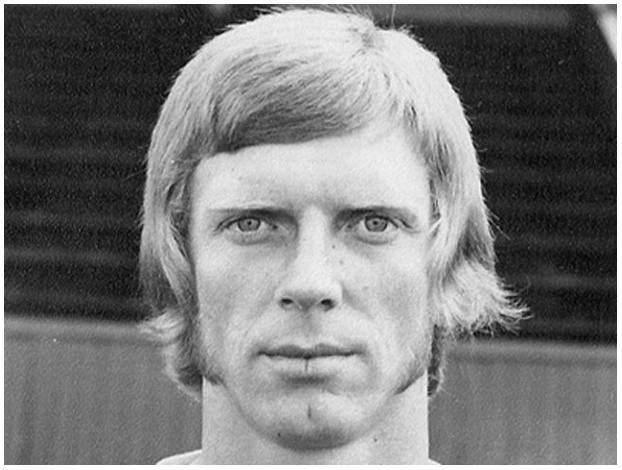


One of Jim McGuigan's earliest and most inspired signings, Charlie completed an engineering apprenticeship before starting his football career at Sheffield United, signing pro in January 1964 and making three appearances, usually as a forward. He was allowed to join Chesterfield in June 1968 and began playing in midfield and up front before injuries to others led to his claiming the centre-half spot on a permanent basis. Having found his place, Charlie was put on a weight-training regime to improve his physique for, despite being the right height for a centre-half, he weighed only eleven stone and nine pounds upon signing. Mild-mannered and thoughtful off the pitch, he nevertheless epitomised the determined spirit of the '69-70 championship side when he crossed that white line on a matchday.

He seemed happiest when the team was under sustained pressure: after one such game at Doncaster in 1968-9, The Derbyshire Times described him as "the bastion of the sea-blue fortress". For one with such battling qualities, though, Charlie was rarely cautioned. The club eventually replaced Charlie with Eric Winstanley, and offered Bell to Barnsley in part-exchange, but The Tykes rejected him on medical grounds, and his Chesterfield career rather petered out. In January 1974, Charlie followed his Manager and mentor McGuigan to Rotherham and, thereafter, Stockport County, to work on the coaching side. After football, Charlie became a Sheffield-based sales representative for a manufacturer of industrial hygiene products and in 2000 was appointed as Sales Director for the same company, until retirement in 2011. A keen cricketer, he played locally for Coal Aston until 2005.

For Chesterfield: 149 + 3 Football League appearances, 12 goals.

Career: 152 + 3 Football League appearances, 13 goals.