



Keith Stott joined Crewe Alexandra in 1964 from the Lancashire side, Atherton LR. He played his last game for the Alex against Chesterfield on the night that the Spireites secured the Fourth Division Championship. Stotty was originally brought to Crewe by Jimmy McGuigan, and was on Jim's shopping list from the moment he took over at Chesterfield. Having spent two seasons trying to sign him, McGuigan kept him waiting eight

games for his debut; when he did come into the side, he didn't miss a match for two years.

Keith won admirers as an archetypal English centre-half, dominant and reliable, committed and strong in the tackle but, in common with the best English centre-halves, he lacked a little pace and tended not to indulge in pretty passing and fancy-Dan stuff. Fans liked him because what you saw was what you got; he never gave less than everything he could, and if he ever had what appeared to be a bad game, it was for the honest reason that he had come up against a better opponent.

His consistency was his greatest asset, although, when he did have the occasional stinker, he did it in fine style. One such game was, sadly for Keith, his last for the Spireites when, against Brighton in March 1975, he was booked and substituted after two mistakes gifted them the game. Such incidents are remembered only because they are untypical of the generally high standard of Keith's play.

Keith will be remembered for netting a few spectacular own goals in his time: indeed, he scored his first goal for Chesterfield while wearing a Crewe shirt, in October 1965. Thirty-one appearances into his Chesterfield career, he had actually scored more goals against the club (by virtue of having put two in his own net against Brighton) than he had for them! His efforts in the correct goal were rare, but one is memorable: a rocket of a shot from all of two yards against Rotherham in 1971, that would have concussed fans on the Cross Street terrace had the net not been there to stop it.

Keith left Chesterfield in 1975 with 141 league appearances to his name and signed for Matlock Town. He became a caretaker at St. Mary's School, in Chesterfield, remaining in the town for the rest of his life. He sadly passed away at the age of 67 in 2012.

For Chesterfield: 140 + 1 Football League appearances, 4 goals.

Career: 328 + 4 Football League appearances, 15 goals.