

in off the post

Your letters should be of not more than 150 words and addressed to "In off the Post", Chelsea F.C., Fulham Road, London, S.W.6.

SAINTS MATCH—A COMPLAINT

I AM writing to tell you how disgusted I was at the attitude of the police towards fans at the home match against Southampton. Ever since I have supported Chelsea I have stood on the terraces between the North and West Stands.

Against Southampton though, I was forced to stand at the "Shed" end because, having previously visited the Pools Office, I was refused entry behind the East Stand, as were all fans carrying a blue and white scarf like myself.

I hope in future that police adopt a different procedure for stopping trouble, both for my sake and the sake of many other Chelsea fans who were forced to stand at the "Shed" end or pay an extra 30p to stand where they wanted.

Raymond Herb.

102 Gladstone Avenue,
Whitton, Twickenham, Middx.

SAME MATCH—ANOTHER COMPLAINT

THE time, two twenty-five at the Chelsea versus Southampton game. Behind the East Stand my friend and I were confronted by a policeman. We are season-ticket holders in the North Stand and were making our way there.

He stopped us and told us to go up to the "Shed". We showed him our season tickets and he still insisted that we went to the "Shed". Thinking again, he took it to another policeman to make sure of the obvious.

We were quite disturbed by this

behaviour and, considering we paid £14.40 then to be refused admission, we had every right to be.

We respect that it was his duty but he went a bit far. It's the second time this has happened to me.

John Gifford.

26 Claremont Avenue,
Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx.

● *Police have control of the crowd inside the ground and, over the season, they do a first-class job. One of their aims is to prevent a clash of rival factions and, depending on the match, they have on a number of occasions employed a "shut-off" very successfully, though this does sometimes prevent spectators standing where they normally would. In the case of the season-ticket holders complaining above, we appreciate their feelings and hope the point is also taken by the officer(s) concerned.*

OPENING TIME

I AM writing well before the Spurs game (Nov. 27) in the hope that you can do something about the time you open the gates. Normally they are opened between one and half-past, but for this match I think they should be opened earlier. The queues that build up are tremendous and I would much rather wait inside the ground than out.

Mick Jasper.

54 Pretoria Avenue, London, E.17.

● *One o'clock is considered early enough for our match-day staff to open the turnstiles on November 27.*