

This afternoon's opposition

CUP WINNERS CUP HOLDERS

It is a notable fact that of the four British teams that have won the European Cup Winners Cup, three should be London clubs. Spurs were the first in 1963, we did it in 1965 and Chelsea completed the "Metropolis trio" last May when they defeated Real Madrid at the second attempt in Athens.



Today it is our pleasure to entertain the present holders of Europe's "second" trophy, and although we complimented their ex-Hammer Manager Dave Sexton in a "congratulations" column of our opening issue, we take this opportunity to repeat it for the benefit of the remainder of the Stamford Bridge administrators and players.

"DERBY" DUELS

London is fortunate in having the opportunity to stage so many "local derbies" in a soccer season, for it gives the fans of all the Metropolitan clubs several chances of seeing their team in away games not far from "home."

Even in cities with more than one League club this is not always possible, as they are often in different Divisions; but despite some travel (and parking!) difficulties the followers of London's First Division sides can visit four rival enclosures within a comparatively small radius, and in Division II the same ratio applies.

Possibly this is why London clashes have an especial overall appeal, though this does not detract from the attractions of "needle" meetings between such as Everton v Liverpool and Manchester City v United.

Likewise, in "derby duels" the players of both sides are equally well-known to a very large proportion of the spectators, and it is not really necessary to print pen pictures of the visiting line-up—so we have omitted

them today to make room for other material.

There will, however, probably be one "new face" among the Blues' team; and it was quite a coincidence that on the day our editorial on the previous page was written Dave Sexton should go into the transfer-market and obtain Bristol City's Chris Garland for another large fee. It was a calculated purchase of a replacement for another valuable player at a vital time, and underlined the intentions of the West Londoners to repeat their recent big-time successes.

Chelsea did not fare at all well in their opening games, and the following comment by their skipper, Ron Harris, shows how they felt about it:

I know Chelsea have a reputation for being slow starters, but that was ridiculous! Still, it may have taken five games to do it, but we have our first win of the season under our belts. We are on our way again.

So we can anticipate quite a lot of excitement this afternoon, and, as usual, expect that this clash will be one of Upton Park's highlights of the 1971-72 season.