

## Arthur Hill



Born 30<sup>th</sup> January 1857 on Malta

Died 26<sup>th</sup> January 1936 at Smeeds Farm, Monks Horton, Hythe, Kent

A coal merchant by profession and later Secretary to a colliery fitter.

Arriving in England in the 1870s, he married a girl from Bromley in 1879 and moved to the North East where he first appeared in the 1881 census. He played for Hartlepoons Football Club (founded in 1875 and amalgamated with Hartlepool Rovers in 1883) and Hartlepool Rovers. Hill Captained the latter from 1887 to 1890 and was the first Hartlepoons player to gain the distinction of playing for the County in 1879 against Yorkshire. He was always a first choice for the pack. He was to give

'fine service' to the County for 12 seasons appearing in 29 matches and showing superior versatility by playing in all positions including threequarters. On a number of occasions he was also to Captain the County side. On two occasions he played in the North East v North West game. Of special note is the fact that he captained the Rovers team versus the New Zealand Native Team (aka The Maoris) at The Friarage on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1888. This was the first side from overseas to visit and play international rugby in the Home Unions.

As a rugby administrator he was the Secretary of Hartlepoons in 1882 before going on to be Secretary and Treasurer of Hartlepool Rovers in 1886 – 87. He was also Secretary of the County from 1889 to 1894. Vice President from 1895 to 1900 and President for the succeeding two years.

In 1891 – 92 although retired he turned out in the North v South game (an England Trial) at Newcastle when W E Bromet failed to arrive for the start of the game. On Bromets arrival he withdrew from the game.

Little information exists with regard to his refereeing career but The Sunderland Echo of 20/2/1902 indicates that was to referee Ireland 5 v Scotland 0 at the Balmoral Showgrounds, Belfast on 22/1/1902.