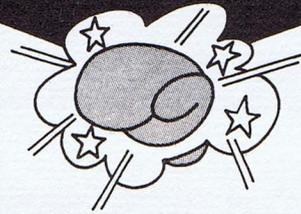


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B.B.C.
IT'S A KNOCKOUT
COMPETITION



Luton



Watford

ON SUNDAY THE 21ST MAY

REMEMBER this programme is your admission ticket to this event.

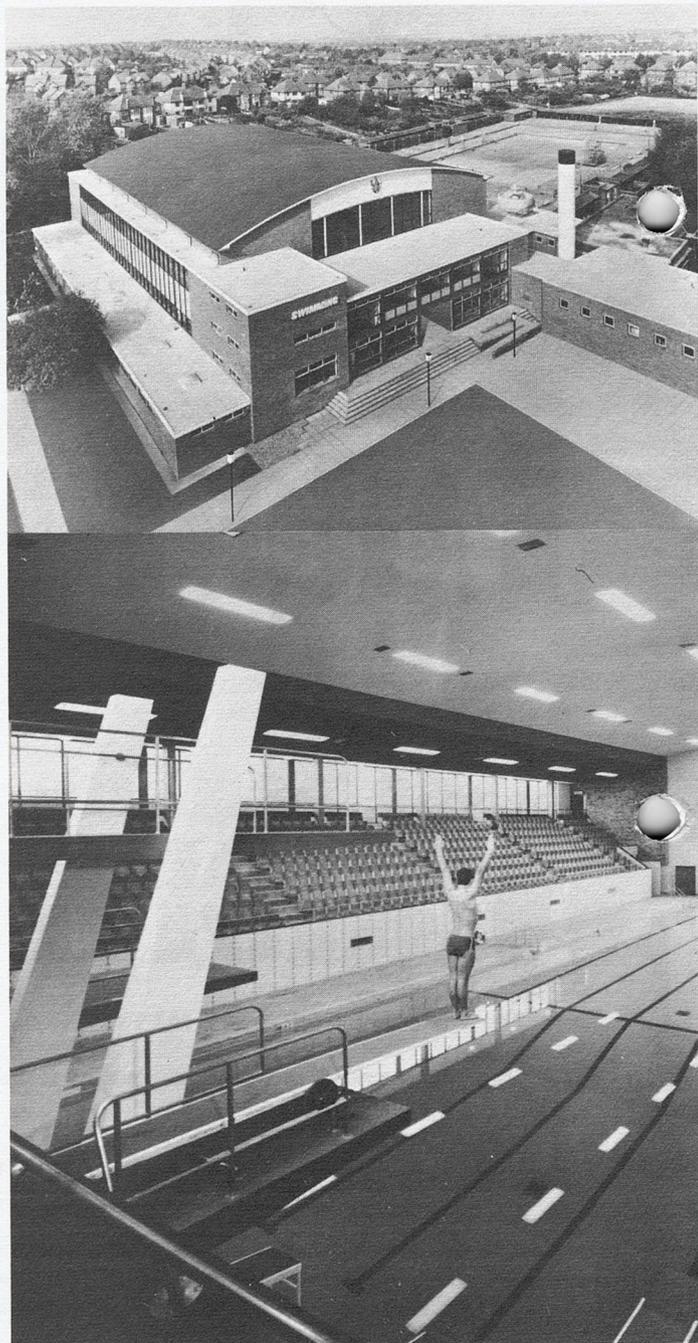
Gates open at 3.30 p.m. and you should be in your seat by 4.30 p.m.

Your attention is drawn to the car parking and seating plan on page 20 of this programme. We hope you find it helpful and trust that you will spend an enjoyable afternoon.

Luton Baths Centre, one of the most modern in the country and equipped with first-class facilities for all the year round swimming, provides the perfect setting for the "It's a Knockout" games. The indoor centre, with a main pool 110 feet by 48 feet, was opened in 1965.

The adjoining outdoor pool, where the contest will be staged, is 165 feet long and 90 feet wide with a maximum depth of 10 feet below the diving stage.

There will be a further boost for Luton swimmers next year when the town's first district swimming pool opens at Lewsey Park.



The 'Knockout' game— how it all began

"It's a Knockout", the BBC's self-styled brand of midsummer madness, is now an international fun-and-games spectacle. It was born in the North by way of the BBC's "Top Town" contests of the Fifties and has grown into an *Olympian* event watched by 15 million viewers in this country and, via Eurovision, 150 million more in Europe.

The British "Knockout" provides teams for international heats, staged in each of the countries taking part in the programme's European version, "Jeux sans Frontieres" ("Games without Frontiers"), leading up to the grand final and a chance to win the golden champions' trophy.

Luton and Watford are among 12 towns battling it out in the British heats this year - the seventh in the series - and the victors go on to meet teams from Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Switzerland and West Germany. The town with the highest number of points in the British series will be awarded a £600 trophy and a cash prize of £500 which must be spent on old people's welfare.

The winners of the Luton - Watford match - to be televised on Friday, 23rd June - will go on to the European heat at Gouda in Holland on 16th August. The European final is to be held at Lausanne, Switzerland, in September. Past British winners have been Shrewsbury, joint victors in 1969 with Wolfsburg, one of Luton's friendship towns and Blackpool last year.

When the series began, most of the British applications came from resorts, but today, more and more inland towns want to get in on the act.

Producer Barney Colehan says: "Many of these are twin towns and are more Continental-minded. They're keen to get their towns on the map of Europe".

But it took a while for Britain to make an impact in the competition.

Barney explains: "For several years, some British teams seemed to flounder hopelessly abroad, but when they realised the Continentals were taking it seriously like some sort of England v West Germany World Cup 'revenge match', they just had to raise their performance. British standards are very high now".

But the emphasis this year is even more on the slapstick side of the games. "We want to inject a lot more comedy," says Barney, "so we are making the games funnier. This is

Olympic year and there will be enough serious sport on TV as it is".

The contests are a mixture of water obstacles, comedy relays, spectacular contraptions and crazy ball games. For the national heats, teams are given advance details of them but for the international contest the games are a closely guarded secret until the day of the event.

Who thinks up the games? Throughout the winter, Barney Colehan and designer Stuart Furber sifted through ideas sent in by viewers, suggestions from other countries and their own thoughts. A lot of the games are based on proven favourites from past series.

Commentators for the Luton - Watford match will be Eddie Waring, of Rugby League fame, who specialises in a blow-by-blow account of the mini-marathon section of the games and newcomer to the programme, Stuart Hall, a broadcaster since 1958 and questionmaster of "Quiz Ball".

Referee is Arthur Ellis, the former international soccer referee.



The battle that captured two towns

The fun and thrills of "It's a Knockout" have gripped thousands in Luton and Watford and the content looks set to become one of the most popular sporting attractions yet held in either town.

Both are entering the gruelling contest for the first time - but its popularity ensured there would be no shortage of volunteers for the two teams. Luton responded with applications from 228 men and 116 girls. After a series of fitness tests, the number was reduced to 100 then brought down to a squad of 43 who have been training for the past two months. The final team of 18 youngsters will be selected shortly before the contest.

Watford pulled in applications from 140 men and 90 girls. Team Manager Reg Morgan and coach Clive Southgate have been working with a squad of 40 for the past few weeks.

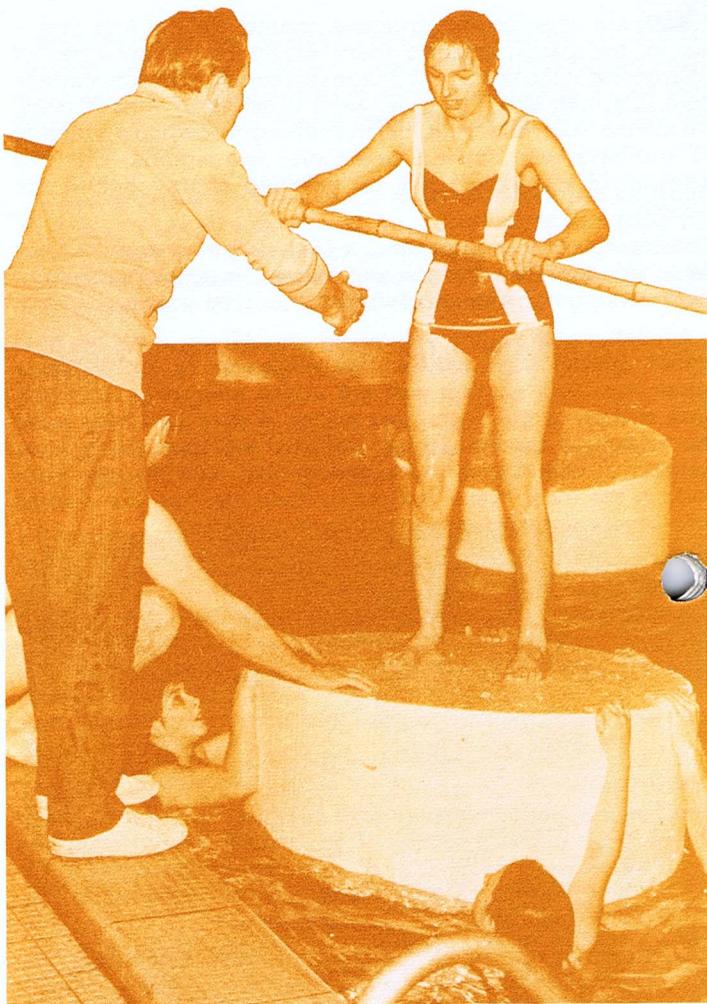
A number of the Luton volunteers who did not make the final squad offered their services as cheerleaders or stewards rather than lose contact with the match altogether. Children have written to the organisers asking if they can help build the apparatus for the games. Industry and commerce have weighed in with advice and practical help. And through publicity in the local Press, the entire town has had the chance to follow the progress of the training programme.

The names of the firms and organisations who have helped Luton Corporation stage the contest are listed elsewhere in this programme. But special mention here should go to Staff Sgt. Yvonne Whatley and Jean Pittman from the United States Air Force base at Chicksands who have given much of their time to training Luton's team of cheerleaders. Yvonne, from Alabama, will be leading the team on the day.

The problems for the team managers have been challenging - but fun. Have you ever tried to simulate the Tarzan swing? How can you fit up a capstan with a human being as the main pivot? Well, it can be done. But it takes devilish cunning and a lot of hard work. And it all adds up to a great afternoon's sport and top entertainment for the thousands of spectators.

We extend a special welcome to our old friends and rivals from Watford in this the borough's golden jubilee year. The presence of Luton in the competition is due largely to their initiative.

And finally, thanks must go to the team managers, coaches and the teams themselves who have put in so much for their towns - for your enjoyment.

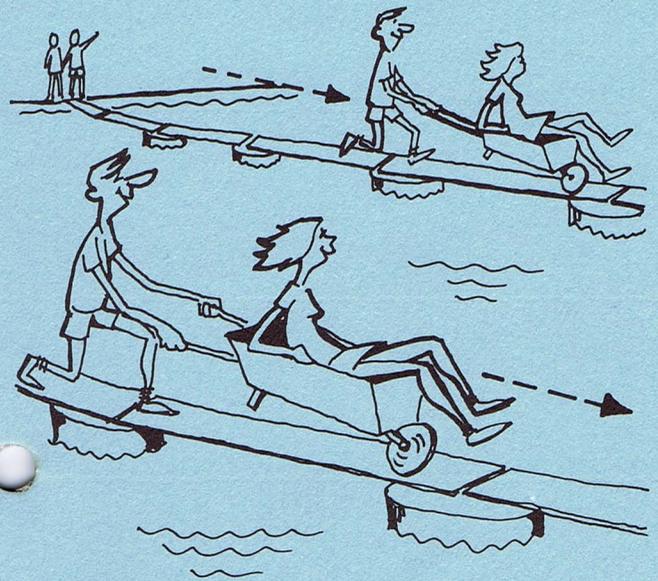


Mind how you go, love! Luton team manager John Riches offers some advice to a member of his squad during one of the training sessions.

Game



Rafts and barrows (One man and four girls)

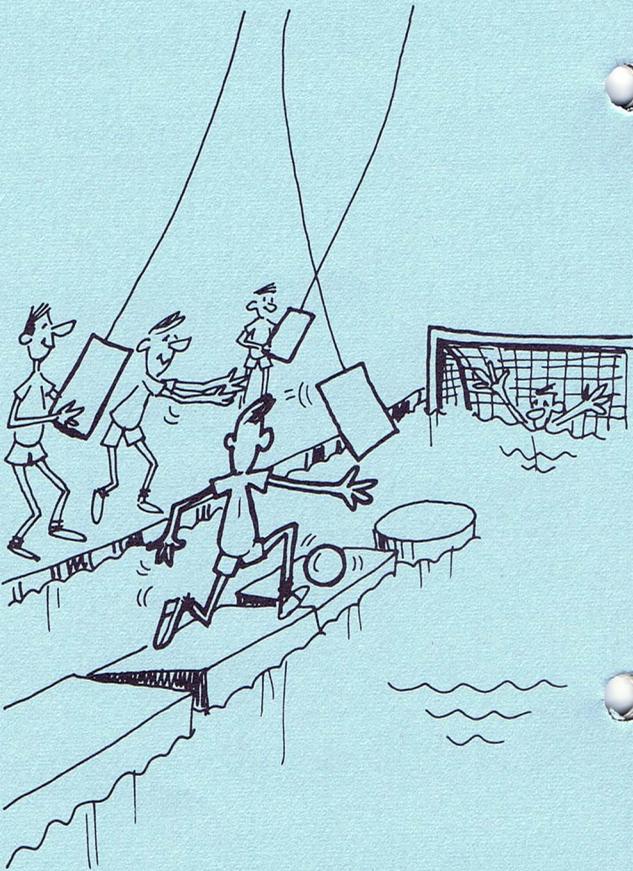


The man from each team has to take the girls across the pool in a wheelbarrow. The "bridge" across the pool consists of rafts and planks. The team with the four girls across the pool in the shortest time will be the winners.

Game

2

Football skittles (Four men)

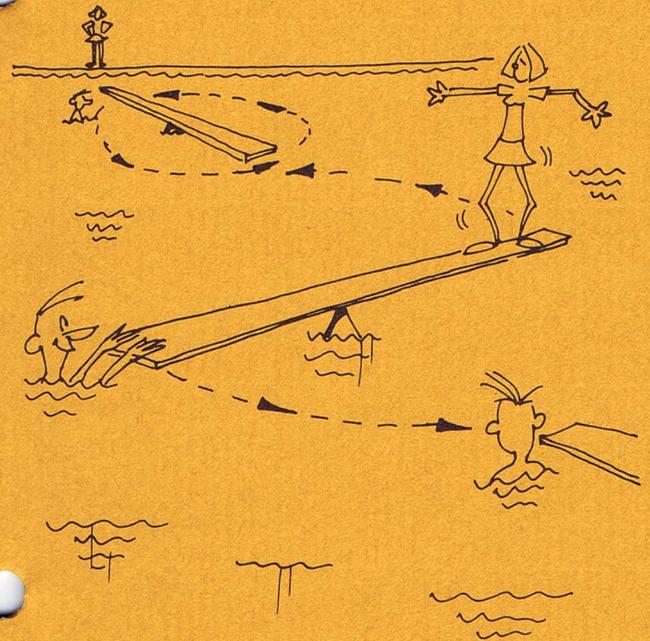


The teams take it in turns to play. The members of one team have to dribble footballs along a number of rafts and shoot at the goal from the end raft. Three members from the opposing team have stuffed bags with which they must try to knock the footballers off the rafts. The fourth member of the opposing team keeps goal.

Game

3

Walking the plank (Three men, three girls)

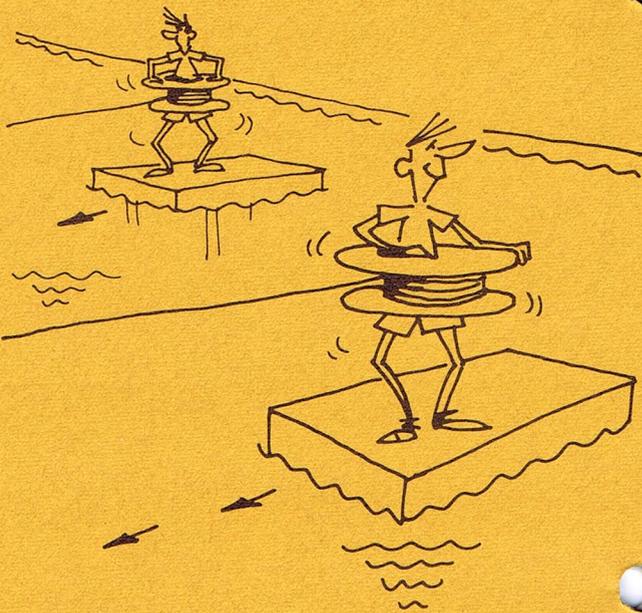


There are three see-saws above water. These see-saws will also revolve through 360 degrees. The three men balance and push the see-saws. The first girl balances on the end of the first see-saw. The see-saw is then revolved through 180 degrees thereby enabling her to step onto the second. This is continued until she reaches the other side of the pool on the third see-saw. The other two girls follow.

Game

4

Raft race (One man)

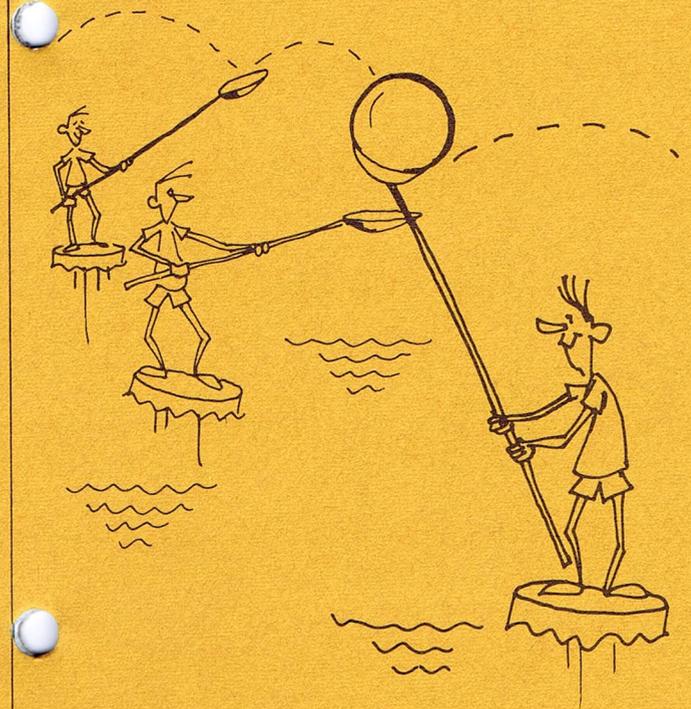


One man from each team is standing on a small raft. Around his waist, supported by shoulder straps, is a large bobbin. There is a rope fixed to the bobbin, the other end of which is fastened to the far side of the pool. When the game commences the men spin round on the rafts thereby coiling the rope around the bobbin and propelling the raft forward. The game is a straight race.

Game

5

Ball transfer (Four men, one girl)



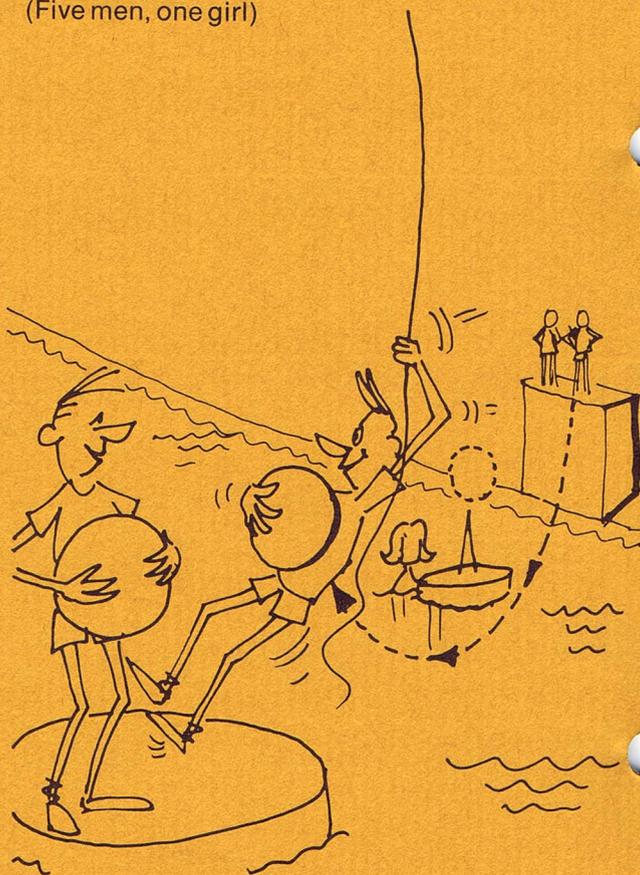
The four men are each standing on a small raft. Each is equipped with a long pole with a ring at the end for transferring large balls. The girl puts a ball on the first man's carrier, he then passes it to the second etc. The fourth man must put the ball in a net.

Game

6

Tarzan Swing

(Five men, one girl)



Each man by means of a hanging rope swings across water from a rostrum and lands on a padded raft. En route he must pick up a ball from a stand and keep hold of it when he lands on the raft.

The winning team will be the one that lands all five men on the raft, or the greatest number.

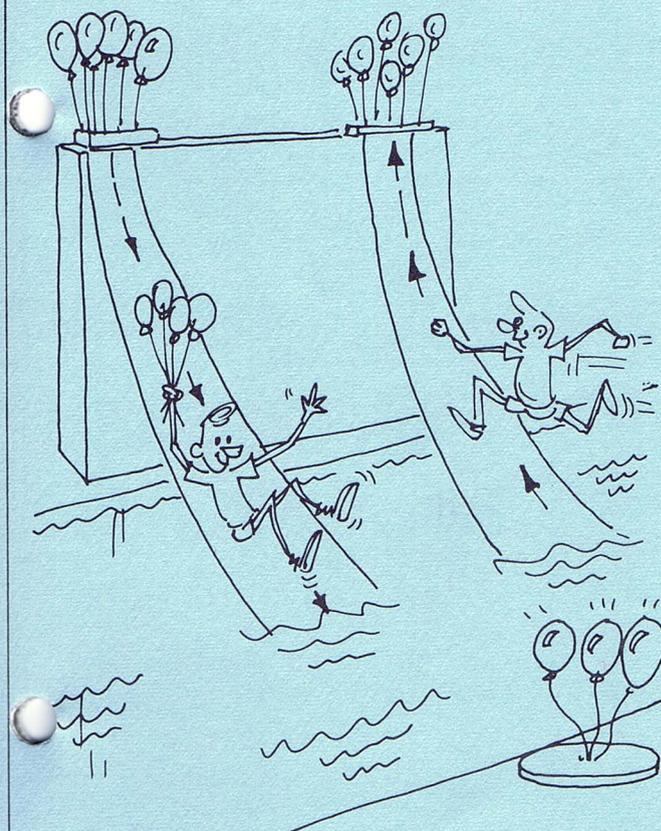
If a ball is dropped that man must go back and try again.

Game

7

Canvas slide

(One man, one girl)



Each team has a long canvas slide up which they must run to collect balloons. Once collected they slide down and deposit the balloons on the far side of the pool.

One end of the canvas slide is fixed to the top of a tall rostrum, the other end finishes in water, so that the contestants must swim to the slide before climbing.

There will be a rope to help the contestants climb the last few feet of the slide.

Marathon

Water carriers

(One man, one girl)



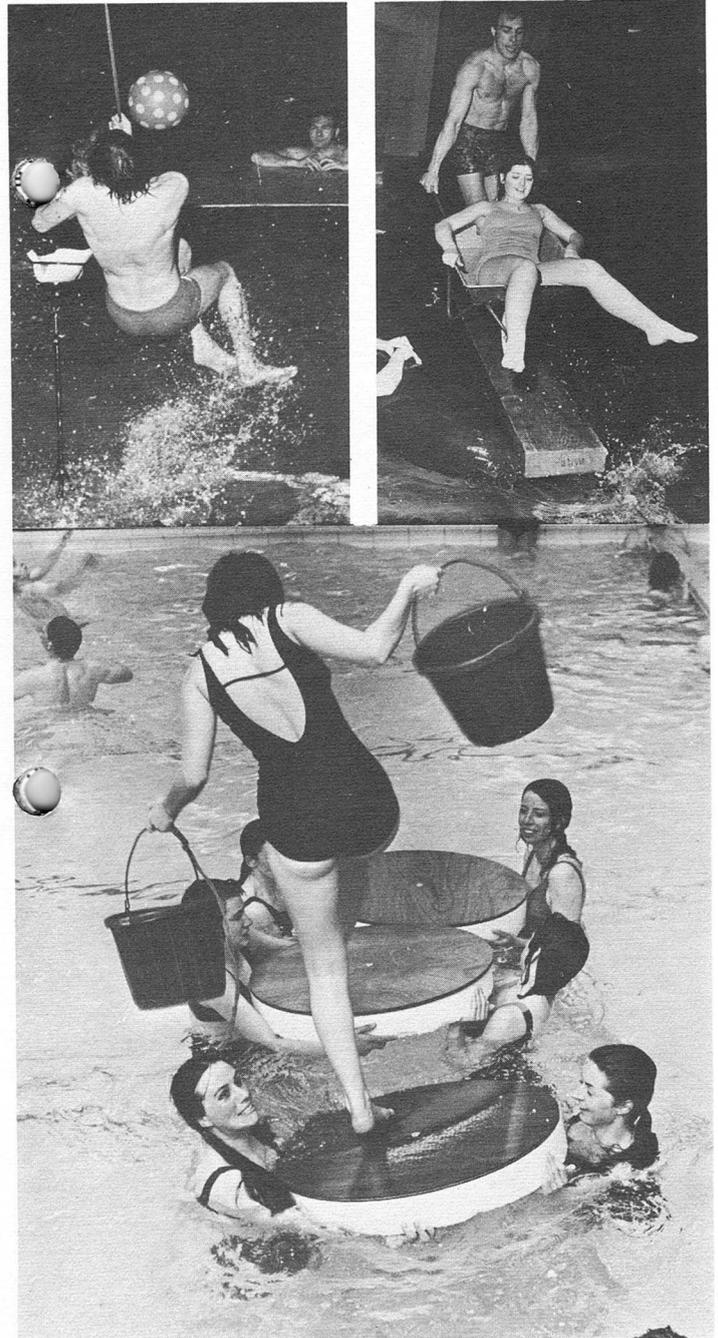
The man and the girl from each team go at the same time.

The object of the game is for them to transport as much water as possible - in buckets - across a stepping stone and revolving disc.

If they fall off the disc or stepping stones they must, of course, return to the start.

The water will be weighed after the last marathon.

The things we do for television! It can sometimes be fun, as these pictures of the Luton and Watford teams in training clearly show. But as one panting contestant observed: "It's murder - but is it art!"



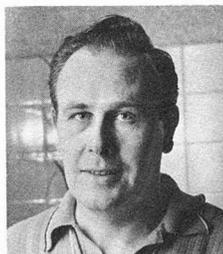
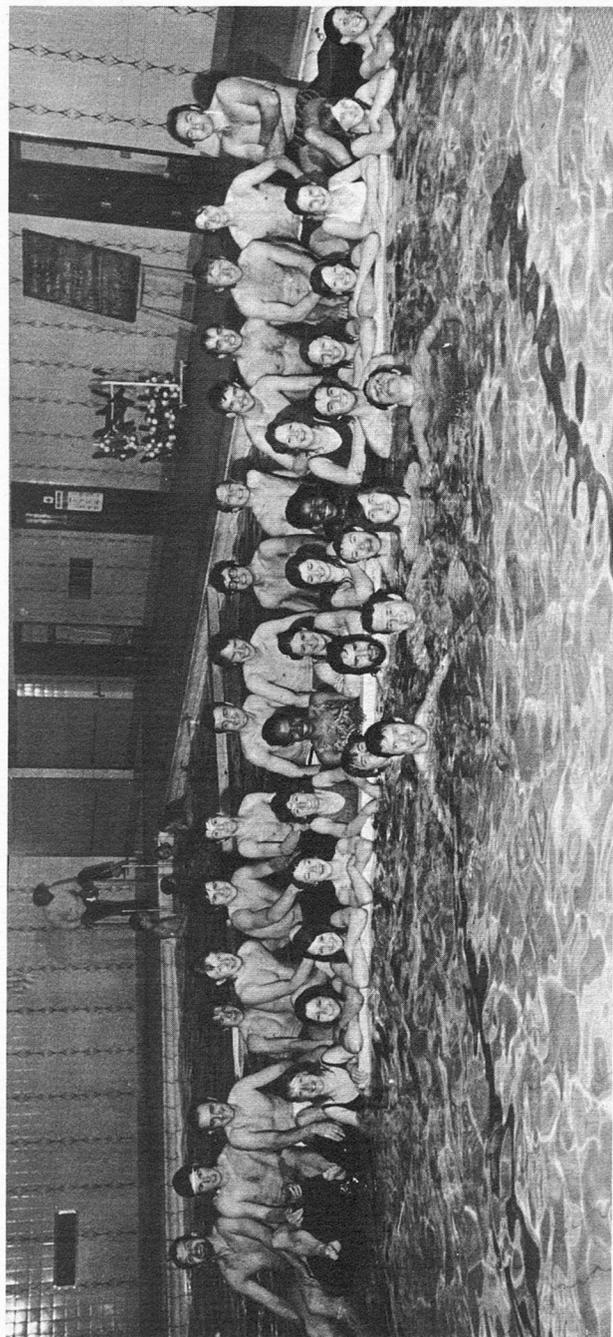
The Luton squad, pictured during a break from their training schedule:

Back row, men (left to right): Alan Baldock, Geoffrey Brown, Peter Bruce, Finlay Campbell, Colin Curle, Christopher Dunnington, Gary Dunnington, Barry Elliott, Douglas Fleming, Michael Harrison, Andrew Maddox, Colinael Mayes, Steven Mizsei, Thomas Murphy, John O'Kane, Geoffrey Osborne.

Girls (left to right): Pat Barker, Marilyn Bortase, Pamela Brebner, Linda Butler, Stephanie Daniels, Sharon Dillette, Brenda Howe, Ann Howells, Annette Hunter, Valerie McDonough, Linda Nash, Jeanette Purdy, Sandra Rogers, Diana Windle, Jean Wright.

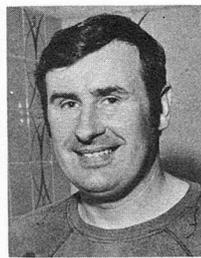
Front row (left to right): Barry Penning, Peter Sturgess, John Randall, David Watkins, Raymond Roach, Paul Woolford, Frederick Standard, David Worker.

Missing from the picture are Kevin Hanna, Janice Barton, Patricia Cornes and Caroline Yates.

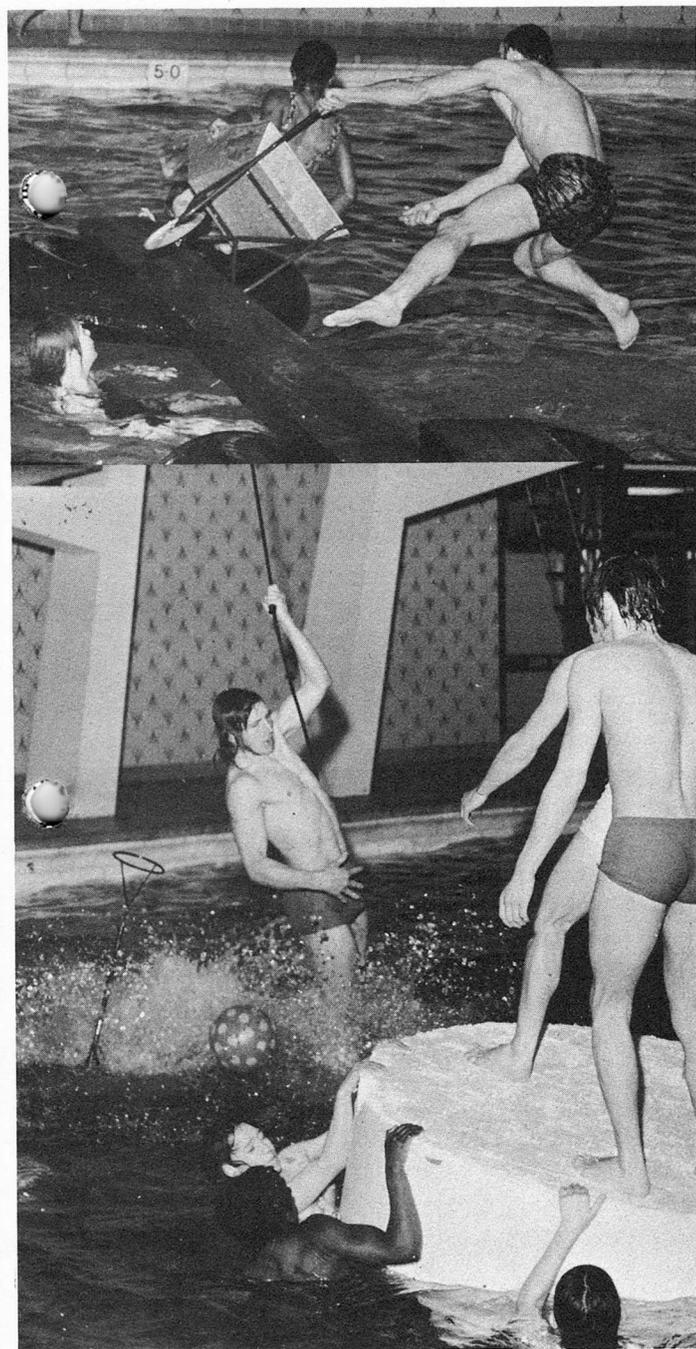


John Riches, (left) manager of the Luton team and a big name in local sport. He is treasurer of the town's Sports Council and secretary of Luton and Vauxhall Swimming Club. His verdict: "It must be Luton."

John Howells, (right) coach of the Luton team, is a former Welsh Rugby Union triallist, plays cricket for Luton Town and rugby for Stockwood Park Rugby Club.



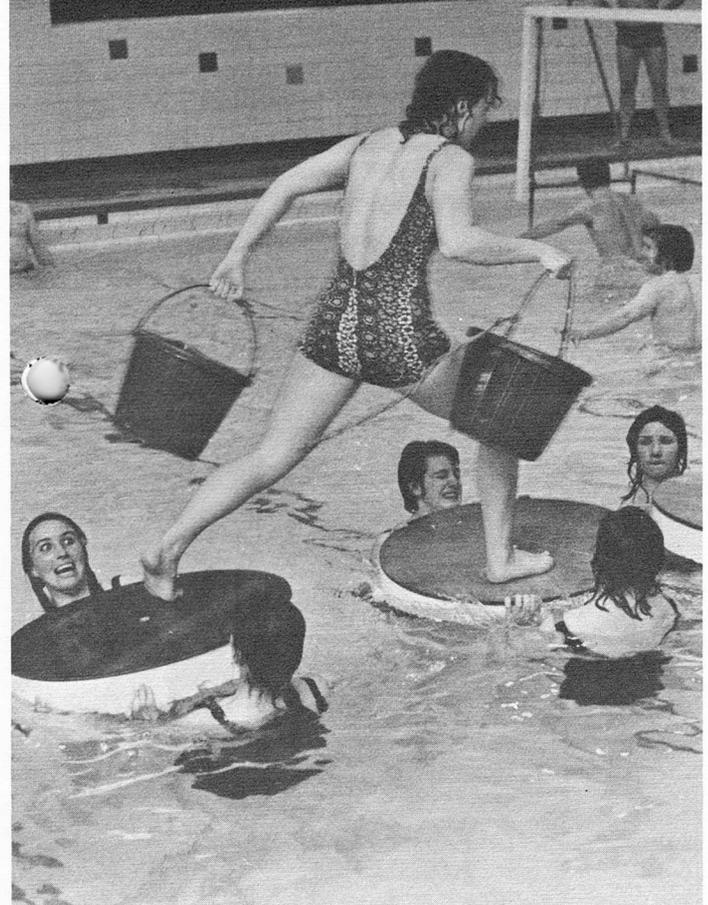
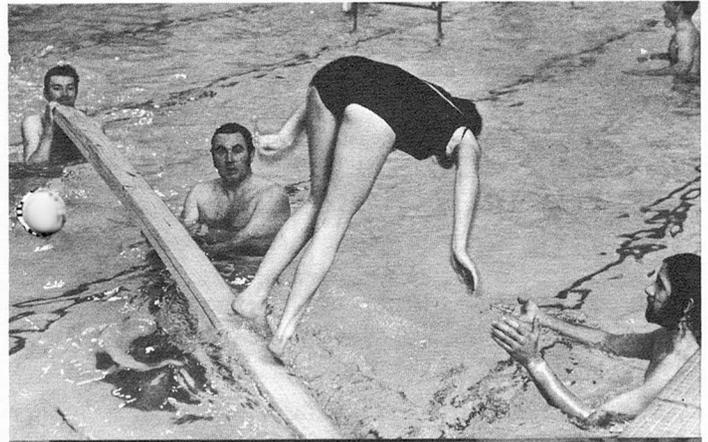
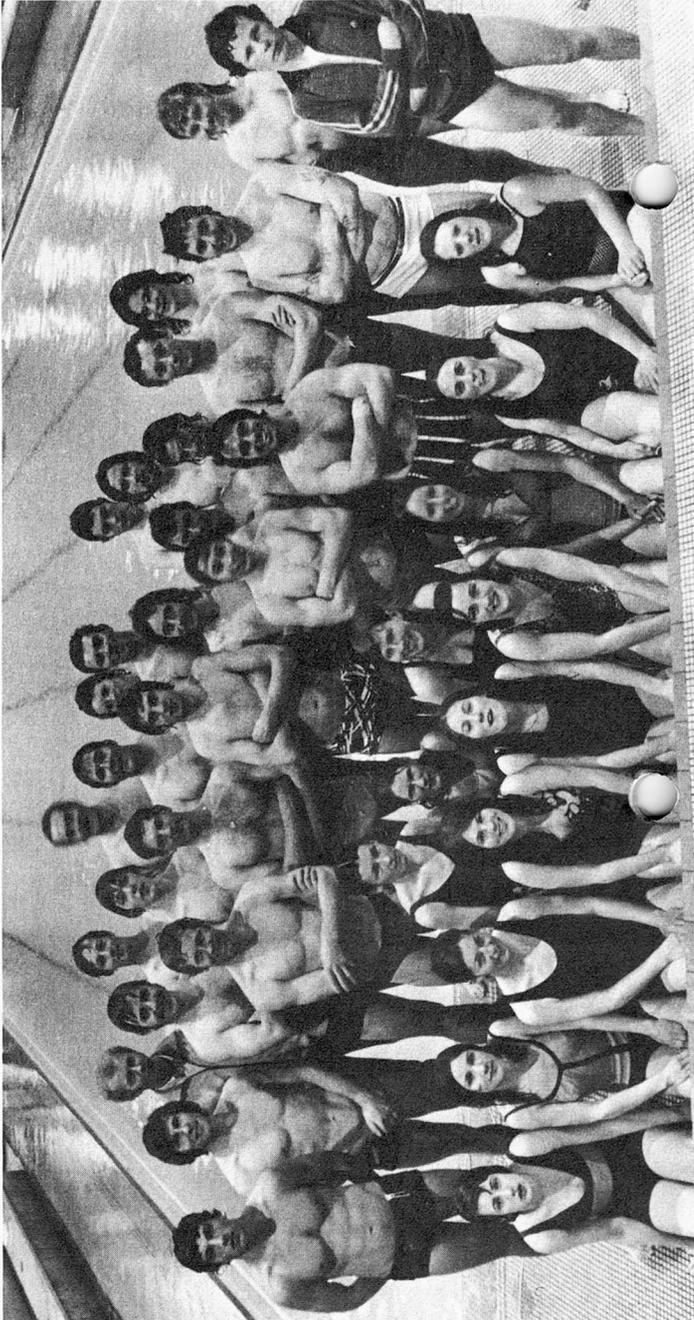
Luton in action

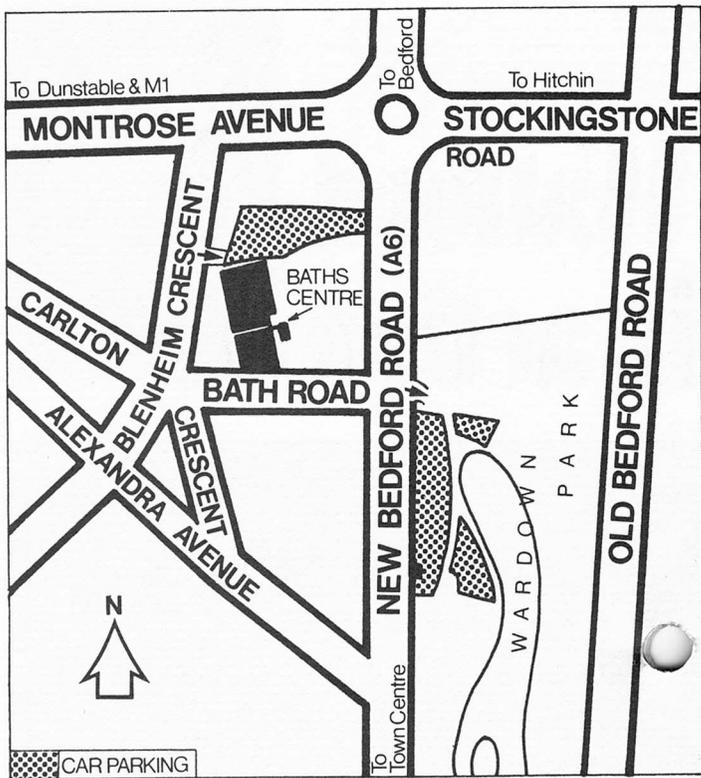


The Watford squad (left to right): Giuseppe De Piano, Alan Poole, Philip Rider, Peter Evans, Tony Shenton, Mick Dobner, Derek Beevor, Keith Rosell, Chris Barker, Graham Stiles, Russell O'Connor, Dennis Webster, Roger Castle, Lawrence James, Peter Redmond, Bob Beazley, David Brown, Marcus Grodentz, Pat McCloughlin, Donal Brewis, Geoff Arnell, Bill Graham, David Long, Tom Collins. **Girls** (left to right): Susan Andrews, Jackie Attree, Penny Lawson, Rose Cullen, Vicky King, Jean Tye, Christine Badger, Audrey Adams, Joanna Finch, Patricia Gaman, Judith Almand, Carol Robbins. Also in the squad but missing from this picture are Hilary Ball, Sandra Marquis, Hilary Phillips and Amanda Parkin.

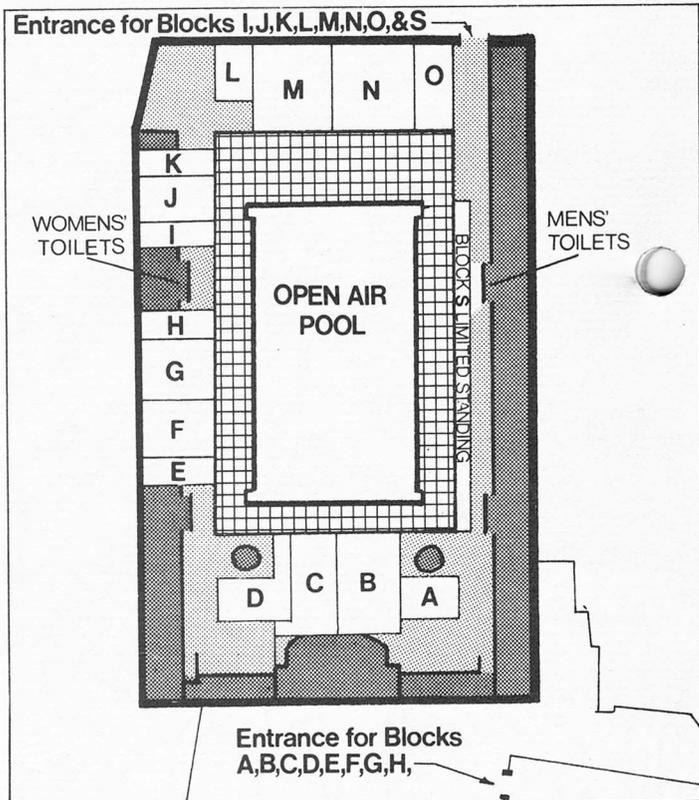
Reg Morgan, manager of the Watford team. Sport, he says, is his hobby and he has run "It's a Knockout"-style contests in the last two Watford carnivals. His forecast for the contest? "We are extremely confident of winning."

Watford in action





How to get there. This road plan shows the location of Luton Baths Centre where the "Knockout" contest is to be staged. Below, the seating plan for the outdoor pool. Please note the two entrances.



Luton Corporation gratefully acknowledge the support of the following organisations in the promotion of the contest:

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- Laporte Industries Limited
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