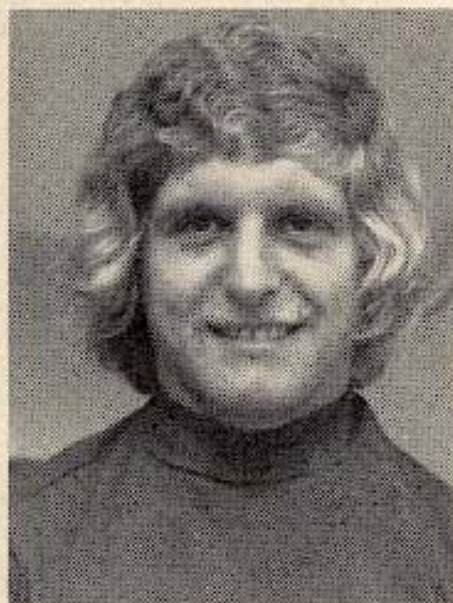


TALK - BACK

Today's subject in our special series of interviews is

CHRIS GARLAND



Career background:	Bristol City were my team as a boy, and I joined them from school at 15. My League debut came in December 1966, and altogether I made more than 150 first-team appearances for them. I also won an England Under-23 cap against Bulgaria at Plymouth in April 1970.
My move to Chelsea:	I had been anxious to get into First Division for some time, and didn't need asking twice when, on September 1st, City manager Alan Dicks (he used to be a player here at Stamford Bridge) told me to jump in his car to drive to London, because City and Chelsea had agreed terms for my transfer. But I might have gone to Leicester City instead—a couple of weeks before my move they put in a bid for me, but it didn't quite match the fee Bristol City had in mind.
Impressions of Chelsea so far:	I was well pleased with my start, helping to set up a goal for Peter Osgood in the first three minutes of my First Division debut at home to Coventry, but soon after I was troubled by an ankle injury and some other niggling knocks, and it was December before I got back in the side. Things have gone well for me since, and I feel really fit now. The training, tactics and coaching here came as quite an eye-opener, and I've been helped a lot in my game by some individual coaching from Dave Sexton.
Family details:	My wife Tricia comes from Bristol like me, and we have a son, Adam, ten weeks old. What with my transfer and the baby nearly due, the autumn was hectic, and for a time I was travelling up and down from the West Country. But we've recently moved—we're at Chessington—and are settling in well now.
Luckiest break this season:	Being out with an ankle injury when Bristol City played in the League Cup first round. If I'd played that night I'd have been Cup-tied (like Stevie Kember was with Crystal Palace). Instead, I've been able to help Chelsea get to Wembley. It just goes to show an injury can sometimes be lucky!
Biggest thrill of career:	Scoring in both legs of the League Cup semi-final against Spurs. I needed a goal in the match here after putting that one in the side-net when everyone expected me to score, and was delighted to see my header go in from a corner for my first Chelsea goal. And the left-footer in the return match at Tottenham was one of the best shots I've ever hit. Another thrill is playing in the atmosphere of packed grounds like White Hart Lane and Old Trafford last Saturday.
My football ambition:	At 22 I've already achieved one aim by moving to a big First Division club. Naturally, I hope I shall be in the League Cup Final side, but the competition for places here is going to get even stronger as more players come back after injury. I know that to really establish myself in the First Division I have a lot to do. But I've got my chance and now it's up to me. Chelsea have done terrific things in the past two seasons. The future can be even greater . . . and I'd like to help towards that.