

# *S. H. Shoveller*

*The following memoir of the late S. H. Shoveller is contributed by C. T. A. Wilkinson, who played in the same Hampstead team from 1911 until the early twenties. They also played together for Surrey, the South, England and Great Britain in the Olympic Games.*

**P**RINCE of centre-forwards. That was the title bestowed upon Stanley Shoveller, and acknowledged by everyone who played with or against him, as fairly won.

He first played for England in 1902, when little more than a schoolboy from that fine nursery, Kingston Grammar School. From then until 1920 he was first choice, and won 29 caps, apart from the Olympic Games.

He was not always able to get away from business, when selected; and his career was interrupted by four years of war, but for which he would probably have collected double that number of caps.

## **TWO GOLD MEDALS**

But perhaps his most remarkable record was in connection with the Olympic Games. He is the only English player to have won two gold medals; and though it must be conceded that the foreign challenge was not then so strong, it is remarkable that in 1920, 12 years after his first medal, including 4 years of war (in which he won a Military Cross) he again represented Great Britain, when approaching his 40th year.

He was a most deceptive player to watch. He did not appear to be fast, or to have remarkable stickwork, or a devastating shot. But he was desperately quick off the mark; had wonderful control of the ball, without any flashy display of stickwork; took the ball away from and past a tackler with a body-swerve and no obstruction; and shot hard and accurately when necessary.

His favourite and most effective method was, however, to bring the ball up to the left side of the goal, and to score with a flick shot which no goalkeeper seemed able to stop. He was a splendidly fair and sporting player. In all the years I played with him I can remember no occasion in which he was involved in any incident or unpleasantness.

With all this he was the most modest and unassuming of men. Take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again.