

THE CHELSEA FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC CO. LTD.



**League
Champions 1955**

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**F.A. Youth Cup
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The Talk of Stamford Bridge

HAVE Chelsea ever started a season as well as this? That's a question we have been asked many times over the past month, and finding out has meant much perusing of the record books. But we have come up with the answer. It is that 1964-65 has provided our longest unbeaten start to a *First Division* season, but the all-time record undefeated run by Chelsea at the opening of a League campaign was when we were in the *Second Division* in season 1925-26. On that occasion we registered nine wins and five draws (goals 36-8) in the first 14 fixtures

FRONT COVER SHOT

A BREAK from Soccer, but still all eyes are on the ball as Barry Bridges (left) and John Dunn battle it out at table hockey. Their audience, left to right: Trainer Harry Medhurst, Peter Houseman, Manager Tommy Docherty, Peter Bonetti and Bert Murray.

and then went down 1-3 at home to Swansea. Our longest unbeaten sequence in First Division matches — for any phase of the season — was 14 (eight wins, six draws) from November 14 to February 20 in season 1953-54.

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It's been quite a week for birthdays in the Chelsea camp, starting with Bert Murray, who celebrated his 22nd last Tuesday. The following day was a double occasion, with John Mortimore touching 30 and Jim McCalliog 18 — both were in the League Cup side at Birmingham that night, McCalliog making his first-team debut. Then, on Sunday, Peter Bonetti had a birthday, his 23rd.

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Anniversary of a different sort is commemorated by Andy Wilson, pre-war forward star of Chelsea and Scotland. Andy recalls it is just 50 years since he played his first game at Stamford Bridge — for Middlesbrough *against* Chelsea. Says Andy: "I remember it very well, a 2-2 draw . . ." and the record book shows he's right. It was another nine years (1923)