

telephone in the dug-out. Waddo would be up in the stand and he'd call Frank (Mountford). He'd say 'Tell Jackie Marsh to tell Harry Burrows ...' One day the phone rang so much, Frank was sick of it. He let it ring and ring. In the end he put it in a bucket of water."

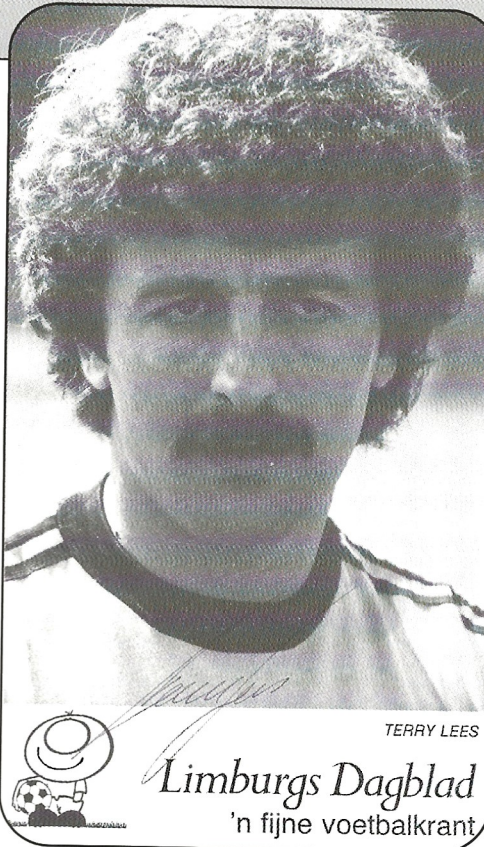
To mark reaching the League Cup final against Chelsea, the Stoke squad recorded a song, *We'll Be With You*, written by Jackie Trent and Tony Hatch. "Tony was going around the studio, listening to each of us. It reminded me of the school choir which I joined to get an afternoon off every week. When I was 12 and my voice broke I carried on for three months, blagging it, until I got found out. Tony said to me and Jackie Marsh 'You're a bit loud' and told us not to sing on certain parts. But I do say to people 'I'm not famous but have you had a top 40 single?'"

"When we got the royalties they were shared between the writers, musicians and the squad. I got £31, the same as everyone else in the players' pool – and spent it all in one go at The Place nightclub!"

In July, the new League Cup holders played Lancashire's cricketers at Congleton in aid of Peter Lever's benefit year. "They had Clive Lloyd, Farokh Engineer, David Lloyd. We needed four off the last ball by Lever to win. I just closed my eyes and swung. Actually, I think it was a glance under the leg side. It went to the boundary anyway."

The following few summers saw Lees expand his horizons. With fellow fringe player George Jackson and Geoff Hurst he spent the 1973 close season in South Africa with Cape Town City. Managed by Roy Bailey, the former Ipswich goalkeeper and father of Manchester United's Gary, they won the league. Lees lived in a luxury hotel and did babysitting for the Hursts on the beach, oblivious to the brutal apartheid regime.

"For me, as a young white person, it was a fantastic experience. Obviously I know now it was different for the black population. We had just one Cape Coloured player, called Jingles Pereira, and I didn't realise it was wrong. Looking at it today it seems barbaric, but strolling around Cape Town at night nearly 50 years ago, I wasn't worried about that."



CURLER: Terry Lees with a Dutch perm

Then in 1975 came an offer from San Jose Earthquakes in the North American Soccer League. He was on £60 a week at Stoke, so when the Californians' owner Milan Mandaric dangled £150, plus car, apartment and credit card for the weekly shop, he thought "Let me sign ... now!"

"(Wife) Claire and I saw a lot of America. I played against Pele for the Cosmos and a man even more famous in New York, Giorgio Chinaglia. I was in awe of them. I couldn't believe a lad from a housing estate in Stoke-on-Trent was on the same pitch."

The Quakes' marquee signing was Jimmy Johnstone from Celtic. Razzmatazz dictated that Jinky made his entrance in a white Rolls-Royce. "Because he was so small you could only see the top of his head. His best game was against Chicago Sting, coached by Bill Foulkes, at Soldier's Field. Players couldn't slide in on the plastic pitch so he could show his skills."

Lees returned to the Victoria Ground with a year on his contract. Waddington said he was "at the crossroads", adding that Noel Cantwell at Peterborough wanted him. "I looked at the map, saw where it was and thought 'There'll be no coming home at weekends'."

Port Vale came in and things fell into place.

"My dad wasn't well either and I wanted to be close by. It was the Third Division but Dad told me that in life you often had to take a step backwards to go forward. And he said 'Why not be the best player at the Vale?'"

"I liked the management team of Roy Sproson and Reg Berks. One was a gentleman who never lost his temper, the other threw the cups. They were a great combination. I really enjoyed my season there alongside Brian Horton, Mick Cullerton, Terry Bailey and the rest."

Forty-six years on, Lees remains the last Stoke man for whom the Burslem club paid a fee. Some fans, however, were "terrible" with the £3,000 newcomer. "Our keeper John Connaughton, a great mate, wouldn't walk off the pitch with me because people spat at me due to my Stoke background. But I think I won them over."

Wolves and Brighton, under Bill McGarry and Peter Taylor respectively, vied for his signature 12 months later. When McGarry

was sacked and resurfaced at Sparta Rotterdam, he asked Lees to join him only to jump ship for Saudi Arabia. Jimmy Adamson arrived but also left hurriedly.

Nevertheless, Lees's move to Sparta went through and Vale banked £25,000, over eight times their outlay. "I was on £100 a week. I couldn't tell my dad because that was a lot of money to him."

It was 1976, the midway point between the Netherlands' consecutive World Cup final defeats; the golden era of Total Football. Lees "loved it" there, reeling off the Oranje greats he faced, including

*Continued on next page>*



SUMMER FUN: A Port Vale pre-season session in 1976. Left to right: Colin Tarrt, Ian Osborne, Tommy McLaren, Garry Dulson, Ray Williams, Terry Lees (grabbing Terry Bailey), Terry Bailey, Neil Griffiths, Trevor Dance, Kevin Kennerley, John Connaughton, Kenny Beech, John Brodie and Roy Sproson (manager)