

# David Pratt



Was born on 5 March 1896 in Lochore. He began his playing career with Lochore Welfare before moving on to Lochgelly United and then Hill O'Beath. In June 1919 he signed Celtic making his debut several months later, in a home game against Falkirk. His versatility counted against him though and he never developed into a first team regular at Celtic Park. Indeed, although later primarily considered a defender, the position he appeared in most frequently for Celtic was outside left.

In November 1921 Pratt moved south, joining Bradford City as an outside left but later established himself as centre-half. Reports from the period state he was "the mainstay of the defence" and "a coming international." His consistent performances earned him a move to Liverpool two years later, making his debut on 17th February 1923. He spent four seasons on Merseyside but he was unable to attain a regular first team berth. His most consistent run in the first team occurred in 1924-25, while his only goal for the club was recorded during a 6-3 defeat of Newcastle United the following season. After five seasons at Anfield Pratt joined Bury in November 1927.

## Managerial career

Pratt eventually became manager of Yeovil, before assuming control of Yeovil & Petters United in 1929. This was to be his longest period in charge of one club, the rest of his coaching career characterised by short tenures in managerial positions. Between May and December 1933 he managed Clapton Orient, then he had two months in charge of Notts County in spring 1935. He then returned to Scotland where he replaced Willie McCartney as Heart of Midlothian manager. He lasted two seasons in Edinburgh before moving to Wales with Bangor City, where he stayed until the outbreak of World War II. He served in the RAF during the conflict before taking his final managerial role, with Port Vale, in December 1944, a position he vacated six months later. He failed to gain a release from the Air Force and so never managed to be a manager to the Vale other than in name only.

References: Wikipedia & <http://www.lfchistory.net/Players/Player/Profile/803>