

were interested in me when I was getting near to leaving school, and Ted Drake (then Chelsea's manager) brought me down to spend a week here over Christmas and New Year. I can smile at it now, but I hated it then. I was just a kid bewildered by the size of London; I didn't know a soul, and was glad to get away out of it.

When Tommy Docherty signed you, did he give you any idea that a first-team place would be yours so soon?

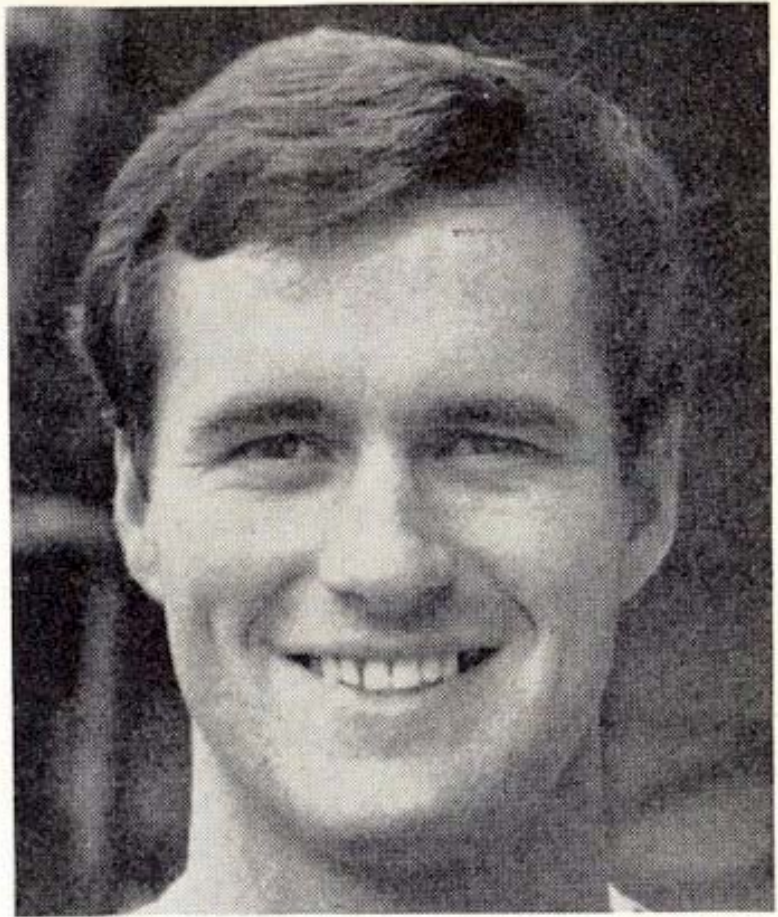
His words were: "You're going to have to fight to get in, but if you do that you'll get your chance. Once you're in, it's up to you to take it." When I came, I knew it was a good side here, and quite expected I'd have to wait my time for a bit. It's the rest of the lads who have made me play better . . . yes, and the hard training. I'd never known anything so tough—the first two days it made me physically sick. But it's all been worthwhile.

What do you rate the best goal you have scored so far—would it be one of those in your hat-trick at Birmingham last month?

No, to me the best one was for Villa Reserves against Bury. It was an over-the-shoulder shot right out of the blue. I've tried it a few times here, but it hasn't come off again. But it might . . .

What about your first game for Scotland's Under-23 side against Wales at Kilmarnock at the start of this month?

I never dreamt I would be picked so soon. We won 3-0, but I found it rather disappointing. I've played better and hope there will be further opportunities. I think the spectators expected me to get a hat-trick, but you can't turn it on and off like a tap.



Talk of Stamford Bridge—Cont.

little wavering, he called up the linesman (a Lincolnshire man), who had been conspicuous by numerous faulty decisions, and that worthy evidently agreed with the referee. We say deliberately that such an official is not fitted to wield the flag on the line of a Sunday-school match . . ."

April 6: "The 'programme pirates' are becoming more audacious than ever. On Good Friday they brought out a four-page 'edition' of exactly the same size as the 'Chelsea F.C. Chronicle', and printed in blue ink, too. The hawkers of these piratic productions wore blue and white armlets in order to carry their nefarious schemes to an artistic conclusion, but, of course, our regular followers know their C.F.C.C. too well to be easily taken in."

And all of 58 years ago we were appealing—as we still do in 1964—to spectators to "keep off the grass", as this extract shows from our programme dated **September 29, 1906:** "Visitors are earnestly requested to refrain from running across the playing pitch. The chief offenders are small and thoughtless boys . . ."

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