

TENTH BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR LONDON CASINO

The "Lucky Dip", one of London's most prestigious Casinos and nightclubs celebrates its 10th birthday tomorrow night with an extravaganza which promises to be one of the highlights of the year. The owner, Miss Caroline Elizabeth Noe told us, "We have planned a total variety show to go on until the early hours of the morning, while the gambling will be in full swing. As well as the normal rates, we will be having various bonuses and spot prizes, some of which will be involving very large sums of cash indeed. It's the biggest celebration we've ever had and we look forward to a capacity crowd".

One of the entertainment highlights will include pretty Ann Dote. Formerly a nurse to Edmund Bird, the Earl of Burium-under-Ground, she has recently moved into the entertainment business and is one of the most popular attractions at The Lucky Dip. With her sparkling blue eyes and dark hair, she is popular both on and off stage and can often be seen around the club in her nurses uniform. Also on the entertainment bill is Barbara "Barbie" Doll, a top nightclub singer, seen at all leading clubs around London's West End. She told us "The Lucky Dip is always a pleasure to sing to. The clients are so kind, and the staff are friendly. Signing a long term contract with Miss Noe was one of the best career moves I could ever make". Tomorrow night, for one night only, she will be singing a duet with her sister, Cyndi, who is about to make the break from adolescence to club soul-singer.

Some of the regular punters have been looking forward to this event for some time. Alison Carte, 68, told us "I have been a regular customer here for many years. My husband was a keen card player and since his tragic death, I have found companionship from other punters and members of staff. I have been able to give up my daytime job as a cook and make my living from the Casino." Another person almost becoming a permanent fixture at the Lucky Dip is Major James Clew, a war veteran who enjoys the high excitement of watching large sums of money changing hands, sometimes in his favour, sometimes not. "I can't wait". Other regulars who are sure to be risking large sums of money will be Dr Malcolm Praktis and his secretary, Miss Teresa Green. "Being a doctor on call is a stressful job, and what better way to unwind after a hard day than to watch a cabaret and stake a few hundred on the dice", said the doctor. His secretary, Teresa is still as yet unmarried and always accompanies the good doctor. Her low wage prevents her from playing most of the main attractions, but she does often flutter a few pounds on the slot machines. "The fruit

machines have always been my favourite since I played them on Brighton Pier on my first holiday there many years ago".

The Lucky Dip also attracts customers from all over the world, and flying from the Persian Gulf to see the celebrations will be Sheik Hallegg, who regularly visits the casino when in England on business. Miss Noe told us "He is a popular punter with a fantastic sense of humour". He is one of the keenest poker players we have in here, although when he is around, the stakes do often get a little too high for the general public, and we have to enforce the house limit". Another member of staff told us "I think he has a soft spot for our singer, Barbara. He listens to her all night, and then insists on meeting her after the shows for an expensive meal and a bottle of champagne. He certainly knows how to treat the ladies."

It is said that money is the root of all evil and one person who should know about sin is the Reverend Ian Ball. "I am relatively new in this area, but I have been coming here with my wife since we first moved here. The entertainment is terrific, and there will always be some deflated egos who may need a moral boost. Tomorrow night should be quite an event and we are both thoroughly looking forward to it" he told the Gazette. Meanwhile, his wife, Krystal, is hoping to use her divine powers to raise a bit of cash on the blackjack tables. Caroline Noe told us "She is one of the most bubbly characters we get in here. She loves the live entertainment and her fortune telling is uncannily accurate. She keeps us all amused."

Although Miss Noe is the owner of the Lucky Dip, this party is the brainchild of the casino's manager, Mr Barcleigh Banks. His business head has taken him up the social ladder to the dizzy heights he has reached today, for he not only manages the Lucky Dip, but also owns one of the most popular perfume manufacturing companies in London. With his striking eyes, unusually good looks and standing over 6 feet tall, is it any wonder that he is married into one of the wealthiest families in London. His wife, Penelope Banks, daughter of George Barings, said "Marrying the local playboy was the best thing that ever happened to me. The casino is a great place to socialise, and with Barcleigh's sense of fun, there's always something new to attract customers. He has shown me a new life, and I intend to do my best for him." And she means it too. She has begun a new diet and is rapidly regaining her flattering figure.

But it's not just the management and punters who are looking forward to

tomorrow. All the staff are quite excited too. Mr Jack Pott, 20 said "This casino is my life. I left school and became a dealer on the power table. Since then, I have worked my way up to become the chief blackjack dealer, and main roulette croupier. I am glad to be part of its celebration". Jack may speak modestly about his position, but he always affords the latest fashions in designed clothing and on his days off, can be seen with a different girl on each arm. Respect must also be paid to the casino handyman, 35 year old Thomas Bowler. There is never a machine out-of-order, or a light bulb that needs changing. But Thomas is never seen to gamble, although he enjoys the tension and excitement of other people's wins. He is regularly seen around the various tables as an avid spectator. Meanwhile, the head doorman, Jim Twice, is preparing for a busy night. "We are expecting a capacity crowd and my door crew will be on top form". But do not be put off by this tough exterior. Jim is certainly one of the toughest guys in London, and it's true that he knows his job (he's been doorman for many years), but he is a fun-lover and is sure to get any party swinging.

It can easily be seen that excitement is high among the punters, and enthusiasm is flowing through the veins of all staff, from the managements right down to the lowly handyman. The owner, Caroline Noe extends a warm welcome to all clients, past and present, and invites new business to try their luck in the aptly named "Lucky Dip". Gamblers may try their hand at Poker, Blackjack, Roulette, Craps and a variety of slot machines, while non gamblers can sit and enjoy the live entertainment taking place on the stage. Those with an eye for art can also marvel at Miss Noe's exquisite connection of jewelled animals, many of which were made locally by the late Mr Carte, which are constantly on show around the Casino. Doors open at 12 noon and remain open until 5am next morning. Live entertainment begins at 9pm and a licensed bar is present. It promises to be a night to remember, but entry will be limited, so clients are advised to start early.