

A Brief History of St Andrews

St Andrews were formed in 1973 and originated from the densely populated area bordered by the Leicester Royal Infirmary and the Grand Union Canal.

Origins and the Rifle Butt Public House

In the 60s and 70s, the Leicester City Council decided to demolish 85% of the area to extend the Leicester Royal Infirmary, accommodate various university buildings and build the St Andrews estate. The massive destruction of a well-structured close-knit community had devastating consequences for many families who were forced to leave an area they loved.

The birthplace of St Andrews Football Club was situated in the centre of the district at the Rifle Butt Public House, New Bridge Street, ran by the teetotal landlord, ex Leicestershire wicketkeeper, Percy "Paddy" Corral.



Rifle Butt Southend trip 1969

Harry Steer, Ray Vowles, John Walker, Keith Ball, Terry West, Eddy Wormald, John Coles, John Wells, unknown, Ray Corley, Bill Wells, John Mitchell, Alf Liney, Bill Liney, Tub Lill, Tich Hill, Pop Lydon, Ray Hiom, Joe Dunn, Eric Spencer, John Curtis, Graham Porter, Stan Porter..

The "Butts" as it was known was a typical back street pub patronised by mainly sporting characters.

There were over 20 pubs in the area and this is the story of how St Andrews started the journey to where they are today.

The first game to be arranged by our founder, Bill Wells, was against the Life Boat around 1964-65. The games were usually played on Welford Road Recreation Ground (now Nelson Mandela Park). The Lifeboat, The Lord Raglan, The Alderman, The Stork's Head, The Freemans, The Tiger, The Invincible, The Good Neighbours were only a few of the many teams we played in those early days. The only one still to exist is The Stork's Head now known as The Donkey.

Also in the pub, Tom Corley ran a gym and boxing ring upstairs and Johnny Walker ran the most successful darts team in Leicestershire. Tug-o-war and skittles was also on the agenda.



Rifle Butt 1971.

Back: G Thorpe, B Wells, G Mead, R Morris, J Wells, J Campbell

Front: T Corley, A Moran, J Lill, N Moran, M McNamara



Rifle Butt 1972. Final year as Rifle Butt.

Back: Keith Wright, Graham Mead, Steve Mills, John Wells, Jack Campbell, Bill Wells
Front: Mick Smith, Mick MacNamara, John Lill, Noel Moran, Pete Derman

In the late sixties some of the older players in the football team retired and a number of talented young players were included in the side. Many of the games were played for 3 pints a man and in one season the team went 30 games unbeaten.

The final season as the Rifle Butt FC ended by winning the Mick Reece Cup. All games were played in a league at Northfields Social Club on Gypsy Lane. After comprehensively beating the The Good Neighbours, Oadby Accs and Gold Star, The Rifle Butt era ended in fine style with a trophy on the shelf.

Founding of St Andrews in 1973 and City League Years

The club committee applied for and were accepted into Division 5 of the 120 team strong Leicester City League. With the Rifle Butt pub demolished it was decided to change the name of the club to St Andrews after the newly built estate.

The original club committee consisted of:

Manager and Chairman: Bill Wells

Trainer and Coach: Harry Roberts

Secretary: John Lill

Treasurer: Joe Kavanagh

Committee Members Pat Lill, Ant Moran, Mick MacMamara and John Walker

For a brief period, the club was based at The Lifeboat pub 100 yards further down New Bridge Street from the Rifle Butt, this pub ran by John Coles was demolished 12 months later.

To replace the two pubs the M&B Brewery built a new pub on Walnut Street, next to St Andrews called the Turnstile ran by Jim O'Neill.

The Turnstile named due to close proximity to Leicester City's old Filbert Street ground was our base until the opening of our Canal Street clubhouse in 1984.

St Andrews success in their 12 years in the extremely well run Leicester City League can only be described as unprecedented. A strong and talented management structure was formulated and by 1976 three highly successful team were performing.



St Andrews First Season 1973-74. First Team. Leicester City League Division 5 Champions, City Medals "B" Winners.
Back. Steve Mills, Jim White, Terry Corley, Jack Campbell (Capt), John Wells, Willy Muirhead, Bill Wells (Manager)
Front: Ant Moran, Alan Whatley, Bobby Brandon, Noel Moran, John Lill, Pete Derman, Gaz Moran.

The first ever league game played by St Andrews was played on Saturday September 2nd 1973.

GK; G Mead.

Def; John Lill, Jack Campbell ©, Alan Whatley

Mid; Pete Derman, John Porter, Willy Muirhead

Att; Gas Moran, Steve Mills, John Wells, Robby Brandon

Manager Bill Wells.

Result. Regent Rovers 3 St Andrews 6 (J Wells 2, J Porter 2, G Moran 2).

In our first season 1973-74, the team managed by Bill Wells and assisted by Harry Roberts were division 5 champions and County Cup winners. By 1985, St Andrews had won the Premier Division on four successive occasions, the League Cup 5 times and Leicestershire Junior Cup twice. The club's reserve and "A" team both County Cup finals, and in 1978-79 St Andrews were champions of the top three divisions of the City League. Altogether 44 trophies were won in our 12 years in the league.



St Andrews First and Reserve Sides 1974-75



St Andrews First Team 1975-76

Back: W Wells (Manager), A Ford (Assistant Manager), G Pole, I Lewin, M Thorne, R Pollard, J White, J Wells, H Roberts (Trainer)
Front: R Fitzpatrick, P Harding, K Williams (Capt), J Porter, A Moran, J Traynor.



St Andrews 'A' Team 1979. Division Five Champions 1978-79. Saturday Medal Winners.
Back. K Garrity, P MacNamara, I Lapworth, P Thomas, J Vilcins, T Corley, D Marsden
Front. A Hussey, D Lay, M Weetman (Capt), B Garrity, D Hampton, J Wells.

The success of the club in such a short period was astounding and many talented people joined the club to form a large ambitious committee.

It was obvious the club needed to grow, in 1981 a 30 year lease was agreed with Leicester City Council for 7 acres of land at the former school playing fields at Canal Street, Aylestone.



First Team Junior Cup Winners 1982.

In April 1984, success achieved on the football pitches was matched off the pitch, when on Easter Monday the Saints beat Broughton Astley 2-0 to capture the Leicestershire Junior Cup for the second time in three years. The achievement coincided with the opening of our brand new clubhouse at Canal Street.



First Team Leicestershire Junior Cup Winners 1983-84.

Back: B Wells (President), B Woods, T Hussey, N White, S Scott, D Orton, M Woods, B Hussey, A Hussey (Manager)
Front: G Merrill, M Bushnell, A Walker, S Jordan, C Dublin (Capt), L Geary, H Blockley (Trainer)

The work started on the building of the clubhouse in the summer of 1983 when the two foot deep concrete base was laid. This was followed by twelve months of total dedication by the club's collection of hard working committee men and women who worked tirelessly in their spare time and holidays completed the building just in time for the Cup Final date.

The after match celebrations in our brand new clubhouse and home, built entirely by our fantastic committee will never be forgotten.



St Andrews Committee 1984.

Carl Hanna, John Lill, Haden Blockley, Malc Weetman, Bill Wells, John Walsh, John Jenkins, Tony Pitts, Mick Pugh, Donal Fitzpatrick, Alan Hussey, Davy Daly, Les Botting, Alec Jerome. Missing from photograph John Walker, Patricia Lill.

Despite the magnificent achievement of building the clubhouse ourselves, winning the prestigious Junior Cup twice, and dominating the Leicester City League our application to join the Leicestershire Senior League was rejected by the member clubs.

This was a massive devastating blow to the club and as a consequence the majority of the first eleven who had won everything in Junior football left for Senior league clubs.

The 84-85 season following our massive achievements in previous years was respectable considering the amount of players who had left us for higher grade teams.

Move into the Leicestershire Senior League 1985

In the spring of 1985 the Leicestershire Senior League revised the election system to the league and St Andrews was propelled into the league following the expulsion of Melton Town.

The rejection the previous season followed by the departure of most of our top players seriously damaged the progress of the club. After an average start in our first season of Division Two of the Senior League, the following season St Andrews won the league cup, Rollestone Cup and were promoted to the First Division finishing runners up to Rolls Royce.

Managed by Alan Hussey who had worked his way up to first team manager following his success with the club's "A" team and reserves, together with his assistant Kev Julian, the duo paved the way for a very successful spell in the history of St Andrews.



St Andrews Season 1986-87. Tebbutt-Brown Winners, Rolleston Cup Winners, Division 1 Runners Up.
Back: T Pitts (Assistant), R Snedden (Trainer), A Walker, C Payne, C Fletcher, C Williams, B Hussey, M Land, A Hussey (Manager)
Front: N Pegg, S Sordan, T Hill, D Smith (Capt), R Robinson, A Draycott, Parry.
Inset: Clem Dublin

In our first season of the Senior League Premier Division 1986-87, second place was achieved and our reserve team were champions of Combination Two.

The following two seasons saw third and fifth place finishes and the League Cup trophy for the First Team. The reserve team were Combination One runners up and Leicestershire Junior Cup winners.

In 1990 when the Leicestershire Senior League accommodated nearly all the top clubs in the County, St Andrews were crowned champions, a very proud day for the club.



St Andrews Reserves 1988-89. Leicestershire Junior Cup Winners, Leicestershire Combination Runners Up.
 Back: Geoff Lount (Trainer), Carl Nichol (Player Manager), Barry Hussey, Bob Taylor, Phil Walker, Dave Smith, Mark Bond, Pete Walsh, David Tonge, D Sneddon.
 Front: Wayne Pilmore, Neil Kitchen, Jamie Sneddon, John Peacock (Sponsor), Kevin Neyland, Chris Osborne, Sean Tidmarsh.



St Andrews 1989-90. Senior League Champions
 Back: K Julian (Manager), B Woods, R Goode, S Merriman, J Payton, A Greaves, J Sneddon.
 Front: S Read, S Smith, B Pennet, S Jordan, J Peacock (Sponsor), S Woods, A Draycott, N Kitchen

In 1991, the first team management and most of the championship winning team departed the club but a respectable halfway finish was achieved.

In the 1991-92 season, Neil Kitchen was appointed First Team manager with his assistant Carl Nicol, a remarkable decade of success was to follow.



St Andrews 1993-94 First Team. Leicestershire Senior League Champions. Senior Cup and Rolleston Cup Finalists
 Back: Carl Nichol (Coach), Craig Howarth, Andy Howarth, Jim Payton, Tony Moore, Paul Merry (Capt), Darren Hearne, Lee Neesham, Mick Knight, Sam Anderson, Stan Cain (Physio)
 Front: Simon Clarke, Andy Bone, Neil White, Steve Frain, Marc North, Neil Kitchen (Manager), Andy Massey, Steve Bennett, Andre Marsh.



St Andrews Reserves 1993-94. Leicestershire Junior Cup Winners.
 Back: Paul Newnham, Carl Storer, Nick Wood, Steve Scott, Rich Hylands, Russell Smith, Jamie Sneddon, Harry Roberts (Coach)
 Front: Mark Wood, Chris Osborne, Richard Tuffey, Stee Peace (Capt), Mick Molley (Manager), Leroy Caines, Nigel Beeby, Nigel Howarth.

During his time as manager, Neil won everything that was possible to win in Leicestershire Senior football, including the Westerby Cup, Senior Cup, Senior League champions twice, League Cup twice, Rolleston Cup three times, Everards Floodlit Cup and a number of Charity Cups.



First Team V Leicester City. Westerby County Cup Semi Final at Filbert Street 1993-94.

Back: Carl Nicol (Assistant Manager), Sam Anderson, Adam Turner, Neil White, Rich Hyland, Tony Moore, Rob Goode, Gaz Wickes, Paul Corby, Martin Taylor (Physio)

Front: Paul Merry, Jim Payton, Rich Parker, Steve Bennett, Andre Marsh, Nigel Beeby, Neil Kitchen (Manager)

Two splendid cup runs in the FA Vase and never finishing lower than 5th can also be included within Neil's impressive record.



St Andrews 1995-96. Leicestershire Senior League Premier Division Champions 1995-96. League Cup Winners, Westerby Challenge Cup Finalists 1996-96. Rolleston Charity Cup Finalists 1995-96.

Back: Sam Anderson (Assistant Manager), Steve Bennett, Andy Howarth, Neil White, Dave Tuff, Mick Knight, Steve Frain, John Borowski, Andy Bone, Alan Philips (Physio)

Front: Paul Payne, Matt Orme, Carl Nicol (Joint Manager) Paul Merry (Capt.) Neil Kitchen (Joint Manager), Andre Marsh, Andy Massey, Darren Hearne.

One of Neil's best memories will surely be the night in May 1997 at Filbert Street when St Andrews' record goalscorer Mick Knight scored a brilliant hat trick to help St Andrews beat Shepshed Dynamo in the Westerby Cup Final.



St Andrews 1996-97 Westerby Cup Winners against Shepshed Dynamo at Filbert Street.

Back: Mick Knight, Nick Ball, Adam Turner, Mick Tuffey, Alan Phillips, Jim Payton, Andy Howarth Steve Adcock, Dave Tuff.

Front: Sam Anderson, Paul Payne, Paul Merry, Andy Massey, Nick Moorland, Darren Bradley, Dale Turner, Neil Kitchen (Manager).

After beating Friar Lane Old Boys in the Leicestershire Senior Cup final in 2000-01, Kitch as he was commonly called retired as manager.

In the two years following, Andy "Pepsy" Purple who assisted Kitch in his final year took over as boss and in a two year spell produced a very talented team with a fourth and sixth place finish.

Andy Hollis, with Lee Geary assisting took over from Pepsy and during a transitional spell eventually achieved a third place finish in the 2005-06 season.



St Andrews First Team 2006/07.

Back: Euan Johnson (Trainer), Alistair Ross, Nick Colford, Callum Ross, Ian Howell, Danny Henfrey, Tom Holyoak, Matt Kirby, Bryn Statham, Sean Ramkissoon, Joe Preston, Daz Bradley (Assistant Manager)

Front: James Mee, Dave McCaffrey, Gregor Preston, Andy Hollis, Nick Geary, Will Robinson.

In the 2006-07 season, Darren Bradley took over from Andy Hollis and finished 10th. The year after was another step in St Andrews' progress when a seventh place finish earned the club a place in the newly formed East Midlands Counties League. The club's youth policy paid off in this promotion with Martin Wilson's all conquering Under 18s playing a big part.

Formation of the East Midlands Counties League 2008

In 2008, the club was founder members of the East Midlands Counties League formed of senior league clubs from Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. In the inaugural season with a talented side the club finished a creditable 9th in a highly-competitive league.

Following the loss of a majority of the players, a rebuilding process ensued over the following two season. This culminated in a 4th place finish in 2011-12 under manager Clem Dublin. The following season saw a change in management and makeup towards a very young squad, who eventually finished 16th.



Andy "Pepsi" Purple was appointed first team manager for the 2013-2014 season. Pepsi's managerial record was exceptional with massive success with Blaby & Whetstone's first team along with cup and league trophies with the St Andrews reserve side.

Along with a crop of quality youth players from our all-conquering Under 18 side brilliantly managed by Andy Ward and Sean Hickey, Pepsi signed a number of high-class, experienced players. This blend of talented youth and experience along with Pepsi's managerial skills proved to be a good

formula with early promise indicated by a brilliant away-win against eventual champions Thurnby Nirvana and the Saints topping the table for much of the first half of the season.

The season saw a remarkable 8 game winning run in the FA Vase leading to a Semi Final tie against West Auckland of the Northern League. After a pulsating goalless draw in the North East, the Second Leg was played out at Canal Street in front of a record crowd of just over 1,600. A terrific strike on the hour by 17 year-old Brady Hickey put the Drews ahead. Sadly two West Auckland goals in the the last ten minutes denied the club a Vase Final and a dream trip to Wembley.



FA Vase Quarter Final 2013-14 V Newcastle Benfield

Back: T Warner, S Preston, P Johnson, J Latham, D Henfrey, D Towers, T Hodson, S Taylor

Front: M Warner, B Hickey, L Hall.

The exertions of the incredible Vase run had taken a toll on the league. However for only the second time in our history, a very tired St Andrews side won the Leicestershire Senior Cup to end an incredible season.



Senior Cup Winners 2013-14 against Quorn Res.

Back: B Hickey, S Preston, F Tuttle, T Hodson, J Latham, L Hall, T Warner.

Front: B Stephens, S Hollis, T Warner, L Doughty.

The 2014-2015 season was another unforgettable season, playing scintillating football all season, the team looked like worthy champions only to be a pipped in controversial circumstances to the title by Bardon Hill on goal difference..

Youths

After joining the Senior League, it was decided to replace the "A" team who had achieved much success with a youth team who originally played in the Under 18 Sunday League. Much success followed and it was rewarding to see a healthy flow of quality players graduate into our First team.

Following the installation of floodlight at our Canal Street ground by our then charismatic chairman Mick Molloy, the youths were able to enter the Leicestershire Midweek Floodlit League, this enhanced the club's ability to attract top young players.



Under 15s. 2002/2003 County Cup Winners

As a consequence of this decision, many players have progressed to play at semi-professional and professional level.

Andy Ward, Sean Hickey and their coaching team have raised the profile of St Andrews FC to a new level in the last ten years and deserve the highest praise for their outstanding contribution to the club's success.

Reward for their dedication includes two Floodlit Youth championships, England Futsal champions and numerous other titles.