

in off the post

Your letters should be of not more than 150 words and addressed to "In off the Post", Chelsea F.C., Fulham Road, London, S.W.6.

QUESTIONS WE CAN'T ANSWER

I AM preparing a complete list of debuts by Chelsea players in competitive first-team football since the beginning of season 1945-46.

I have managed to obtain nearly all the necessary information from my own programme collection, friends' collections, handbooks and other publications but I am still short of a few facts and I also need clarification on some others:

(1) **1945-46—Johnny Harris:** Was his debut as a Chelsea player (not as a "guest") (1) (H) v. Forest 25/8/1945 or (2) (A) v. Forest 1/9/1945?

C. Gingell: (A) was his debut (1) (A) v. Newport 8/9/45 or (2) (H) v. Southampton 12/9/45?; (B) was he a Chelsea player or was he a "guest"?; (C) What was his first name?

M. Dickie: (A) What was his first name (debut was (A) v. Plymouth 22/4/46)?; (B) Was he a Chelsea player or was he a "guest"?

(2) **1946-47—Syd Bathgate:** Was his debut (1) (H) Liverpool 4/1/1947, or (2) (H) v. Arsenal (Cup) 11/1/1947?

(3) **1947-48—Phil McKnight:** Made his debut this season—in which match?

Bill Dickson: Made his debut this season—in which match?

(4) **1948-49—Bob Warren:** Made his debut this season—in which match?

With thanks for any help anyone may be able to give.

Ian Rennie.

7 Beaconsfield Court,
Devonshire Road,
Colliers Wood, S.W.19.

● *We regret that, due to lack of information in our records and Club programmes in the early post-war years, we are unable to answer Mr. Rennie's queries but publish them confident that some of our long-time Supporters will be able to help him.*

FROM A FRIEND IN FINLAND

NOW that Chelsea has come to the Football League Cup Final I wish them to become the first club which has won the League Cup twice. But I hope you will do that without any replies because when Chelsea played in the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley in 1970, we got that match on TV but we didn't get the second match at Old Trafford.

Last year in Athens there were again two finals and only the first one was shown on TV in Finland. Now I'd like to celebrate the Chelsea victory at the same time with the other supporters, so could you please, as the greatest soccer team in the World, beat your opponents in 90 minutes.

Veli-Matti Raes.

Naappukuja 24A, Rauma 6, Finland.

● *We don't want any "replies" either, when we meet Stoke City at Wembley on March 4 and we hope Stoke don't reply to any goals we get that day!*

... AND FROM A FAN IN STOKE!

AS a Chelsea supporter living in Stoke-on-Trent, I would like you to tell me if Chelsea ever lost to Stoke City, at the Victoria Ground, 6-1, in the 1940's. My friend's uncle says that they did, but we can't find the defeat in any of our Chelsea programmes or books.

Forever a Chelsea fan.

Marie Baddeley (16)

107 Louise Street, Burslem,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

● *We lost 6-1 away to Stoke in the League on February 15, 1947, Marie. Never mind—and if we get the right result at Wembley a month today, you'll be the only happy fan in the Potteries!*