



Maurice Dando, popularly known as "Mick," began in local football in his native Bristol and signed professional forms for Bristol Rovers in November 1928. In five years there he made only 18 appearances and moved on to York City in the summer of 1933. If this move represented a "last chance" for Dando at a football career, he responded to the opportunity by plundering 46 goals from 82 games before Chesterfield stepped in during the close season of 1935 to sign him for a knock-down £350 fee.

Maurice thus came from York with a good reputation, but few were ready for the deluge of goals that came from him as the club swept to promotion in 1935-6. Fifteen goals came from his opening fourteen games before injury sidelined him for six weeks; returning to the side at the end of December, he netted seven times in his next four matches. If the glut of goals dried up a little after that, he still managed to score 27 times in his 27 appearances that

season. He played his last game of the season against Gateshead in March, before injury prevented his reappearance. His value to the side may be expressed by the fact that the team scored 71 goals in the 27 games he played, and only 21 goals in the 15 games he missed.

Recurring injuries may have been the first warnings of a much more serious problem. The club tried to nurse him back throughout 1936-7 but it gradually became clear that he would never recover fitness enough to withstand life in the Second Division and he was allowed to move to Crewe in an unusual four-way exchange deal that saw Job Taylor accompany Dando to Gresty Road, while Bert Swindells and Ernie Wright made the opposite journey.

On paper, it looks as though Crewe saw the Spireites coming, for Swindells never made the first team (he didn't want to come in the first place, and simply refused to play) and Wright played only once, yet Dando himself played only 16 times for the Alex before having to call time on his active football career.

After the second world war Mick slipped into worsening ill-health. Bristol Rovers launched an appeal on his behalf in 1948 which raised £350 before his untimely death a year later, at the age of 43.

For Chesterfield: 27 Football League appearances, 28 goals.