricket magazines – committeeman and, ultimately, Justice of the Peace.

He captained Middlesex against Surrey and Kent in the first County Cricket match in 1867 and was the secretary of Surrey County Cricket Club from 1872-1907. He also organised the first test match between England and Australia in 1880 and was the managing official at the birth of the Ashes.

Whilst he did not attend the meetings that led to the foundation of the Football Association in 1863, he joined the FA Committee in 1866 and was the Secretary from 1870-1895. He is widely considered to be the founding spirit of the FA Cup competition and international football, and as a club player he transformed the Forest Club into Wanderers FC and captained them to victory in the first FA Cup Final in 1872. He held the position of Vice President of the FA from 1896-1907

Charles William Alcock married Eliza Caroline Ovenden (1841-1937) in Islington in 1864 and they went on to have 8 children:

William Edward Forster Alcock (1865-1887); Elizabeth Maud Alcock (1869-1937); Florence Caroline Alcock (1870-1938); Charlotte Mabel Alcock (1872-1903); Charles Ernest Alcock (1873-1874); Helen Mary Alcock (1874-1946); Marion Frances Alcock (1875-1922); Violet May Alcock (1878-1952)

Between 1903 and 1907, Charles William Alcock lived at 7 Arundel Place Brighton until his death, aged 64 on 26 February 1907 in Brighton.

What the others say...

"It is clear from a number of sources that Charles Alcock's style of football was inclined to the robust. At a time when the average height was about six inches shorter than it has become today, he stood 5ft 11in tall and weighed 13st 6lb and press reports frequently contain such comments as 'Mr Alcock, as usual, required a great deal of looking after by his opponents.'"

Keith Booth (2002), The Father of Modern Sport: The Life and Times of Charles W. Alcock,