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TEAMS

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Southend and
Wandsworth**

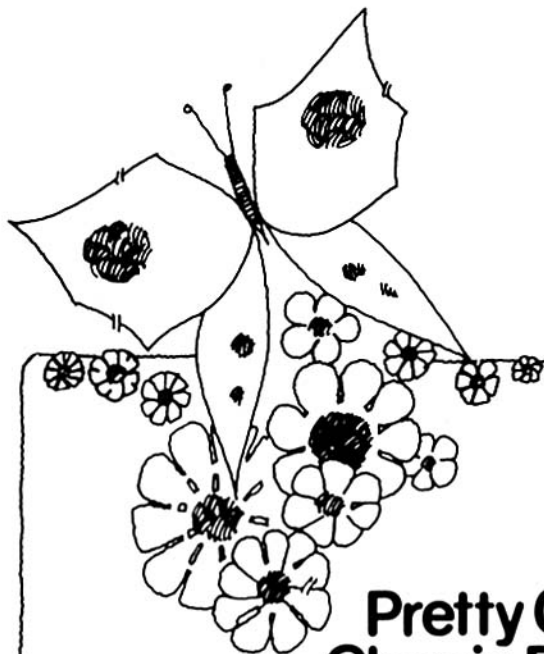
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**SUNDAY, May 22nd
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WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT...

The Romans would never believe it – “It’s A Knockout” being staged by the site of Verulamium, the Roman City! Well, “It’s A Knockout” has made a habit of visiting historic locations and has now become a national institution and an international phenomenon.

Its origins go back 20 years when a “Top Town” series was launched in the North, but in 1966 “Knockout” was born, and the following year Europe joined in and set in motion the crazy “Jeux sans Frontieres”.

This year, 21 British towns set out on the trail to fame in “Jeux sans Frontieres” which an estimated 240 million viewers watch across Europe.

Westminster Lodge, St. Albans is the venue for one of seven ‘domestic’ heats. Three teams take part in each heat and St. Albans, Southend and Wandsworth will compete for the right to represent Britain in the international series, which includes teams from France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Holland and Switzerland. The grand final, with the highest scoring teams from each nation, will be held in Germany.

The seven successful British towns will also take part in the special all-winners programme on neutral ground at Charnock Richard, near Preston, on June 19 for the Radio Times trophy.

“Knockouts” inimitable duo; Stuart Hall and Eddie Waring are the commentators again, and former international soccer referee Arthur Ellis will see fair play!

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Details of the individual ‘games’ are not known until shortly before the event. Full programme details of the games will be issued to spectators at Westminster Lodge on May 22, on production of this admission brochure.

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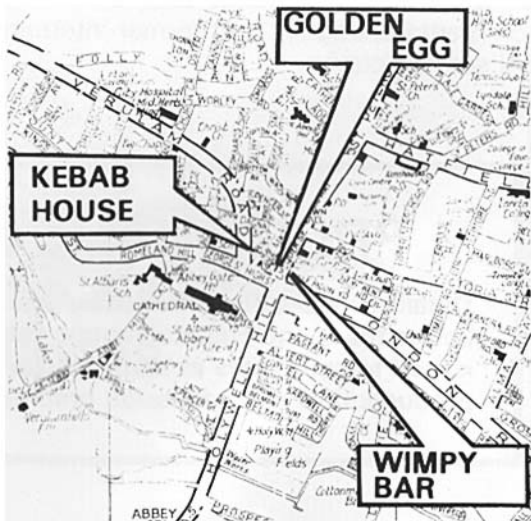


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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



The "It's A Knockout" event is a marvellous start to my year in Office, and a very happy choice of venue for the St. Albans community, coinciding as it does with our Centenary Celebrations as a Cathedral City.

I'm delighted to welcome our guests from Southend and Wandsworth — teams, dignitaries and supporters alike, together with all the B.B.C. representatives. I do hope they enjoy their visit and that they will have the chance to look around our District or perhaps return for some of our Centenary events. I would particularly like to express my thanks to all the teams who have undertaken an amazingly strenuous training programme to prepare for the event. I only hope they will have some strength left on the day!

I also hope that, despite the competitive nature of the event, we remember that "It's A Knockout" is a game for fun and entertainment — don't let's take it **too** seriously!

It would be foolish to pretend that I won't show a personal allegiance to the St. Albans team, but my very best wishes to all the participants — I'm sure it will be an enjoyable and memorable event.



*John Dymoke
Mayor of the City and District
of St. Albans (1977/78).*

Knockout's inimitable duo, Stuart Hall and Eddie Waring are the commentators again, and former international soccer referee Arthur Ellis is the senior referee.



STUART HALL

Stuart Hall, who made his Knockout debut in 1972, presents Look North, the BBC North West weeknight TV magazine programme in Manchester and makes frequent appearances on the network in Nationwide.

A Lancashire lad, he first broadcast in 1958 as a radio contributor in Sports Spotlight. He has reported on soccer, cricket, tennis, motor racing and motor cycling, as well as current affairs.

His great loves are football, fast cars and antique clocks. Perhaps the clocks reign supreme — he loves their sense of continuity.

Married the same year he started broadcasting — 1958 — Stuart has two teenage children, Francesca and Daniel. His home in Glossop, Derbyshire, is crammed with antique clocks, Victorian furniture, bronzes and old portraits.

He sees knockout as essentially a "fun show" and is determined to make it as entertaining as possible for competitors and viewers.



EDDIE WARING

Eddie joined the programme in 1966 and has vast experience of Knockout recordings all over Europe.

He has been a top BBC personality ever since TV came to the North in 1951, becoming a household name in covering Rugby League.

Born in Dewsbury, Eddie played soccer, Rugby Union, Rugby League — and was a wrestler, too.

A globe-trotter, he has made seven trips round the world and appeared on TV in Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.

Eddie usually gives a special blow-by-blow account of the mini-marathon contest, which can be a vital tie-breaker in a tight contest. "For me," he says, "the programme really comes alive when we go into Europe. The atmosphere is electric, the competition intense, and yet so enjoyable. It's an exciting show to do."

**ARTHUR
ELLIS**
Senior
Referee



Arthur Ellis, from Halifax, one of the best-known soccer referees in the world, has officiated in practically every country that plays first-class football.

He refereed World Cup ties and 73 internationals in his time, and became the first English referee to be awarded the Gold Badge of FIFA. He now works as a brewery representative. Arthur will be assisted by Mike Swan.

**THE BACKROOM BOYS
(AND GIRLS)**

Behind the scenes, there's a dedicated team that the Knockout live audiences see going about their complex duties, but are discreetly out of sight of the TV audiences.

The director is Geoff Wilson, who makes sure that the producers' and engineers' efforts reach the screen in the way they were envisaged in the calm of the planning meetings.

Cecil has the assistance of Alan Wright and Alan Walsh, who lead the full-time workers responsible for the months of advance preparation which go into the smooth running of the series.

The games are devised by Paul Trerise and designed by Mel Bibby, and his assistant Barry Roach.

Engineering manager Geoff Lomas ensures that all the complicated equipment functions correctly, and the stage managers, led by Bryan Chapman, can be seen racing backwards and forwards talking to the director's mobile control van, via 'walkie talkie' radios during the course of the recording.

CECIL KORER
Producer

Cecil joined the series as producer last year, but he is by no means unfamiliar with the programme. He worked on the first two series in 1966 and 1967 as an assistant producer. Since then he's been involved with such shows as Children Talking as director, and produced such quizzes as Password and Ask The Family.

In recent years, he has worked in London, but returned to the North — he was born in Stockport — in the Autumn of 1975 to take over Knockout and develop other programme ideas from Leeds.

He has worked on the production team of such other long-running favourites as Top of the Pops and The Good Old Days.

THE SCOREGIRLS

They're not just pretty faces; they also help the judges and Eddie and Stuart adjudicate and add up the scores. This year they are as follows: Dinah May, currently Miss Great Britain, from Little Neston, Cheshire; Pam Nolan from Alkington, Middleton, Lancashire; and Brenda Lee from Oakwood, Leeds.





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THE ST. ALBANS TEAM

The St. Albans City and District, covering a 63 square mile area, contains a mixture of civic, urban and rural communities and includes the town of Harpenden and many attractive villages.

With St. Albans celebrating its Centenary as a Cathedral City this year, the City's involvement with "Knockout" is "icing on the cake" and not surprisingly a vast number of people turned up for selection to the "squad"

The 30 strong squad, selected from applicants living, working, or belonging to Sports Clubs in the District, has been so hard at work that the District's Sports Officer and Team Manager, Howard Darbon, says "I get tired out just watching them!"

The many sports facilities in the District have been well-used not only by the squad, but by the team's cheer-leaders who have been exercising their lung-power in an attempt to boost the squad's efforts.

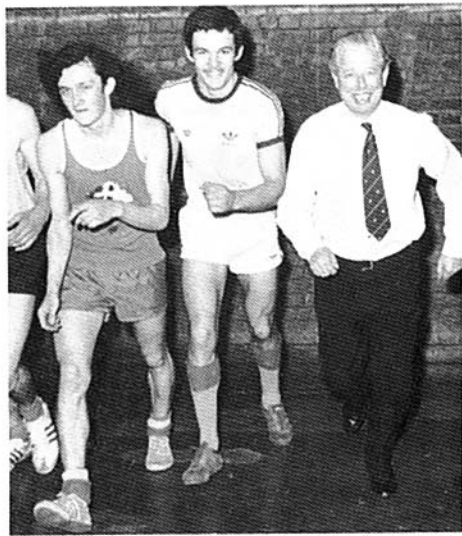
If the St. Albans team isn't successful, it certainly won't be for want of effort!

The squad's training has owed much to the help (or bullying!) of Mike Taylor, coach, Wally Pullum (weight-training) of Verlea Athletic Club and we thank St. Albans College and Birklands College for the use of their gymnasias.

The St. Albans District Council would like to thank Harpenden Sports for supplying all the team's kit, Aquascutum Limited, Marks and Spencer's and all the advertisers in this brochure for their generous support.



The historic Abbey and Cathedral Church of St. Albans dominates the St. Albans landscape.



John Dymoke, 1977/78 Mayor of St. Albans, joins in a "squad" training session.



The St. Albans "squad" — aged between 16 and 31 — have occupations ranging from farmer to electronics engineer, P.E. teachers to Company directors.

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THE SOUTHEND TEAM

Enthusiasm in Southend to support the town's Knockout team has grown continuously since it was announced that we were to participate in the 1977 series, and has had a marvellous effect in unifying the entire area.

The Borough of Southend (which also includes Leigh on Sea, Westcliff on Sea and Shoeburyness) has a population of 160,000 and a traditional resort background. With the many sports facilities throughout the Borough, Southend's team has had excellent training sessions to get them in tip top shape for competition.

Most team members have been residents all their lives — their ages range between 16 and 34 — and are all actively involved in a sport of some kind. The squad of 27 was chosen after a series of gruelling tests ("worse than joining the foreign legion" as one hopeful stated) and having made the team found that the tests were child's play compared to the training sessions in which they've been required to take part!

Events have been organised to help raise money to sponsor the team — one of the most successful of which was a three-legged race along five miles of Southend's seafront. This not only attracted hundreds of "three-legged people" but raised in excess of £1,000!



The Solar in 13th Century Southchurch Hall is a popular stop for visitors and residents alike.



Over 3,000 boats moored along Southend's coastline make it one of England's largest yachting centres.



Southend's Knockout squad shortly after their first briefing together. Occupations vary enormously from receptionist to PE teacher, journalist to student, police officer to Post Office engineer — all with one thing in common: a burning determination to win! (Photo courtesy of "Evening Echo")



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THE WANDSWORTH TEAM

Wandsworth is the first London Borough to be involved in "Knockout". It's the home of over 250,000 Londoners, situated on the South Bank of the Thames, and is named after the Saxon leader Wendle. The Borough is primarily residential, and public open spaces account for almost a quarter of the Borough's area.

The opportunity was given to anyone over 16, living, working or studying in the Borough to be considered as a candidate for the team. The response was enormous and eventually 115 attended strenuous training sessions, designed to eliminate the weakest and leave the Borough with a strong, capable team. The team is managed by Ray Brown (the Borough Recreation Development Officer) and coached by Chris Kilby (a full badge F.A. Coach) and Simon Holmes (a PE teacher and Playleader). Young's Brewery (famous for their real ale) will be supplying their largest black horse with a one horse dray to carry the team into the arena. The Mayor of Wandsworth and the Tooting and Balham Carnival Queen will also be there on the day. F. W. Woolworth and Co. Ltd., are providing the track suits, tee shirts, shorts and training shoes for each team member, and the Arndale Centre Traders Association are sponsoring the team to the tune of £600 to purchase special training equipment for the set games and provide the Cheer Leaders with colourful costumes.



*The Arndale Centre, Wandsworth
viewed from King George's Park*



Putney Embankment

The Wandsworth "squad"



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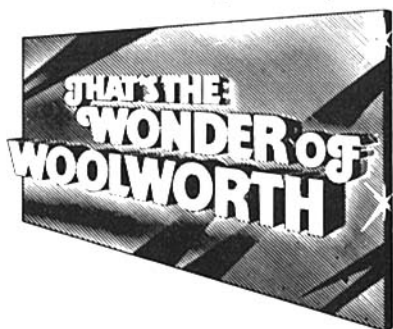


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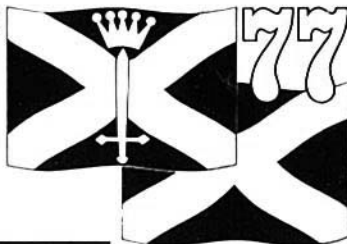
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SOME CENTENARY YEAR EVENTS IN ST. ALBANS

- June 4-26** Children's Exhibition at the Cathedral.
June 28-July 9 International Organ Festival at the Cathedral.

PRODUCTIONS AT ROMAN THEATRE*

- July 6-9** "Julius Caesar" by the Pendley Players.
July 14-16 "Merrie England" by the St. Albans Operatic Society.
July 21 "Roman" Wrestling Tournament.
July 22 An evening with the Yetties.
July 23 Festival Concert.

- August 29** Centenary Carnival, Market and Arena Show, Firework Display at Westminster Lodge.
September 11 "The Roman Run" and Sport for All – Verulamium.
November 12 Visit of H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Feature articles on all the Events in the Diocese are included in the Centenary Programme, now available, price 40p from the Tourist Information Office, 37 Chequer Street, St. Albans.

* *Tickets will be available from the Tourist Information Office*

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