

FA CUP WEEK... DAY TWO OF A LOOK AT THE LITTLE CHALLENGERS

A Royal audience

THEY MAY not have "By Appointment to Her Majesty" stamped on their shirts but Windsor and Eton FC are unique in soccer.

Toss around your clubs in a possible

superleague and you will not find one who can boast Prince Philip as patron.

Shuffle the 92 teams in the League and you will be hard-pressed to find one playing on Crown property.

On any day Windsor and Eton may have among their handful of fans a few whose admission money is indirectly paid by The Queen, or whose education is being pursued at one of the world's most famous public schools—Eton.

It is a blue-blood connection that ironically contrasts with the red shirts that the team from non-League football will wear in Saturday's FA Cup game against Torquay.

And certainly none of the upper crust connection means much to local millman Jimmy Walsh who will skipper Vauxhall - Opel League Windsor.

Nor will it mean much to player-manager Laurie Craker, busy putting roofs on to houses in Kent yesterday.

Pursuits

And having the Queen's husband attending the club's annual dinner a couple of years ago and having another blue blood in Sir David Hill-Wood as the president, does not exactly have them hurrying through the turnstiles at the ground with a name connected with royal pursuits—Stag Meadow.

Certainly club chairman, Bill French, a carpet retailer, knows that playing on the Queen's property does not necessarily guarantee affluence.

He told me yesterday: "Of course we are proud of our president and patron."

"Indeed, Sir David Hill-Wood has been supporting this football club since he was a boy, and is very active in our affairs."

"But, like any other club



Windsor ready for their latest date with glory

By STEVE CURRY

with our status—we want every penny that we can get."

The club have recently spent £19,000 on a new drainage system at Stag Meadow.

And they run no reserve side, play no professionals, and as French, dedicated to improving facilities, says: "We are almost an entirely voluntary organisation."

That has not prevented them from holding third place behind Farnborough and Yeovil and a philosophy to play attacking football.

There is only one team

with more goals—but only two who have conceded more.

For David Webb's Torquay, there is the suggestion of an awesome assignment this weekend.

Webb will remember his old club Bournemouth were forced into a replay by Windsor two seasons ago.

French says: "We made £6,000 out of that tie. And it would be nice to think that we can make sufficient progress to generate that kind of money."

Certainly the FA Cup IS about the reality of survival for clubs like Windsor and Eton.

But how romantic it is to witness them, however fleetingly, in the limelight of the game.



Picture by LEONARD TRIEVOR

ON THE CARPET... chairman Bill French is hoping Windsor will not be floored

But like any other club with our status we need every penny