

# History

of

## KEYWORTH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB Nottinghamshire, England

Last revised on 29 April 2012



Platt Lane Ground, Keyworth, Nottinghamshire NG12 5GE

[www.kucfc.com](http://www.kucfc.com)

## KEYWORTH FOOTBALL CLUB

1876 to 1913

References exist, suggesting the club may have been known as **KEYWORTH OLYMPIC FC** and **KEYWORTH TOWN FC** during 1902 however these may have been journalistic or typographical errors.

Through the **1903/04** and **1904/05** seasons whilst participating in the Notts Junior League, references were made to the club as **KEYWORTH JUNIORS FC** even though the players were not 'Junior' in age.

## KEYWORTH & PLUMTREE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

1913 to 1914

Known by this title for one season only prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> World War

## KEYWORTH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

1919 to 1936

Known by this title from the re-commencement of football after the 1<sup>st</sup> World War

## NORMANTON & KEYWORTH FOOTBALL CLUB

1936 to 1947

Known by this title from the commencement of the 1936/37 season until after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and a decision taken at the Annual General Meeting of the club on 16 June 1947

## KEYWORTH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

1947 to 20??

## KEYWORTH UNITED COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB

20?? Until the present day

# The History of Keyworth Football

**Keyworth Football Club** was playing **friendly matches** during the **1875-1876 season**:

Reported in the Nottingham Guardian Newspaper...

On 12 February 1876 an away match was played between Notts Pioneers FC and Keyworth FC at the The Forest Grounds in Nottingham, the Pioneers winning by one goal to nil and the Keyworth line up included William H Pike (captain), Thomas Disney, Arthur Pike, John Elliott Pike, Levi Pike, Samuel Pike, T Pike, Giles Shelton, Arthur Simpson, Samuel Simpson and Joseph Tomlinson - playing positions were not given.

With certainty, we can therefore confirm that **Keyworth FC existed at least as early as 1876** and to put this into context in the History of Association Football, this was **12 years before the formation of the first Football League** by twelve clubs including Notts County FC - *please refer to the Appendix regarding the early history of Notts County FC & Nottingham Forest FC* and only **5 years after the FA Cup was first introduced** and still 14 years away from the official recognition of professional footballers.

## **Football & Cricket in Keyworth:**

Football and Cricket in the village of Keyworth, Nottinghamshire ran almost in tandem until into the 1960's and the majority of the footballers also played for the cricket club and vice versa and at the beginning and end of the seasons there were often selection problems for both sporting clubs. In the early days a familiar site would be to see the 'away' teams arriving into the village on horse drawn carts.

## **Kit Colours:**

A variety of kit (shirt, shorts & socks) colours have been used over the years, mostly determined by finance, availability and donations. It is known for sure that Aston Villa style **Claret & Blue** was the choice for the 1906/07 season and that **Blue Shirts with a Yellow V** were in use prior to the club becoming a Junior to Nottingham Forest FC and receiving supplies of **Red & White** kit for the 1950/51 season and for many years thereafter until a **Blue & White stripe** kit was adopted in the early 1960s. The present day **Green, White & Black** was adopted for the 1976/77 season.

## **Home Grounds:**

Up until after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War when the Rectory Field off Elm Avenue and later Platt Lane, were adopted as the Home Grounds, the club moved around the village, from fields on Selby Lane, Wysall Lane, Bunny Lane and Nottingham Road and used a variety of changing room facilities including the National School, The Plough PH and the British Legion House.

## **Oldest opponents:**

Of the clubs still known to be in existence, Radcliffe on Trent (now Radcliffe Olympic FC) whom Keyworth first met in the Notts FA Junior Cup on 14 October 1893 would appear to be the oldest opponents and in the Notts Alliance League, Keyworth FC first met Boots Athletic FC on 19 January 1901.

**Whistles for the Referee from 1878:**

The second reference to Keyworth playing football does not appear until 9 November 1878 and another away match played between Notts Pioneers FC and Keyworth FC at the The Forest Grounds in Nottingham, the Pioneers again winning by one goal to nil and the Keyworth line up this time included Thomas Tomlinson (captain), John Armstrong, William Armstrong, Cockrill, Samuel Lacey, Arthur Pike, Arthur Simpson, Josh Simpson, Samuel Simpson, Joseph Tomlinson and Matthew William Wright and in reserve was William Murdin. Four more matches are reported in the 1878/79 season, home and away to Waterloo FC on 28 November 1878 and 11 January 1879 and home to Radford Excelsior on 16 February 1879 with the return fixture in Keyworth on 8 March 1879.

It should be noted that Referees were shouting or waving a handkerchief to signal their decisions from the touchline in 1876 - it was 1878 before 'whistles' were used and it was 1891 before Referees were allowed onto the field of play.

There are records of more matches during the 1879/80 and 1880/81 season and on 18 October 1880 the club participated in the Notts Castle FC Annual Athletics Day, Six-a-side football competition and were eliminated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round by Basford Park FC the eventual winners. The Keyworth team lined up with William Simpson in goal, Samuel Lacey captain, James H Kaye, William Lane Pike, William Attewell and William Armstrong

**Reporting on Keyworth Matches in 1881:**

This was a season in which Keyworth first met local neighbours Gotham FC, winning 12-0 at the opponents ground.

Below is a copy of a report in the Nottinghamshire Daily Guardian issue Friday 25 November 1881 on page 4...

*"South Notts v Keyworth - These clubs met on Saturday at King's Meadow. The home team lost the toss and started the ball against a strong wind, blowing from goal to goal. The visitors made some determined rushes which for a time were withstood but at length by combined play they secured the first goal. On resuming, each team strove hard to score but the visitors broke through scoring their second goal. After half-time Bentley steered one through the posts, the play being now generally in the visitors' quarters and after a few struggles in front of goal H Keightley managed to make matters equal, A very pleasant and fast game ended in a tie of two goals each. Players - Keyworth: W L Pike (captain), M W Wright, A Pike, W Davell, S Attewell, W Pike, W Tomlinson, A Simpson, J Armstrong, T Tomlinson, J H Kaye and W Simpson (goal). South Notts: J Spibey (captain), J Bentley, G Warner, J Bailey, Cecil Shelton, Charles Shelton, H Keightley, E Keightley, W Chambers, T Gee, F Acton and C Heald (goal)."*

**First reported Keyworth match victory - 1882:**

Having lost every match played from 1876, the 2-2 draw away against South Notts FC had opened up the 1881/82 season with promise which was fulfilled when on 25 March 1882 playing away at the Fothergills Road Ground, Keyworth defeated United Amateurs FC by 3 goals to 1 on 25 March 1882 employing almost the same line up as at South Notts except John Pike coming in for James H Kaye who dropped to being the reserve.

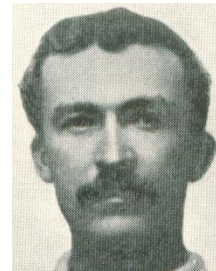
**Undefeated in Season 1882/83 - perhaps not:**

Reporting on matches in these early days often depended on the reliability and lack of bias of the 'home' team correspondent and having gone all season undefeated when Keyworth met Basford Rovers FC away at Daybrook on 17 March 1883, the Basford reporter gave the result as a 2-1 victory for the home side however Keyworth FC claimed that their undefeated record was intact and the result had been a 2-2 draw as a consequence of them snatching a late equalizer.

It is not clear whether the Basford reporter had left the match before the final whistle or whether the Basford team were claiming that the equalizer was disallowed for "off side".

**Traditional Keyworth Family Names:**

Members of some of the old Keyworth families will immediately recognise that the teams of these early days included players who were also among some of the best cricketers in the county and had careers as professionally contracted players and coaches, none more so than the legendary Nottinghamshire CCC and England test cricket bowler William Attewell ([photo right](#)) who was obviously a very talented footballer as well and known to be a Keyworth FC player since the match against Waterloo FC in November 1878 and gained selection to play on the left wing for a Nottinghamshire County FA representative team against a Lincolnshire FA selection at the Lenton Sands Ground in Nottingham on 6 October 1883.

**The Pike's:**

Newspaper reports of matches involving Keyworth FC in this period showed them playing against clubs like Basford Rovers, Jardine's Athletic, Notts Excelsior, Notts Pioneers, Radford Excelsior, Sneinton Rovers, South Notts, United Amateurs, Waterloo etc and in **1883/84**, Keyworth entered the Notts FA Challenge Cup, a new competition for the county's leading clubs. They disposed of Vernon Rangers 4-1 in the first round before losing 1-3 at Basford Rovers and in that same season the club played a fixture against the reserve team of Notts County FC, losing 3-4 on 13 October 1883 and it was reported that the KFC team included 6 players named Pike in their team. William Andrew Pike and Arthur Pike had outstanding matches and Arthur ([photo left](#)), playing at full back was subsequently chosen to play for the Notts FA representative team against London FA at the Trent Bridge Ground on 3 November 1883 and again in the following season against the same opposition on 14 November 1884 in the left half back position.



Arthur Pike was an outstanding all round sportsman, playing right back for Nottingham Forest FC on three occasions between 1887 and 1890 and was a brilliant wicket keeper/batsman with Keyworth CC and made his first class debut for Nottinghamshire CCC in 1894 and he went on to play 66 first class matches and after retirement as a player he umpired in county cricket from 1901 through to 1905 and was highly respected. A stalwart of Keyworth FC at wing half or full back, he eventually converted to centre half before retiring with a knee injury. He died in Keyworth on 15 November 1907 after 5 years of protracted illness.

Arthur Pike's brother William also played football and cricket for Keyworth and eventually moved to Wales where he was engaged as the professional for Porthmadog Cricket Club whom he continued to play for until aged 65 years. He also had a spell coaching Pwllheli CC and played football for Porthmadog FC and was responsible for establishing the first green at the Town's Golf Course.

**Notts FA Challenge Cup 1884/85:**

Keyworth FC were eliminated by Notts Rangers FC in a replay of the Quarter Final of the Notts FA Challenge Cup on 7 March 1885 at the Parkside Ground, Lenton in front of over 1000 spectators and six "Pikes" were representing KFC. The winners went on to play Nottingham Forest FC in the Semi Final - the published draw below not being entirely accurate. Notts County FC are shown as Notts and Nottingham Forest FC as Forest.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION CUP.	
RESULTS OF FIRST ROUND AND DRAW FOR THE SECOND.	
{ Notts 1 Sneinton Institute 0	{ Forest v. Wollaton (scratched)
{ Castle Rovers, a bye	{ United Amateurs 5 Greenhalgh's 3
{ Nottingham Rangers 4 Beeston 0	{ Lenton 2 Nottingham Rovers 1
{ Eastwood Collieries 1 Jardine's 3 (disqual.)	{ Basford Rovers 2 Kimberley Institute 0
{ Mellor's 3 Waverley 1	{ Keyworth 6 Steegmann's Rovers 1
{ Wanderers 3 Swifts 1	{ Sneinton Rovers 2 Bovill Rangers 1
{ Bulwell United 3 St. Mary's institute 2	Ties to be played off on or before Dec. 13.
{ Olympic 11 Nottingham Scottish 1	
The winners bracketed were drawn together in the 2nd round.	
DRAW FOR THIRD ROUND.	
Keyworth v. Rangers	Notts. v. Wanderers
Olympic v. Forest	Basford Rovers, a bye
SEMI-FINALS.	
Forest v. Basford Rovers	
Notts. v. Keyorth	

**Herbert Mills selected by the Notts FA:**

Herbert Mills was selected to play for the Notts FA at left half back in a match staged in Birmingham against the Birmingham FA in February 1888. Mills had first come to the attention of the selectors during the Notts Castle Sports Day of 1886, a major sporting event on the calendar of Nottingham at this time, the 'sports day' featured a range of sporting challenges including athletic races and the popular '6 a-side football' competition which attracted most of the best teams and players of the time in the county and Keyworth FC had entered a strong team consisting of Herbert Mills, Arthur Pike, Herbert 'Harry' Pike, William Pike, Arthur Simpson and William Tomlinson but were still eliminated early on by the very powerful Jardine's team of the time.

**Three Pikes playing for Forest:**

Nottingham Forest FC had three 'Keyworth' Pikes on their books by 1887, the flying winger Horace (photo left below), centre half Herbert (photo right) usually known as Harry, and Arthur and on one occasion all three were in the Forest line up in a match versus Sheffield Wednesday FC at home on 4 January 1890.

Horace first played for Keyworth aged 15 years and signed for Forest when he was 17, becoming a professional for the sum of £15 per season



aged 19, he played 180 times and scored 56 goals for Forest between 1885 and 1897 and had the

distinction of being the first player to score a league goal on the famous

Goodison Park ground in a match for Forest on 3

September 1892 against Everton FC, just after the new stadium had opened and in the same season was in the

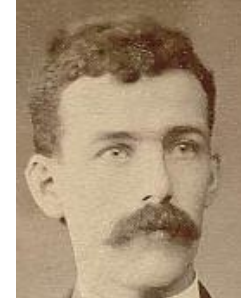
Forest team when they met Notts County FC in the Football League for the first time ever, in front of 16,000 spectators at the Trent Bridge ground. Horace, who in his

earlier years was under serious consideration for England international selection was granted a 'Benefit' match against West Bromwich Albion on 2 January 1897, a rare

event in those days and reflected how highly he was

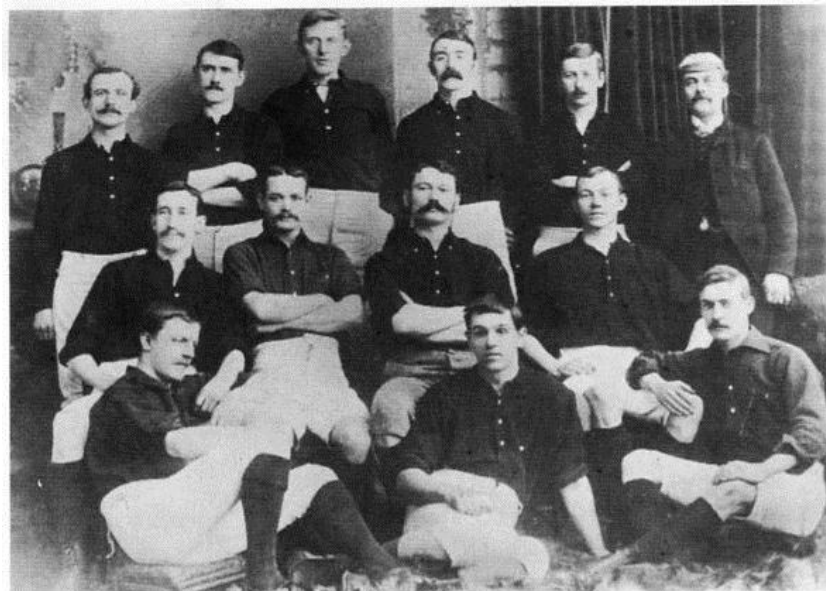
regarded by the club. Horace had made his first team

debut as a professional for Forest in an FA Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Round replay against Chatham Town FC in February 1889 in a 2-2 draw and in the 'second' replay Horace scored a goal.



(Photo right) shows the Nottingham Forest FC squad for the 1887/88 season. All the players were still amateurs and the line up includes two of the Keyworth Pikes...

Herbert 'Harry' Pike on the left hand side of the back row and Arthur Pike in the middle of the front row sitting on the ground.



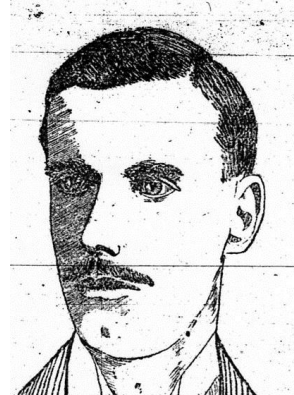
Herbert 'Harry' Pike played at centre half in the first Football Alliance League match ever played by Nottingham Forest FC on 7 September 1889 in a 3-1 victory over Walsall FC.

**1892/93 - officially members of the Notts FA:**

Keyworth FC were officially accepted as affiliated members of the Nottinghamshire FA and in the Notts FA Junior Cup during that season went on a great run, reaching the semi final before losing 2-3 to Jardine's Athletic FC after two drawn matches and a second replay, having been hampered by Shelton Pike being merely a 'passenger' after injury.

**Thomas Simpson makes headlines:**

Thomas Simpson (artist impression right) a left winger made his debut for Keyworth FC at 16 years of age in the **1893/94** season and went on to make front page news in the Football News published by the Evening News on Saturday 10 November 1900 on joining Notts County FC. The 23 year old left winger had impressed during several matches before signing from Keyworth FC - he later transferred on to play for Leicester Fosse FC (now Leicester City) and then Everton FC.



**Walter Pike tries out with Notts County FC:**

Walter Pike, the Keyworth goalkeeper was given a trial match by Notts County FC in an away friendly against Bootle FC on 11 March **1893**

**Keyworth FC and it's players disciplined by the Notts FA:**

The Notts FA suspended Keyworth FC and it's officials from 28 March 1894 until 30 September 1894 for serious misconduct during a match staged on **10 March 1894**. Forwards, William Tomlinson and William Widdowson were further suspended until 1 January 1895 and full back Matthias Hodgett until 31 October 1894.

A disappointing end to a season when the club had reached the semi final stage of Notts FA Junior Cup for the first time only to face elimination by Jardines FC in cruel fashion. They had already drawn with their esteemed rivals 1-1 thanks to a William Armstrong goal, held them again in a replay at Ruddington FC's ground and then in a second replay on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1894 they finally perished 2-3 after playing for much of the match with ten men as a consequence of an injury to key inside forward Shelton Pike who continued on the field virtually as a passenger.



**Nottingham Forest FC honour Horace Pike:**

When Forest awarded Horace Pike his 'Benefit Match' in 1897, he was then the oldest player with the club and only playing for the Reserve Team and usually scoring in most games. The benefit match which was reported on extensively in the Nottingham Evening News was delayed 30 minutes due to fog and the playing surface was frozen but 6,000 spectators turned up to see Forest lose 0-1.

Horace then signed for Loughborough FC in August 1897 and later made a few more appearances back at Keyworth FC before joining many of the Pike family in emigrating to the USA where he became a leading personality and the (photo right) is from 'The Philadelphia Inquirer' - Sunday Morning edition, 17 December 1905 with the caption below his name reading...Captain and Center Forward of the Philadelphia & Reading Athletic Association Football team. Horace had played cricket for Keyworth and his brother Shelton Pike was also a good footballer and cricketer with Keyworth before also emigrating to play professional cricket in Philadelphia and then moving on to settle in Saskatchewan, Canada where he continued to coach and umpire for 32 years.



**Keyworth join the Notts Amateur League:**

The first evidence of Keyworth FC playing League football came in the 1899-1900 season. They made a late application to join the Notts Amateur League and were accepted after the season had started and had to play catch up on the fixtures and eventually finished in 4<sup>th</sup> position in the table, Kimberley St Johns FC taking the title.

Three Keyworth players, Herbert Bolton (right back), William Armstrong (right wing) and W Wright (centre forward) were selected to represent the Amateur League in their annual challenge match at Boston Town on 11 April 1900. Thomas Simpson had earlier played for the Notts Amateur League against the Notts Combination League in the Nottinghamshire FA Charity Cup and after the match was signed up by Notts County FC and made his debut for their reserve team against Arnold on 13 January 1900.

**First Keyworth player to be 'sent off' in a League Match:**

William Widdowson an inside forward was sent off for 'fighting' in the 10 February 1900 Amateur League match against the eventual champions Kimberley St Johns FC and at the subsequent disciplinary meeting of the Notts FA received a 14 day suspension. Widdowson had picked up a reputation for his aggressive attitude on the field and had been suspended before, back in 1894. He was an outstanding all round sportsman having been selected on several occasions to play cricket for Nottinghamshire 'Colts' and would later father a son who would go on to become a professional footballer - Alf Widdowson.

**Debut in the Notts Alliance League:**

Keyworth left the Notts Amateur League and made another late entry, this time into the Notts Alliance League for the 1900/1901 season. They did not join until 15 December 1900 and inherited a record of played 7, lost 7 from the withdrawing Belvoir Rangers FC. They were never able to make up ground and finished bottom of the table, lost players and almost collapsed as a club, forcing them to withdraw and revert back to friendly matches and according to some press reports played as Keyworth Olympic FC and Keyworth Town FC although these may be journalistic or typographical errors.

**Notts Junior League & Jack Armstrong:**

Back playing League football again for the 1903/04 season, Keyworth FC finishing in ninth position in the Notts Junior League and by now possessed in their ranks a hugely promising wing half back named Jack Armstrong and the club rose to 4<sup>th</sup> position in the 1904/05 season. Armstrong (photo right) was slim, quick and neat in possession and was selected to represent the Notts Junior League team at wing half back in a friendly challenge match played at Forest's City Ground against the Irish Junior League on 15 April 1905 and must have impressed officials watching from the hosts as he signed a full professional contract with Nottingham Forest in August 1905 and went on to play 530 competitive matches for them (432 Football League, 75 War Time and the remainder in Cup & Friendlies) and included captaining the Victory Shield winning team in 1919 and the Division Two League champions of 1921/22.



Keyworth FC's 1<sup>st</sup> XI (photo right) for the start of the season 1904/05. They played home matches at Holmes Chapel Field, now the location of Nottingham Road Primary School and



lined up, left to right (photo above), back row...Jack Armstrong, Oliver Pike, Ivor Tomlinson, Arthur Murden and Henry 'Harry' Disney. Middle row, kneeling...Albert Armstrong, Arnold Disney, Walter Disney and Arthur Disney and sitting, front...Herbert Burton, George Elliott and Jack Dodson.

**Alliance League again:**

Minus Jack Armstrong the club took the bold step of leaving the Notts Junior League and stepping back up into the Alliance League and after winning their first match, hit a bad run of defeats before recovering to end the 1905/06 season sitting in a proud 5<sup>th</sup> position and Claude Pike (full back) and Walter Disney (left half) (photo left) were both selected to represent the Alliance League team against the eventual champions Sneinton FC on Easter Tuesday 1906. Meanwhile, Jack Armstrong had made his first team debut for Forest at the City Ground against Everton FC on 23 December 1905.



**Claret & Blue for 1906/07 in the Alliance:**

Arthur Murden resigned as Club Secretary during the early part of the season and 20 year old R J Beach, with experience at reserves level with both Derby County FC & Notts County FC was signed and quickly made his mark scoring four times against Bingham FC in the Notts FA Junior Cup - he left at the end of the season to join Basford United whom had taken the Alliance League title with Keyworth finishing a creditable fourth.

Keyworth FC were now playing in a brand new 'Aston Villa' style claret & blue kit and the (photo below) has the following players and officials on parade...

Back Row, left to right...Sam Gunn, Arthur Richards, L Goddard, A Gunn, Arthur Murden, Claude Pike, H Lacey & Harry Richards. Middle row...William Armstrong, Herbert Burton, Harry Disney, Frank Gunn, Arthur Disney, Harry Tomlinson & W G Murden.  
Front row...Walter Disney, R J Beach & Albert Armstrong.



**Albert Armstrong among the goals:**

The two Arthur's, Disney & Murden and Herbert Burton joined Beach in departing the ranks at the end of the 1906/07 season - the Arthur's to Ruddington FC and Burton to Sneinton FC but a mid-table finish was still accomplished with heavy reliance on goals from Albert Armstrong, younger brother of Jack, now ever present in the Forest line up and William, another goalscoring forward now reaching the veteran stage. Albert had notched 17 goals by 17 February 1908 but there are no records available to show how many of the club's 61 goals he had scored in the **1907/08** season.

For the **1908/09** season the club finished second from bottom in the Alliance and had entered a Reserve Team in the Notts FA Shield but they were eliminated in the first round and the idea was not repeated in the seasons that immediately followed.

**Easter & the Disneys:**

Easter Monday, **28 March 1910** at Mr Egglestone's field on Bunny Lane located opposite to what is now the complex of the Keyworth Health Centre, the Key Gym and car parks, an 'All Disney XI' beat the 'Rest of Keyworth' 3-0, not unsurprising since the big Keyworth 'Disney' family were supplying many of the players for the Keyworth FC team as had the 'Pike' family in the late 1800's. A big crowd witnessed the event and reports and photographs appeared in a number of Nottingham newspapers.



The 'Disney's' lined up, back row, left to right...Walter, Harry, Ezra, Percy & Arthur.  
Front row...Harry (Yankee), Fred, Arnold, Claude, Alf & Oswald.  
Sets of brothers were Alf, Fred, Harry & Walter. Arnold & Claude and Arthur, Oswald & Percy and Yankee was their cousin. Yankee got his name from having been born in New Jersey in the USA.  
Harry was actually born Henry Disney and like his brother Walter were among the star players of Keyworth FC at the time.

The Disney clan form the backbone of the Keyworth team in season 1910/11:



The 1<sup>st</sup> XI line up in their claret & blue shirts (photo above) from left to right, back row... Henry 'Harry' Disney, not known, Frank Gunn, Arthur Disney, keeper James 'John' Wilson, not known, Herbert Burton, Percy Disney and crouching in front... Claude Owen Disney, skipper Walter Disney and the prolific goalscoring Albert Armstrong. Burton and Arthur Disney are now back in the ranks and two forwards, Henry Brown and Harry Tomlinson are missing from the photograph.

Keyworth FC is struggling in a very competitive Alliance League and manage only ninth position from the twelve teams that complete the 1910/11 season as two teams drop out after heavy defeats and finish only one place above bottom club Radcliffe on Trent FC in the following 1911/12 season. They have had 6 points deducted for fielding unregistered players which pushed them into a bottom two position but were shocked to find themselves relegated - voted out of the League by the other member clubs - it is suspected that the clubs based in the city and north of the Trent do not enjoy the arduous travel to fulfill away fixtures at Keyworth, so for the 1912/13 season they played only 'friendly' matches, a season in which it had been decided that Referees should be independently appointed and not an official provided by the 'home' team, wherever possible in senior football.

#### **War is looming and a Merger with Plumtree:**

Keyworth FC and Plumtree St Marys FC were both struggling to field good strength first elevens so they decided to merge and create **Keyworth & Plumtree United Football Club** and enter the Notts Junior League for season 1913/14 where they achieved a creditable fourth position, an 11-0 victory over Bestwood Park FC, the highlight.

**Jack Armstrong making history:**

On 3 September 1910 in the Football League, Jack Armstrong played for Forest in the first ever match played at the Meadow Lane ground against Notts County FC in front of 27,000 spectators paying £755 to watch a 1-1 draw - the ground was then known as "The County Ground". Match card/programme (photo right)

Jack Armstrong continued to play for Forest through the war years and was a member of the team (photo below, back row 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) which won the Football League Championship Victory Shield. The first leg of the final against Everton FC was drawn 0-0 at the City ground, then Forest won 1-0 at Goodison Park in the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg to take the trophy. In this final war time season Forest were champions of the Midlands & Yorkshire League & Everton champions of the Lancashire & Northern League

**SOUVENIR ISSUE.**

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 Please Note the Name. **Players compare my Prices.**

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**OFFICIAL CARD & KEY TO RESULT BOARD.**

Football League Match — **NOTTS. v. FOREST.**  
 County Ground, Meadow Lane, Nottingham, September 3, 1910.  
 Last Season's Result — Notts 1 Forest 1

<b>NOTTS.</b>			<b>NOTTS.</b>		
<i>Football Plan of Field</i>			<i>Registered Copyright</i>		
Iremonger			Montgomery		
[Right side]	Griffiths	Emberton	Clamp	Craythorne	[Left side]
Dean	Matthews	Cantrell	Jones	Dodd	
Ford	Morris	Slater	Lockett	Hooper	
Needham	Wolfe	Armstrong	Dudley	Hasell	
[Left side]	Stubbs	Dudley	Hasell	Armstrong	[Right side]
<b>FOREST</b>			<b>FOREST</b>		

C. H. RICHARDS, PRINTER, (Owner of Copyright),  
 Only Address: Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham

Referee—Mr. T. P. CAMPBELL, Blackburn. Kick-off at 4.30



**The Great War:**

Football closed down in Keyworth in sympathy and consideration of the young men fighting in the first world war but young talent was still emerging and William Poole, born in Keyworth on 16 September 1900 began playing in the village but moved on to Boots Athletic FC and then Basford United where he came to the notice of Notts County FC who were deep in relegation trouble and very short of goals, so they signed William and he made his debut away against Middlesbrough FC on 5 April 1920 in a 2-5 defeat. An inside forward he had no further opportunities at County and moved on to Coventry City at the end of the season, where he again failed to get any first team opportunities and eventually drifted out to Boston Town in February 1922.

**Keyworth players lose their lives fighting for their country:**

Sadly, five Keyworth footballers lost the life in the service of their country during the war.



Claude Owen Disney  
Died 31 August 1916  
in France



Albert Armstrong  
Died 25 July 1917  
at Arras, Flanders



Arthur William Peet Disney  
Died 7 June 1917  
at Ypres, Belgium



Arnold Disney  
Died 13 April 1918  
at Ploegstraat, France



John 'Jack' Dodson  
Died 11 April 1918  
at Le Touquet, France

**Alf Widdowson signed by Notts County FC:**

Alf Widdowson ([photo right](#)) born in Keyworth on 16 September 1900 was the son of William Widdowson, an inside forward in the Keyworth FC team that finished fourth in the Notts Amateur League in their debut season of 1899/1900 and a prominent cricketer with Keyworth CC.

Alf, skilful and two footed, was prominent with the Keyworth School football team during the war as well and with the Keyworth club not playing, was invited to train with Notts County FC before call up to Army service. He usually played at inside right or centre forward and signed for County in December 1919 and featured prominently leading their reserve team attack before making his first team debut at home against Newcastle United FC on 27 March 1920 in a 0-0 draw.

Alf was a member of the County squad that won the Second Division League Championship in 1922/23 and eventually made 157 appearances scoring 46 goals in Magpie colours.



**Selby Lane, the Home Ground:**

Following the war the club settled down at a new home ground on Selby Lane and used changing facilities at the Plough Inn and this continued to be "home" up until the Second World War. The association with Plumtree was dropped and **Keyworth United FC** were playing only 'friendly' matches in the **1918/19** season as players were returning from war service and settling down back in the community.

**Keyworth United in the Spartan League & Notts FA Junior Cup:**

League football was re-introduced for the **1919/20** season and the club entered the Notts Spartan League and were in the hunt for Division One runners up honours for most of the season. In the Notts FA Junior Cup they reached the semi final stage and after a 3-3 draw at Southwell, bowed out to Newark United FC, losing 1-2 in the replay at the Lady Bay ground.

**Keyworth, not a popular 'away' match destination:**

For the **1920/21** season many new clubs had been set up as life became regularized again after war and football became evermore popular. The Spartan League was divided into three sections and KUFC competed in section 2 and challenged all season as Ruddington FC took the title but went one better in the Notts FA Junior Cup, reaching the final only to be defeated by Radford Colliery FC.

Arch rivals Ruddington FC now included Harry Tomlinson ([photo right](#)) in their ranks, formerly Keyworth's star winger, a controversial move !

Early in the season, the League had sent out warnings to clubs due to to play away matches at Keyworth, advising them to leave themselves plenty of time if they were planning to travel via Plumtree Railway Station.





**League Football for the Reserves team:**

The 'Reserves' competed in the Senior Division of the Nottinghamshire Sunday School League and finished in a respectable mid table position and wing half back Harry Hebb was selected to play for the Sunday School League representative team against the Notts Junior League XI at the Newstead ground on 5 February 1921. Regretably, during the following 1921/22 season, they were forced to withdraw the Reserve team after difficulties in finding enough players to fulfill fixtures. Meanwhile the first team finished mid-table in Division One in a re-constituted Spartan League and reached the quarter finals of the Notts FA Junior Cup with Ernest Davill, on whose family farm field both the football and cricket clubs had so often played, proving a prolific marksman in front of goal.

**Forest 'Benefit' for Armstrong:**

Forest provided a 'Benefit' Match for Jack Armstrong on 10 December 1921 against South Shields FC (now Gateshead FC) and he played his last game at Burnley FC on 4 November 1922 aged 38 and retired to run his Poultry Farm in Keyworth and became recognized as one of the country's leading experts on 'chickens'.

**Relegated by fellow League Club members & Spartan League Cup****Winners:**

In these times the Spartan League member clubs voted on the composition of the divisions and who to accept (or not) into membership. Keyworth being an 'out of town' destination and not popular with other clubs subsequently found themselves playing in Division Two for the 1922/23 season and Davill, augmented by the introduction of the free scoring Brian Wayman (photo right) in attack - 23 goals from 18 appearances, ensured that the club fared well in both League & Cup competitions but it was the 1925/26 season before they won their place back in the top division after finishing runners up. They capped off a successful season with a resounding success, thrashing Carlton Athletic FC 6-0 in the Spartan League Cup final.

**Challenging for Spartan League Honours:**

Back in the top flight, Keyworth achieved third place in the 1926/27 season, just behind Bromleys Athletic FC whom they had been promoted with and had their stockily built but pacey centre forward Alf Stevenson snapped up to join fellow Keyworth star Alf Widdowson at Notts County FC. Stevenson made his first team debut on 27 December 1926 against Southampton FC.

**Reserves, again playing League Football:**

A reserve team were entered into Division Four of the Spartan League for the 1927/28 season and finished in mid table and the 1<sup>st</sup> XI reached the Notts FA Intermediate Cup semi finals, where after a 1-1 draw they missed out on the final, hammered 1-6 by Johnson & Barnes FC in the replay.

**Down to Division Four of the Spartan League:**

Many of the experienced players no longer available, the club took the decision to forfeit their place in Division One, disband their reserve team again and play only one eleven in Division Four for the **1928/29** season. Line up ([photo below](#)), back row, left to right...

Billy Green, Edgar Pike, Arthur 'Slapper' Wilson, Tommy Hebb, Claude Pike, Tom Hall, Dick Richards, Billy Mills, Joseph Pike, Percy Murden, R Sharpe, Harry Tomlinson, Jack Tyler, Percy Disney, Musher Richards, Frank Gunn and Front Row...Hedley Tomlinson, Harry Pike, Ernest Davill, unknown mascot, Arthur Attewell, Billy Webb



**Promotion in style:**

Having found their feet again, the club won promotion losing only three matches, scoring 141 goals and conceding 27 during the **1929/30** season. They reached the fifth round of the Notts FA Junior Cup and won the Spartan League Cup, triumphing over Sneinton Imperial FC in the final and captain Percy Disney was carried shoulder high through the Keyworth streets with the cup aloft. Billy Webb and Sharpe could not stop scoring that season whilst Horace Murden, Mason and Oldfield were very dominant in midfield.

**Spartan League Cup Winners 1929/30 (photo below):**

Line up, back row, left to right...Henry Hebb, Musher Richards, Tommy Hebb, Arthur Murden, Horace Murden, ?, Billy Mills, ?, Harry Hebb, Harry Murden, William H Wootton (Secretary), Cyril Disney, Newman B Armstrong, Mr Northridge. Front Row...Ernest Davill, Stevenson, Percy Disney, Hedley Tomlinson, Bill Webb and Mr Hopkinson



**Division Three struggles lead to resignation from Spartan League:**

Mid table positions through the 1930/31 and 1931/32 seasons and poor returns in the cup competitions were not helped by the loss of their outstanding captain Percy Disney but tempered by the emergence of two future stalwarts of the club for many years to come, Jack Armstrong (son of the former Forest star) (photo right) and known as 'Jack Junior', and Harry Henson but following a disastrous start to the 1932/33 campaign and the loss of some experienced players, the club tendered their resignation from the Spartan League in January 1933 and shortly after, in the February, Jack Junior signed amateur forms with Nottingham Forest FC.



**Normanton & Keyworth Football Club, Jack Armstrong & Red/White colours:**

The club drifted through the 1933/34, 34/35 and 35/36 seasons playing the occasional friendly match and then for the start of the 1936/37 season the club changed it's name to Normanton & Keyworth Football Club and applied to join the Nottingham Realm League. Former Keyworth & Nottingham Forest star player Jack Armstrong, by now running a successful Market Garden with pigs and poultry at New Corner (now Poplars Close) and then situated in Normanton on the Wolds, offered to help with sponsorship of the club and rumour has it that the name change was to reflect this generosity and further, the club decided to play in Red & White, the colours of Nottingham Forest FC.

They joined the Nottingham Realm League playing in Division Two and in the first season back playing competitively managed to finish in 5<sup>th</sup> position with Henson scoring goals and another future stalwart shoring up the defence, in the shape of Charlie Underwood.

Legendary, Keyworth FC & Nottingham Forest FC left winger **Horace Pike**, died in Philadelphia in the USA during 1936, aged 66 years.

**Nottingham Realm League membership re-ignites the club:**

Suddenly the club had many members wanting to get a game and some would come direct from work every evening to practice and on match days 'gate money' would be charged, usually supervised by senior club officials Ralph Bolton or Arthur Marshall from a 'sentry box' stationed by the ground entrance although little boys like H G Peter Gray, a future star have confessed that they used to find a way in by squeezing through the hedge. To accommodate all the members wanting to play, extra games took place in Bob Smith's field opposite Wembley Lodge Farm on Wysall Lane, or on Platt Lane beyond the railway bridge and near to the Melton Road.

The club accepted a voluntary promotion to Division One for the **1937/38** season and after a shaky start, challenged for honours all through the season and eventually finished 6<sup>th</sup> with a fine crop of young players emerging to augment Jack Armstrong Jnr, Henson and Underwood, including full back Peter Gray, the Blatherwick's, Fred, George & John and forwards, Mort Rogers and Stuart Tomlinson whilst Douglas Beecher Pike continued to fire in the goals and take the penalties and by the **1938/39** season more promising players had emerged including wing half Stan Brain and full back Dennis Foster and a bright future looked to be assured but war was to intervene - see (photo below)...



Standing, left to right...William H Wootton (Secretary), Mostyn Attewell, John Blatherwick, George Smith, George Blatherwick, Dennis Foster, ?, Charlie Underwood, ?, ? and kneeling... Stuart Tomlinson, Jack Armstrong junior, Douglas Beecher Pike, Stan Brain, ?, Mort Rogers. Clive Blatherwick can be seen with his mother at the back of the line up.

**War on the horizon again:**

The **1939/40** season had Messrs William Gunn and Hedley Tomlinson representing the Cricket Club, with Football Club support, meeting with Ted Eggleston the tenant of the Rectory Field, with a view to renting a portion of the field. This was agreed, with the consent of the Reverend Brooker, subject to specified conditions which included no play on Sundays on the Church covenanted land and access to be only from the entrance from Elm Avenue off Selby Lane.

The Nottingham Realm League took a vote in January 1940 and all 14 teams decided to continue playing despite the on-going war and the struggles of a limited number of players to select from and they would only play each other once in a limited fixture list.

The **1940/41** season never really got started and it was decided to disband for the duration of the Second World War and £66, the proceeds from two Gymkhanas organized jointly by the Football & Cricket Clubs with a view to providing a Sports Ground for the Village, was left lying in a Bank Account.

**Long Serving Club Secretary:**

William H Wootton (photo right) the club secretary for many seasons is appointed Secretary of the Nottinghamshire Realm League for the **1944/45** season.

**Football resumes after World War II and the title Keyworth United is re-introduced:**

Following the cessation of the War, it had now been agreed that the Cricket & Football Clubs could both use the Rectory Field, jointly at a rental of £24 per annum and for the grazing rights to be sub-let to Tommy Hebb at £12 per annum.

The club title of Normanton & Keyworth FC was dropped following a decision taken at an Annual General Meeting on **16 June 1947** changing the club name back to Keyworth United Football Club.

Sharing their home ground with Keyworth Cricket Club at the Rectory Field, they used the British Legion Club in The Square, for a donation of fifteen shillings as changing room facilities until the a new pavilion was erected in 1947 and continued to use the Selby Lane ground for Sunday fixtures, a ground provided by the Keyworth Parish Council in their pursuit to provide dedicated sporting facilities away from the centre of the village, whilst transport to away fixtures was in the hands of Wright's Buses & Taxis.

**Arguably one of the greatest playing era's in Keyworth Football History:**

Some players were delayed in returning home from service but 'Pre-season trials' were staged on 19 & 26 August 1946 to check out the talent available and it was back to business in Division One of the Nott's Realm League, a competition they were about to dominate for the next four years having kept the nucleus of promising players and added two small and very lively forwards in Ron Armstrong and Billy Longworth. Sadly, winger Fred Blatherwick had lost his life during the war.

They led the **1946/47** season league championship race for much of the season but a poor run in saw them slump to third place and a home 1-7 thrashing from champions Radcliffe Olympic FC in the last match of the season followed from a League Cup final defeat from the same opponents. Douglas Beecher Pike, missing from the team below, knocked in 37 goals including 4 penalties from only 17 appearances and winger Stuart Tomlinson 15 goals from 31 appearances.

The Cup Final team line up (photo below) in their blue shirts with a yellow V stripe, back row, left to right...Morris Sharpe (Secretary), Oledd Underwood (selector), Stan Brain, Harold Woodford, Arthur Wilson, Jack Armstrong (captain), Richard Brettle, George Blatherwick (Committee member), Sid Coles, Peter Gray & Harold Wood. Front row...Ralph Bolton (Selector), Stuart Tomlinson, Harry Henson, Ron Armstrong, Billy Longworth & Frank Selby (Trainer).



The **1947/48** season was hugely successful, winning the Realm League Championship and beating Langwith Miners Welfare FC at Mansfield Town's Field Mill ground with two goals from Peter Gray playing as a makeshift centre forward in the Nottinghamshire FA Junior Cup Final (photo of cup, right) and reaching the Realm League Cup Final again, only to fail against Radcliffe Olympic FC who scored the winning goal in the last few minutes of a match played in front of two thousand spectators at Nottingham Forest's City Ground and raising £101-10s-4d on the gate.





The team were now playing in Red & White shirts with the reserves donning a blue and yellow set and more outstanding players were recruited including centre half Albert Keetley (photo left) who joined from Radford YMCA before going on to play professionally in the 1950s with Bury FC and Bournemouth & Boscombe AFC and was later player/manager with Southern League Weymouth FC. Goalkeeper Vic Sinden, winger Jimmy Longworth, younger brother of Billy and three outstanding new forwards in Jimmy Badder, Alan Daykin and Jack Sanday all added to the selector's problems and competition for places was fierce. Badder and Keetley both having been introduced to the club through the fact of playing together in the Nottingham County Boys squad and Keetley working alongside Billy Longworth at the Co-op. Badder was the League's top scorer in his debut season.

The club continued to compete in the Realm League but were looking to play at a higher local level and on 26 March 1948 made an official application to join the Nottinghamshire Alliance League only to be told that they could not be accommodated. The existing member clubs still decided on who could join and the Keyworth pub gossip was that the Alliance clubs were frightened of facing stiffer competition !

#### **Season 1948/49 and Three more titles:**

The Realm League Division One Championship was retained. The reserve team won Division Three and promotion, and at last Keyworth United had their name on the Notts Realm League Knock Out Cup for the first time, defeating Notts Regent FC at Meadow Lane in front of 2000 people paying £90 gate money, by 3-0 thanks to a hat-trick by winger Stuart Tomlinson. It had set off an amazing sequence of triumphs as on the Saturday following the final, Keyworth United took 350 supporters with them to witness a 6-0 victory over Gotham United FC to clinch the Division One title and at the same time another 300 supporters were witnessing the Reserve team defeat closest rivals Bunny United FC 3-1 to capture the Division Three title. A celebration dance took place at the Nottingham Palais - a joint function with Keyworth Cricket Club.

All this achieved with star defender Charlie Underwood out of action for much of the season from mid October following surgery in hospital and the steadying influence of Stanley Brain in midfield for a spell, a player who had been ever present in the line ups of the previous two seasons.

Jimmy Badder and Jimmy Longworth both signed amateur forms with professional clubs. Prolific scoring Badder with Bolton Wanderers FC in September 1948 and Longworth with Notts County FC in February 1949, the latter only 16 years old.



**1948/49** Cup Final line up, back row, left to right...Harry Henson (Club Secretary), Stan Brain, Peter Gray, Denis Foster, Vic Sinden, Albert Keetley, Charlie Underwood (captain) and Arthur Wilson (sponge man). Front row...Stuart Tomlinson, Alan Daykin, Ken Wightman, Mort Rogers, Jack Sandy and the mascot with the ball is Richard Disney.

#### **Best Amateur Club in Nottinghamshire:**

Realm League champions again in **1949/50** the club had gone almost to the end of the season before their first defeat in the league, sustained at home on 15 April 1950 against Notts Regent FC by a single goal and could have made a draw but for a penalty miss late in the match. All this accomplished with some of their star players often absent.



Albert Keetley the outstanding centre half, signed as a professional with Bury FC in March 1950 and centre forward Jimmy Badder spent the last two months of the season on trial with Lincoln City FC. Jimmy Longworth had been signed on amateur terms by Leeds United FC and promptly scored 12 goals for their junior team in the North East Junior League before Christmas.

The club needed to provide the players with tougher challenges week in, week out and decided to re-join the Nottingham Spartan League and in the first season back the first team averaged nearly six goals per game. They went on to win the **1950/51** League Championship, the Knock Out Cup and the Nottinghamshire Intermediate Cup in 1951 scoring 18 goals during one match and prompted **The Football Post** to describe the side as being *"one of the best, if not the best, amateur side in Nottinghamshire"*.





**The 1950/51 treble winning squad (photo above) with their haul of trophies.**  
 Left to right, back row...Harry Henson (Club Secretary and the lynch pin of the club), Les Fletcher (reserve wing half & Treasurer), Fred Eastel & Jack Foster (both Committee members), John Reeve (reserve wing half), Fred Swanborough & Jack Longworth (both Committee Members). Middle row...George Finnigan (reserve centre half), Jack Kershaw & Jack Petchell (both Committee Members), Doug Hardy (goalkeeper), Percy Murden, Mal Astbury & Peter Witcomb (both Committee Members). Front row...Ron Armstrong (inside forward), Dennis Foster (Vice Captain & full back), Carl Husk (52 goals in the season), Stan Brain (wing half), Charlie Underwood (Captain & centre half), Jimmy Badder (record 74 goals in the season), Jimmy Longworth (winger), Mort Rogers (wing half), Jack Sandy (wing half) and Sitting...Alan Daykin (inside forward), Robert Woodford (mascot & future player), Billy Longworth (winger).

This team played 42 League & Cup matches, winning 38, drawing 2 and losing only 2, home and away against 'boggy team' Chilwell United FC who eventually finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the League. They comprehensively dismissed the defending Spartan League Cup holders, Sutton Colliery Welfare FC by 10 goals to nil in the second round of the competition and Husk had netted a remarkable 8 goals in a fourth round Notts Intermediate Cup tie against Welbeck Colliery Welfare FC.

The team accomplished four 'double figure' league wins - 16-0 against Wilford Village FC, Badder & Husk each netting 6 times; 15-0 against Stapleford Town FC, Badder 5 goals and Billy Longworth four; 13-1 against Rangers Athletic FC, Badder 6, Husk 4 and 11-0 against Colwick Sugar FC with Husk & Billy Longworth both scoring hat-tricks.

Nottingham Forest FC recognized the club's achievements and officially adopted them as a 'Nursery Club' and Fred Swanborough one of the unsung heroes in the background had set up a 'Supporters Club' and they were regularly taking two and sometimes three, full bus loads of supporters to away matches.

Carl Husk and former Derby County FC & Nottingham Forest FC inside forward Tom Hinchliffe (photo right) were both FA registered players, a status that allowed former professionals to play at amateur level. Hinchliffe was already a formidable cricketer with Keyworth CC. Dennis Foster, an ever reliable full back and Billy Longworth were both selected to represent the Spartan League against the Midlands Amateur Alliance League on 26 September 1950 in a drawn match and 16 years old Centre half Keith Marchbank was selected to represent the District Schools XI.



The reserves were now playing in Division One of the South Notts League where they finished 5<sup>th</sup> behind champions Bingham FC under Arthur Wilson's experienced leadership and with S Roberts scoring nine hat-tricks through the duration of the season.

Form was sustained through the **1951/52** season despite a number of the players now nearing the veteran stage and the loss of both Billy and Jimmy Longworth to Nottingham Forest FC where the pair spent most of the season playing Reserve and 'A' team matches, Billy winning a medal in the Central Alliance Cup final match with Notts County FC and Jimmy gaining selection for the Notts FA against Leicestershire FA in the Northern Counties Amateur championship match at Lenton on 10 November 1951.



Ron Armstrong (photo left) was strongly supporting the Badder/Husk goals machine and won selection for the Spartan League against the Bulwell League in May 1952. Jimmy Badder (photo right) again topped 40 goals for the season as KUFC fought tooth and nail with long standing local rivals Ruddington FC for the title before just missing out and having to beat Aspley Old Boys FC in a play off match for the runners



up spot - Badder netting 4 times in a 6-1 romp and revenging a 0-2 semi final defeat in the Spartan League Cup. The reserve team having switched to the Notts Amateur League struggled all season at Division 3 level and at one stage had a 13 match losing run.

At the Club AGM of 13 June **1952** it was decided to abolish Annual Subscriptions and replace them with a One Shilling Match Fee but only for home matches. It had become increasingly difficult to collect an annual subscription from fringe players who were rarely selected to play and it was decided to bring more young players into first team action. Ron Armstrong was again selected to represent the Spartan League, this time against the Realm League on 4 May 1953 and Badder and Husk continued to find the net but less frequently as the team struggled to supply them with chances, dropping to a final position of 5<sup>th</sup> and missing out in the Cup competitions.

Keyworth United in action:



Ruddington's goalkeeper pushes the ball over the bar ([photo above](#)) in the Boxing Day 'derby' match at the Rectory Field on 26 December 1952 - Ruddington are in the stripes shirts and supporters can be seen in the background behind the goal at the far end of the pitch.

The 1953/54 season was slightly worse as the new, younger players struggled to achieve the standards set in the previous seasons since the war, dropping to 8<sup>th</sup> position.

**A 'Colts' team is entered into the Nottinghamshire Youth League:**

At the AGM 11 June 1954 with £93 cash in the bank it was decided to enter a 'Colts' team (under 16 years of age on 1 March 1955) into the First Division of the Notts Youth League. They played on Pat Boyles Field, now the Nottingham Road School and used the British Legion Club for changing rooms and wore a set of Green & Gold quarter shirts obtained from a defunct team in Tollerton. They found it tough going, winning only three matches and finishing second from bottom but the experience was proving invaluable and a number of the players were introduced into the Reserve team and many of the squad would become first players of the future. Committee members Ken Baum and Harold Woodford had taken them under their wing and one of the players, Douglas Marchbank took on the secretarial duties, assisted by Eric Watson.

The Reserves finished mid table at the end of the **1954/55** season but the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had scraped together only 4 points and finished second from bottom and as the 'colts' started to progress to first team level this position became even worse with bottom place in the Spartan League Division

One for the **1955/56** season but the 'colts' were also busy contesting strongly in the Notts Youth League and finished a very creditable runners up against some tough competition - line up in the (photo right) includes, back row, from left to right...

John Woodford,  
Roy Hebb,  
Arthur Cronk,  
Philip Attewell,  
Douglas Marchbank &  
Colin Henderson and



front row...Mick Millwood, Peter Bailey, Tom Derrick, Tony Passam & Arthur Oldham.

#### **Changing times and Arthur Oldham first makes his mark:**

The club lost two outstanding members in **1955**. Jack Longworth, father of the star wingers Billy and Jimmy and a Keyworth player himself through the 1930s and who had more recently been a stalwart off the pitch as a Trainer, Groundsman, Selector & Committee Member, passed away and Roland 'Mort' Rogers, a dependable player in the middle of the park since the end of the second world war decided to emigrate overseas.

A second pitch became available on the Rectory Field as a result of ground improvements in **1955** when following the completion of cricket home fixtures, two trees - a lime and a horse chestnut, both of which had stood within the cricket boundary along the Nottingham Road side of the Rectory Field, were felled to make room for an extra football pitch for use by the 'Colts' team, following a brief period when they had played on the field behind Wright's Garage on Selby Lane.

One of the 'colts', Arthur Oldham (in photo above), described in the press as "*the smallest and youngest player on the field*" was selected to represent the Notts Youth League against a Nottingham University 'Freshman's' XI and scored the sixth goal direct from a free kick in a 6-2 victory on 14 March 1956.

**New goalscorers to help Jimmy Badder:**

The 'Colts' team was discontinued and a decision was taken to give the young players the opportunity of selection for both the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> XI's. Scouts had been gathering toward the end of the previous season from the professional clubs with Peter Bailey, Douglas Marchbank, John Woodford and Arthur Oldham particularly in focus and eventually the pint sized winger Oldham signed for Notts County FC and immediately played in their 'A' team. Woodford was not so lucky, breaking an ankle on 20 October 1956 at Calverton Colliery during a 2-4 defeat in the Notts FA Intermediate Cup but Bailey stepped up to help Jimmy Badder and another youngster Mick Millwood score goals that propelled the first XI back up the table to a challenging 4<sup>th</sup> position at the end of the 1956/57 season. Bailey notched seven hat-tricks during the campaign including all six goals against Ericssons Athletic FC at home on 9 March 1957. Marchbank also chipped in with some valuable goals and a lot of hard work setting up the strikers.

Bailey was lost during the 1957/58 campaign whilst doing his 'National Service' but Robert Fearn, a hard running winger with an eye for goal made up for his loss, crashing 7 past Arnold Rovers Reserves in a cup tie and 5 goals against local foes Ruddington and helped keep the team mid-table in Division One whilst the reserves challenged all season before finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Notts Amateur League Division Five.

**Rectory Field Home Ground future secured:**

The Rectory Field home ground future was secured when on 28 April 1958, a 21 year lease arrangement for the Rectory Field was entered into between the Keyworth Parish Council,

Herbert Mills, Trustees (Alwyn A Middleton & Elaine Isobel Ashworth) all vested in the Management Committee of the Keyworth Playing Fields Association.



The 1957/58 team line up, left to right, back row...Roy Hebb, John Towle, Brian Brain,

John Woodford, Barry Hunt & Neville Reast. Front row...John Stubbs, Doug Marchbank, Peter Bailey, Jimmy Badder (capt) & Tommy Derrick.

Fourth place was secured in Division One of the Spartan League in **1958/59** and the team (photo below) featured back row, left to right...the hard working groundsman Fred Swanborough, Roy Hebb, John Towle (later to become Clerk to the Keyworth Parish Council), Brian Brain, John Woodford, Barry Hunt, Jimmy Badder and long service club officials Fred Antcliff & Harry Henson. Front row...Fred Wilkinson, Mick Millwood, Barry Dolman, Doug Chantry & Robert Fearn.



This team, augmented by the likes of Peter Bailey and Doug Marchbank and the emerging Stubbs brothers David, John & Michael where just nudged out of winning the League title by Blidworth Colliery Welfare FC in the **1959/60** season having gone 16 matches from the start of the season before tasting a 1-3 defeat on 20 February 1960 against Hyson Green Old Boys FC.

**1960/61** saw the Reserves clinch the Runners Up spot in Division Five of the Notts Amateur League whilst the first team were fourth in the Spartan League and reached the semi final of the League Cup before losing out 1-2 in a replay after 4-4 draw against Balderton Wanderers FC.

Thomas Simpson, the former Keyworth left winger who played as a professional with Notts County FC, Leicester Fosse FC and Everton FC, died in Oldham, Lancashire on 19 December **1961** aged 84 years.

#### **Robert Woodford debuts for Notts County FC:**

Robert Woodford (photo right) who had been the mascot of the brilliant Keyworth FC team of the early fifties and the son of former post war player Harold Woodford made his debut for Notts County FC against Southend United FC at Meadow Lane on 23 April **1962** in a 2-0 victory. Rob a wing half made three successive end of season appearances before eventually returning to Keyworth to join up with his brother John and become lynch pins for the club.



The 1<sup>st</sup> XI were again eliminated at the semi final stage of the Spartan League Cup, this time by Meadows Old Boys FC and are placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the 1961/62 League. The reserve team were now playing in Division Two of the Spartan League and also placed fifth. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI line up in the (photo below), back row, left to right...Roy Hebb, Fred Wilkinson, David Stubbs, John Towle, Neville Reast, Mick Millwood & Fred Antcliff. Front row...Jimmy Badder, Doug Marchbank, Peter Bailey who scored 9 times against Crown Amateurs FC in a 15-0 win in the cup, Mick Stubbs & John Marshall.



#### Financial Crisis and Players & Officials Depart, including Harry Henson:

At the Annual General Meeting on 10 July 1962, concern is raised regarding the state of the club finances and the availability of players and by September the committee is forced to withdraw the first team from Division One of the Spartan League and field just one team in Division Two for the 1962/63 season. The club is in turmoil as key officials including the long serving Harry Henson decide to step down and a number of regular first team players seek pastures new including the free scoring Peter Bailey who joins Tollerton Rangers FC. The remaining players can only manage 14<sup>th</sup> position in the League.



Harry Henson (photo left) had first played for the club in 1931 and was a prolific goalscoring centre forward before the outbreak of World War II. Injured on active service, he continued to play until 1955 and became a very effective and efficient Club Secretary starting in 1948 steering the club through one of its most successful periods in the early post war years and continued to serve as an officer of the Spartan League long after leaving Keyworth United. Often referred to as 'His Royal Highness', Harry's middle initial was 'R', he was an outstanding cricketer and captain with Keyworth CC and a Parish

Councillor through the 1960's.

**Keyworth United FC is re-born:**

The club has only 25/10d left in the kitty with which to commence the **1963/64** season. Goalkeeper Brian Brain took on the mantle of Club Secretary and together with loyal servants Fred Antcliffe and Fred Swanborough they combined to set up a 'tote' to raise funds, with the players out on the Keyworth doorsteps selling the tickets. The club had lost its status as a Nottingham Forest 'junior' club and therefore there was no Red & White playing strip, so a set of cheap strip was purchased and it is Blue & White !

They finished a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Division Two of the Spartan League and were promoted back into the top division and fielded a Reserve team which finishes 7<sup>th</sup> in Division Three.

Sadly, during the season, arguably Keyworth greatest ever player and a legend at Nottingham Forest FC, the great Jack Armstrong died at Tollerton on 9 November 1963 at the age of 79 years.



Back in the Senior Division of the Spartan League they finish sixth in **1964/65** and the reserves finish fourth in Division Two. 1<sup>st</sup> XI team line up in (photo left), left to right, back row...

George Davison,  
Terry Higgott,  
John Hubbard,  
David Stubbs,  
John Richmond,  
John Woodford &  
Brian Brain .

Front row...Ken Brailsford, Alan Daft, Tony Bray, Keith Betts & Tommy Reid.

Progress was halted, when the club finished bottom of the Senior Division in **1965/66** and second from bottom in the **1966/67** season and were then relegated but a big investment of time was being given to developing junior players.



**Youth Policy is alive and thriving:**

A mid table showing in Division One during the **1967/68** season and the reserves finishing only 15<sup>th</sup> in Division Two is tempered by better than expected results from the Juniors. The 'Colts XI' playing in Division Two of the Notts FA Youth League finish 7<sup>th</sup> of 15 teams. The 'Junior XI' win the Senior Division of the Young Elizabethan Youth League and the 'Robins XI' finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the YEL Intermediate Division. Sadly by the 1972/73 season there are no Keyworth youth teams again.

Former Keyworth FC & Notts County FC forward Alf Widdowson died aged 70 years in **1970** and at the end of the 1970/71 season local lad Brian Stubbs is a member of the Notts County FC team that wins the Division Four League championship.

**Spartan League Division One runners up 1971/72:**

Keyworth United are runners up in the Notts Spartan League Division One under the stewardship of Eric Watson, who can still be seen on the touchline supporting the club today. The team (photo below) included two sets of brothers, John & Rob Woodford and Donald & George Frame.



Line up, left to right, back row...John Woodford, George Frame, Dave Bradshaw, Rob Woodford, Mick Straw, Keith Horsley and Eric Watson (Manager) and kneeling... Jason Waite, Brendon Murray, Mick Brooks, Denis Pitchfork and Donald Frame.

The under 16s won the Notts Youth League Cup in season **1972/73**. Captain George Frame and forward Paul 'Willy' Gee would go on to become first team stalwarts in the future.

**NOTTS SPARTAN Division One LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1973/74:**

Team (photo below) line up, back row, left to right...Keith Horsley, Mick Straw, Dave Bradshaw, Robert Woodford, Dave Stubbs (brother of Notts County star Brian) and John Woodford. Front row...George Frame, Arthur Oldham (later to become Manager), John Hubbard, Mike Brooks and Denis Pitchfork.



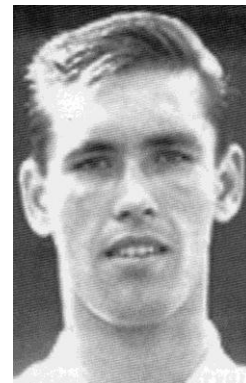
**Return to the Notts Alliance League after 63 years:**

Keyworth United left the Spartan League and rejoined the Notts Alliance League for the **1975/76** season for the first time since being voted out at the end of the 1911/12 season and in their first season back won promotion to Division One as champions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division whilst the Reserves team continued and contended strongly in the Premier Division of the Spartan League and a team known as Keyworth Albion competed in Division One.

Runners Up in the Alliance League Division One was matched by the reserves who are runners up in the Spartan Premier Division for the **1976/77** season and promotion to the top division of the Notts Alliance League is achieved by winning Division One in the **1977/78** season and Paul Gee is among the League's leading scorers with 26 goals.

**Notts FA Intermediate Cup success & back playing at Senior Amateur level:**

Keyworth United are champions in both the 1975/76 and 1977/78 seasons and losing semi finalists in 1978/79 and are now back playing with the elite amateur clubs of Nottingham and matching the outstanding Keyworth team of the late 1940's/early 1950's. This was reflected by the signing of former Aston Villa, Chelsea & Liverpool striker Tony Hateley (photo right) who made his debut in a Notts Alliance Senior League Cup tie against Clipstone Miners Welfare FC on 9 December 1978, Hateley had first established his career at Notts County FC.



**A new Home Ground is required & KUFC move to Platt Lane :**

The promotion to the Notts Alliance Senior Division caused some problems as the undulating pitch at the Rectory Field was deemed to be unsuitable for the standard of football that the club had now been promoted into, the search for a new pitch began and the present home ground Platt Lane was the location chosen and the first game played at the new ground was a Notts Alliance Senior league fixture against Clipstone Miners Welfare FC resulting in a 1-1 draw on **7 October 1978**.

**Everton & Liverpool stars to open Platt Lane ground**

The new home ground was officially celebrated on **19 August 1979** in a pre-season match against an All Stars XI of former Everton FC & Liverpool FC players before a large crowd (photo right) and ostensibly to raise funds for the club's youth teams. The match was officiated by local Football League referee Brian Martin and KUFC won 7-3. The visitors goals were



scored by Roger Hunt, Tony Hateley and Geoff Strong and presentations were made by Larry Lloyd, Dave Hickson & John Barnwell. Former international players, Terry Hennessy, Gordon Milne and Derek Temple also featured for the All Stars XI (photo left).





World Cup winner Roger Hunt is surrounded by Keyworth youngsters seeking his autograph in the [\(photo left\)](#).

Making his debut in the match was KUFC's new signing Dave Binch [\(photo below\)](#), a local lad who had been a professional during the 1975/76 & 1976/77 seasons with Doncaster Rovers FC and who would make in impact playing in



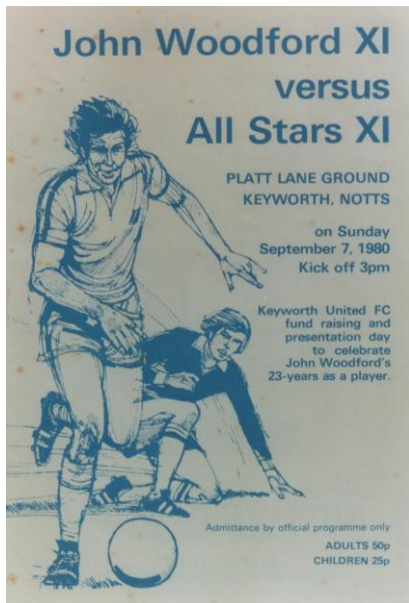
midfield in support of the free scoring Dave 'Biddy' Riley over the next couple of seasons.

The Reserves were also improving in standard and following a runners up place in the **1978/79** Spartan League Premier Division and runners up in the League Cup Final, They followed the 1<sup>st</sup> XI into the Notts Alliance League for the **1979/80** campaign, playing in Division Two. A campaign in which the 1<sup>st</sup> XI lost nine matches in a row before Christmas but recovered sufficiently for a mid-table finish and the club were now running three youth teams, sponsored by the Salutation Pub on Main Street and their licensee Alan Hill, the former Nottingham Forest FC goalkeeper and coach.

Tall, left footed striker John Galley [\(photo right\)](#), arrived from Telford United FC after a distinguished career with a number of clubs including Bristol City FC and Nottingham Forest FC to give a further boost to the first team Arthur Oldham was assembling in an assault on the Notts Alliance League title. John was also helping with coaching and eventually took over a youth team which included his son Chris, already a South Notts schoolboy representative player.



A 19 match unbeaten run ended against Meadows Albion FC on 7 March 1981, the last previous defeat also coming against the Albion in the second match of the season on 6 September 1980. This all contributed to a third place finish in the Alliance League being achieved in season **1980/81** in the Senior Division and the Reserves were promoted to Division One as runners up in the second division with John Carlisle prolific among the goals.



**Veteran player John Woodford is honoured:**

On 7 September 1980 a match took place at Platt Lane between a John Woodford XI and an All Stars XI to celebrate John's retirement after 23 years of service for the club (photos left & below). Not only a loyal servant but also very fine wing half/defensive midfielder. The match was won by the All Stars 7-2 and Larry Lloyd the England & Nottingham Forest centre half was on hand to make a special presentation to John. Roly Braithwaite & Mick Straw scored for John's XI. Ian Moore (3), John Galley (2), Tony Hateley (1) & Bob Raynor (1) for the All Stars XI.



**Relay Run to Skegness for Charity:**

Two days before the John Woodford match, Keyworth players made a Relay Run to Skegness and back for the International Year of Disabled People Charity on 5 September 1981 and followed this up the next day with a match against a Professional Managers XI.

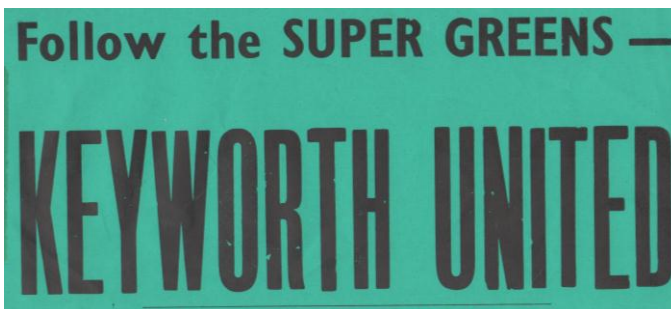
Fifth place for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in season **1981/82** was a disappointment despite being the second highest scorers in the division with significant contributions from David Riley signed in November (17 league & 4 cup goals), John Galley, Paul Taylor and Fred Brown who emerged from the reserves where he had been scoring freely. A third adult team was now playing in the Premier Division of the Notts Spartan League as Keyworth United 'A' and with the youth section expanding, more than 350 people were present at the Nottingham Forest FC Jubilee Social Club for the end of season Presentation Night.

1981/82 1<sup>st</sup> team line up (photo below) in their 'Fine Pine' sponsored kit, left to right, back row...Maurice Simpson (Secretary), Alan Collier, Brian Jones, Paul Marchbank, Mick Sharpe, Dennis Jackson (skipper and voted Player of the Year), Nigel Featherstone & Arthur Oldham (Manager). Front row...Steve Culley, Paul Taylor, Pete Anthony, John Galley, David 'Biddy' Riley & Robbie Marchbank.



The 1982/83 season commenced in new strip, courtesy of sponsorship from the Rancliffe Arms Public House in Bunny, now under the management of Alan Hill (left in photo) the former Nottingham Forest FC goalkeeper and in a hard fought campaign with defending champions Rainworth Miners Welfare the first XI fell just one point shy of wresting the Alliance League title from them, with David Riley and Fred Brown (each with 21 goals) among the division's leading scorers. Manager, Arthur Oldham (right in photo)

Car 'rear window' stickers introduced:



**Arguably, the best Keyworth team since the 1950's:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI had embarked on an undefeated run of 'away' league matches from 25 September 1982 which was to last until defeat by Plessey FC on 18 February 1984, a record sequence of 20 matches undefeated on the road. This consistency put them in the running for the league



title throughout the **1983/1984** season before finishing third and again just one point off the lead. All this despite losing key striker David Riley, seen in the (photo left) signing professional terms with Nottingham Forest FC in January 1984, flanked by his parents and with Forest's assistant manager, Ronnie Fenton at the back and KUFC manager Arthur Oldham present in support on the right. Oldham had now taken over managing the Notts FA representative XI as well with club captain Dennis Jackson, Gary Wade, Robbie Marchbank, Fred Brown & Paddy Gethings earning selection alongside Riley.

At youth level, Stuart Meek was again selected to represent the Notts FA in the East Midlands Under 18 County Championship and Simon Baker, Chris Galley, Richard Mann and Paul Whittington were all selected to represent South Notts Schools at under 13 level whilst the KUFC under 16 squad (photo below) won the Notts FA Cup for their age group beating Sandiacre Town FC 3-0 in the final at the Mill Street ground.

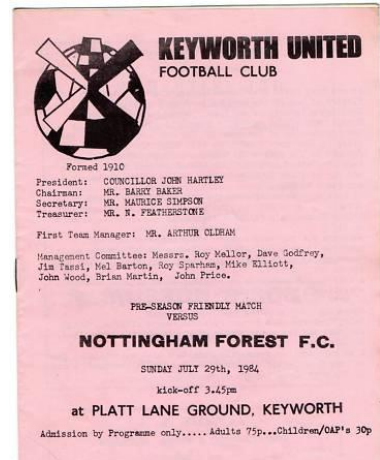


**1984/85 Notts Alliance Football League Champions:**

The season got off to a rousing start on 29 July 1984 with a pre season friendly against Nottingham Forest FC and ended with KUFC, champions at last of the Notts Alliance League.



Among the squad during this period were the present Chairman Robert Clegg and Rob Marchbank, Dave Collison and Bobby Oldham, all still very active with the



club. Sammy Chapman, one of the few footballers to have played for all three professional teams in Nottinghamshire also played a key part in the success. The squad line

up in the (photo below) left to right, back row...Arthur Oldham (Manager), Maurice Simpson (Club Secretary), Alan Collier, John Bower, Dave Buxton, Sammy Chapman, Robert Clegg, Dave Collison, Peter 'Mex' Boot (Trainer), Barry Baker (Chairman) & Alan Hill (Sponsor) & Front row, Bobby Oldham, Gary Wade, Fred Brown, Denis Jackson (capt), Robbie Marchbank, Dean Parr & Stuart Meek.



Arthur Oldham's coup at the start of the season was signing up Mick Waitt (photo right) a giant 6ft 4ins centre forward from Arnold Kingswell FC. The Plessey electrician only stayed for half a season but made an instant impression, culminating in him signing on professional terms for Notts County FC in December 1984 for a £500 transfer fee and quickly making his debut versus Wimbledon FC away on Boxing Day 26 December 1984 in a 2-3 defeat.





The Nottingham Evening Post ran a sports page feature (photo above) in their Saturday 22 December 1984 issue of the two former Keyworth United players, David 'Biddy' Riley (right) already with Nottingham Forest FC and Mick Waitt having just signed full professional terms with Notts County FC after a couple of successful reserve team appearances.

Waitt eventually made 82 appearances, scoring 27 goals for County in the Football League before moving on to Lincoln City in June 1987 where he scored 8 goals in his first 18 appearances before suffering a broken leg and after recovery was transferred to Boston United for a fee of £17,500 in December 1989.

#### **Keyworth prominent for the Notts FA:**

Fred Brown, Dave Buxton, Dave Collison, Denis Jackson, Dean Parr, Gary Wade and two players not featured in the photograph on page 33, Paddy Gethings & Bob Norris were also engaged in Arthur Oldham's Notts FA XI which finished runners up in the Midland Counties championship and regular selection Stuart Meek, was joined by Russell Males, Cameron Miles, Bobby Oldham & Darren Stapleton in the Notts FA under 18 youth squad, illustrating the depth of talent in the club at this time.

#### **Keyworth playing in the FA Vase:**

The club had made it's debut in the competition away in South Yorkshire against Emley FC on 6 October 1984, eventually going down 1-3 after extra time. This national competition had replaced the former FA Amateur Cup and Keyworth tasted victory in the following season, beating Barnton FC away on **31 August 1985** by 2-0 before a further journey to Yorkshire saw them defeated 0-3 by Harrogate Town. The season had began with a series of prestigious friendlies at Platt Lane, against Notts County FC who included Mick Waitt, now an established member of the their team, against Derby County FC and against Nottingham Forest FC and as defending champions Keyworth lost 0-1 to a Notts Alliance League XI in the annual season opening fixture.

Arthur Oldham had replaced Waitt for the **1985/86** season with Tim Devine, a former schoolboy international striker with lightening pace who had been released by Everton FC and he went onto become the club's Player of the Year and made several appearances on trial with Nottingham Forest's reserve team but generally a lack of goals saw the club finish only third in a league season badly affected by a prolonged spell of wintry weather through February 1986, fully 6 points behind the eventual champions, John Player Athletic FC. Oldham was again in charge of the Notts FA XI when they played Leicestershire & Rutland FA at Sutton Town's ground on 5 March 1986. The squad included five Keyworth players...Dave Collison, Tim Devine, Denis Jackson, Robbie Marchbank & Gary Wade and Youth team player Simon Baker, was now a member of the Notts FA Under 19 squad

### **Red, White & Black for one season only:**

KUFC players, Dave Collison, Dennis Jackson and Gary Wade who scored a goal, were all included in the Notts Alliance League XI that took on John Player Athletic FC in the season opening match to the **1986/87** season where 6<sup>th</sup> place was achieved in an unfamiliar new strip obtained through former player Bob Norris and was originally manufactured for the Denmark national team and sponsored by the Rancliffe Arms Pub again. The club struggled to hold onto it's best players and did well to finish only 10 points behind the eventual champions Notts Police FC while the reserve team fought against relegation from Division One all season, eventually successfully.



**1986/87** 1<sup>st</sup> XI line up (photo above), left to right, back row in their Red & White strip, David Barton, Martin Knight, Dave Collison, Mick Spencer, Dennis Jackson, Graham Ayres, Jeremy Binch & Arthur Oldham (Manager) and front row...Bobby Oldham, Ian Woolley, Tony Kidd, Pete Fletcher & Stuart Meek

**Former player David Riley leaves Forest:**

'Biddy' Riley, the former KUFC forward proved very popular with fans at Nottingham Forest for his willingness to work hard and keep a smile on his face but after making only 12 first team appearances, scoring 2 goals and loan spells at Darlington FC and Peterborough United FC, he moved on to Port Vale FC for a transfer fee of £20,000 in **October 1987**. Scoring on his debut he was soon a big hit and a member of their 1988/89 promotion winning side only to break his leg in a 1-1 draw at Bolton Wanderers. He managed to recover, but did not re-capture his first team position and in March 1990 moved back to Peterborough United for a fee of £40,000.



**Licensed Bar installed in the Clubhouse:**

With the financial assistance of Vaux Breweries, the club built an extension to the clubhouse at Platt Lane to provide a Licensed Bar for the **1987/88** season and were now fielding a 3<sup>rd</sup> adult team playing in the Notts Amateur League in Division 3 and finished 4<sup>th</sup> from 16 teams, an under 15s team in the Notts Youth League and four teams in the Young Elizabethan Youth League at under 14, 13, 12 & 11 age level. Paul Gorman gained selection for the Notts FA Under 19s team against Lincolnshire FA at Balderton on 4 October 1987.

**Brian Clough brings Nottingham Forest to Keyworth:**



**Keyworth United v. Nottingham Forest.**

In front of an estimated crowd of 2000 people and recorded on 'postcard' as shown on the previous page, Keyworth United played in a pre-season friendly against Nottingham Forest FC on **24 July 1988** at the Platt Lane ground for the Arthur Oldham testimonial. The Forest squad included Des Walker, Neil Webb, Nigel Clough, Gary Birtles, Steve Sutton, Stuart Gray etc. and the visiting Manager, Brian Clough spent almost the entire afternoon signing autographs and chatting to the spectators as his team romped to a 7-0 victory.

The **1988/89** season however proved largely disappointing as the 1<sup>st</sup> XI could do no better than 7<sup>th</sup> in the Alliance Senior Division and the 'A' team were forced to withdraw from the Notts Amateur League because of difficulties raising a team as the Reserves battled all season long to survive in the Alliance Division One.

The youth section of the club was gaining in strength and had teams in the top five positions of their respective leagues at Under 16, 15, 14, 13,12 and 10 age levels and youth team player Wayne Mabbott was a member of the Notts FA Under 19s squad that participated in the ESFA Gillette Festival at Skegness in May 1989.

#### **Arthur Oldham departs:**

The club began the **1989/90** season in turmoil as Arthur Oldham quit as Manager in August 1989 after 11, mostly successful years with the club, taking the coaching staff of Tony Smith & David Wheater and trainer Peter Boot with him following a dispute with the Club Committee and as a consequence the Reserve team is disbanded.

Arthur was born in Keyworth in 1940, the son of former player and local milkman James Oldham. A pint size forward, he emerged from the 1954/55 youth team and made his debut for the reserves aged 14 years and then the first team in the 1955/56 season against Aspley Old Boys. He began the 1956/57 season in the first team before signing with Notts County FC and played immediately for their 'A' team then Reserves but struggled with injuries and missed almost a complete season. He then played for the Nottingham Forest FC reserve team during the 1958/59 season and then Peterborough United FC reserves before moving on to Alfreton Town FC, Arnold St Marys FC and apart from a short spell under Peter Taylor (Brian Clough's former sidekick) at Burton Albion he remained at Arnold Town as they then became until moving to play in Australia with the New South Wales club Newcastle FC for two seasons where he played against many visiting European clubs including the Italian giants AS Roma. Arthur returned to Arnold for the 1967/68 season and stayed with them until re-joining KUFC as player/manager for the 1971/72 & 72/73 seasons before moving on to coach at Bromsgrove Rovers FC, Kimberley Town FC and Eastwood Town FC before re-returning as Manager of KUFC for the 1977/78 season.



**Arthur Oldham...**

He quickly lifted KUFC into the top division of the Notts Alliance League and built a formidable squad of players which claimed the 1984/85 Notts Alliance League championship and were always competitive in the Notts FA Senior Cup and played in the national FA Vase competition in seasons 1984/85 & 85/86

with many of the players winning Notts FA and Notts Alliance League representative honours. Arthur himself, managed the Notts FA XI team from 1983 to 1987 during which time they were twice Midlands Counties champions and twice runners up. Two players, David 'Biddy' Riley and Mick Waitt signed for professional clubs, Nottingham Forest FC & Notts County FC during Arthur's time in charge and the club regularly attracted Forest, Notts County & Derby County to bring their first team squads to play pre-season friendlies against KUFC to the delight of local supporters.

Arthur moved on to continue in football management after leaving KUFC, with Arnold Town FC and Quorn FC.

Arthur's brothers Jack, Norman and Ted all played for KUFC in the years following the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Their father James, a big strapping guy had played full back for the club just after the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and Arthur's two sons, Bobby and Mitch both progressed through the club's youth teams and Bobby enjoyed a good career playing on the right wing for many seasons, including during the Alliance championship year and the legend that is Arthur Oldham can still be seen helping Bobby on the touchline at youth team matches.

**Brian Stubbs returns to Keyworth Football:**

Former Notts County central defender, Brian Stubbs took over as Manager from Arthur Oldham with long serving midfielder Robbie Marchbank as his assistant for the **1989/90** season. A season of struggle with 15<sup>th</sup> place in the Notts Alliance Senior Division reflecting dropping performances with a brief flirtation in the FA Vase bringing a 2-4 defeat at the hands of Grimesthorpe Colliery Welfare in the extra preliminary round with no serenade from the miners famous brass band.



Brian Stubbs, born in Park Avenue, Keyworth on 8 February 1950 and contrary to popular belief, did not play officially for KUFC until the 1985/86 season and after his professional career was ended. His ability was recognised early with selection for the Rushcliffe Schools team and on leaving school he began a printer's apprenticeship and he signed to play for Loughborough United FC and was offered a trial at Nottingham Forest FC but signed for Notts County FC in September 1968 and began a long and very successful career with the Magpies including a Division Four League Championship medal and being elected Player of the Year for that 1970/71 season. In the Football League between 1968 and 1980 he made 426 appearances including 3 as a substitute and scored 21 goals and in the various Cup competitions he made 70 appearances and scored 7 goals.

**Brian Stubbs...**

Stubbs started out as an inside forward but was converted into a centre half. He had a rugged style and standing 6ft 2ins tall, weighing 12 stones, he usually dominated opponents in the air and was unflinching in the tackle and was more than useful in the opponents penalty area for dead ball situations.

On leaving Meadow Lane, he dropped down to non league and signed for Grantham Town FC in November 1981 to play with several ex County colleagues before moving on to become Player/Manager of Calverton Miners Welfare FC in January 1983 and then joining KUFC.

The Stubbs family had enjoyed very close ties with both KUFC and the Keyworth Cricket Club for whom Brian was a very handy batsman. Father Archie was an inside forward and Uncle Arthur a centre half in the KUFC teams immediately after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and brothers David, a goalkeeper who had trials with Arsenal, John and Michael all featured for KUFC during the 1960/70s.

**Bowery scores against Plessey:**

Another former pro, the big powerful Bert Bowery, ex Nottingham Forest FC and Lincoln City FC, signed and scored for KUFC on 23 March 1991 against GPT Plessey. The club pushed hard for promotion all through the 1990/91 season but tailed off to finish 4<sup>th</sup>. A 'reserves' team re-entered the Notts Spartan League and gained promotion from Division Two while at youth level the Under 16s lost in their cup final against Pheasant Colts and the Under 15s also reached their cup final and played against Sutton Rangers.



**Collison in charge and a 'Lineswoman' causes a stir:**

With former defender Dave Collison ([photo right](#)) at the helm, 5<sup>th</sup> league place was attained in season 1991/92 and a 'reserves' team and an 'A' team were playing in divisions one and two respectively in the Notts Spartan league and there was league championship success for the Under 15s in the Notts Youth League whilst the Under 11s were division runners up in the Young Elizabethan League.



The appearance of FA qualified lineswoman Gail Hart officiating during the club's pre-season friendly against a Notts County FC reserve team at Platt Lane created a good deal of attention in the local press.

**Dean Bennett bursts onto the scene:**

Local teenager Dean Bennett got off to a flying start in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI with nine goals in his first five games in the **1992/93** season. A product of the youth teams, Dean is the son of the 1960s goalkeeper Maurice Bennett and nephew of the 1970s left full back Alan Bennett and was being closely monitored by the local professional clubs. The club eventually finished in third place in Division One. The Reserves were runners up in Division One of the Spartan League and the 'A' team fourth in Division Two and the Under 16s were runners up in the Notts Youth League.

Season **1993/94** saw the then 20 year old Dean Bennett causing a dispute with Gedling Town FC when after returning in February 1994 from a spell in New Zealand with Ponsonby FC under former KUFC & Notts County centre forward Mick Waitt and following in the foot steps of another former KUFC player David Riley, Bennett signs for Gedling but then quickly changes his mind and decides to stay with Keyworth.

**Ex England international Frank Wignall takes charge:**

Former England, Everton & Nottingham Forest FC centre forward Frank Wignall (photo right) took over as 1<sup>st</sup> XI Manager and in his second season, promotion to the Notts Alliance League Senior Division is achieved at the end of the **1994/95** season, aided by the prolific goal scoring of Dean Bennett.

There are no KUFC teams entered in the Notts Imperial Youth League this season but four age group teams are in the Young Elizabethan League.



A satisfactory mid-table Senior Division position is achieved under Wignall in the **1995/96** season but the Reserves struggle to avoid relegation from Division Two of the Notts Amateur League. At youth level, an Under 15 team is entered in the Notts Youth League and finish runners up.

Wignall had moved on to pastures new for **1996/97** season and former player Richard 'Tich' Colman takes over but the 1<sup>st</sup> XI are struggling to avoid relegation all season, finally finishing 13<sup>th</sup> from 16.

**All change off the field as John Hartley steps down from the Presidency:**

Maurice Simpson, Club Secretary since 1980 relinquishes the role to take over as Club President after former Nottingham Road Junior School Headmaster, John Hartley (photo right) decides to retire from the Presidency, having held the post since 1979. Stuart Douglas takes over as Secretary and Gordon Meek is appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Team Manager for the **1997/98** season where another nervous campaign sees the club finish in 11<sup>th</sup> position and the Reserve Team now playing in Division Two of the Notts Alliance League, bottom of the table by some distance.



Five of the club's under 9 team players are signed by local professional clubs during the **1998/99** season and the 1<sup>st</sup> XI are back challenging in the Notts Alliance Senior Division where under Meek they achieve a strong 5<sup>th</sup> position in the table which is improved upon in the millennium season of **1999/2000** with a third place finish just 5 points behind Wollaton FC, the champions and the Reserves manage 5<sup>th</sup> position in Division Two, giving good reason for optimism and at youth level the Under 15s win their age group 2<sup>nd</sup> Division and the Under 12s are runners up their 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

#### **Former player Robert Clegg takes over as Club Chairman:**

Robert Clegg ([photo right](#)), a member of the legendary Notts Alliance League Champion team of 1983/84, continued to play until retiring to take over the role of Club Chairman for the **2000/01** season. He succeeded Allan Cook who became Club President.

8<sup>th</sup> place and 6<sup>th</sup> place finishes respectively for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI & Reserves were followed by Gordon Meek departing as Manager to be replaced by Dave Fisk who signed from Ruddington FC after long service with



Keyworth's local rivals as both a player and 1<sup>st</sup> XI Manager for the **2001/02** campaign. A season that had commenced with the news that the club's Honorary Vice President, Harry Henson had passed away in June 2001, aged 86 years. A very talented KUFC player prior to



the war and then as a consequence of injuries sustained during service Harry became an outstanding Secretary of the club for many years and also served the local leagues in various administrative capacities as well as being a Keyworth Parish Councillor. H R Henson was affectionately known as 'His Royal Highness' by many.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI were comfortable in mid-table but the Reserves challenged for promotion, eventually finishing fifth but only 3 points off the runner up spot and as the season ended news came through that the club's former giant centre forward Mick Waitt (photo left) had been appointed Manager of the New Zealand national team on 5 April 2002.

#### **Significant progress in youth development:**

The club appointed a Youth Development Officer at the commencement of the **2002/03** season and officially become a development centre for Leicester City FC and although the 1<sup>st</sup> XI could only manage another mid table finish, the Reserves are promoted after finishing third in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the Notts Alliance League and the Under 16s win Division Three of the their Notts Youth League age group.

The expansion of the youth section saw the club start the **2003/2004** campaign with 18 teams, including 2 girls teams and receive an award from the Notts FA for 'services to local football'. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI improved to 4<sup>th</sup> position and the Reserves were 6<sup>th</sup> in Division One.



**Notts Senior League replaces the Notts Alliance League:**

The Notts Alliance League ceases to exist and is replaced by the Notts Senior League for the start of **2004/05** season. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Division whilst the Reserves were placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Division One and Dean Bennett and Rob Brown are both selected to play for the Notts Senior League representative XI.

**Notts FA Junior Cup winners:**

In the **2005/06** season the 1<sup>st</sup> XI are 6<sup>th</sup> and the Reserves 4<sup>th</sup> but there is a trophy for the Reserves to cherish as after battling through six rounds of matches they beat Bestwood Miners Welfare FC Reserves 2-0 to lift the Notts FA Junior Cup.

The **2006/07** season begins with the club no longer associated with Leicester City FC having become a development centre for Derby County FC and both the senior teams are prominent in the Cup competitions. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI finish 8<sup>th</sup> in the Senior League but reach the final of the Senior League Cup only to go down 1-2 against Caribbean Cavaliers FC whilst the Reserves are 4<sup>th</sup> in Division One and reach the semi final of the Senior League 'Reserves' Cup before losing 0-3 to Boots Athletic FC Reserves.

Three KUFC players, Tom Aldred, Lee Collison and new scoring sensation Alex Wollach are all selected to play for the Notts Senior League representative XI.

**Notts Senior League runners up, best season for many years:**

Caribbean Cavaliers FC walked away with the Notts Senior League title in the **2007/08** season but KUFC lead the chasing pack and were eventually runners up with Alex Wollach prolific in front of goal and again called up to the Notts Senior League representative XI. The Reserves were 8<sup>th</sup> in Division One and the Under 18s claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the Notts Youth League while the Under 12s were runners up in the Under 13s Young Elizabethan League Division Two.

League form slipped in **2008/09** as the 1<sup>st</sup> XI dropped back to a mid table 9<sup>th</sup> position but did reach the Senior League Cup semi final before going out 2-4 in a penalty shoot out after a 1-1 draw with Boots Athletic FC and the Reserves although only placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the league, manage to reach the final of the 'Reserves' League Cup Final and are defeated 0-1 by Greenwood Meadows FC Reserves. An 'Academy' team is entered in Division Two of the Notts Senior League but finish bottom of the 11 teams but it provides a number of the club's promising youth team players with the opportunity of senior competition.

**Loss of Stuart Douglas:**

Youth team coach since 1986 and hard working Secretary of the club's youth teams Stuart Douglas sadly passed away in June 2009. Stuart was briefly Club Secretary back in the 1966/67 season and then again from 1997 to 2003. He would have been so proud of the new clubhouse and the way the youth section of the club had developed and matured.



**A new ClubHouse at the Platt Lane Ground thanks to the Football Foundation:**

Keyworth United Community Football Club is awarded £514,460 from the Football Foundation for a new clubhouse. The new building will have six changing rooms with toilets and showers and two changing rooms for officials as well as a large club room, bar and kitchen. Club President, Allan Cook said "this is fantastic news for the football club and the whole community of Keyworth. Not only will it kick start our development plan which will see us running more teams but it will provide a new facility for the people of Keyworth to use. We are extremely grateful to the Football Foundation and all our funding partners for helping turn our dream into reality".

Season **2009/10** is not matched on the field of play with the events developing off it and the 1<sup>st</sup> XI battle against being relegated, eventually finishing 13<sup>th</sup> and depart both cup competitions at the first time of asking. The Reserves fare little better, managing 12<sup>th</sup> place in Division One and no Academy team is entered in the league. The Under 11s are runners up in their Young Elizabethan League division and classy defender Lee Collison, is selected to represent the Notts Senior League XI against the Notts Amateur Alliance League XI at the Hucknall Rolls Royce ground on Tuesday 13 March 2010.

**Charlie Underwood:**

Charlie Underwood passed away on 17 June 2010. Charlie was an outstanding wing half/centre half and a brilliant cricketer. He captained the KUFC teams through the glorious post war era which placed Keyworth at the forefront of amateur football in Nottinghamshire.

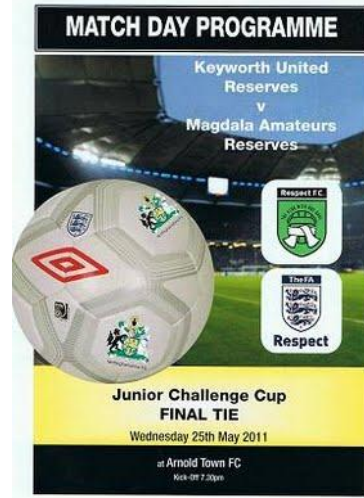
The new clubhouse is officially opened on 11 September 2010. Frank Clark, a former Nottingham Forest FC player and manager cut the ribbon in front of an invited audience of club members, sponsors and local politicians. The club officially re-link themselves with Nottingham Forest FC as a development centre.

Robert Clegg, the Club Chairman is honoured by being named Volunteer of the Year at the 2010 Nottinghamshire Sports Awards in recognition of all his work and dedication in developing KUFC as a 'Community Club'.

Former Wollaton FC and League Representative XI coach Andy Benner is engaged as 1<sup>st</sup> XI Manager to replace Dave Fisk for the **2010/11** season and although they are never in danger of relegation a 14<sup>th</sup> place finish is disappointing and Benner departs after one season in charge..

**Notts FA Junior Cup winners 2010/11:**

The Reserves, under the steady influence of Alan Jackson and Dave Collison finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Notts Senior League Division One and battled through to win the Notts FA Junior Cup for the fourth time in the club's history following on from 1947/48, 1974/75 and more recently 2005/06. They defeated Magdala Amateurs 2-0 in the final and the (photo below) of the winning squad includes...Ryan Jennings, Robert Hallam, Lee Bradley, Tom Richards, Richard Cooke, Craig Warren, Stuart Jackson, Sean Bremner, John Ravenscroft, Rob Brown, Dan White, Luke Woolley, Mickey Shaw, Matt Chilvers, Alex Wolloch & Simon Marlow.



Andy Webster is appointed 1<sup>st</sup> XI Manager to replace Andy Benner for the 2011/12 season.

## **INFORMATION about the WEBSITE:**

The statistics shown on the site are very incomplete and represent the results of our research to date, nothing has been included that cannot be supported by written evidence from meeting minute notes, newspaper cuttings etc

Most of the evidence, plus photographs and other memorabilia is available for viewing in the Local History Section at the Public Library on Church Drive in Keyworth. Some evidence has been copied from material loaned to us by families.

Research is on-going and new data will be uploaded to the website at the end of each playing season or sooner, if significant.

## **REQUEST for more Data:**

If you have in your possession, memorabilia of Football in Keyworth - photographs, reports, press cuttings, fixture cards, handbooks, minute books etc., please get in contact with us. We can make copies, scan photos etc, if you want to keep the artefacts.

## **CONTACT POINT:**

KUCFC Historian: Barry Baker telephone: 01509 854136

email: [bgbaker@btopenworld.com](mailto:bgbaker@btopenworld.com)

or, just come along on match days at Platt Lane and handover your data at the Bar.

## **THANKS:**

We are indebted to the contributions from players and supporters past and present - too many to list by individual name.

## **CLUB WEBSITE:** [www.kucfc.com](http://www.kucfc.com)

## **LINKS:**

History of Cricket in Keyworth [www.keyworthcrickethistory.co.uk](http://www.keyworthcrickethistory.co.uk)

Keyworth & District History Society [www.keyworth-history.org.uk](http://www.keyworth-history.org.uk)

# APPENDIX

A summary of the early history of...

**Notts County FC, Nottingham Forest FC, Derby County FC & Leicester City FC.**

**Notts County FC** are the oldest professional league club in the world having been formed in 1862 and employed professional players by 1865. They played at Park Hollow in the grounds of the old Nottingham Castle in the beginning, then from December 1864 they began matches against opponents from not within their club and used several different grounds before in 1883 choosing Trent Bridge Cricket Ground.

Notts County FC entered the inaugural 1888/89 season of the Football League along with eleven other football clubs and finished in 11th position. They achieved their highest ever league finish of 3rd in a very successful 1890/91 season which saw them reach the FA Cup Final where they lost 1-3 to Blackburn Rovers at the Kennington Oval however they went on to win the 1893/94 Cup Final, beating Bolton Wanderers 4-1 even though by then they had been relegated to League Division Two.

**Nottingham Forest FC** was founded in 1865, based at St Andrews Church on Mansfield Road and they began playing matches on The Forest Recreation Grounds before moving to The Castle ground on the Meadows in 1879 and the Trent Bridge Cricket Ground before Notts County moved in, so they moved on to the Parkside ground until 1885 before moving to the Gregory ground and joining the Football Alliance League in 1889. They became champions in 1891/1892 and then became a member of the new Football League Division Two, by which time they were playing at the Town Ground on the opposite side of Trent Bridge to their present day City Ground which they moved into after winning the FA Cup in 1898 beating neighbours and rivals Derby County 3-1 at the Crystal Palace in South London.

**Derby County FC** was founded from within the Derbyshire County Cricket Club in 1884 and moved to the Baseball Ground in 1885. They were co-founders of the Football League in 1888.

**Leicester City FC** was founded in 1884 as Leicester Fosse FC and joined the Football League Division Two in 1894.

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## **PHOTOGRAPHS:**

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