

MEETING DAVID.

Sometimes, dreams are SOMETHIN' more than wishes, especially when the dream of a lifetime comes true! And just such a dream did come true recently for three lucky British girls. They were flown to Los Angeles, where they stayed for five fantastic days, with all their expenses paid, in a luxury hotel on Hollywood's famous Wiltshire Boulevard.

But that was only part of the dream for Nicole Mutch, Nicola Price and Paula Howell. The real dream came true when the three of them met DAVID CASSIDY! And even though months have passed,

it's a moment that none of them will ever forget.

Of course, it wasn't easy for the three to actually get to the point where they were told "Right, these are your tickets, here you go!" There was a lot of hard work and planning between the time they found out about their contests and the time they actually set foot on that luscious Los Angeles soil.

Paul Howell, 16, of Cardiff had to describe the qualities of a pop star to satisfy the judges in The Sun newspaper's contest. Nicola Price, also 16, of Iwer Heath, Bucks., had an equally difficult task; she had to collect as many cancelled postage stamps as possible in the contest sponsored by Radio One.

Perhaps the most difficult com-

petition (if difficulty can be measured by sore feet and cold hands!) was the Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain's City of London Treasure Hunt, won by Nicole Mutch, 16, of London.

The first part was physically the hardest. Each contestant had to collect a list of sponsors. These were people who had promised to give them a specific amount of money for every point that the contestant earned in the actual treasure hunt.

This second part of the competition was also a bit complicated. It required those who entered to walk through the City of London with a question sheet and a clue sheet. The questions were about famous buildings, statues and relics in the city. For example, one of the questions was "What year did Dick Whittington die?"

After reading that, all you had to do was look first at the clue sheet, which told you where in London to go, and then at the map (also provided by the Group) to find out how to get there. If you followed the directions, they led you to the statue of Dick Whittington, and that that remained was to read the date

that he died, 1422, and write it down opposite the clue number.

After completing all twenty clues, the contestants returned to the start at Tower Hill. Here, the contest stewards checked the answers, and awarded one point for each correct answer.

Then came the last hard slog. The contestants had to go back and collect the money that their sponsors had promised them. So, if you had one sponsor who promised you 1p per correct answer, and you had fifteen correct answers, that sponsor had to give you 15p.

EASY

Sounds fairly easy doesn't it? But as winner Nicky Mutch told me, it wasn't nearly as easy as it was enjoyable! You see, Nicky had more than 1,000 sponsors, and that took some doing!

"I was getting about getting people to sponsor me in November, and it was awfully cold at night.

"In fact, once it got so cold my hands were both swollen by the end of the night!"

Despite cold feet and swollen hands, Nicky managed to produce

a piece of paper with the names of all of her sponsors on it. The only problem was how to carry it—the list was eighteen feet long!

After getting nineteen of the questions right, Nicky dutifully trooped off to her sponsors to collect their contributions. And with a total of £221, she was declared the winner.

The next weeks were a whirl of activity for all three winners. Besides securing visas from the United States Embassy, they had to make the usual arrangements with schools and parents, as well as packing and trying to get a bit of sleep on several exciting nights.

But finally, on the 14th of January, Nicky, Nicky and Paula arrived at Gatwick Airport in London to board their British Caledonian flight to Los Angeles. They were met at the airport by Ed Stewart and Lord John, one of the characters in the Walt Disney film *Robin Hood*. After a happy send-off, the three boarded their plane and flew right to Los Angeles.

I asked Nicky Mutch about her first reaction to Los Angeles and she replied "Hot! We arrived about 11.15 in the morning, and it was

already well up around eighty degrees. And after leaving a very cold, wet London, you can imagine how strange it was!"

"The four of us (the winners were accompanied by Mr. Alexander Porter of the Muscular Dystrophy Group) were met by two chauffeured limousines. We were supposed to be met by David's friend Dave Bridger (of Bell Records' London office) but there was some kind of a mix-up—I think we must have passed each other on the way from the airport to the hotel!"

DAVID!

At any rate, the three arrived at the Chancellor Hotel in Hollywood. After getting settled into their rooms, they went out for a walk. But, as Nicky told me, "It still hadn't really dawned on any of us that we would actually be meeting David the next day!"

But by 7 o'clock the next morning, something must have made them aware—because they all woke up at that time, ready, willing and able to meet David!

After breakfast, the three piled into their Cadillac limousine and

Dave and Dave sort out the plans for the winners' tour of the studio.

The girls and David rest against one of the tractors at the Columbia Ranch.

