

FULHAM

FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC CO. LIMITED

Registered Office : Craven Cottage, Stevenage Road, Fulham, S.W.6

Directors—T. TRINDER (Chairman), N. A. D'AMATO (Vice-Chairman),
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"FULHAMISH, LONDON, S.W.6."

Voice of Fulham

THE new season has hardly got its boots laced up and here we are face-to-face with our well-to-do neighbours Chelsea. And next Saturday Tottenham play at Craven Cottage. Two London derbies in the first two weeks! Scarcely gives you time to draw breath.

But we are delighted to have them for all that. Nothing gives soccer more spice than a tussle between neighbouring clubs. And it is bound to be said that, of all our London derbies, none has more lip-smacking flavour than our twice a season get-together with our close friends and rivals from up the road.

Of course Chelsea have been pinching most of the headlines from this part of the soccer world, what with their great runs of success and untiring globe-trotting in recent years. And Fulham, we assure you, are more pleased for them than envious.

We still like to think, however, that the relative status of our two clubs is always second place on a day like today. It's them against us and you need to be a S.W. local to appreciate the true feeling and atmosphere that exists when we meet.

Because we clash so early in the season our positions in Division One can hardly be compared. But we are naturally bucked with the point gained at Blackpool in the opening game of the season last Saturday.

And no-one was more pleased than our chairman Tommy Trinder who is topping the bill at the North Pier theatre in Blackpool. Mr. Trinder was reluctantly expecting to miss the club's first game — then the fixtures came out showing Blackpool as our first match.

So he was there to greet the team on Saturday morning, saw the game and then dashed away to be ready for the start of the evening show at 6 p.m. Things could not have worked out better.

We had one or two anxious moments after Johnny Key put us into the lead. Blackpool first equalised and then took the lead with five minutes to go. Right at the death Johnny Haynes whipped in to score and thereby reward us with a point.

And manager Vic Buckingham was one of the few who missed seeing that valuable last minute swoop by Haynes.

He says "I thought we'd had it so I started to make my way into the players' tunnel. I stopped to chat to someone and looked back towards the pitch. Half the pitch was obscured by a wall but I could just see Johnny Key centering the ball. The Blackpool goal was out of sight but all of a sudden Johnny Haynes came into view leaping about with delight. Only then did I realise we'd scored."

Manager Buckingham goes on; "Although we were pleased with the point the boys and I agreed that we can play much better. The pattern is there but with only 70 per cent. efficiency. But it will come, believe me."

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The new rule of substitution for an injured player is still a matter of high controversy in soccer. But we feel that it has come to stay and we welcome it. The total of 13 substitutes used on the first day of the season is nowhere near as high as

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