

# he's my guy

A series about  
The Chelsea Men  
by The  
Chelsea Girls

By Claudye Garner

**B**ILL was playing for Loughborough when we first met six years ago, but our introduction had nothing to do with football. I'm French—I come from Lyons—and was on holiday in Spain on the Costa Brava. He was also holidaying there with friends, and fifteen months later we were married.

He was working in a factory at Leicester then as an instrument inspector, and it was when he changed football clubs and joined Bedford that his career really began to take shape. In November 1969 Bill moved to Southend, and the rest you know—one night just over three months ago he was playing for Southend against Chelsea in the League Cup, and next day he became a Chelsea player.

We still live at Southend and will continue to do so. We have most of our friends there, and have made a lot of improvements in the house so don't really want to move.

We go back to France each summer to see my family and friends. I worked as a secretary before I got married, and had various sporting interests like ski-ing,

pot-holing, judo and volleyball. But I didn't get interested in football until I came to live in England.

Now I am very keen, although so far I've seen Bill play for Chelsea only once. That's partly because of the travelling from Southend, but also we have our second baby on the way—due early in April.

Our boy Mark is aged three-and-a-half, and likes to play football with his Dad. Bill also plays golf, chess, cricket and

enjoys fishing. I remember he had rather a short temper on the football field when I first knew him, but he has overcome that as his game has matured.

After having a number of other clubs—first Notts County, then Loughborough before Dunstable, Bedford and Southend—he really appreciates joining a big team like Chelsea. He feels his game has already improved in the short time he has been here. He says that's due to the coaching and training, which are so different from anything he had known before.

And I am very happy and proud to be the wife of a Chelsea football player.

