



Albert Phelan joined Chesterfield as an amateur in 1962 and graduated through the junior and reserve sides to turn professional two years later. He became a first team regular in Dave Blakey's last season: as the veteran saw the writing on the wall, he provided advice and encouragement so that Albert could take the long-serving Blakey's place upon his retirement.

The quiet man of the side, class and consistency were hallmarks of Albert's play. He read the game exceptionally well and was able to cover for team-mates in the manner of a sweeper, in the days when such players were regarded with suspicion in the English game. He was a player who made the game look easy, so much so that he probably did not get the recognition he deserved. He scored comparatively few goals, although one was memorable - a late run to meet an Archer chip over a defensive wall against Barnsley in the 1970-1 season.

He joined Halifax with Ray McHale in exchange for Terry Shanahan and £3,000, and came to be highly regarded at The Shay. Before retiring from playing football, he spent four years at Boston, the last two as Manager, leading them to the semi-finals of the FA Trophy and a 4th-place finish in the Alliance Premier League.

He has since served Sheffield Wednesday in a number of scouting and coaching roles between 1981 and 2001, and managed the youth team to the finals of the FA Youth Cup in 1991. Albert passed away in April 2016, in Sheffield aged 70.

For Chesterfield: 385 + 5 Football League appearances, 14 goals.

Career: 503 + 5 Football League appearances, 18 goals.