

**LESTER and SMART**

will be appearing in the Club Acts of the Year 'Stage' Awards Show at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool on October 27th.

**NO SOLE AGENT**

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**PETER KNIGHT**

Would like to take this opportunity to thank all concerned in giving him the chance and privilege of appearing on THE STAGE AWARDS SHOW at the

WINTER GARDENS, Blackpool

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**JAMES HARTLEY'S  
SIDE OF THE  
ARGUMENT**

BY any standards THE STAGE'S Awards Scheme to find 12 outstanding club acts worthy of top stardom is big theatrical news—but the project bites deeper than a super talent quest.

It comes at a time when the existence of many clubs is threatened by the Callaghan anti-gambling edict. THE STAGE has, of course always been in the forefront of the fight for the retention of Clubland's casinos—and it will continue to argue their case vigorously. But even more important than this paper's duty to oppose unjust discrimination against the casinos is its vital concern with the lot of the artists who work there. Obviously the fewer the clubs the less the total amount of work available.

THE STAGE's star seeking adds tremendous weight to the contention that I have been making for many years: that given the right entertainment, a club can prosper without gambling.

One certain effect of this nationwide highlighting of club talent will be to raise the status, not only of those selected for the Manchester Palace finale, but also that of all the others selected to participate in the various regional shows where, in all upwards of 90 artists will be put in the limelight.

A magnificent golden trophy is

not to be sneezed at but the rewards consequent on gaining such are truly incalculable: they could take an artist right to the top of the tree, to international acclaim and the fees that come with it.

And the remainder of the area show participants, even those that never get to Manchester, will have gained invaluable distinction with opportunities opening up over a wide field.

The wealth of entertainment potential being uncovered is astonishing THE STAGE. In the case of the area show in which I am specially interested, no fewer than 400 acts were scrutinised before 15 were selected. And what a job sorting out the applications was.

The chosen 15 are all outstandingly good—but at least 90 per cent of those not selected were

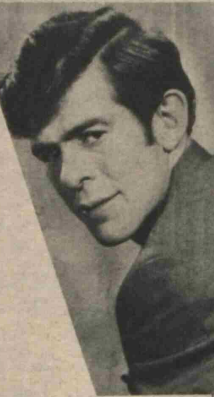


either of well established merit or good potential. Many first-rate acts had reluctantly to be put to one side in order to make a balanced bill: you cannot in such a show have more than one speciality of a kind on the programme; it will not patiently run to a dozen singers or six comics; you can only accommodate one vent.

The whole undertaking should give a tremendous boost to every kind of club act and alert club bookers and proprietors to the wealth of talent that is at their disposal, do they but seek it out. You may say that this super-stage being erected by THE STAGE is a great shop window where some of the choicest goods in the entertainment business are being displayed—with the promise of like treasures in the shop behind.

The Blackpool area show, I am pleased to say, is to have a setting worthy of the event's importance—no less than the elegant Winter Gardens Pavilion, with its fine stage and impeccable acoustics. There is, of course, laid on every kind of lighting and amplification. Throughout the season the Pavilion has been the home of John Hanson, who thinks very highly indeed of the theatre and its facilities. In particular, he has found the stage management most cooperative and keen to help in every possible way.

The bill of 15 reads almost like an international line-up. Our own North-West contributes Lester and Smart, Guy Holloway and Pat, Beverley Randall, Johnny More, and Peter Knight—there's Zarada from Durham, and Phil and Jackie

**LANCE ROBERTS**

**THE NEW  
PHENOMENAL  
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**NOT SOLELY REPRESENTED**

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**LANCE ROBERTS** has been selected to appear in the STAGE AWARDS 1969 SHOW—club acts of the year—at BLACKPOOL WINTER GARDENS on OCTOBER 27th.

# "GIVEN THE RIGHT ACTS A CLUB DOESN'T NEED ANY GAMBLING"

Devon, and Wendy King from Yorkshire. From Scotland comes Lawrie Adam—Wales is represented by Paul Denver and Carl, and Lance Roberts—and Ireland's bright representatives are Jimmy Wilson and "Mitch" Mitchell. Junior Jonsen is a Maori from New Zealand and Raphael Lamas hails from Venezuela.

Many of those taking part will in their travels have met Vic Emerson, the North's premier theatre organist; he is the sort of accompanist that artists dream about but seldom get in harsh reality.

**Eddie Martin**, vocalist and guitarist, is also a polished comper, and he will be handling the show's continuity; and the man responsible for balancing and streamlining the whole extravaganza is the one and only Terry Cantor, ace-performer-producer of vaudeville and television fame.

The stage is set for one of the best variety shows ever seen in the northern capital of showbusiness.

What, however, is most important is that this area show is part of a great national drive to lift club entertainment on to a new level and both to enlarge the opportunities open to artists and to provide threatened cabaret clubs with the means to survive even though they lose their gambling.

**The Blackpool area, claims Hartley, probably has the most distinguished panel of the lot.**

Here they are: Chairmen: James Hartley; John Stevenson ("Daily Mail") show business columnist; Barney Coleman (BBC-TV); Jess Yates (Yorkshire TV); Norman Teal (Top Rank); Serge Ganjou (V.A.B.F.); Canon C. E. Young (Rector of Liverpool); Frank Billinge (Provincial newspaper editor).

**THE HOLLOWAYS**

(GUY & PAT)

Chosen for the Stage Award 1969 Show  
(Blackpool area)

Winter Gardens Pavilion  
October 27th, 1969.

We would like to thank all who have made this possible.

**NO SOLE AGENT**

All comms:

"First House"

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**JOHNNY MORE**

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CLUB ACTS OF THE YEAR SHOW

**AT BLACKPOOL**



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