

SCOTT CHESHIRE LOOKS AT

CHELSEA through the years: season 1934-35

IN spite of the difficult experiences of the previous winter, Leslie Knighton began his second season as Chelsea's manager without any notable additions to the playing staff. Tom Priestley was an absentee, having returned to his native Ireland, never again to play first-class football, a loss balanced to some extent by the return of Alec Cheyne from France.

If the absence of transfer activity was an expression of confidence on the manager's part, such optimism was soon dispelled. A three-goal reverse at Derby on the opening day of the season was followed, four days later, by a home defeat at the hands of Sheffield Wednesday. By the end of September two points from seven games meant that we were again bottom of the First Division.

New blood was clearly an urgent requirement. First came a diminutive winger from Barnsley, Dick Spence, who not only ended the season as leading scorer but found that London so suited him that he remained on the Stamford Bridge payroll for more than 40 years. Indeed, his familiar features and wiry figure, little changed from his playing days, are occasionally still part of the match-day scene here. Within weeks Willie Barraclough had been signed from Wolves to play on the opposite wing just days before Hughie Gallacher was transferred to Derby County.

The Scot's 81 goals in 144 first-team appearances was an impressive statistic garnishing the genius of one of football's legendary all-time "greats." Hot-tempered, and often victimised on the field as a result, he was at 5ft. 5in. one of the most skilful centre-forwards and deadly marksmen in the game's history.

In George Mills Chelsea had an obvious replacement but, on Christmas Eve, another star crossed the Irish Sea when Joe Bambrick arrived at Stamford Bridge. Within four months he had scored 15 goals from 21 games and helped to lift us from 21st place to twelfth. Here, too, was a greatly respected and popular man whose skill and sportmanship were a byword throughout a distinguished career which bought him eleven Irish caps. Earlier this year a testimonial dinner was held in Joe's honour in Belfast where, at 73, he still lives.

Six points from the three Christmas games made for a happy start to the New Year and, perhaps aided by a disappointing Cup exit in a replay at Luton, we steadily pulled clear of trouble. By this time Jimmy Argue had won his place at inside-forward and, with Harry Burgess arriving from Sheffield Wednesday, manager Knighton had rebuilt his entire forward line.

Certainly the goals were flowing. Bambrick scored four in our 7-1 win over Leeds; Spence all four in the defeat of Liverpool. And exactly fifty goals from 22 home games kept the fans well entertained. Yet, the lack of consistency was still evident. A 4-2 win over Wolves on Good Friday was followed, in 72 hours, by 0-6 and 1-6 defeats at Liverpool and in the return fixture at Wolverhampton. Exasperating Chelsea!

LEAGUE RESULTS

Home		Away
L 2-5	Arsenal	D 2-2
W 2-0	Aston Villa	W 3-0
D 2-2	Birmingham	W 1-0
W 4-2	Blackburn Rovers	W 2-1
D 1-1	Derby County	L 0-3
W 3-0	Everton	L 2-3
W 2-0	Grimsby Town	L 1-3
W 2-1	Huddersfield Town	L 0-3
W 7-1	Leeds United	L 2-5
W 3-1	Leicester City	L 0-1
W 4-1	Liverpool	L 0-6
W 4-2	Manchester City	L 0-2
W 2-1	Middlesbrough	D 2-2
D 1-1	Portsmouth	D 1-1
D 0-0	Preston North End	L 0-2
L 1-2	Sheffield Wednesday	L 1-3
L 0-2	Stoke City	W 1-0
D 2-2	Sunderland	L 0-4
L 1-3	Tottenham Hotspur	W 3-1
L 2-3	West Bromwich Albion	D 2-2
W 4-2	Wolverhampton W.	L 1-6

HOW THEY FINISHED

	Division 1						Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	
Arsenal	42	23	12	7	115	46	58
Sunderland	42	19	16	7	90	51	54
Sheffield W.	42	18	13	11	70	64	49
Manchester C.	42	20	8	14	82	67	48
Grimsby T.	42	17	11	14	78	60	45
Derby County	42	18	9	15	81	66	45
Liverpool	42	19	7	16	85	88	45
Everton	42	16	12	14	89	88	44
W.B.A.	42	17	10	15	83	83	44
Stoke City	42	18	6	18	71	70	42
Preston N.E.	42	15	12	15	62	67	42
CHELSEA	42	16	9	17	73	82	41
Aston Villa	42	14	13	15	74	88	41
Portsmouth	42	15	10	17	71	72	40
Blackburn R.	42	14	11	17	66	78	39
Huddersfield	42	14	10	18	76	71	38
Wolves	42	15	8	19	88	94	38
Leeds United	42	13	12	17	75	92	38
Birmingham	42	13	10	19	63	81	36
Middlesbrough	42	10	14	18	70	90	34
Leicester C.	42	12	9	21	61	86	33
Tottenham H.	42	10	10	22	54	93	30

Appearances:—Allum, L. 22, Argue, J. 27, Bambrick, J. 21, Barber, G. 39, Barraclough, W. 29, Burgess, H. 10, Cheyne, A. 3, Copeland, J. 1, Craig, A. 42, Gallacher, H. 7, Gibson, G. 23, Gregg, R. 13, Horton, J. 13, Hutcheson, J. 11, Jackson, J. 27, Macaulay, R. 38, Miller, H. 34, Mills, G. 20, Mitchell, W. 4, Odell, L. 5, O'Hare, J. 2, Oakton, E. 8, Russell, W. 14, Spence, R. 34, Woodley, V. 15.

Scorers:—Spence 19, Bambrick 15, Mills 8, Barraclough 6, Argue 5, Horton 4, Burgess 3, Gregg 3, Gallacher 2, Cheyne 1, Gibson 1, Hutcheson 1, Macaulay 1, Oakton 1, Russell 1, Opponents 2 = 73.

F.A. CUP

Jan. 12 (3) v Luton Town (H) drew 1-1 (Argue) Att. 46,492 Rec. £3,044
Jan. 16 (Replay) v Luton Town (a) lost 0-2 Att. 23,041 (record) Rec. £1,879

Appearances:—Argue, J. 2, Bambrick, J. 2, Barber, G. 2, Craig, A. 2, Gibson G. 2, Jackson, J. 2, Macaulay, R. 2, Miller, H. 2, Spence, R. 2, Allum, L. 1, Barraclough, W. 1, Horton, J. 1, Russell, W. 1.

Scorer:—Argue 1=1.