

We leave you to decide which clubs have had the "easiest" and "hardest" time. We at Chelsea are well pleased with the start that has been made and it has given us a basis on which to build what we hope will become a successful Championship effort.

But while, to many, a good start may be half the battle, to be realistic seven matches represent only one sixth of the season's League programme. As we welcome our friends and always keen rivals West Ham, managed by our former player Ron Greenwood, it would be most unwise to assume that anything less than our best will be good enough today. From what we hear, the Hammers have been playing brilliantly and that one point from their last four games is one of the new season's most misleading statistics.

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On the box: We are not allowed to announce in our programme when we are being shown on "Match of the Day" or "The Big Match," but you will see for yourselves that the TV cameras are not here this afternoon. Pity, because we have been televised on the season's first four Saturdays, and with three wins and a draw we have something of a "screen record" that we'd like to keep going!

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Dario in "dock": Dario Gradi has been absent on the coaching side since last week, when back trouble flared up in training. He has been in hospital for tests and at the time of writing the injury is still being diagnosed. Get well soon, Dario.

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Trip to Germany: We have been invited by the West German club, Fortuna Dusseldorf, to provide the opposition on Tuesday night, when they open their new stadium, which will be one of the venues for the 1974 World Cup. We fly out on Tuesday and return on Wednesday.

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Twelve-goal Steve: Scottish Youth International striker Steve Finnieston, 17, scored all three goals in Chelsea Youth's 3-0 win at Reading last Saturday, and took his goal total for the season to 12 in four games. He scored five out of ten the previous Saturday against Luton and four out of six on the opening day against Charlton.

Front cover shot

HARD luck, Steve! It really did deserve a goal, but Kember's flying header crashes against an upright against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Wednesday of last week. You can see some more of our near misses in this game on page 7.

Welcome, boys: Crusaders Boys' F.C. of Maidstone, are currently hosts to a party of 21 boys from Beauvais, France, and are bringing them to Stamford Bridge today to see their first big match in England. We welcome the Maidstone boys and their guests—they have seats on the West side—and hope that, after playing their own match this morning, they enjoy this afternoon's visit to Chelsea.

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Missing from home: Calling Kevin Barnes, of Dartford, Kent. We understand that you are a keen Chelsea supporter, and if you are here today would you please get in touch with home, as your parents are most anxious to hear from you.

WHY NOT BECOME A REFEREE?

WE have received the following letter from Mr. W. D. Goodsell, Hon. Secretary of the West London Referees' Society:

"There is a shortage of junior officials in youth and junior football, and local leagues have asked the West London Referees' Society if we can provide them with referees.

The Society holds referee training classes throughout the season and close season. Our H.Q. is "The Cedar Tree", Putney Bridge Road, Putney, S.W.15. Courses are held every Thursday evening commencing at 8 p.m. The 220 Routemaster passes our H.Q., and the nearest station is Putney Bridge (District Line). We also hold monthly meetings at which we have many excellent speakers. Our first-class magazine 'WELREF' is sent all over the world."

Anyone interested should write to: W. D. Goodsell, Secretary, 58 Arthur Henderson House, Fulham Road, London, S.W.6 (phone 736-3973).