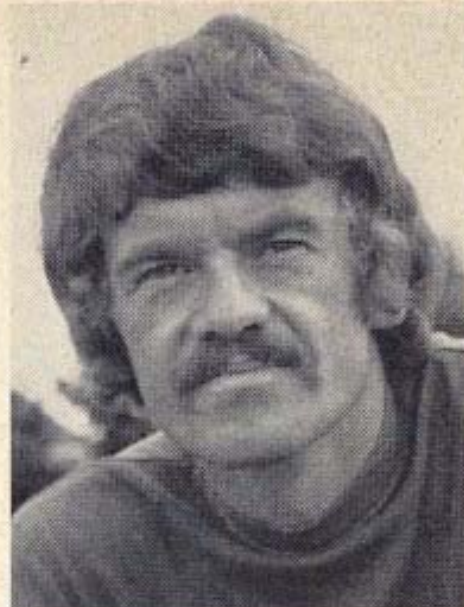


TALK - BACK

Today's subject in this special series of Chelsea interviews is our newly-appointed Club Captain

EDDIE McCREADIE



<p>On being appointed Club captain:</p>	<p>I feel very honoured, and it came as quite a surprise when Dave Sexton told me. John Hollins, vice-captain of the club, is team captain when I'm not playing. What's the difference in roles? Well, the team captain is in charge on the field; the club captaincy involves me with all Chelsea's players—reserves, juniors as well—and it's my job to put their problems, ideas, etc., to Dave.</p>
<p>Chelsea's recent bad spell:</p>	<p>Terribly disappointing . . . yes. But you've got to fight these things. Look at Leeds now—playing great, but only last season they were knocked out of the Cup by Colchester and lost the League from a runaway position. And they'd been together as a side a lot longer than we have. What's happened to us with results this past month is no reason to forget our triumphs in the last two seasons. We still believe in the method that achieved those things; the pool of players here is just as strong; we'll come again, and be better than ever.</p>
<p>My present injury:</p>	<p>It's a double fracture of the cheekbone, which I did in a clash of heads in the Reserves away to Bristol Rovers at the end of last month. But it's better than, say, a leg injury because I'm training all the time and will be ready to play again as soon as the specialist says it's O.K. I'd play today if they'd let me. I hope it won't be more than two or three more weeks.</p>
<p>The injury "jinx"</p>	<p>Since we won the F.A. Cup two years ago I've had only about two dozen first-team games. It's been one thing after another—groin operation, broken nose, pulled hamstring, torn ligaments, ankle trouble and now this. But what about Ian Hutchinson—there's a guy to feel sorry for. Two weeks ago, in the taxi on the way to Harley Street for a check-up, we were discussing the bad luck we've both had . . . decided it's just Fate. He came away bubbling. The plaster was off his leg and he had chances of being back in the side next month. I was real pleased for him. Next day, in training, his leg went again. It's cruel . . . and to think I used to consider I was the unlucky one in the camp.</p>
<p>Biggest thrills of career:</p>	<p>First, being in the Scotland side that beat England 3-2 at Wembley in April 1967—we were the first team to defeat them after their World Cup triumph. And for Chelsea, those two terrific Cup Finals with Leeds in 1970.</p>
<p>Family details:</p>	<p>My wife's name is Ann (she's as Scottish as I am) and we have three children—Paul (7), Sean (3) and Ann Marie, aged 22 months. The latest addition is Troy, a nine-weeks' old Labrador puppy. We got him last Sunday. We live at Molesey, but are moving to a new house at Oxshott this summer.</p>
<p>Career ambitions:</p>	<p>First, to get back in the side and show the old form of two seasons ago. In June I hope to gain my full F.A. coaching certificate at Lilleshall, and I'm also working on things for my Testimonial and getting together a committee to help me with it next season.</p>