

Brentford Boss Thomas Frank expresses concern over “odd” kick-off time against Chelsea



Brentford will travel along the A4 for a Premier League clash with Enzo Maresca’s in-form Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, however the fixture will kick-off at an “odd” time of 7:00 pm.

Frank stated in his pre match press conference: “It’s funny that you say 7 o’clock, it’s a little bit odd, (the) timings.”

He further elaborated on this, saying “it’s a little strange to me that the Premier League just told us to play at 7 o’clock. We asked for it not to be 7 o’clock because obviously we knew that we had an EFL quarter final on Wednesday night away to Newcastle.”

The Dane will be experiencing his third EFL cup quarterfinal in his career having lost to Chelsea in the 21/22 campaign and coincidentally beating Newcastle in a 1 nil clash the year prior.

Frank’s concerns stem from a lack of rest between fixtures as the Bees will play three games in seven days as a 3pm Saturday fixture with Nottingham Forest will follow Brentford’s midweek cup excursion.

The Magpies will be going in to their cup game with a 26 hour head start in terms of recovery having wrapped up a 4 nil home win against Leicester City on Saturday afternoon.

The 7pm kick off time could be an example of the Premier League helping Chelsea as the Blues completed a 7000 mile round trip to Kazakhstan for their Europa Conference League match against Astana on Thursday.

It is extremely unlikely that the players that travelled for that fixture will participate in Sunday’s contest as that side featured a multitude of fringe players and youth academy prospects.

Brentford will be seeking their first away win of the season having failed to win any of their seven away fixtures up to this point. However, the Bees have won every league game they have played at Stamford Bridge under Frank’s stewardship and have not lost to the Blues since 2021.

Thomas Frank’s team will be aiming for a fourth consecutive away win against Chelsea but he recognises that it will be difficult to play against “maybe the best team... in the Premier League.”

“Right now in this moment, it seems like maybe they’re maybe even more in-form than Liverpool, even though Liverpool are top of the league. So maybe the best team, in the moment, right now, in the Premier League” said Frank.

Chelsea are the division’s top scorers with 35 goals and currently are second in the Premier League. A win against their West London rivals will shrink the gap between them and Liverpool to two points at the summit.

Brentford themselves have also been fruitful in front of goal as only Chelsea have scored more than them through 15 games.

This Sunday evening clash has all the makings of a goal fest and should be an entertaining watch for neutrals despite its “odd” 7pm kick-off time.