

The Old Cestrefeldians' FC Youth Team

Former members of the Old Cestrefeldians' FC Youth Team met at the Sicily Restaurant in Chesterfield for their Annual Reunion which, this year, marked the 58th anniversary of its formation.

In 1965 the Club was registered as a Youth Organisation and a youth team was formed and entered in the Under 21 section of the NE Derbyshire Youth Service League for the 65-66 season, supplementing the existing three senior teams. This was an initiative taken to encourage more, younger players to join the Club and proved to be a key element in securing its future beyond what were difficult times.

The team enjoyed a good measure of success, racking up a remarkable total of 167 goals in its 30 fixtures, and at Easter 1965 it won an open-age division of the Derbyshire CFA Medals Competition, beating the strongly-fancied Clay Cross Works side 5-1 in the final in front of a big crowd at Sharley Park.

This was followed by an odd-goal defeat at the semi-final stage of the League Cup Competition which allowed the team to concentrate on its aim to secure the League title. However, the weather played a significant part, many games having been postponed because of ground conditions. As a result of fixture congestion, the team was required to fulfil eight fixtures in the remaining 20 days of the season and, although six were won, it was not enough and the runners-up spot was achieved. Mosborough Trinity YC were worthy champions, being unbeaten for the season.

The event was organised by Stuart Reaney and had been postponed for two weeks as a result of the aftermath of Storm Babet.

The 2023 Reunion



L-R:- Alan Belfield, Stuart Reaney, Tom Nicholls, Alan Holmes, Ian Green, John Martin, John Batchelor and Stuart Burton.

The 1965 photograph from “The Derbyshire Times”



Back Row L-R:- Stuart Reaney, Philip Smith, Clive Turner, Alan Barnett, Chris Barratt and Alan Holmes.

Front Row:- Ian Green, Dave Sanderson, Stuart Burton, John Batchelor, Tom Nicholls, Alan Belfield and John Lowry.