

was an amateur and was only at Chelsea for the one season, he never proved what kind of footballer he could have become. I would have liked it if he could have trained with Chelsea every day because it was clear the lad had potential. Seamus scored a hat-trick on his debut against Manchester United in a game we lost six-five. I remember that match as clear as anything, if only we had another twenty minutes extra time we would have won it! Chelsea never gave up that day and right up until the end we thought we could get something out of the match, that was the kind of spirit we had.

As the season reached the half way stage, the players were looking forward to every game and we started to believe we were the best side around. We'd only ever think that inwardly, we were never flash or boastful, but there was certainly an inner belief that emerged and I knew the lads were up for it - Ted Drake believed in us all along too. In a season where Chelsea's first team won the Championship the reserves and the youth teams also won their respective leagues, so apart from the F.A. Cup, Chelsea won everything there was to win in 1955 - including the Charity Shield.

Some people in the game think that it's more difficult for a centre-forward to captain the side than it is for a central defender or a midfielder, but because I liked to drop back and help defend, I could still bark out my orders and keep the players on their toes. I nearly always came back to help defend corners, so I didn't have to rely on other players to help me communicate with the defenders. Ted would often say that if I led by example, then it made captaining the side that much easier because the other players see how you're playing and match your effort.

One of the best Captains I ever played against, and somebody I used to study very closely, was Manchester United's John Carey. It was like United had an extra player in their side when Johnny played and he captained Manchester and Ireland for many years. As a Captain it's very difficult to think about what your team-mates should be doing and motivating them whilst still concentrating on your own game, but Johnny Carey could do that better than any other player from that era. I would watch him organising his players, positioning them as he wanted, pushing people wider or deeper, but still have a blinder himself. John was a truly great footballer.

There weren't any bust-ups on the field between the Chelsea lads either and I can't recall any dissent from the players towards me. I hardly ever swore on the pitch, that was a lesson I learned early from my Dad, he always told me that the kind of players who shouted their mouths off and swore every other word were poor communicators and they couldn't express themselves in any other way. From a Captain's per-



'Up The Champs' — A mascot waits as the team run out to clinch the title led by Bentley