



Born in Arkwright Town in January 1935, **Gerry Sears** came through the junior ranks at Chesterfield and returned after completing National Service in 1955 to a place in the reserves. His first few senior games were at outside-left (from where he scored on his League debut) and, between his debut in April 1953 and August 1958, he played only thirteen times, kept out of the side by the fine form of Freddie Capel. It was simply a

question of biding his time, since the club knew they had a good player in Gerry, continuing to "retain" him long after other players of a similar age were tried and discarded. Eventually, he came in for the injured Ray DeGruchy for the second game of the 1958-9 season and became a fixture thereafter.

His reputation quickly grew, and Leicester City came to watch him towards the end of 1958-9. They liked what they saw, but liked Gordon Banks even more, and bought him instead.

Marvellously consistent, Gerry was ever-present for three seasons in a period when the side was often chopped and changed, and he currently stands eighth in the list of Chesterfield's League appearance-makers. His full-back partnership with the emerging Albert Holmes was reckoned to be among the best in Division Four at that time, and Gerry was one of three players unsuccessfully courted by Newport County in 1962.

He was the joint-beneficiary, with his team-mate Gerry Clarke, of a peculiar testimonial game at the end of the 1964-5 season. A game was arranged between an invitational XI and Derby County, at Saltergate. Oddly, there was no place in the team for the beneficiaries; of the Chesterfield staff at the time, only Dave Blakey and John Osborne played, and Ossie played at outside-left!

Gerry's career came to a sudden end after he suffered a back injury against Exeter in February, 1968. He never recovered fully from the injury. Upon retirement from football, Gerry ran his own milk round for six years before working for the Tube Works in Chesterfield. Gerry passed away in 2014, aged 79.

**For Chesterfield:** 412 Football League appearances, 4 goals.