

Facts & Figures about this season's League Cup

THE Football League Cup has attracted, on average, one million spectators in each of the four seasons since its inauguration in 1960-61, and although the aggregate was below that figure last season at 945,265, the total for 1964-65 will closely approach, and possibly exceed, that number.

It stood at 863,102 before tonight's two Semi-final second legs and, with the addition of these and the home-and-away Final crowds, the overall attendance for the competition will again prove most worthwhile.

Lukewarm in London

Not that the League Cup arouses very great interest in London. Spurs and Arsenal have stayed out of the competition since its inception, and our own "home" gates this season have been disappointing: 6,596 v. Notts County (3rd Round), 5,979 v. Swansea Town (4th Round) and 7,936 v. Workington (5th Round replay).

Biggest attendance in the tournament this season: 27,433 for the 5th Round Midlands clash when Leicester City won 8-1 at Coventry.

Even that gigantic score was not the highest of the 1964-65 League Cup—in the 1st Round Workington beat Barrow 9-1. In the five-season history of the competition, there has been only one other nine-goal performance—Leyton Orient 9, Chester 2, in the 3rd Round of 1962-63.

SEAT RESERVATIONS

Prices of reserved seats at home League matches are 7/6, 10/-, 12/6 and 15/-. Applications (by post only) will be accepted one calendar month in advance, and should be accompanied by remittance and stamped addressed envelope.

It will be appreciated if separate application is made for each match.

Seats may be purchased, if still available, by personal application at the club offices in the week preceding the match.

Aston Villa are bidding to reach the Final for the third time in five years. They beat Rotherham 3-2 on aggregate to become the first holders of the trophy (1960-61), and though beaten 3-1 on aggregate in the 1962-63 Final by Birmingham City still had a part in a League Cup record, for just under 70,000 saw the two-prong "local derby" Final—31,850 for the first leg at St. Andrews, and 37,921 for the second at Villa Park, which stands as the highest single-match attendance in League Cup history.

This season's crowds, round by round (with last season's figures shown in brackets) are as follows:—

	<i>Matches</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Round 1.....	22 (23)	120,853 (140,617)
Round 2.....	36 (43)	350,593 (357,743)
Round 3.....	19 (18)	173,655 (173,613)
Round 4.....	10 (9)	110,194 (84,921)
Round 5.....	5 (5)	83,337 (61,245)
*Semi-finals	(4) (79,385)
Final	(2) (47,741)

(* This season's two first legs attracted an aggregate of 24,470 spectators.)

THE FIRST LEG AT VILLA PARK

Wednesday, 20th January.

ASTON VILLA 2 (Hateley 2), CHELSEA 3 (Tambling, Bridges, Boyle). Half-time: 0-2.

Aston Villa—Withers; Lee, Aitken; Wylie, Sleenwenhoek, Pountney; Baker, Stobart, Hateley, Woosnam, MacLeod.

Chelsea—Bonetti; Hinton, Harris; Hollins, Mortimore, Boyle; Murray, Graham, Bridges, Venables, Tambling.

Referee: Mr. M. A. Fussey (Retford).

Attendance: 12,000.

NOTICE TO SPECTATORS

We draw the attention of spectators to our Ground Regulations which are posted at the turnstiles and in other parts of the ground.

We must emphasise that anyone apprehended on the pitch or causing a disturbance in the crowd will be removed from the stadium.

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PITCH AT ALL TIMES.

Commentaries on all first team matches are relayed to local hospitals by members of Chelsea TOC H.