

# QUESTION & ANSWER

**Programme Editor Albert Sewell puts the questions to the young player who has progressed a very long way in the short time he has been with Chelsea:**

## **GEORGE GRAHAM**

**F**OUR months ago, you were Chelsea's "unknown" new boy, but now you are the Club's leading goalscorer. Have you always been a sharpshooter?

I wasn't much of a goalscorer until I came here. When I left Aston Villa, I didn't just change my club—my whole football outlook changed. In training, the Boss and coach Dave Sexton have kept impressing on me the need to become goal-minded, and things have come off for me. But, frankly, I've surprised myself getting among the goals as much as this.

**Can we go back to the start, for a brief outline of your life before you came into big football?**

I was born at Bargeddie—that's just outside Glasgow—and grew up in the next village, Baillieston. I am the youngest of a family of five boys and two girls. Father died when I was only two weeks old and my mother had a very hard time bringing us all up. My football began in the Ayrshire & Coatbridge District schools team. Willie Henderson, of Rangers, was in the same forward line and we won the Scottish Schoolboy Cup. I went on to gain five Schoolboy caps in 1959-60. In two of those games (against England at Aberdeen and Wembley) I came up against Ronnie Harris; the other three were against Ireland, Wales and Germany. When I left school at 15½ a number of Scottish League clubs were after me . . . but so were Aston Villa and Newcastle. I went to see Villa Park for myself, and the fact that

there were several young Scots there made me decide to join them.

**Then you went on to Youth International honours?**

Yes, I played in all four games for Scotland in the 1963 International Youth Tournament — against Switzerland, Germany, Greece (that was a rough-house match at Tooting; we won 4-0, I got three goals and was knocked out by a Greek in the dressing-room afterwards), then in the semi-final at White City, where England beat us 1-0. The following November I was in the Rest of the U.K. team against England at Wembley, my fifth game for Scotland Youth.

**Meanwhile, how were you progressing at Villa Park?**

I was finding it frustrating. The longer I was there, the more Villa seemed a club with a past and, for me, no future. We young ones had to do a lot of the running for the older players, and fellows seemed to play more for themselves than for the team. That's how it looked to me, anyway. I had two League games for them in season 1962-63 (I got a goal on my debut against Liverpool) and six last season. The player who helped me most there was Phil Woosnam—he's terrific on tactics—but I wasn't sorry when Villa put me on the list at the end of last season.

**And in June you came to Chelsea?**

Yes, but it wasn't for the first time. They