



Ferryhill-born **Tommy Flockett** played in the same Spennymoor team as Jim Smallwood, and followed Jim to Saltergate for an £800 fee in April 1949. Tommy became immensely popular with supporters at both his senior clubs. He appeared to have few frills to his game: reliability was his strongest point, and fans would be treated to the same performance of strength and resolution week in, week out. With Ron Powell and Freddie Capel, Tommy was a fixture in the most consistent and enduring

defence in the club's history. Although often challenged for his place by the likes of Keith Bannister and the young Gerry Clarke, Tommy did not surrender a full-back berth until being released by the club just before his thirtieth birthday.

An intelligent and dependable player, Tommy was snapped up by Bradford City, for whom he went on to play for another six seasons, thereby earning a 'benefit' at both clubs. It is impossible to resist the conclusion that Tommy was allowed to go years too early, and that releasing him and Freddie Capel together was a substantial error of judgement that weakened Chesterfield's defence for several seasons afterwards. He was allowed to leave for Bradford City, where his career went on so long as to more than double his league appearance totals. There was plenty of football left in him when Chesterfield released him! After hanging up his boots at Bradford City, Tommy returned to Chesterfield to work with the club's colts and settled in the town, becoming a maintenance man for GB Glass Ltd. Tommy passed away in July 1997, aged 69.

**For Chesterfield:** 200 Football League appearances, 1 goal

**Career:** 427 Football League appearances, 2 goals.