

As Cumberland United celebrates its 75th Anniversary, players, members and supporters from across the years are taking the time to reflect on the past 75 years.

One of these former players is Albert Richardson, aka Bert.

Bert, who will celebrate his 89th birthday in a matter of weeks, is one of the few remaining players from the inaugural year, 1943, still able to share his stories.

After playing football at Goodwood Technical High School, Bert joined his good friends, Ken Daly and Kevin Cameron, who he has known since grade 1 in primary school, at Cumberland United.

Bert, Ken and Kevin were 14 years old when they started. Bert, who would be found on the right wing, carried through until 1950 before 3 years out of the game and then back again in 1953 and 1954.

Bert has many fond memories and achievements from that time, though as expected his memory of them can be a little foggy at times.

"I was involved in the 1947 and 1948 State Teams and Captain of the 1948 team – not that I remember that, but it says so on one of the photos!" he laughed.

Whilst Bert was at the club for football, he was also sure to contribute in any way he could.

"Kev, Kevin and I used to run Saturday night dances to raise funds for the club," he told.

"There used to be an old billiard hall on Goodwood Road where we would do it. My parents had a shop so we would load up the car with cool drinks and lollies and sell them at a cheap price."

Contributing to the club didn't stop there, Bert recalls spending Saturday afternoons, Sundays and the off-season making cement bricks with his fellow teammates to help build the change rooms. He also dug a 6ft drain and assisted with putting in the plumbing for the current club rooms.

Bert will occasionally come out to a Cumberland United game when he can, not bothered by the change in faces around The Den.

"The last time I came was just before Stodgy died, I think I knew 2 people then. That doesn't matter though, I'm still interested!" he said.

"I still talk to Ken Daly every Sunday morning at 11am if I don't catch up with him during the week.

"He was a brilliant soccer player, we had a lot of fun!"

Celebrate Cumberland United's 75th Anniversary on Saturday the 7th of July, tickets available now by contacting Sue: sue.schoen@optusnet.com.au