

# THE CHELSEA FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC CO. LTD.



League  
Champions 1955

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F.A. Youth Cup  
1960 and 1961

## The Talk of Stamford Bridge

SO the Football Fates decreed that, once again, we should go as far as the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals and no farther. In many ways, the defeat hardest to take in any season is that which is dealt to the losing Semi-Finalists, and at Villa Park last Saturday this was our misfortune for the third time since the war and the sixth time in seven appearances we have made at the last-but-one stage. No other club has travelled so near the Final so many times yet reached it only once.

When we needed so much to produce a peak performance, it was not to be. There is no point dwelling on the might-have-beens if John Mortimore's header had counted in the first half. On the day Liverpool were deserving and decisive winners and, in offering them our congratulations, we add the wish that at Wembley on May 1st they may put their name on the Cup for the first time.

Though we contained them, Liverpool had the edge in the first half. In the second, they made nonsense of suggestions that their mid-week European Cup play-off against Cologne in Rotterdam would tax their physical resources and, with a fine

goal by Thompson and a penalty by Stevenson, they sent their fanatical following into full chorus.

Thus was one of our season's targets hauled down. But, unlike the Semi-Final disappointments of 1950 and 1952, the end of the Cup road for Chelsea in 1965 does not mean the end of the season's aims and ambitions. Far from it.

What was done last Saturday—only our seventh defeat in 47 competitive first-team matches all season—cannot be undone. We stand at the head of the League Championship table with everything still to play for, and what now matters, vitally so, are the seven remaining League fixtures packed into April, starting today.

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Now the magnificent challenge for the "treble" becomes a still-tremendous pursuit of a "double" in League Championship and Football League Cup. Whether we achieve the first part of this feat will be decided at Leicester on Monday night, when we go into the Second Leg of the Final leading the League Cup holders 3-2 from that epic ten-man performance in the first meeting.