

TALK - BACK

Today's subject in our special series of interviews is

CHARLIE COOKE



<p>Reflecting on my six years with Chelsea:</p>	<p>Most of the same faces are here as when I came down from Dundee in April 1966. We are all six years older and that much more mature, and having a basic "sameness" about the side—allowing it to settle into something—has paid big dividends.</p>
<p>Prospects of Chelsea getting to Wembley twice in one year:</p>	<p>I think it is very much "on". We have proved ourselves a good Cup side . . . we're there already in the League Cup . . . and in the mood that has built up over the past three months we really do fancy our chance of winning four more F.A. Cup-ties to become the first club to play two Wembley Finals in the same season. It's bound to be done by someone. Why not us this year?</p>
<p>Why has today's Chelsea become a "Cup team" and not yet a Championship side?</p>	<p>Championships usually begin at the beginning—and we haven't made a habit of starting the season well. It's hard to pin-point a reason, but it seems to happen to us most years, and I'm inclined to put it down to a lack of concentration after the summer break.</p>
<p>Favourite position:</p>	<p>Midfield or up front, I don't mind. The way the squad has developed here, you realise it's something to get a game anywhere in the side.</p>
<p>Most respected opponent:</p>	<p>George Best. Even though things weren't going well for United when we beat them two weeks ago, you had to stand back and applaud the things he can do.</p>
<p>Business interests outside football:</p>	<p>For about a year now I've been in partnership with John Franks in a home-decorating and hardware shop called "Chelsea Decor" in Burlington Road, New Malden. It's going quite well, and I'm there as many afternoons as I can fit in with training and travelling.</p>
<p>Best game of career so far:</p>	<p>I can't usually get to agree with what people say about how I've played, but the experts seemed to reckon I was at my best in those two matches against Real Madrid in Athens last May, and I think I'll stand by that.</p>
<p>Biggest thrill:</p>	<p>Being in a successful Chelsea team. The clubs I was with in Scotland—Aberdeen and Dundee—didn't get to Finals; down here, without wanting to sound flash about it, winning things has become a habit.</p>
<p>Future hopes:</p>	<p>To carry on playing longer than people expect, now that that magic mark of 30 is getting nearer.</p>
<p>Thoughts on the League Cup Final:</p>	<p>It has the makings of a marvellous match, when you remember our two tremendous semi-finals with Spurs and Stoke's four stirring tussles with West Ham. We have a healthy respect for Stoke. Yes, it'll be some game!</p>