# JOHN PRATT **TESTIMONIAL MATCH**

at Tottenham Hotspur Ground FRIDAY, 12th MAY, 1978 Kick-off 7.30 p.m.



# TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v ARSENAL

WIN A FOOTBALL TRIP TO EUROPE - For details see page 2

Official Souvenir Programme 15p

YOUR LUCKY NUMBER IS 02544

## DAVID DRYER



SPORTS TRAVEL LIMITED

John Pratt

In association with PONTINENTAL (Holiday Services) Ltd.

242 OXFORD STREET - LONDON - W1N OBN

We wish John every success in his testimonial year and are pleased to offer a wonderful prize to the holder of the winning Lucky Number Programme to be drawn at half-time. The prize will be presented at the Official Reception immediately after the match.

#### **EUROPEAN FOOTBALL**

Season 1978/1979 (Sept. 1978–May 1979) England in the European Nations Cup Arsenal in Europe—Notts Forest in Europe Any other Club who qualify in Europe

#### THE WINNER'S CHOICE

Two people to travel to Europe by Air or Land Transportation, Accommodation if required in the resort and Tickets for the Match of your choice completely free to the winning

LUCKY PROGRAMME NUMBER.



# THANKS MATES

N March 1969, when I made my League debut against Arsenal at Highbury I never dreamed that nine years later I would be playing them in my Testimonial Match for which I really thank them, the referee and the linesmen.

Throughout those nine years I have had my ups and downs, but on a night like tonight one remembers the good times . . . your League debut, that first goal . . . your first Cup Final . . . you remember the heartbreak of losing semi-finals. I am fortunate to have experienced them all and travelled the world doing so.

For all this one has so many people to thank; my team mates through the years. What a great honour it was to play with all those great players and now to play with the greats of the future.

Football is a team game, on and off the field.

To the team who have guided me on the field—I owe a word of thanks. Terry Medwin who coached me at school; Dick Walker for his help at the start; Johnny Wallis for showing me nothing is gained without hard work; Eddie Baily whose great coaching ability has helped me to achieve so much; Bill Nicholson, for signing and giving me a chance and Keith Burkinshaw for a great year; and thank you to the Chairman and Directors of the Club for tonight particularly.

But most of all the team off the field—my Mum and Dad for giving me the right priorities in life; my wife, Marie who is my best team mate; our son, David, who brings me so much joy and Keeley our baby daughter for the "sleepless nights to come".

Thank you to the photographers and writers—especially Leslie Yates—who have contributed to this programme.

And to all of you who support Tottenham Hotspur—stick by them, they are a great set of lads. Many Thanks Mates.

JOHN PRATT

## JOHN and HIS RECORD

JOHN PRATT has been a full professional with Spurs since November, 1965, and it was in March, 1969 that he made his League debut in an away match with Arsenal. That match at Highbury was the first of John's 269 appearances in League matches for Spurs, and set out below is his complete record, season by season, in all major competitions.

|          |     |     |                            |          |                         | U.E.F.A.                |
|----------|-----|-----|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Season   |     |     | League                     | F.A. Cup | League Cup              | Cup                     |
| 1968–69  | 2.  | .5  | 8<br>(plus 1 sub.)         | _        | _                       | _                       |
| 1969-70  | 35  | *   | 12 (1)                     | _        | (1 sub.)                | _                       |
| 1970–71  | ×   | ×   | 4<br>(plus 2 sub.)         | 2        | 1                       | =                       |
| 1971–72  | ×   | ×   | 15 (1)<br>(plus 8 sub.)    | 2 (1)    | 4                       | 5<br>(plus 1 sub.)      |
| 1972–73  | 19. | *   | 37 (5)<br>(plus 1 sub.)    | 3 (1)    | 10 (2)                  | 7 (1)                   |
| 1973-74  | 196 |     | 35 (4)                     | 1        | (1 sub.)                | 12                      |
| 1974–75  | 3   | Š.  | 27 (1)<br>(plus 2 sub.)    | 2        | 1                       | _                       |
| 1975-76  | 12  |     | 41 (10)                    | 2        | 7 (3)                   | -                       |
| 1976–77  |     | 25  | 30 (4)<br>(plus 4 sub.)    | 1        | (2 sub.)                | _                       |
| 1977–78  | 270 | - 8 | 42(7)                      | 2        | 2 (1)                   |                         |
| Totals . |     | *   | 251 (33)<br>(plus 18 sub.) | 15 (2)   | 25 (6)<br>(plus 4 sub.) | 24 (1)<br>(plus 1 sub.) |
|          |     |     |                            |          |                         |                         |

The above schedule shows that including the F.A. Cup, Football League Cup and U.E.F.A. Cup, John has made a grand total of 338 appearances, including substitutions, for Spurs. The figures in brackets denote his goals totals in the respective competitions, and it will be seen that in the League and those three major Cup competitions he has scored 42 goals for Spurs.

#### **CUP FINALS**

In the course of his career with Spurs, John has played in three major Cup finals.

In 1972 he came on as substitute for Ralph Coates in the first leg of the U.E.F.A. Cup final against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux. Spurs won that match 2—1, and emerged winners on aggregate after a 1—1 draw in the second leg on this ground.

In 1973 John wore the No. 4 shirt against Norwich City in the final of the League Cup at Wembley, but had the bad luck to sustain an injury that compelled his retirement from the game before half-time. As Spurs won the match 1—0, however, John finished a Cup-winner.

In 1974 John played in both legs of the U.E.F.A. Cup final against Feyenoord of Holland, but the Dutch club won on an aggregate of 4—2.

Facts and figures by Leslie Yates.



#### **GOALS BY JOHN**

In the top picture John Pratt nets the winner in the home game against Charlton Athletic in March, and below he is on target with a valuable equaliser against Blackpool in the home fixture in February.

Photos by Carleton Photographic Services, Cheshunt



## They play for John tonight

Here in detail is the background and up-to-date statistical record with Spurs of John Pratt's team-mates, who are delighted to play for him tonight. Appearance figures include substitutions.



BARRY DAINES (Goalkeeper). Now looks back on his first full season as Spurs' senior goalkeeper. Born at Witham and played for Chelmsford, Mid-Essex and Essex County Boys before joining Spurs as an apprentice. Upgraded to full professional rank in September, 1969, and played for the England Youth team. Has now made 72 appearances in League matches and has also played nine matches in the F.A. Cup, League Cup and U.E.F.A. Cup.

TERRY NAYLOR (Defender). Born at Islington and played for Islington Boys. Trained as a youngster with Arsenal and also had a brief association with Millwall before joining Spurs as an amateur. Gave up his job in Smithfield Market to sign as a professional in July, 1969, and made his League debut at West Bromwich at Easter, 1970. Has made 214 League appearances and 52 in major cup-ties. His only goal for the first team was scored against Chelsea in the semi-final of the League Cup at Stamford Bridge in 1971.

JIM HOLMES (Defender). A regular member of the Eire international team, who joined Spurs from Coventry City in March, 1977. Born in Dublin and played for both the Dublin and Eire Boys' teams. Coventry spotted him playing for Bosco Boys' Club in Dublin, and signed him as an apprentice. He was upgraded to full professional by Coventry in November, 1970. Has made 48 League appearances for Spurs, and has played in two F.A. Cup and two League Cup matches this season. His only goal for Spurs was at home to Leicester City last season.

MIKE STEAD (Defender), Born at West Ham and as a schoolboy played in the Newham District team. Joined Spurs as an apprentice in July, 1973 and was a member of the team that won the F.A. Youth Cup in season 1973-74. Was upgraded to full professional in November, 1974. Made his League debut away to Stoke City in February, 1976 and has now reached a total of 15 appearances in the First and Second Divisions.

STEVE PERRYMAN (Defender). Has spent most of his career as a midfield player, but has done well this season in the back four. Born at Ealing and played for Middlesex, London and England Boys. Joined Spurs as an apprentice in July, 1967 and was upgraded to full professional in January, 1969. Made his League debut against Sunderland in a home match in September, 1969 and now has a total of 350 League appearances to his credit, in the course of which he has scored 22 goals. Has also played in 93 major cup-ties, scoring 7 goals. Made 17 appearances for the England Under-23 team. Runs his own sports outfitting business at Haves. Middlesex. Club captain.

DON McALLISTER (Defender). Joined Spurs from Bolton Wanderers in February, 1975 and made his debut at Coventry that month. Born at Radcliffe. near Manchester, and played for Lancashire County and the combined Prestwich, Radcliffe and Whitefield District Boys' team. Graduated through Bolton's apprentice ranks to sign for them as a full-time professional in June, 1970. As a teenager with Bolton, he attended the local technical college and gained his City and Guild certificate in Motor Vehicle Maintenance. Has made 80 League appearances for Spurs, scoring 7 goals. Has also played in 14 League Cup and F.A. Cup matches for Spurs, scoring once in the former competition. Spent last summer playing for Washington Diplomats.

GLENN HODDLE (Midfield). A key player in the England Under-21 team. Born at Hayes, Middlesex, but has lived at Harlow most of his life. Played for Harlow District and both the Essex Under-15 and Under-19 teams. Signed for Spurs as an apprentice in April, 1974 and upgraded to full professional in April, 1975. Played for the England Youth team and as a schoolboy also played fly-half in the West Essex rugby team. Made his League debut as a substitute at home to Norwich City in August, 1975 and his appearance total now stands at 87 in the course of which he has scored 17 goals. He has also made 7 F.A. Cup and League Cup appearances, scoring 2 goals.

NEIL McNAB (Midfield). Has played for the Scottish Under-21 team this season. Born at Greenock and joined Spurs from Morton in February, 1974. Reverted to amateur status for the rest of that season, and signed professional forms in June of that year. Is a former Scottish youth international and had also played for his country as a schoolboy. Made his League debut for Spurs as substitute at home to Chelsea in April, 1974 as a 16-year-old. Had played in Morton's Scottish League team at 15. Has now made 70 League appearances for Spurs in which he has scored 3 goals. Has also played in 6 F.A. Cup and League Cup matches.

CHRIS JONES (Forward). Played as substitute for the England Under-21s last week. Born in Jersey and established himself in schools football in the Channel Islands. Signed for Spurs as an apprentice in May, 1971 and was upgraded to full

professional in May, 1973. Made his League debut at home to Ipswich Town on the opening day of season 1974-75. Has now made 101 League appearances, in the course of which he has scored 23 goals. Has also played in 9 F.A. Cup and League Cup matches, scoring once.

COLIN LEE (Forward). Joined Spurs from Torquay United last October and scored four goals in his first match against Bristol Rovers the following Saturday. Born in Torquay but lived most of his early life at neighbouring Buckfastleigh. Played for the Torbay Boys team and was spotted by Bristol City, who signed him as an apprentice. Upgraded to full professional by the Bristol club in July, 1974, but after a spell on loan to Hereford United, he was transferred to Torquay. Has played in 25 League matches for Spurs, scoring 11 goals. Also played in the two F.A. Cup-ties against Bolton Wanderers.

PETER TAYLOR (Forward). Has made four appearances in the full England team and also four in the Under-23s. Joined Spurs from Crystal Palace in September, 1976 and made his debut at West Bromwich in the following month. Born at Rochford and played in the South-East Essex District team, later joining the Canvey Island club. Spotted by Southend United and gave up his job as a storekeeper to sign for them. Left Southend

for Palace in October, 1973. Has made 73 League appearances for Spurs, scoring 19 goals. Has also played in 5 F.A. Cup and League Cup matches for Spurs, scoring one goal, from a penalty, in the replay at Bolton last January.

JOHN DUNCAN (Forward), Joined Spurs from Dundee in October, 1974, and made his first appearance at Luton on the last Saturday of that month. Born in Dundee and played for Dundee Schools Under-15s. Had a spell with Broughty Athletic while on Dundee's books as a youngster. Has made 101 League appearances for Spurs, scoring 52 goals. Has also played in 15 F.A. Cup and League Cup matches for Spurs, scoring nine times. Played for the Scottish League against the Football League in 1973.

IAN MOORES (Forward), Joined Spurs from Stoke in August, 1976 and scored in his debut in the League Cup at Middlesbrough and also in his first League game away to Manchester United. Born at Newcastle-under-Lyme and played for Staffordshire Boys. Signed for Stoke as an apprentice, and later graduated to full professional rank. As a Stoke player he made two appearances in the England Under-23 team. Has played for Spurs in 27 League matches, scoring six goals. Has also played in three League Cup games for Spurs, scoring

### . . and the Guests!

JIMMY GREAVES (Forward). One of the greatest names in Spurs' history. In the course of his brilliant career with Chelsea and Spurs, he made 57 appearances for England. Joined Spurs from A.C. Milan, the Italian club, in 1961, and moved to West Ham United in 1970. In his time with Spurs he scored 267 goals in League football and in the major cups. He is still a player with Barnet in the Southern League.

CLIFF JONES (Forward). Another name to quicken the pulse-rate of older Spurs supporters, He joined Spurs from Swansea in 1958 and after ten great years in our colours moved to Fulham in 1968. He was a star member of Spurs' "doublewinning" team of 1961, and when he retired from League football, had made 59 appearances for Wales. He made 378 appearances in League, F.A. Cup, League Cup and European Cup matches for Spurs, scoring 158 goals.



# Penalty Competition

A Penalty-kick Competition between famous old Spurs players of the 1950s and 1960s will be held before the commencement of tonight's match, starting at approx. 6.45.

At the time this programme went to press invitations to compete had been accepted by

RONNIE BURGESS, LES ALLEN, RON HENRY, TERRY DYSON, JOE KINNEAR and TERRY VENABLES.



## **TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR**

White Shirts, Blue Shorts, White Stockings

BARRY DAINES

TERRY NAYLOR

JIM HOLMES

**GLENN HODDLE** 

DON McALLISTER

STEVE PERRYMAN

JOHN PRATT

NEIL McNAB

**CHRIS JONES** 

JIMMY GREAVES

CLIFF JONES

PETER TAYLOR

JOHN DUNCAN

IAN MOORES

MIKE STEAD

#### REFEREE

#### Mr. T. H. C. REYNOLDS

Bratton, Wiltshire

Mr. Tom Reynolds started refereeing in Bristol in 1957 and graduated via the Welsh League and Football Combination to the Football League List. He was appointed to the U.E.F.A. and F.I.F.A. Referees' Panel in 1974 and has controlled many international and top European matches.

He is a publican whose main leisuretime interest is football.

#### LINESMEN

Mr. K. G. SALMON, Hertfordshire (Red Flag)

Mr. E. J. SCALES, Hertfordshire (Yellow Flag)

#### PLEASE KEEP OFF

We appeal most earnestly to all our young supporters to PLEASE KEEP OFF THE PLAYING PITCH AT ALL TIMES.

Running on to the field can cause accidents, damage the playing surface and generally give the Club a great deal of trouble.

If, as loyal supporters, you want to help the Club, PLEASE OBSERVE THIS APPEAL TO KEEP OFF THE PITCH.

## **ARSENAL**

Red Shirts with White Sleeves, White Shorts, Red Stockings

**MARTIN NEW** 

DAVID O'LEARY

JOHN DEVINE

STEVE WALFORD

JOHN MATTHEWS

WILLIE YOUNG

DAVID PRICE

LIAM BRADY

**GRAHAM RIX** 

ALAN HUDSON

MARK HEELEY

MALCOLM MACDONALD

FRANK STAPLETON

ALAN SUNDERLAND

BRIAN McDERMOTT

## The men of Arsenal

In view of Northern Ireland's international match with Scotland tomorrow, PAT JENNINGS, PAT RICE and SAMMY NELSON are not available for this evening's game.



MARTIN NEW (Goalkeeper). As understudy to Pat Jennings, he knows how Barry Daines felt all those years! Born at Swindon, and first joined Arsenal on Associated Schoolboy forms. Signed as an apprentice for Arsenal in July, 1975, and upgraded to full professional status in March, 1977.

DAVID O'LEARY (Defender). An Eire international who was born here in London. Joined Arsenal as an apprentice in June, 1973 and was upgraded to full professional in July, 1975. A Youth international, he made his League debut for Arsenal away to Burnley in August, 1975.

JOHN DEVINE (Defender). Made his League debut for Arsenal away to Leeds United last month. Born in Dublin and after signing for Arsenal as an amateur in July, 1974, he became an apprentice in the following November. Upgraded to full contract status in October, 1976.

WILLIE YOUNG (Defender). Joined Arsenal from Spurs in March, 1977. Born at Heriot, near the Berwickshire border, and was brought up in the Edinburgh district. Gave up his job as a laboratory assistant to become a full-timer with Aberdeen, from which club he joined Spurs in September, 1975. A former Scottish Under-23 player.

STEVE WALFORD (Defender). Transferred from Spurs to Arsenal last August, and is therefore completing his first season with the Gunners. Comes from Islington and played for Islington Boys. Joined Spurs as an apprentice in April, 1974 and twelve months later was upgraded to full professional. Made his League debut for Spurs at home to Liverpool as substitute in December, 1975.

JOHN MATTHEWS (Defender). A North Londoner who played for Islington Boys and joined Arsenal's apprentice ranks on leaving school in the summer of 1971. Has been a full professional since August, 1973 and made his League debut away to Leicester City on the opening day of season 1974–75.

DAVID PRICE (Midfield). Born at Caterham and played for both England and London in his schooldays. Signed apprentice forms for Arsenal in July, 1970, and was upgraded to full professional in January, 1972. Made his League debut as a substitute away to Leeds United in the final match of season 1972–73. A former England Youth international.

LIAM BRADY (Midfield). Has emerged as one of the outstanding players in League football. Born in Dublin and has played for Eire at schoolboy, youth and full international level. First signed apprentice

forms for Arsenal in June, 1971 and was upgraded to full professional rank in August, 1973.

GRAHAM RIX (Midfield). A current England Under-21 player who was born in Doncaster and played for both the Doncaster and Yorkshire County Boys teams. Signed as an apprentice for Arsenal in June, 1974 and was upgraded to full professional rank in January, 1975. Scored on his League debut against Leicester City at Highbury in April, 1977.

ALAN HUDSON (Midfield). A full England international who joined Arsenal from Stoke City in December, 1976. Born in the Chelsea district, and made his name with the Chelsea club, who transferred him to Stoke in January, 1974. Played for England against West Germany and Cyprus in his Stoke days.

MARK HEELEY (Midfield). Joined Arsenal on a temporary transfer from Peterborough United last September, and his full transfer was completed in the following month. Born in Peterborough, and signed originally as an associated Schoolboy for the Peterborough club. Became a Peterborough apprentice in July, 1976.

BRIAN McDERMOTT (Forward). Comes from Slough and made a big name in schoolboy football in that district. Signed as an apprentice professional for Arsenal only last June, but has more than held his own in the Football Combination this season.

MALCOLM MACDONALD (Forward). One of football's outstanding personalities. A full English international, he was born in London and played for Tonbridge, the Southern League club, before stepping into the League circle with Fulham. From Fulham he moved to Luton Town, thence to Newcastle United. Joined Arsenal from Newcastle in August, 1976.

FRANK STAPLETON (Forward). Another of Arsenal's Dublin-born players, and a full Eire international who has also played for his country at schoolboy and youth level. Signed as an apprentice for Arsenal in June, 1972, and was upgraded to full professional rank in September, 1973. Made his League debut at home to Stoke in March, 1975.

ALAN SUNDERLAND (Forward). Joined Arsenal from Wolverhampton Wanderers last November. Born at Mexborough in Yorkshire and joined Wolves as an apprentice in September, 1969. Upgraded to full professional by Wolves in June, 1971, and made his League debut at home to Manchester City in a First Division match in the following August.

## PRAISE FROM THE PRESS

### "He's valuable and permanent . . ."

By BERNARD JOY

John Pratt has become such a valuable and permanent member of the Spurs squad that it is hard to believe that he once described himself as "being classed by Spurs as a B player".

It was in the early 1970s, when Spurs seemed to be in Europe every year. On the night before a tie in Norway, he and Jimmy Pearce were sitting disconsolately at the table after dinner. "If everyone is fit, we're both out" said John "If someone fails a fitness test either Jimmy or myself will get a game."

He added "The trouble with Spurs is there are A and B players in the first team. I'm classed as B and regarded as a willing workhorse to do a job until the first-choice is fit or the club splashes out £200,000 for someone else".

John appreciated that the standards set by Bill Nicholson were very high, and Bill also appreciated John's value because he persuaded him to make his future with Spurs, realising the endeavour, tenacity and thought John put into the game.

As a midfield player John Pratt has to follow the standard set by Danny Blanchflower, Dave Mackay and Alan Mullery, and faced competition from expensive imports, Martin Peters, Ralph Coates and Alfie Conn.

John came into his own in 1973 when he won a place in the League Cup final against Norwich and had this tribute from Don Revie "This fellow John Pratt is doing a wonderful job in mid-field alongside Steve Perryman".

The big day at Wembley was spoilt when John had to come off after 25 minutes with a pulled muscle and substitute Ralph Coates scored the only goal of the game. I'm glad John's testimonial season has been successful enough to compensate for that disappointment.

### "One-hundred-per-center"

By REG DRURY News of the World

John Pratt only knows one way to play—full out for 90 minutes. Let's be honest and admit that we've all criticised him at times, reporters and supporters alike, but nobody has ever questioned that John always gives 100 per cent effort.

I have lost count of the number of occasions when I have seen John running himself into the ground, trying to rescue a lost cause when Spurs were behind, while more stylish teammates seemed to have accepted defeat.

There's no doubt he has even suffered by refusing to "hide" when things were going wrong. It is easy to spot the player who makes mistakes because he is always in the thick of the action.

His willingness to play in any position, for the good of the team, has been a boon to Bill Nicholson, Terry Neill and Keith Burkinshaw in turn during the 12 years that John has been a Spurs professional.

For a player who has operated mainly in mid-field or defence, his record of more than 40 League and Cup goals—most of them spectacular efforts, many of them decisive in influencing a result—is quite remarkable.

It works out at more than one every nine appearances during a first team career which began, appropriately enough against tonight's opponents, Arsenal, in March, 1969.

John's anxiety as Spurs were involved in the recent photofinish for promotion was understandable, for he hasn't had much luck in the honours line.

One of the saddest sights I can remember is John walking slowly to the Wembley tunnel after injury caused him to leave the field during the first-half of the 1973 League Cup Final. It was ironical that Ralph Coates, the substitute who replaced him, scored the only goal in the 1—0 victory over Norwich City.

John was born in Hackney, birthplace of some of the greatest Spurs stars of the past—like Eddie Baily and Tommy Harmer. Spurs have been blessed with players of all kinds over the years—but none more dedicated than John Pratt.

### "He's my 'Club-man of the year'!"

By HARRY MILLER Daily Mirror

His name has never been touted as a possible England player.

He has not, to my knowledge, ever come under consideration for the prestigious "Footballer of the Year" award.

Yet if I was asked to name a player who fits perfectly the label of "a great club-man", John Pratt would get the vote.

I have enjoyed his many fine performances for Tottenham at home and abroad . . . and enjoyed his company in the process.

John has played with the very best—Cliff Jones, Jimmy Greaves, Mike England, Alan Mullery, Alan Gilzean, Martin Chivers . . .

Perhaps, because of the famous names so often around him, there have been times when John hasn't got the credit he deserved for his part in memorable Tottenham displays.

That has always seemed a pity.

In discussing John's qualities, people have always praised his unquenchable enthusiasm.

They have talked about his always-wanting-to-win approach. About never hiding if he is having a bad game.

When you think about it, John doesn't have that many bad matches.

The lad has skill too—and many a goalkeeper has picked the ball out of his net reflecting ruefully that John Pratt packs a hell of a wallop in his shooting boots.

Yet the greatest compliment I can ever remember anyone paying "Pratty" came from Bill Nicholson.

At one of those moments when things were not going right, and a lot of heads were dropping, Bill looked towards the unflagging John Pratt—and said:

"I wish I had another ten like him."

It said a lot for the contribution a most likeable player has made to Tottenham's fortunes over the past decade.

On this ground tomorrow morning, kick-off 11 o'clock

SPURS v OXFORD UNITED. S.E. Counties League, Division II Cup, 2nd Leg.

By PETER BLACKMAN Evening Standard

If you are trapped in a trench and caught in heavy flak then John Pratt is the man to have at your side.

In the football sense he is the breed of player that most managers seek—and the type of player that most successful teams cannot do without.

He has many fine qualities but the ones that count most on the pitch are an almost fanatical dedication and enthusiasm—and he hates losing.

I have known him well throughout his career at Spurs and I have seen him play heroically, inspirationally but never greedily.

Some days he totally dominates the midfield, other times he has won matches with his long range shooting—spectacular goals that have been contenders for those television awards.

Another point about John Pratt—he is one of the most accessible players I know. Win or lose he walks from the dressing room and though there might not be a smile on his face he is always prepared to talk.

Sometimes he criticises his own game, sometimes he lavishly praises his team-mates or the opposition. Always he is prepared to talk to the media and they respect him for that.

And something else that is not always appreciated by the fans is that John Pratt often plays with an injury, a constant problem for midfield players over a long season.

When he is questioned about it, he shrugs and says it is an occupational hazard— and may be it is. But he will never throw in the towel. The Team comes first and to hell with the pain.

In many ways he is my type of player; loyal and a great team man. Apart from that almost everyone in football likes him and admires his courage when things on the park go wrong or start to get tough.

### "He's unflappable . . ."

By KEN JONES Sunday Mirror

It takes a certain unflappability to win under pressure, to keep your cool while the crowd blast into your skull.

John Pratt leads in unflappability which may explain why Spurs survived that last momentous week of a promotion season.

The crowd knew who to blame when Spurs lost at home to Sunderland. They blamed John Pratt because some of them always do.

But with the grand prospect of First division football dissolving in his grasp, John kept his head up. He played splendidly against Hull and there was a lot to thank him for at Southampton.

It won't matter to that foolish element who inhabit the stands and terraces at White Hart Lane. Born into this world as football experts they will probably go on giving John Pratt the bird.

On the other hand they might just respond to his honesty and considerable skill. So he isn't a Blanchflower or a Mackay. But he can play and he wants to.

John Pratt deserves a marvellous Testimonial. He also deserves a better deal from the crowd.

They might have been comforted by his mood when there was still Southampton to play. He was unflappable.

#### AT HOME WITH THE FAMILY



John with his wife, Marie, with their son David and new baby daughter Keeley. Photo by Carleton Photographic Services, Cheshunt

# Worthy Cause Deserves Every Success!

Sincere Wishes from

Clive Beduach

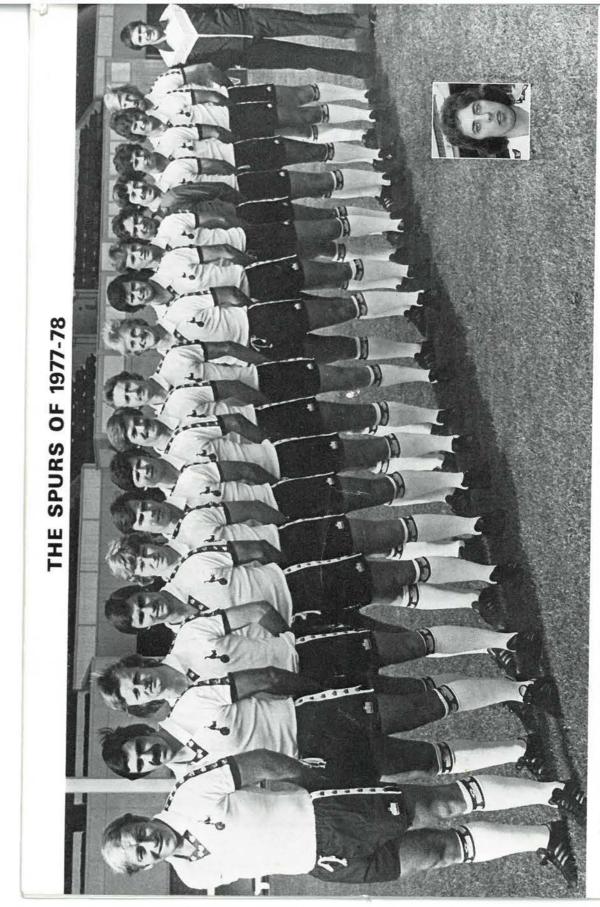
and the Directors and Management of

\* The \* Room \* At the Top Suite \* Club \* Club \*

WELCOME TO LUXURY BANQUETING



HIGH RD, ILFORD, ESSEX 01-478 5588



Left to right: Ralph Coates, John Gorman, Neil McNab, John Pratt, Michael Stead, Peter Taylor, Steve Perryman, Jim Holmes, Terry Naylor, Don McAllister, John Duncan, Chris Jones, Barry Daines, Gerry Armstrong, Keith Osgood (now with Coventry City), Glenn Hoddle, Ian Moores and Mr. Keith Burkinshaw (Manager). *Inset:* Colin Lee.