

The Old Cestrefeldians' FC Youth Team

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 1965 photograph from "The Derbyshire Times"



Back Row: 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.

The 2024 Reunion

With two players sadly transferred in recent months to a higher level and two others suffering long-term unavailability, just seven former members of the Old Cestrefeldians' FC Youth Team met recently to mark the 59th Anniversary of the team's formation.

The evening, held at the Sicily Restaurant in Chesterfield, was one of nostalgia and reminiscences, aided by many photographs, of Schooldays, Schoolmasters, School Teams and, of course the Old Cestrefeldians' Football Club and long-lost youth.

Skipper John Batchelor proposed the toast to former players, and organiser Stuart Reaney urged those present to follow an intensive training programme to ensure they would be in perfect condition for next year's 60th Anniversary!

The 2023 Reunion

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.

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



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

The 2022 Reunion photograph



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

Courtesy of Ian Green