THE CHELSEA FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC CO. LTD.



League Champions 1955

FOUNDED 1905

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F.A. Youth Cup 1960 and 1961

The Talk of Stamford Bridge

Top of the table, if only for 3½ hours, after our early Boxing Day win against Blackpool, but back to third place when the return holiday fixture at Blackpool was postponed on Monday night. That was how the Christmas programme turned out for us — an unsatisfactory finish after a pleasing start. So we kick-off today two points behind Manchester United and Leeds and with a game in hand. It looks like March or April before we shall be able to fit in another visit to Blackpool and play off the postponed fixture.

The "match off" decision did not interfere with our three-days' special training schedule at Blackpool, from which the players returned on Thursday. And though we were "out of business" ourselves on Monday, we were very active spectators, taking in two matches. In the afternoon, our contingent saw Manchester United held 1-1 at home by Sheffield United (Tommy Docherty says "We were cheering quietly for John Harris's lads!"),

and in the evening we travelled on to Ewood Park, where Leeds beat Blackburn 2-0. We are due to play at Leeds in three weeks' time, and considered Monday's preview of them well worth while.

Our party at Blackpool this week comprised 18 players — the 11 who won the Boxing Day match here, plus John Dunn, Frank Upton, Bobby Tambling, Peter Osgood, Peter Houseman and new signings Mike Jones and Tommy McColl. Training was carried out in the mornings in the hotel grounds, and full advantage was taken of the indoor facilities, including swimming-pool, steam baths, recordplayer and games room.

Please note that we have brought forward the kick-off in our Third Round F.A. Cup-tie against Northampton here next Saturday to 2.45 p.m. in order to help ease transport congestion resulting from ourselves and Fulham both being