

MARCH, 1963
ONE SHILLING

Table Tennis

*The Official Magazine of the
English Table Tennis Association*



VOJISLAV MARKOVIC, of
Yugoslavia, back to challenge
for the English Open which
he previously won in 1961.

Picture by Gerry Cranham

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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LOOK OUT FOR PRAGUE

by IVOR MONTAGU

PRESIDENT I.T.T.F. and E.T.T.A.

WHAT is the significance of the 27th World Table Tennis Championships due for Prague next month (April 5 to 14)? What is there for table tennis, or sport generally? What effect, if any, can they be expected to have on the game in every Country, and on "average" player and club? How can players and enthusiasts help, if at all, to gain benefit for our country and our sport?

Sometimes the "top" of the game seems very far away. Was it not Sidney Smith who told the child who wanted to stroke the tortoise that she might as well seek to please the Dean and Chapter by stroking the dome of St. Paul's? In sport it is rather different. The meetings of the giants are earth-shattering, and nerve endings connect what is going on with the furthest fingers and toes.

NINETY ASSOCIATIONS

Make no mistakes: this is a very big event. When world table tennis started, modestly, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, in 1926, seven teams and players from nine countries took part. The International Federation has now grown to a giant among sports bodies, including more than 90 National Associations. At Prague, according to the latest figures when writing, more than 50 teams are entered. I think that this is possibly more than has ever competed in any one place for any sport outside the Olympic Games. Quite possibly it represents what will be a high water mark for table tennis for all times. Surely such numbers will become unmanageable and table tennis, which is proud of having kept the doors of the championships open to everyone—and this has contributed not a little to its growth—must soon come into line with other sports and put up a qualifying bar.

It is this greatness of scale that has helped table

tennis to its now honourable place among other sports. It has not only helped it to grow among the countries but within each country. In the first 40 years of its life ("the 1880s to the 1920s") there had been virtually no International table tennis; England-Wales, Austria-Hungary—that was all. Up to the twenties the game in the birth country, England, itself had dwindled to two leagues, Sunderland and Plymouth. It was nearly forgotten even in the homes. When a few sought to enlarge it, the Press was not interested, there was little love and no money. But as the game started to become world-wide, nobody would altogether enjoy it. It began to strike the imagination of youth, and that ensured its future. Sometimes it is asked: what do the stars mean to the average player. There are few Stanley Matthews and Danny Blanchflowers, few Trumans and Dexters and Sobers and Harveys, but the example of them helps every youngster who puts down coats for goalposts or chalks the wicket on the wall, to feel ten feet tall.

WIDESPREAD FAMILY

Three things happen at the World Championships that mean a lot to all followers of the game. First: it is the only time each two years—alas, it has to be two years now and not, as once, each year, because now the family that has to come together extends over 24 thousand miles—when all can meet and teach and learn everything new that has happened in the 24 months past. People are so constituted that they cannot do what they cannot imagine. It was only when the Hungarians saw the English strokes that the spark was struck to make such players as Barna. It was only when Barna, Bergmann and Leach went round the world that first Japanese and then

Chinese fire and speed was born to counter them. It is this great gathering and clash of all the skills that is going to make the players of the future find themselves. They are all ambassadors and messengers. It is the younger generation who are converging on Prague—our own Mary Shannon and Chester Barnes, Lesley Bell and David Creamer, their counterparts in other countries, the 15-year-old seeded Soviet girl champion from the Baltic, Balaisite, the young No. 1 from Brazil, Biribi Costa, and his 12-year-old sister Bartira, together with names still unknown from Peru and Argentina, Ghana and Morrocco, Korea and Indonesia, New Zealand and Nepal—who must one day carry the torch into every furthest village, bringing the new skills home to filter down eventually to the enjoyment and betterment of all.

SHARING EXPERIENCES

Second: it is the occasion of our parliament, when experiences from all over the world are shared to iron out difficulties and improve our laws. For example, we still have the left-overs of the racket reforms to put in order. We have to work out regulations that will not hamper players or give rise to unnecessary misunderstanding. If we are to keep our game one such problems can only be solved on a world scale and each two years is all too seldom to have the chance to tackle them. Everyone's experience must be brought to bear.

Third: this is an obligation that weighs heavily these days on all sports. What is world-wide cannot help reflecting the anxieties and tensions of

the world. Sports can be poisoned. Quarrels can arise that have nothing to do with play but where human emotions and prejudices have State relations outside the sport spark conflict. But in these days, laden with such potentialities for good or evil affecting generations to come and even the future existence of our species, none of us may be passive. It is a duty even on the players of a game to contribute what they can to the mutual understanding and friendships of mankind. Over 50 countries coming together, from every Continent! That is not a little arena. How do we fulfil this task? By lying down and letting the others win? Oh, no. Certainly not! By contributing to the utmost of our character and skill, by fighting to the last point against the strong, irrespective of the score, by not relaxing against the weak. That is the way to show respect for all and, allied to self-control and facing misfortune with a smile, is the way to win respect, too. (It also happens, incidentally, to be the best way to win matches. Cast your bread upon the waters . . .)

A BIG JOB

Our players have a good record over the years in this respect as in others. We can be proud of them. Their responsibilities are bigger than ever. They can give to others as they can bring back to us. What happens at Prague can matter not only to us, but outside our circle. It is a big job and by letting them feel our support and confidence, we can help them carry it out on our behalf.

SEEDINGS FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHINA and Japan dominate the seeding for the World Championships in Prague (April 5-14).

Six of the 16 seeds for the men's singles comes from China and four from Japan, while in the women's singles there are five Chinese seeds and four Japanese.

The only English players seeded are Diane Rowe in the 9 to 16 group in the women's singles and Miss Rowe and Mary Shannon in the 5 to 8 group in the women's doubles.

The full seeding is:

MEN'S SINGLES 1-2: Chuang Tse-tung (China), Hsu Yin-sheng (China); 3-4: Li Fu-jung (China), I. Ogimura (Japan); 5-8: Chang Shih-lin (China), Jung Kua-tan (China), K. Kimura (Japan), K. Miki (Japan); 9-16: A. Alser (Sweden), I. Andreadis (Czech.), Z. Berczik (Hungary), U. Costa (Brazil), J. Fahazi (Hungary), K. Konka (Japan), V. Markovic (Yugo.), Yang Jui-hua (China).

MEN'S DOUBLES: 1-2: Chuang Tse-tung/Hsu Yin-sheng (China), K. Kimura/I. Ogimura (Japan); 3-4: Li Fu-jung/Wang Chia-sheng (China), K. Miki/K. Konaka (Japan); 5-8:

I. Andreadis/V. Miko (Czech.), E. Arndt/D. Michalek (Germany); Z. Berczik/J. Fahazi (Hungary), V. Markovic/J. Teran (Yugo.).

WOMEN'S SINGLES. 1: Chiu Chung-hui (China); 2-3 (to be decided by lot before draw), E. (Koczian) Foldi (Hungary), K. Matsuzaki (Japan); 4: M. Seki (Japan); 5-8: M. Alexandru (Rumania), K. Ito (Japan), Liang Li-chen (China), Wang Chien (China); 9-16: L. Balaisite (U.S.S.R.), S. (Mathe) Lukacs (Hungary), G. Pitica (Rumania), D. Rowe (England), Sun Mei-ying (China), Ti Chiang-hua (China), N. Yamanaka (Japan).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES. 1-2: M. Alexandru/G. Pitica (Rumania), Chiu Chung-hui/Wang Chien (China); 3-4: Liang Li-chen/Ti Chiang-hua (China), K. Matsuzaki/M. Seki (Japan); 5-8: E. (Koczian) Foldi/ E. Heirits (Hungary), K. Ito/N. Yamanaka (Japan); D. Rowe/M. Shannon (England), A. Simon/I. Harst (Germany).

MIXED DOUBLES. 1-2: Chuang Tse-tung/Chiu Chung-hui (China), I. Ogimura/K. Matsuzaki (Japan); 3-4: Li Fu-jung/Liang Li-chen (China), K. Miki/M. Seki (Japan); 5-8: A. Alser (Sweden)/I. Harst (Germany), J. Fahazi/E. (Koczian) Foldi (Hungary); E. Klein/L. Neuberger (U.S.A.), R. Negulescu/M. Alexandru (Rumania).

Babes with a Future

by GYORGY FERENC

SOME ten years ago writing in TABLE TENNIS under the heading "Wonder Girls Team" I predicted a big future for three young Hungarian girls. How accurate were my predictions? I leave that for you to judge from the records of those girls today.

● The first was **Susy Fantusz** (now Mrs. Javor) champion of Australia.

● The second was **Agnes Almasi** (now Mrs. Simon) world doubles champion of 1956-7, reigning European singles champion, and champion of West Germany.

● The third of this trio was **Eva Koczian** (now Mrs. Foldi) world mixed doubles champion of 1954-5; European singles champion of 1957-8 and 1959-60; and presenting No. 2 ranking woman in the world.



ANGELA PAPP

EVA POOR

At the time of that prediction I also wrote that it was difficult to produce a woman player of international level. I would like to repeat that once again and at the same time bring to your notice two more young Hungarian girls who promise to blaze their way into the record books.

They are **Eva Poor** and **Angela Papp** (pictured here), two 14-year-old girls from Budapest who have been picked for Hungary's team for the World Championships in Prague next month. They are being sent not to win, but to learn.

Let us look back for the reasons that have earned them the distinction of being the youngest ever girls to play for Hungary.

Eva Poor has recently beaten every one of the leading Hungarian internationals, including Mrs. Kerekes, Mrs. Lukacs (Mate), and Mrs. Foldi as well as the Rumania star **Georgeta Pitica**. Eva is an all-out hitter, the biggest "loopingmaster" in Hungary and fulfils this "Asian" trick so masterfully there is little can be done against it. Her backhand is also pretty fearful.

Angela Papp is an all round player, a fine stylist of a wonderful orthodox science. She is devastating with her forehand and backhand drives, and is extremely shrewd with her various chops. She is as quick as the best men players and her foot-

work is marvellous. Altogether she is a very talented young player.

Her one failing is an apparently lack of fight, for if she loses a point she is content to merely shrug and smile. This could be the reason she has not yet had any big results, although she was runner-up at the last European Junior Championships.

The World Championships in Prague should be the first step to major honours for both these talented young girls.

WARNING NOTICE

IN pursuance of the decision of the General Meeting held in Peking, 1961, an inspection will be carried out of all rackets used and clothing worn by players in the World Championships, Prague, 1963.

This inspection will take place prior to play in every match.

1. RACKETS AND CLOTHING MUST NOT BE LIGHT.
2. RACKETS MUST BE DARK RED, DARK BLUE, DARK GREEN, DARK BROWN OR BLACK. RACKETS MUST BE THE SAME COLOUR ON BOTH SIDES.
3. RACKETS MUST BE MATT IN SURFACE, I.E. NON-REFLECTING.

Associations are warned that shades and colours displaying a colour brightness Y, determined according to the C.I.E. system for colour measurement using illuminant A, exceeding 30 per cent, will be regarded as too light. Colour charts showing examples darker and lighter than this margin are being made available to all Associations.

Rackets with shiny surfaces which clearly reflect the shape of the light sources (windows in daylight or lamp fittings, etc.) will be regarded as transgressing Law 4. Surfaces showing vague and slight light glimpses will not be penalised. Players are advised that shiny surfaces can usually be made sufficiently matt by rubbing with sandpaper or glasspaper.

H. ROY EVANS,
Honorary Secretary.

SIMONS STILL GOING STRONG

AUBREY SIMONS, one of England's greatest post-war players, is still very much to the fore in the Western Counties League, where he has helped establish Bristol as one of the only two teams with a hundred per cent record. The other side is Cardiff.

Simons lost only to Kevin Edwards in Bristol's 6-3 win over Cheltenham, the current leaders, and won all three in the 6-3 win over Bath, where he was extended to three games by Don Smith. Simons had to miss the match against Newport, but Tony Dinambro filled the gap adequately and Bristol ran out

winner at 7-2. Barry Brady suffered only one defeat in these three matches—to Smith of Bath.

Bristol Seconds are not having such a successful time and lost 5-4 to Bath, and 6-3 to Weston, for whom a former Bristol player, Eamon Buckley, won two. Weston crashed 7-2 to Cheltenham, despite a fine win by Ray Philpott over Kevin Edwards, Cheltenham's No. 1. Peter Crwys was unbeaten for Cheltenham.

Cardiff swept to a 9-0 win over Swindon, newcomers to the league. Considering that Cardiff turn out what is almost a Welsh international side this was perhaps not so surprising.

Barring surprise upsets it now appears likely that the title will depend on the meeting between Cardiff, last year's champions, and Bristol, at the end of the season. Bristol have already accounted for Cheltenham, but Cardiff have still to face this tough hurdle.

Grove Motlow.

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Cheltenham	6	5	1	35	19	10
Bristol	4	4	0	26	10	8
Cardiff	3	3	0	25	3	6
Newport	4	3	1	19	17	6
Bath	5	2	3	22	23	4
Swindon	6	2	4	18	36	4
Weston	7	2	5	30	33	4
Bristol 2nds	5	1	4	18	27	2
West Wilts.	5	1	4	17	28	2
Abergavenny	3	0	3	7	20	0

TEENAGE TOPICS

by BRIAN WRIGHT

LITTLE CHANGE IN RANKING

THE England junior team kept their unbeaten record for the season by defeating Wales 10-0. They won all their ties in straight games, a nice start to their international career, for all four boys were making their English junior debut—Tony Robinson (Middlesex), Dennis Holland (Gloucestershire), Leslie Gresswell (Middlesex) and Keith Jones (Warwickshire).

Tony and Leslie moved on to the South of England Championships the next day to play in the senior events. Leslie lost to Peter Shead, the eventual winner, in three games, while Tony, after a good win over Laurie Landry, succumbed to the New Zealander, Alan Tomlinson, in the last 16.

All four finalists in the junior events at this tournament came from Hertfordshire, surely an encouraging sign for this youth conscious county. In the boys' singles Peter Williams beat Stuart Seaholme, while in the girls' final Jackie Canham defeated Pauline Hemmings, both matches being won in straight games.

The new Junior ranking list has been announced but differs little from the original (see separate box). In fact the girls list is unchanged. Fourteen boys have been ranked as against ten last time. Six are in numerical order, then come a further eight classified alphabetically under Group A. This is a good innovation.

Newcomers, all in Group A, are Colin Eltringham (Durham), R. Hampson (Cheshire), Eric Marsden (Lancashire) and Alan Ransome (Durham). The main promotion is that of Keith Jones (Warwickshire), who moves up from No. 9 to No. 6.

It is good to see more northern players ranked, and the breakdown is six from the South, five from the North, two from the Midlands and one from the West.

Following the publication of the new rankings teams are also announced for the internationals against German Juniors. They are:

At Bexhill on February 28: Chester Barnes, David Stanley, Dennis Holland, Lesley Bell, Christine Holes.

At Leicester on March 4: Barnes, Keith Jones, Tony Robinson, Miss Bell, Jackie Canham.

At St. Luke's, Canning Town, on

ness and tactical sense, which far outweighed his years.

In the final of the boys' singles he was opposed by tall Jim Reilly of Scotland. He lost the first game at 14 and from 15-19 down in the second produced a wonderful recovery to win the game 22-20 with fine hits down his opponent's backhand. The third game followed a similar pattern with Reilly leading all the way up to 20-18, only for young Langham to catch him at 20-all. Langham then saved three more match points before Reilly eventually won at 25-23.

This was one of the best junior matches from the point of calmness and tactics that I have ever seen and it looks as though at last Ireland will soon have someone to back up Tommy Caffery, their top player.

And don't forget Jim Reilly. He has the ability to become one of Scotland's leading players.

Congratulations to Les Gresswell and Jackie Canham for their displays in winning the singles titles in the Gloucestershire Junior Open. It was Gresswell's first open title, and he disposed of the Midland challenge with wins over Keith Jones (semi-final) and Graham Pressick (final).

Gresswell appears to like travelling around for the next day saw him competing in the Kent Open. He lost, as expected, to Barnes in the final of the boys' singles after having had a good win over Tony Robinson, his Middlesex team mate.

Tony incidentally also had a busy week-end for he won through to the *Eagle* finals on the Saturday before travelling down to Folkestone.

Junior Rankings

BOYS

1. C. Barnes (Essex) (1)
2. D. Stanley (Yorks.) (2)
3. A. Robinson (Middx.) (3)
4. D. Holland (Glos.) (4)
5. L. Gresswell (Middx.) (joint 5)
6. K. Jones (Warwicks.) (9)

GROUP A

- C. Eltringham (Durham) (-)
G. French (Kent) (joint 5)
R. Hampson (Cheshire) (-)
E. Marsden (Lancs.) (-)
G. Pressick (Warwicks.) (7)
A. Ransome (Durham) (-)
S. Seaholme (Herts.) (8)
P. Williams (Herts.) (10)

GIRLS

1. L. Bell (Essex) (1)
2. J. Canham (Herts.) (2)
3. C. Holes (Hants) (joint 3)
3. B. Sayer (Essex) (joint 3)
5. P. Holes (Hants) (5)
6. P. Dainty (Yorks.) (6)
7. G. Sayer (Essex) (7)

(Figures in parentheses denote position in last ranking list).

March 5: Barnes, Robinson, Leslie Gresswell, Miss Bell, Pauline Holes.

Let us hope they can keep their unbeaten record.

A player to watch at the English Open is Jim Langham, a 14-year-old Irish boy. I saw him play in the Irish Open, where he displayed cool-

ENGLAND WIN 10-0

THE Welsh team were well below the standard of the English boys at Southampton on February 16, but this did not prevent them from fighting hard (writes Laurie Landry).

Even though the English boys won so convincingly it was important for them that they should have this match before they take on the Germans.

All of the English team showed that they are capable of steady constructive play. The one fear was that they might get too confident and play too casually. But this was not the case.

Johnny Mansfield was the best of

the visitors and it says much for Holland and Robinson that they beat him without dropping a game.

The match finished a little earlier than expected so an exhibition was put on at mixed doubles. Holland played with Christine Holes and Gresswell with Pauline.

England 10, Wales 0: (English names first): K. Jones bt G. Trenchard 21-9, 21-16; bt M. Davies 21-13, 21-13. L. Gresswell bt Davies 21-10, 21-11; bt Trenchard 21-15, 21-12. D. Holland bt J. Mansfield 21-9, 21-18; bt J. Buck 21-6, 21-6. A. Robinson bt Buck 21-10, 21-6; bt Mansfield 21-12, 21-18.

Holland/Jones bt Trenchard/Davies 21-10, 21-13. **Robinson/Gresswell** bt Mansfield/Buck 21-10, 21-17.

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Editor's Postbag

THE MULTI TEAM CLUBS

THE trend at the present time is for the number of clubs in a league to reduce whilst the number of teams remains fairly static. Obviously, the larger clubs are expanding whilst the number of the team clubs is dropping.

In the Hull and East Riding Association, after the operation of promotion and relegation, next season's First Division will almost certainly comprise five teams from one club, three teams from another and four individual club teams and this position is likely to worsen.

The five-team club has facilities every weekday from 2 o'clock to 10.30 that have attracted towards 140 members and seems likely to increase its membership, which is open to all. The three-team club is also an open club, whilst the other four teams are restricted in membership to particular organisations.

The Hull and East Riding Association has 110 teams drawn from works, other

clubs, churches and other organisations, most of which restrict membership.

Two means of attacking the problem are, firstly, by legislation to restrict the number of teams from a club in a division—not a good solution I feel, as it would upset the balance of both higher and lower division. Secondly, encouragement for the introduction of further open membership clubs, a difficult procedure due to present day costs.

I should be interested to hear how any of your readers have acted in similar circumstances.

H. FLINTON,
Chairman, Hull and East Riding T.T.A.

Yorkshire Junior Open

ALTHOUGH I am in no way slighting the creditable performance of the northern juniors, in the "Yorkshire Junior Open", I feel that their success was due somewhat to circumstances.

The magazine's reports on the tournaments are, I agree, accurate—but fails to state any word about the appalling conditions under which the southern juniors travelled to Hull.

Personally, I travelled 200 miles cramped in a car, not even having time for a meal. The journey took double the normal time because of the shocking weather and I know of another family who also made the same hazardous journey.

Thus, at the tournament, we had to play all our matches inside a confined period and this, coupled with the journey, made us very tired. In conclusion, I would like also to say that the Southern and Midland tournaments are infrequently, if ever, visited by the Northern juniors. Perhaps they too would not produce their best form if they had to always travel so many miles.

LESLIE GRESSWELL,
(Middx.)

More Working Coaches Needed

IF Table Tennis is to hold its place as a major sport, then there is dire need of more working Coaches, to develop the rising resources of young players abounding in the game. It is the aim of Jack Carrington (Director of Coaching—E.T.T.A.), ably assisted by Gordon Steggall (E.T.T.A. Coach), to produce sufficiently trained Coaches to meet this need. Without proper coaching, promising players are restricted in their ability and have no definite goal to aim at.

Those (in Herts.) interested in attending Coaching Courses, should apply to Mr. Gordon Steggall, 7, Lucks Hill, Chaulden, Hemel Hempstead (Phone Boxmoor 5826). The Course is a residential one, at present at Offley and future courses are likely to be held at Stafford. It is in the interest of all Hertfordshire Leagues to put forward suitable candidates for these courses.

Education Authorities at Cheshunt and Stevenage have given facilities to their respective table tennis players and E.T.T.A. Coaches for the development of this important sport. It is hoped that similar facilities may be granted to other Leagues in Hertfordshire. Table Tennis is a sport that requires quick co-ordination of muscles, mind and reflex action and is an important relaxation from modern living!

G. E. FOSTER,
(Herts.)

Those Rose Bowl Finishes

YOUR correspondent, Mr. Davies of Prittlewell, does well to plead for the Rosebowl and Cup teams who look forward to competing with their more successful rivals. None would disagree that the hosts are entitled to every consideration from their guests that the circumstances permit.

I would, in turn, put a point or two that may show the picture he paints in a little more favourable light.

Quite a number of players in these competitions enter tournaments and have club and county fixtures to fulfil and the more eminent the player, the fuller

Continued on page 11

TV Innovation

ON Saturday, February 9, maybe due to lack of football, television featured almost an hour's programme of fast modern table tennis between the old and not quite so young.

What a contrasting array of talent, two ex-world champions, Barna and Leach, and two former world doubles champions, one now a mother of four, followed by Mary Shannon and David Creamer, who were watched over by hard working Harry Venner.

Surely there is no better way for the craftsmanship of the game to be passed on. Perhaps at long last the revival of table tennis in England as an entertainment spectacle has become a reality.

Let us have more, many more of such shows, on television.

T. W. GRANT
(Southampton).

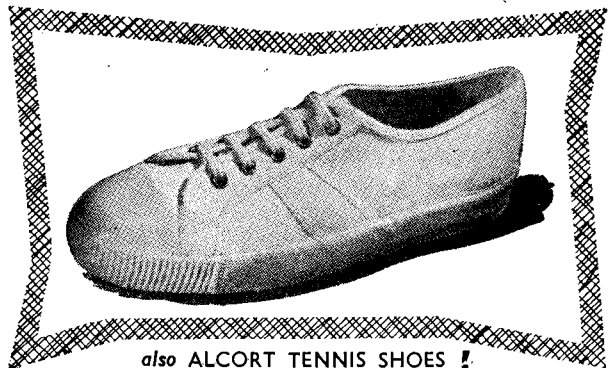
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Czechs Prepare for Prague

by JIRI MUK

THE 27th table tennis World Championships will be held in Prague at the beginning of April. What is the form of the Czechoslovak team—and what are its prospects for placing in the championships? Will the Czechoslovak players again try to reach the top which they managed to reach several times during previous championships?

We shall get an answer to these questions only at the championships themselves. Until then, we can only go by their performances in the last games and tournaments played in the autumn of 1962.

The Czechoslovak team participated in several important international tournaments in November and December, 1962, which were, to a certain extent, a test of the European table tennis players. Let us mention the International Championships of Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Scandinavia and Poland.

These proved that the strength of Czechoslovakia table tennis lies especially in the men's doubles, where the pair Ivan Andreadis-Vladimir Miko fared best.

In Innsbruck and Skoplje they fought their way into the finals and were beaten only by a close margin by the Hungarians. Yet they made up for this defeat by beating the Hungarian team in Budapest on home ground, and their well deserved victory earned them the title of champions of Hungary.

Czechoslovak players scored their most important success at the Scandinavian championships at Boras, where representatives of 14 countries met. The Czechoslovak team won, beating in turn Finland 3-0, the G.F.R. 3-2, Hungary 3-1, and Sweden 3-0. In the last days of January, 1963, the Czechoslovak team competed in an international tournament with players from the G.D.R. and won the men's event 5-1, the women's 3-1.

ANDREADIS RETIRING

The results of the international championships held in Europe last autumn established the top ten European table tennis players and these include Czechoslovak players Miko, Stanek and Andreadis who play about equally well and form an excellent team.

After the 1963 World Championships, Andreadis intends to retire from competitive sport—he is already

38 years old and has been a world doubles champion five times.



IVAN ANDREADIS and VLADIMIR MIKO

DORSET CLOSED

MRS. COOP WINS THREE AT DORSET CLOSED

A RECORD entry of nearly 80 competitors took part in the Dorset Closed championships at Portland Red Triangle on February 2, when five of the six titles were retained.

The highlight of the day was the performance of Mrs. Joyce Coop (Poole) in winning three titles for the second year in succession. In addition to the singles, she won the women's doubles with Mrs. Beryl Appleby (Poole), and mixed doubles with Cyril Bush (Poole). Miss Pat Frampton was the unluckiest competitor, losing in all three finals.

Men's Singles, Semi-Finals: C. Bush (Poole) bt G. Eiles (Weymouth) 21-18, 21-14. R. Bassett (Bournemouth) bt P. Bryce (Weymouth) 21-11, 21-4. **Final:** BASSETT bt Bush 21-7, 21-19. **Women's Singles, Semi-Finals:** Mrs. J. Coop (Poole) bt Mrs. J. Leonard (Weymouth) 21-15, 21-14. P. Frampton (Wimborne) bt Mrs. J. Champion (Weymouth) 21-17, 21-18. **Final:** COOP bt Frampton 21-11, 21-15. **Junior Singles, Semi-Finals:** A. Pepperell (Weymouth) bt G. Mitchell (Portland) 21-14, 22-20. D. Naylor (Parkstone) bt D. Cook (Weymouth) 21-13, 21-14. **Final:** NAYLOR bt Pepperell 22-20, 16-21, 21-16.

Men's Doubles, Semi-Finals: D. Meech/R. Diment (Weymouth) bt Bassett/R. Cribb (Bournemouth) 11-21, 21-16, 22-20. W. Fryer/J. Dale (Weymouth) bt Naylor/S. Brook (Parkstone) 21-17, 21-9. **Final:** FRYER/DALE bt Meech/Diment 21-17, 21-13. **Women's Doubles, Semi-Finals:** Mrs. E. Appleby/Coop (Poole) bt Leonard/Mrs. J. Glover (Weymouth) 21-18, 21-16. Frampton/Mrs. E. Smith (Wim-

borne) bt Mrs. D. Ingram (Weymouth)/Mrs. S. Bassett (Bournemouth) 21-17, 21-17. **Final:** APPLEBY/COOP bt Frampton/Smith 21-8, 21-12. **Mixed Doubles, Semi-Finals:** Bush/Mrs. Coop bt K. Pearce/Miss I. Garton (Weymouth) 21-2, 21-12. Eiles/Miss Frampton bt R. Champion/Mrs. Champion 21-16, 21-5. **Final:** BUSH/COOP bt Eiles/Frampton 21-6 21-12.

Viliam Polakovic is one of the big hopes of Czechoslovak table tennis, but new, young players are also coming to the fore.

The young generation is literally taking over in the women's team. The pair Luzova-Bosa is now fifth on the European ladder. The Hungarian trainer Sido said that these two play a more tactical game than the Hungarian women, especially Luzova, who at the age of 15 is the youngest Czechoslovak "Master of Sports." She is expected to advance speedily in the next two years.

Czechoslovak table tennis players include a number of elements in their play which until recently were a special feature of play of Chinese and Japanese masters of the ping-pong ball—an attack which is being prepared even in moments of defence. They are in top physical form, achieved through thorough training.

In February, that is to say shortly before the World Championships, Czechoslovak contestants will take part in the International Championships of Rumania and England, where Andreadis and Miko are to defend their champion title. These championships, too, are going to reveal Czechoslovak prospects at the World Championships to be opened on April 4, that is in the very near future.

SOUTHAMPTON UPSET

MRS. JUNE WILLIAMS provided the big upset of Southampton's 25th annual closed championship when she beat Christine Holes, the junior international in the final of the women's singles. It looked as though Miss Holes would have no trouble in keeping the title when she swept through the first game with the loss of only five points, but the tables were turned when Mrs. Williams won an advantage second game. She then took complete control.

Mrs. Williams has twice previously won the title—in 1956 and 1959.

Men's Singles: D. CARTLEDGE bt W. Draper 21-19, 14-21, 21-12. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. J. WILLIAMS bt C. Holes 5-21, 23-21, 21-9.

Men's Doubles: A. WARD/I. DAVIES bt J. Waterhouse/Cartledge 2-0. **Mixed Doubles:** DAVIES/Miss C. HOLES bt C. Edwards/Miss P. Holes 2-1. **Women's Doubles:** No competition.

Junior Singles: Miss P. HOLES bt M. Andrews 2-0. **Veteran Singles:** F. SAUNDERS bt R. Yates 2-0.

GLOUCESTER JUNIOR OPEN

by **MARGARET FRY**

THIRD TIME LUCKY

WITH none of the title holders defending, their were new names among the winners of this year's Gloucester Junior Open at Gloucester on January 26. **Les Gresswell** (Middx.) took the boys under 17 singles, while the girls' title went to **Jackie Canham** (Herts) for whom it was a case of third time lucky. She had been runner-up for the past two years.

Gresswell beat Graham Pressick (Warws.) by 21-13, 22-24, 21-13 in the final, after having disposed of Keith Jones (Warws.) 21-18, 21-9 in the previous round. Pressick reached the final with a comfortable 21-15, 21-12 win over Graham French (Kent), while Dennis Holland (Glos.), the top seed, was surprisingly beaten 21-16, 21-17 by Jones in the quarters.

Pressick had some consolation by winning the boys' doubles, partnering his Warwickshire team mate Jones to beat Holland and Gresswell 23-21, 21-16.

Miss Canham had to beat both the Holes twins, of Hampshire, to win the girls title. She beat Christine 21-13, 21-16 in the final, but dropped a game to Pauline in the semi-final before winning 14-21, 21-13, 21-9.

Christine was too good for Yorkshire's Pat Dainty in their semi-final winning 21-12, 21-4.

Twins' Title

These four girls all figured in the doubles final, where the Holes twins regained the title they held two years ago, when they beat Miss Canham and Miss Dainty 25-23, 21-16. As can be seen from that first game score it was a close affair which could, well have swung either way.

Miss Canham and Christine were

STEVENAGE OFF

The Committee of the **Stevenage League** sincerely regret that owing to venue difficulties they have to reluctantly withdraw the **Stevenage Open Tournament**. The delay in making this final decision has been due to efforts being made in hopes of putting the Tournament on and we offer our apologies for any inconvenience which may have been caused. In the event of us being able to organise a Tournament next season we hope our many friends will still support us.

C. D. BUNGAY

again in opposition in a final in the mixed doubles and this time it was Miss Canham who emerged the winner, partnering Holland to beat Miss Holes and French 21-11, 21-13.

The boys under 15 singles went to **W. Silto** (Swindon), who beat J. Marshall (Glos.) 21-16, 21-17, while **Pauline Hemmings** (Herts.) beat M. Billington (Warwickshire) 21-13, 21-14 in the girls under 15 final.

Entry Down

Entries were, unfortunately down on last year, 69 being received as against 103. Could this have been because of the clash of the *Eagle/Girl* Area finals on the same day? I know that at least four leading juniors were otherwise engaged.

Once again the tournament went off with no hitches, thanks to good organisation by Alan Haines and his helpers and it was all over by 6 p.m.

RESULTS

UNDER 17

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: L. GRESSWELL (Middx.) bt K. Jones (Warws.) 21-18, 21-9. G. PRESSICK (Warws.) bt G. French (Kent) 21-15, 21-12.

Final: GRESSWELL bt Pressick 21-13, 22-24, 21-13.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: J. CANHAM (Herts.) bt P. Holes (Hants.) 14-21, 21-13, 21-9. C. HOLES (Hants.) bt P. Dainty (Yorks.) 21-12, 21-14.

Final: J. CANHAM bt C. Holes 21-13, 21-16.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-Finals: GRESSWELL/HOLLAND bt French/Williams 21-13, 21-12. PRESSICK/JONES bt Mansfield/Curl (Wales) 21-12, 21-15.

Final: PRESSICK/JONES bt Gresswell/Holland 23-21, 21-16.

Girls' Doubles: Final: C. HOLES/P. HOLES bt Canham/Dainty 25-23, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: HOLLAND/Miss CANHAM bt Pressick/Miss P. Holes 14-21, 21-18, 21-17. FRENCH/C. HOLES bt Williams/Miss Dainty 21-15, 22-24, 21-13.

Final: HOLLAND/CANHAM bt French/C. Holes 21-11, 21-13.

UNDER 15

Boys' Singles: Final: W. SILTO (Swindon) bt J. Marshall (Cheltenham) 21-17, 21-16.

Girls' Singles: Final: P. HEMMINGS (Herts.) bt M. Billington (Leamington) 21-13, 21-14.

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MIDLAND OPEN

by ROGER MORRIS

BARNES AND BELL DOMINATE

CHESTER BARNES and Lesley Bell monopolised the major events at the Midland Open, which proved a most successful tournament both from quantity and quality. Indeed, the men's singles final in the opinion of some of the older players and officials was one of the best ever seen at the Friends Institute.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: R. STEVENS (Essex) bt D. Backhouse (Staffs.) 21-16, 21-17; C. BARNES (Essex) bt A. Tomlinson (N.Z.) 21-16, 21-19.

Final: BARNES bt Stevens 14-21, 21-18, 21-18.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: L. BELL (Essex) bt C. Moore (Lancs.) 21-10, 21-8; J. WILLIAMS (Herts.) bt Miss J. Canham (Herts.) 21-16, 21-16.

Final: BELL bt Williams 21-10, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: BARNES/R. MORLEY (Glos.) bt A. Tomlinson (N.Z.)/K. Edwards (Glos.) 21-17, 21-17. STEVENS / M. SYMONDS (Lancs.) bt G. Livesey/B. Farnworth (Lancs.) 21-15, 21-14.

Final: STEVENS / SYMONDS bt Morley/Barnes 21-16, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: C. MOORE/D. FITZGERALD (Lancs.) bt C. Blackshaw/L. Proudlock (Yorks.) 19-21, 21-17, 21-17; M. HICKS/J. REDFERN (Middx.) bt L. Bell/P. Martin (Essex) 21-18, 21-17.

Final: MOORE / FITZGERALD bt Hicks/Redfern 21-19, 13-21, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: BARNES/BELL bt Tomlinson/Mrs. B. Carless (Warwicks.) 21-12, 21-14. R. STEVENS/Miss MOORE bt M. Creamer/Miss I. Ogus (Middx.) 21-9, 21-13.

Final: BARNES/BELL bt Stevens/Moore 18-21, 21-16, 21-11.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: K. JONES (Warwicks.) bt D. Holland (Glos.) 10-21, 21-17, 21-19. BARNES bt L. Gresswell (Middx.) 21-13, 21-18.

Final: BARNES bt Jones 21-16, 21-16.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: J. CANHAM bt P. Dainty (Yorks.) 21-17, 21-15; L. BELL bt Miss P. Martin 21-9, 21-4.

Final: BELL bt Canham 21-16, 21-8.

Junior Doubles: Semi-Finals: K. JONES/G. PRESSICK (Warwicks.) bt Miss I. Sykes (B'ham)/Miss L. Henwood (Romford) 21-14, 21-8. D. HOLLAND/T. BOULT (Warwicks.) bt A. Robinson (Middx.)/L. Gresswell 22-20, 12-21, 21-16.

Final: JONES/PRESSICK bt Holland/Boult 21-16, 21-19.

Veteran Singles: Semi-Final: G. BROWN (Essex) bt J. Kennelly (Cheshire) 21-11, 21-14; H. SPIERS (Warwicks.) bt E. A. Brown (Lancs.) 21-3, 21-15.

Final: SPIERS bt Brown 21-19, 18-21, 21-19.

EAST LONDON CLOSED

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: R. Stevens bt B. Brumwell 21-19, 21-19; A. Condon bt D. Garner 21-17, 21-15. **Final:** STEVENS bt Condon 21-13, 21-18. **Women's Singles: Final:** L. BELL bt Mrs. E. Carrington 21-19, 21-17.

Men's Doubles: BRUMWELL/STEVENS bt D. Gomm/D. Pryor 21-12, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: CARRINGTON/Mrs. J. MCCREE bt Bell/P. Martin 21-19, 21-17. **Mixed Doubles: C. BARNES/Miss BELL** bt J. Smithers/Miss Martin 21-9, 21-8.

Intermediate Singles: R. MARKWELL bt D. Johnson 12-21, 21-15, 21-5. **Veteran Singles: MARKWELL** bt L. Hoffman 21-16, 21-17.

he found Barnes just that little too strong.

Barnes had a relatively easy passage to the semi-final, dropping only one game, to Birmingham Junior Keith Jones, who he was also to beat in the final of the boys singles.

The shock of the tournament was in the third quarter where Mike Symonds lost 12, -9, 14 to Connie Warren, who was then beaten -10, 11, 12 by Backhouse, who also had wins over Roy Morley and Mike Creamer. Warren found great difficulty with Backhouse's penhold service.

The Women's singles was marred by the 'scratching' of Pam Mortimer, who was unfortunately ill, and of Margaret Phillips, the Welsh International and third seed. Neither Judy Williams nor Lesley Bell dropped a game on their way to the finals. Lesley was so commanding that the most number of points she dropped in any match was against Mrs. Barbara Carless (Wars.) whom she beat 21-10, 21-13 in the quarter final.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

Lilleshall Courses Cut

THE recent Lilleshall course organised by the Birmingham Association proved most successful. It was oversubscribed but those who were lucky found it not only enjoyable but beneficial to their play.

It is rather a pity that these courses, which have now been running for the past 10 years, are being cut out by the C.C.P.R. The advance in standard of Birmingham and Midland Table Tennis has in no small way been helped by this venture, and it will be a sorry thing if the Birmingham or Warwickshire Association cannot get more weekends in the future. The courses have not been parochial in nature but have included people from all over the country.

Congratulations to Keith Jones on his International Selection. He has had a successful season, including some wins over top class men players and indeed deserves this honour. What of his team mate Graham Pressick, however, who has also been doing well this season. He is holder of one open Junior title and losing finalist in two others, and together with Keith the holder of every Junior Doubles Tournament they have entered. Certainly the people who have been given International recognition can consider themselves lucky to have been chosen above Graham.

The County First Team have been given a drubbing by Essex, for whom Chester Barnes again won his two games. Warwicks only wins were a magnificent two straight victory for Pam Mortimer over Lesley Bell and a cracking win by Derek Baddeley over Bobby Stevens.

Warwickshire's Seconds put themselves fairly safe in the second division Midland by beating Monmouthshire 8-2.

Alan Bury of Coventry, playing his first game for Warks. for a number of years, won both his matches in convincing style.



REG WARNER and PAM MORTIMER brave the snow at Lilleshall.

Contrary to the statement by the Staffordshire correspondent in last month's magazine the Staffs/Warks. match position has now been settled amicably by both sides, even though there was never any chance of Staffordshire being awarded the points.

Roger Morris.

TOURIST FROM NEW ZEALAND

by PETER THOMPSON (N.Z.)

FROM articles in your magazine and in the press, it has been interesting to read of Allan Tomlinson's experiences in recent British tournaments and I thought that this might be an opportune time to present a little of his background.

Alan is one of the leading players in Australasia and has represented New Zealand, the North Island and the Auckland Association for many years. He has won annual open individual championships of the Northland, North Shore, Auckland, Franklin, Thames Valley, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, North Taranaki, North Island and New Zealand Associations and is probably the only player ever to have won at so many different tournaments throughout this country.

In 1957 he had a brilliant straight sets victory over Ichiro Ogimura, the former world singles champion, in an Auckland v Japan representative match.

In winning the New Zealand open singles championship in 1959 he brilliantly ended the era of Bob Jackson, a player who had dominated the N.Z. scene for nearly a decade. Jackson, with his excellent ball control had defeated the reigning world singles champion Tosh Tanaka and also Ogimura in representative matches in 1957 and won the N.Z. open singles championship for seven years and the Australian open singles once.

If anyone deserved to take the crown from Jackson, it was Tomlin-

son, because he is always a great fighter and has a strong desire to reach the top.

In 1959 he was presented with the National Player of the Year Award, and of all the players who put something back into the game, he is one of the best, as he is always available for development tours and junior coaching schools.

We all wish him a memorable and enjoyable tour abroad.

DORSET IMPROVE

Dorset, who travel to Wiltshire, on March 16, for the match that may well decide the Second Division (West), have surprised other counties by the extent of their improvement. It has been mainly due to more effort put into the game both in county matches and practice.

Another encouraging feature this season has been the improvement of the juniors. The standard for the past few seasons had declined considerably but this season there is a marked improvement in the standard and also keenness, which is vitally important. Now the juniors want more competition, and Dorset would like to see a South-Western Junior League to give their young talent more match experience as applies to other counties. There is no reason why this should not be done next season.

Barry Weller.

Alexander again Wilts. Champion

ALAN ALEXANDER showed what he thought of the selectors decision to omit him from the team to play Devon when he won the Wilts. Closed title for the third time in the past four seasons when the Wilts. Closed Championships were held at Bulford, near Salisbury.

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles: **A. ALEXANDER** (West Wilts.) bt R. Clode (West Wilts.) 21-16, 21-19. Women's Singles: **Mrs. G. HAZELL** (Swindon) bt Mrs. I. Sherman (Holder-Swindon) 21-15, 21-15. Junior Singles: **T. VANCE** (Holder-Salisbury) bt W. Siltu (Swindon) 21-19, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: **ALEXANDER / J. ANULTS** (West Wilts.) bt K. Charlton (Sal.)/Clode 22-20, 21-13. Mixed Doubles: **E. HOWELL/Mrs. HAZELL** (Swindon) bt T. Cash/Miss J. Ward (Sal.) 21-18, 21-10.

W.W. SURPRISES

Not only did this season's West Wilts. Individual Kick-off Championships attract the greatest entry ever but they also provided the biggest upsets to form with County Champion Alan Alexander going out 21-15, 13-21, 21-11 by Bill Moore in the second round.

RESULTS

Open Singles: **R. CLODE** (R.A.F. Melksham) bt J. Anults (Spencers) 21-15, 21-16. Junior Singles: **M. SMITH** (Dairies) bt T. Davies (Trowbridge) 21-14, 21-17. Handicap Singles: **R. WHITING** (Conigre-r10) bt M. Andrews (Conigre-r10) 24-22, 22-20. Consolation Singles: **G. BROOME** (Spencers) bt J. Ottembrajt (K.S.M. A) 21-14, 18-21, 21-10.

Open Doubles: **T. EDWARDS/D. TAYLOR** (Holders-Dilton) bt A. Alexander/Anults (Spencers) 21-14, 18-21, 21-16. Consolation Doubles: **B. LLOYD/D. MORGAN** (Conigre) bt J. Cleveland/J. Ford (Dairies) 21-16, 21-19. Handicap Doubles: **ANDREWS/D. MORGAN** (Conigre) bt Ford/Smith 21-18, 22-20. **Don Hillier.**

Continued from page 7

is his programme. Cup and Rosebowl matches are frequently played on Friday evenings and players are often committed to play in competitions quite early on Saturday, many miles distant. It is understandable that anxiety to attend these engagements prompts the curtailment of some, not strictly necessary, matches.

There is another aspect, too, which should be remembered. In a recent match, the Rosebowl team in which I am particularly concerned, arrived at the venue after a tedious foggy cold journey to find the hall completely unheated. The refreshments were quite spartan and the fog was thickening as the match progressed. At least one of the visiting team was playing the following day some 150 miles away, I think Mr. Davies would agree that such circumstances should be taken into account.

R. P. SHANNON,
(London, S.W.7.)

JOHNNY LEACH suggests

A POLICY FOR THE FUTURE

THERE are so many promising young players in this country today that a brighter future for English table tennis is assured. This has been obvious to me, and to all those connected with the NEWS OF THE WORLD National Coaching Scheme and the EAGLE-GIRL Championships of Great Britain, for a long time. Over the last decade the standard of play in both competitions has improved beyond recognition.

What a delight it was to see Mary Shannon and Chester Barnes win their respective titles in the English Closed, and David Creamer reach the semi-final, in such a skillful and spectacular manner. It is a long time since we saw English players display such a high speed with accuracy. And though they did not come into so much prominence on this particular occasion, we all know the capability of other such rising stars as Lesley Bell and Michael Symonds.

Frankly, I'm downright optimistic. Don't get me wrong, though. Apart from valuable experience, I don't expect young Chester and David to bring anything back from Prague, nor that they will cause any major upsets. That wouldn't be just optimistic, but plumb crazy.

Both are quite raw so far as top international experience is concerned.

What have they had? So little international competition that when they are involved the occasion becomes for them an ordeal.

Lesley Bell, Mary Shannon, David Creamer and Chester Barnes can all become great players—and in the near future, too—but only if we allow them a concentrated period of play against either the top Central European or Swedish stars during the coming summer, followed by regular participation in the big European tournaments.

If the N.E.C. were given a lead,

and some encouragement from County Associations, and they from leagues and leagues from Clubs, a special training programme such as I have envisaged could be arranged for our youngsters when all the top officials of European countries are gathered together in Prague.

In my view, such a scheme would result in an improvement so striking that after one season tournament organisers all over Europe would be keen as mustard to see England's talented teenagers in action, and would show their interest by issuing regular invitations.

Only then would we regain International respect and public interest. And I don't care what you say, the merest beginner would get a big kick out of our success—and wouldn't we all?

The ball is in our court—what about it then?

AND INTRODUCES

A NEW T.T. CENTRE

telling beginners: "Regular practice success," whereupon, they have found that has usually stumped me. Table tennis has had similar experiences that I am happy to be able

opposite Becontree District line tube station. It couldn't be more convenient, could it? And buses No. 145 and 62 pass the door.

Conditions are as good as you would expect to find at a tournament meeting, with nine tables, excellent lighting and a spacious playing area. Dressing rooms for both sexes are equipped with showers and toilets. In addition, a splendid Buffet provides light meals and refreshments. The hall is centrally heated.

KNOWN TO ALL

You will all know by name and reputation, if not yet in person, the Manager of the Centre. He is **Harry Venner**, the England player and coach so greatly respected in our game.

Harry intends to arrange special

classes and get-togethers for both schoolchildren and housewives. For both the good players and the not-so-good, regular competitions will be organised. Groups of friends who would like to form their own club using the Centre's facilities will be given every opportunity to do so.

As I have said, I am myself closely associated with the launching of this admirable scheme, so I can tell you that it is our aim to make the Centre a true home of sport; one to which parents can send the youngsters, confident in the knowledge that they will have fun learning a fine game in a really pleasant atmosphere under the supervision of experienced officials who are dedicated to their job.

It will also be a place where housewives can meet friends old and new, keep fit by playing themselves, and watch others while enjoying a cuppa and a matter.

A grand opening evening is being planned, when celebrities from all fields of sport are expected to take part. All will be most welcome. Why not come along and help to give this brave project the support it deserves, right from the start?

There are absolutely no strings. Entry to the Centre is absolutely FREE at all times—you pay only if you want to play a game, and then it will only cost you 1s. 3d.—a fee which includes hire of bat and ball. Everyone, of any age, is welcome.

Looking forward to meeting you at our new Centre—and let's make it soon, shall we?

HARTLEPOOLS OPEN

THE "farthest north" in England—the Hartlepoons Open—was held on January 26 and attracted its biggest entry ever with players from Derbyshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Northumberland and Durham, despite the severe hazards of travelling.

There were no real shock results and George Livesey retained his singles title, as well as winning the men's doubles with Bryn Farnworth, and the mixed doubles with Linda Gordon.

Lesley Proudlock won the women's singles and the doubles with Carol Blackshaw.

Three Durham players reached the semi-finals of the Youth's singles with the title going to Colin Eltringham.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: P. DUNCOMBE (Doncaster) bt M. Simpson (Sheffield) 21-17, 27-25. G. LIVESEY (Burnley) bt D. Neale (Middlesbrough) 21-19, 21-15.

Final: LIVESEY bt Duncombe 21-18, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: C. BLACKSHAW (Yorks.) bt F. ROLLING (Yorks.) 21-9, 21-13. L. PROUDLOCK

KENT OPEN

HARRISON GETS HIS REVENGE

JAN HARRISON made amends for his defeat by David Creamer in the Welsh Open earlier in the month, when they fought out the final of the Kent Open at Folkestone on January 27. England's No. 1 won in straight games but it was a close affair with Creamer mainly on the attack. Perhaps he hit a little too much.

Harrison had earlier gained revenge on yet another of his conquerors this season when he beat Alan Rhodes in the semi-final at 10 and 6. He never gave Rhodes a chance this time, hitting from all corners.

Rhodes only just came through against Alan Lindsay (19, -18, 18), while Harrison came near to dropping his first game against Brian Wright, but did not look back in the second.

In the other half Creamer had a tricky time having to beat Chester Barnes (-14, 11, 16), to avenge brother Michael's defeat by the same player, then disposed of Alan Tomlinson (16 and 14) in a calculated comfortable game, and Bobby Stevens, who received the same treatment in the semi-final.

The big surprise in the women's singles was the quarter-final defeat of the holder, Mary Shannon by Elsie Carrington, still reckoned to be the best uncapped player in the country. Mrs.

Carrington's score was -18, 20 and 17, but she did not have enough left to beat Jean McCree in the semi-final and lost over three games.

A minor upset was the defeat of Alma Taft by Joyce Fielder who was in turn beaten by Lesley Bell in the other semi-final.

Mrs. McCree just failed to hold Miss Bell in the first game of the final, but won the second. However, there was no holding her young rival in the decider and Miss Bell came through winner at 19, -19, 12.

English mixed doubles champions Brian Wright and Mary Shannon lost to Barnes and Miss Bell, their runners-up in the mixed final. Barnes and Miss Bell dropped three games in their passage to the final.

It was a sorry weekend for Wright and Miss Shannon, although Mary did have some consolation in taking the women's doubles with Alma Taft when they beat Jean McCree and Peggy Piper in the final. Earlier Shannon and Taft only just scraped through against Mrs. Carrington and Doreen Spooner (-19, 13, 19).

The men's doubles apart from a couple of surprises, went much according to form with Stan Jacobson and Alan Lindsay going through without dropping a game.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: I. HARRISON (Gloucs.) bt A. Rhodes (Middx.) 21-10, 21-6; D. CREAMER (Middx.) bt R. Stevens (Essex) 21-15, 21-16.

Final: HARRISON bt Creamer 21-18, 25-23.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: L. BELL (Essex) bt J. Fielder (Kent) 21-16, 21-10; J. MCCREE (Essex) bt E. Carrington (Essex) 17-21, 21-12, 21-13.

Final: BELL bt McCree 21-19, 19-21, 21-12.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: S. JACOBSON/A. LINDSAY (Middx.) bt D. Creamer/L. Landry (Middx.) 23-21, 21-15; M. CREAMER (Middx.) / T. DENSHAM (Herts.) bt C. Barnes/T. Cornell (Essex) 21-17, 21-16.

Final: JACOBSON/LINDSAY bt Creamer/Densham 23-21, 21-11.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: M. SHANNON (Surrey)/A. TAFT (Herts) bt J. Fielder/K. Stokes (Kent) 21-11, 22-20; MCCREE/M. PIPER (Surrey) bt Bell/P. Martin (Essex) 7-21, 21-14, 21-15.

Final: SHANNON/TAFT bt McCree/Piper 21-14, 19-21, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: BARNES/BELL bt Harrison/Piper 21-13, 19-21, 21-12; B. WRIGHT/SHANNON bt D. Creamer/Carrington 21-15, 21-18.

Final: BARNES/BELL bt Wright/Shannon 19-21, 21-17, 21-13.

Youths' Singles (Boys): Semi-Final: BARNES bt C. Hooper (Kent) 21-8, 21-10; L. GRESSWELL (Middx.) bt A. Robinson (Middx.) 21-19, 21-16.

Final: BARNES bt Gresswell 21-10, 21-18.

Youths' Singles (Girls): Semi-Finals: BELL bt Martin 21-14, 21-5; K. STOKES (Kent) bt G. Smith (Kent) 21-11, 21-11.

Final: BELL bt Stokes 21-10, 21-15.

by EDGAR REAY

THREE FOR LIVESEY

(Yorks.) bt P. Clark (Northumberland) 21-16, 21-19.

Final: PROUDLOCK bt Blackshaw 7-21, 21-16, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: DUNCOMBE/NEALE bt D. McGarry (Yorks.) / D. Schofield (Cheshire) 21-11, 21-12. LIVESEY/B. FARNWORTH (Bolton) bt E. Taylor (Durham)/Simpson 21-15, 21-12.

Final: LIVESEY/FARNWORTH bt Duncombe/Neale 21-15, 16-21, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: BLACKSHAW/PROUDLOCK bt L. Gordon/Rolling (Yorks.) 21-18, 21-16. M. COE/A. JOHNSON (Durham) bt D. Denton (Derbys.) / L. Nisbett (Yorks.) 17-21, 21-12, 21-12.

Final: BLACKSHAW/PROUDLOCK bt Coe/Johnson 21-17, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: LIVESEY/Miss GORDON bt Duncombe/Miss Blackshaw 21-18, 22-20. SIMPSON/Miss PROUDLOCK bt C. Eltringham (Sunderland) / Miss Coe 21-8, 21-16.

Final: LIVESEY/GORDON bt Simpson/Proudlock 21-13, 21-10.

Youth' Singles: Semi-Finals: ELTRINGHAM bt J. Collier (Sunderland) 21-11, 21-18. A. RANSOME (Middlesbrough) bt R. Todd (Sunderland) 21-12, 21-10.

Final: ELTRINGHAM bt Ransome 21-17, 21-17.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND OPEN

By LAURIE LANDRY

SHEAD SHOWS HIS PACES

PETER SHEAD, No. 4 in the country at the start of last season but now unable to play very much because of pressure of work, decided to enter the English Open in his home town. To get match practise, he entered the South of England Open at Croydon on February 16-11 and against most expectations he escaped with the Men's Singles title.

Shead had two close calls, against Derek Baddeley, who he chopped and half-volleyed to and against Brian Brummell who all but had him at 18-10 in the third game, before the Brighton player took the game at 19 to reach the semi-final against Brian Wright.

Wright dropped games to junior Peter Williams and also to N. Brabrook, then gained his revenge over Alan Tomlinson, to whom he had lost in the Welsh Open.

After losing the first game to Wright, Shead drew away to take the next two games, then went on to beat Ralph Gunnion two straight in the final.

Gunnion beat Harry Venner in the semi-final, a very good game. Venner had previously beaten Stan Jacobson

in straight games while Gunnion had disposed of Vic Ireland (16, 17).

Peggy Piper beat the favourite Judy Williams in the Women's Singles final, playing extremely steady and awaiting her chances. Judy can count herself lucky to have got to the final for she only beat her Hertfordshire comrade Jackie Canham very narrowly in the third game.

Terry Densham and Michael Creamer took the Men's Doubles after a tricky first round match against Ralph Gunnion and Laurie Landry. They were 14-14 down in the third game before they reached top form. Wright and Jacobson got through without dropping a game but

could not match Densham and Creamer for speed in the final.

The Women's Doubles went to Judy Williams and Jean Head, with a final win over Peggy Piper and Mary Hicks,

The Mixed Doubles was quite a surprise. Top seeds Brian Wright and Judy Williams just lost to Laurie Landry and Irene Ogus in the semi-final. The two girls kept the ball going whilst Brian and Laurie picked out the hits.

The final was even more thrilling. Baddeley and Jean Head just won the first game at 18 after trailing all the way. They then went to a 20-15 lead in the second game but as the game was perceptibly slowed down, they let it slip only for Landry and Ogus to take the third and the title.

Two all-Hertfordshire junior finals gave the titles to Peter Williams and Jackie Canham.

IRISH OPEN

By NIEL HURLEY

Caffrey Wins at Home

TOMMY CAFFREY had his greatest moment in his home Town Hall at Balbriggan on February 2 when he won the Irish Open for the first time. He sent the partisan crowd wild with delight as his first beat Alan Tomlinson, of New Zealand, in the semi-final, then dethroned Johnny Leach, the defending champion in the final.

In the face of such opposition few expected Caffrey to triumph but he had confidence in his own ability. He never allowed Tomlinson to use his loop drive as he pegged away with rapier like thrusts on both wings. Encouraged by his success of winning the first game at 19 he forged ahead to 11-3 but was caught and eventually lost the second at 19. This spurred Caffrey to greater efforts and he won the third at 15.

In the final against Leach, Caffrey started with four winners and never looked back, eventually winning 21-16, 21-13, 21-15. Leach had beaten Brian Wright in the other semi-final.

The women's final was a one sided affair with Mary Shannon repeating her English closed win over Diane Rowe, to win 21-13, 21-13.

The men's doubles provided another thriller and saw Caffrey annex a second title with Bertie Kerr, of Scotland, when they beat Wright and Tomlinson in a remarkable finish. The players were under the impression that it was best of three games and after Wright and Tomlinson won the first two they shook hands. Then came the announcement that it was best of five and Caffrey and Kerr proceeded to win the next three.

Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon, the European champions, took the women's doubles, while Miss Rowe and Leach teamed up to win the mixed.

Men's Singles: T. CAFFREY (Ireland) bt J. Leach (Essex) 21-16, 21-13, 21-15.
Women's Singles: M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt D. Rowe (Middlesex) 21-13, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: CAFFREY/B. KERR (Scotland) bt A. Tomlinson (N. Zealand)/

B. Wright (Middx.) 11-21, 18-21, 21-12, 21-19, 21-18. **Women's Doubles:** ROWE/SHANNON bt V. Lambert/H. Lambert (Ireland) 22-20, 21-15. **Mixed Doubles:** LEACH/Miss ROWE bt Caffrey/Miss Lambert 21-13, 21-10.

Boys' Singles: J. REILLY (Scotland) bt J. Langan (Ireland) 21-14, 20-22, 25-23. **Girls' Singles:** M. FINLAY (Ireland) bt B. Armour (Ireland) 19-21, 21-16, 21-15.

GOLDING INVITATION

VICTOR BARNA made one of his rare competitive appearances in the Golding Invitation in Cork and won the men's doubles title with Ireland's Tommy Caffrey.

Caffrey failed to report his Irish Open success in the singles and was beaten in the final by England's Ian Harrison at 21-15, 21-7, 21-11. Harrison's toughest opposition came from the 14 years old Irish boy Jimmy Langan, who took him to 19 in the third.

Caffrey also won the mixed doubles with Vi Lambert, who was also successful in the women's doubles with Elizabeth Reid.

Men's Singles: I. HARRISON (England) bt T. Caffrey 21-15, 21-7, 21-11. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. E. REID (Belfast) bt V. Lambert (Dublin) 21-17, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: V. BARNA (England)/CAFFREY bt Harrison/W. Pappin (Ireland) 10-21, 12-21, 21-14, 21-11, 21-15. **Women's Doubles:** REID/LAMBERT bt A. Mahony/A. Rochford (Dublin) 21-15, 21-16. **Mixed Doubles:** CAFFREY/Miss LAMBERT bt Barna/Miss Mahony 21-14, 21-16.

IRELAND v AUSTRALIA

IRELAND were hosts to the Australian touring team at Belfast on February 20, when the visitors scored a merited 7-2 victory.

Detailed scores (Irish names first): T. Caffrey lost to M. Wilcox —17, —17; bt S. Morgan 21, 14; bt C. McDonald 15, —19, 13. D. Foley lost to McDonald —16, —8; lost to Wilcox —12, —13; lost to Morgan —14, —18. C. Thompson lost to Morgan —9, —15; lost to Wilcox —8, —16; lost to McDonald —19, —17.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: P. SHEAD (Sussex) bt B. Wright (Middx.) 12-21, 21-17, 21-14; R. GUNNION (Warwicks.) bt H. Venner (Surrey) 21-15, 18-21, 21-16.

Final: SHEAD bt Gunnion 21-16, 21-14. **Women's Singles: Semi-Finals:** M. PIPER (Surrey) bt I. Ogus (Middx.) 21-8, 21-18; J. WILLIAMS (Herts.) bt J. Canham (Herts.) 17-21, 22-20, 21-19.

Final: PIPER bt Williams 21-19, 21-17.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: M. CREAMER (Middx.)/T. DENSHAM (Herts.) bt H. Venner (Surrey)/D. Wall (S. Africa) 21-18, 10-21, 21-12; B. WRIGHT/S. JACOBSON (Middx.) bt G. Whalley (Sussex)/C. Warren (Surrey) 21-17, 25-23.

Final: CREAMER/DENSHAM bt Wright/Jacobson 15-21, 21-13, 21-16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: J. HEAD (Surrey)/WILLIAMS bt M. Jones/C. Carter (Kent) 19-21, 21-13, 21-12; M. HICKS (Middx.)/PIPER bt P. Martin (Essex)/I. Ogus (Middx.) 21-19, 21-10.

Final: HEAD/WILLIAMS bt Hicks/Piper 21-10, 24-22.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: L. LANDRY/I. OGUS (Middx.) bt Wright (Middx.)/Williams (Herts.) 21-19, 17-21, 21-19; D. BADDELEY (Warwicks.)/J. HEAD (Surrey) bt Densham (Herts.)/Hicks (Middx.) 17-21, 21-13, 21-13.

Final: LANDRY/OGUS bt Baddeley/Head 18-21, 22-20, 21-16.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: P. WILLIAMS (Herts.) bt M. Watts (Surrey) 21-10, 21-15; S. SEAHOLME (Herts.) bt K. Glass (Surrey) 21-16, 21-14.

Final: WILLIAMS bt Seaholme 21-11, 21-12.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: J. CANHAM (Herts.) bt P. Martin (Essex) 21-16, 21-13; P. HEMMINGS (Herts.) bt L. Henwood (Essex) 21-18, 21-18.

Final: CANHAM bt Hemmings 21-11, 21-14.

AROUND EAST ANGLIA

NORWICH HEAD FOR DOUBLE

CONGRATULATIONS to Norwich B upon retaining the second division East Anglian League championship, when they beat Lowestoft B at C.E.Y.M.S. 8-2. Bernard Hurrell, Phillip Graver, David Skedge, David Blanch and Brenda Phillipo once again went through unbeaten.

Norwich A, following a 7-3 win over

Lowestoft A, need only to draw with Yarmouth, whom they beat away, to bring home the double to the East Anglian capital.

Norwich went down 0-9 to Birmingham in the Rose Bowl. Pam Mortimer, Judy Williams, the ex-Hertfordshire player now at Birmingham University, and Barbara Carless were much too strong for Mary Turner, Marion Harrison and Stella Perry.

The ladies are much in mind at present. W/O W. Matthews, Norfolk's Veteran champion and Dereham League player, has started coaching, at the request of National Coach Jack Carrington, at Thetford Girls' Grammar School. Shall we see a league at Thetford soon, with the greatly increasing population from London? This could prove a very happy way of "mixing in!"

Excellent news comes from Harleston, where Don Stacey, secretary of the re-established league, now reports eight teams in membership. At North Walsham, April 22 is the date for another Veterans' event.

Halvergate, by beating Caister 8-2, are virtually assured of Premier Division honours at Great Yarmouth. St. Andrew's A, with the Cadmore twins and David Tasker (all aged 15) head Division III with a 100 per cent record. Free-thorpe top Division I and Panthers B Division II.

Junior coaching has moved to Alderman Leach School, Gorleston. The town championships starting on March 1 will doubtless be of great interest to the juniors, following Duggie Clutton's coaching.

Ewles Moves

We learn that Duggie's assistant, Maurice Ewles, is being posted to Norwich. Will he play for his brother's club, Y.M.C.A., who are making a fighting comeback to avoid relegation from Norwich Division I?

Y.M.C.A. (R. Butler, their new secretary; the R.A.F. pair, E. James and P. Thorne; and Lennie Miller, whom I have never seen play better) caused a sensation by beating mighty Gothic (without Les Holdom) 8-2, a margin greater than anyone could remember. Another fine Norwich performance was that of Sprowston United, who took the first point of the season off Lads' Club. When trailing 3-5, C. Critten beat A. King, and D. Lee beat R. Blanch 21-19, 21-17 to make it 5-5. N.A.L.G.O. Ladies, with Miss K. and Miss E. Johnson, Mrs. N. Smith and Miss Connie Foyster, hit the eye as fourth in Division VI. They entered the men's league when the ladies' division was discontinued in 1958-59. Ought the ladies' division to be restarted, to include schoolgirls as well? Modified playing hours might be considered.

Wymondham have had a room crisis. Kingsmen lost theirs at King's Head, whilst Abbey, their leading club, have had to leave the church school rooms.

Wymondham's 8-2 defeat by Dereham was their first since Dereham re-entered the E. Anglian League in 1959. The best match in this was that in which Loveday and Mrs. Betts (D.) beat Kerrison and Mrs. Bartram (W.). Mrs. Bartram made her debut in the match against Yarmouth, which Wymondham lost 7-3.

Ipswich have been beaten both by Yarmouth (7-3) and Norwich (9-1), results which would have surprised everyone last season.

We are told by Les Holdom that the last year's entries in the Norwich Championships (101) have now been passed.

J. S. Penny.

SUFFOLK NOTES

UNEXPECTED FINALISTS AT IPSWICH

THIS season's Ipswich tournament has thrown up quite a few unexpected finalists, and the average age of the qualifiers must be somewhat lower than in recent years. Dave Halliday's entry into the navy has left the field open, although on form, Howard Osborn looks a likely winner of the Men's Singles.

Young players' successes include David Mann, aged sixteen, in the men's singles qualifiers, and also in the men's doubles in partnership with Brian Buckle. One of the finalists in the restricted singles is seventeen-year-old Ray Howe, while sixteen-year-old Linda Barrett will oppose Pam Rogers in the Ladies' Singles.

These names sound pleasantly in the ears of local coaches as the players are the first to emerge with distinction since Carrington awakened interest in the county. Success in the tournament can only encourage coaches and other pupils to re-double their efforts.

The Ipswich tournament had a bumper entry this season, and was well-up on the numbers entered twelve months ago had to relate, entries in the Suffolk "Closed" from the Ipswich area are considerably lower in comparison, and this will no doubt present another problem for the county committee in due course.

D. J. Barrett.

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES PROVIDE COACHING

THE South East Midlands League shows Cambridge City in a good position to win the open section, barring freak results. This is entirely due to a fine team spirit and the will to win in matches. Their form has greatly improved over last season and they are so far unbeaten.

It is a different story for the City's ladies, for they have not shown sufficient consistency. However, the experience should do them good. Carole Chapman is a most improved player, with a good attack and steady defence, which could bring her a permanent county place next season while still a junior.

An added incentive is the formation of coaching classes by the Educational Authorities for youngsters within the ages of 15 to 19 years. Once these are under way the whole Cambridgeshire Association team will be in action.

A number of Cambridgeshire players took part in the Bedford Radius Championships, but did not achieve any marked success. The party included juniors, for whom it was valuable experience.

The Cambridge League is now building up to an exciting stage with Y.M.C.A. and N.C.I. and Press running neck and neck for the title. John Thurston is piloting N.C.I., who are having some narrow wins over lesser class teams. Press, with Ron Nunn and Keith Chapman, are striving hard for honours but received a sharp setback at the hands of N.C.I.

Wesley continue to struggle at the bottom of the division and may well return to the lower division. The other divisions are all in the throes of keen struggles and such is the growing enthusiasm that more divisions may have to be added to the league next season.

The Cambridgeshire Closed Championships are being held on March 25-28. A new event for the average player is on a knock-out basis for individuals in each division. The top two players in each division play against each other for the final honours.

This is an opportunity for up and coming youngsters. It is hoped to televise the finals.

Leslie Constable.

WELSH CORNER

WALES MAY CUT CAPS

THE Arctic weather, which relented long enough for our many "foreign" entrants to make the journey to Cardiff for the Welsh Open, clamped down again with a vengeance immediately afterwards, with disastrous results to the Welsh League programme.

Many of our Leagues are in the Valleys, where the snow and ice was particularly bad, and however keen players may be, they cannot be expected to make long car journeys on Saturday nights at a risk of being stranded.

Thus the League programme has been seriously dislocated, and, like Soccer, will probably have to have an extension to enable the backlog to be made up.

Another victim of the big freeze was the Glamorgan-Worcestershire match in the National Counties programme, which was due to be played in Worcestershire. A further date has not yet been arranged.

Monmouthshire were able to play their Senior and Junior match with Oxfordshire, the former at Newport, and the latter at Gikwern, and it was again left to the Juniors to provide the bright spot, with a very good win. The Seniors failed dismally, and it must be a source of great worry to the Monmouthshire Selectors to find that their best players are unable even to hold their own in the Second Division.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

MIDDLESEX SCHOOLS

THE Middlesex Inter-Schools Competition, has now reached the Zone semi-finals, i.e. the last 16. Tottenham Grammar School are the holders and are still in the competition. They still have Ian Giles who was a ranked England junior last year. Main opposition will come in the same zone from Albany County who have Tony Robinson, this year's junior International.

In another of the zones is Ashford County School with Leslie Gresswell, also junior international.

The Borough Youth competition has got to the quarter-final stage. Popular the holders, are out to retain their title and still there are Tottenham, last year's runners-up.

It now seems certain that Acton will win the Inter-League championships as they have already beaten winners for the last two years, Wembley and Willesden. North Acton, who are back in the competition after a year of absence, look as if they might be promoted. Much depends on their match with Uxbridge. North Middlesex II look to be in with a chance of promotion from the other 2nd division.

However, their concern can be no greater than that of the Welsh Selectors at the result of the recent Junior International with England at Southampton. Played in excellent conditions, and before a very appreciative crowd, this match served to indicate once again how far our Juniors are below English standards. Our four players did their best but were so far below that produced by the English boys that the match was almost a humiliation.

Where does the fault lie? There are those, particularly the Abergavenny officials, who claim that there is insufficient inducement given to the youngsters and who are pressing for more International matches. There are others who state equally categorically that until Welsh juniors show more ability, it is a farce to award "caps" just for the sake of filling four places in a team.

Which comes first, the egg of more ability or the chicken of more opportunities?

Welsh juniors have opportunities, the opportunities of playing in more tournaments, a thing their counterparts in England do to a quite fantastic extent. Travelling around the various English tournaments, one finds the same juniors Saturday after Saturday, chasing the honours. How many of ours do this? How many, too, of those juniors who promise much in their early years stay on in the game? The answer is precious few; even from that stronghold of the Junior game, Abergavenny fostered by Jack Price. How many of his boys are still in Welsh table tennis?

The answer must lie in a stiffer attitude by the Welsh Selectors. No international "caps" until players show they are somewhere near as good as hundreds across the border, and (this for senior players, too), no caps for any player who does not enter at least every Welsh Tournament.

If there can be an excuse for the debacle at Southampton it could be in the fact that neither Buck, Tren-

chard or Davies, has had any real experience. But Mansfield has, and his performance was just as disappointing.

It is perhaps unfair that the whole of our spleen this month should have been directed against the boys. The truth is that same thing applies to our seniors, and unless there are signs soon of some newcomers making the "break through", we are going to be very badly off indeed.

Now to more pleasant things. The Welsh Association has been able to arrange three matches with the Australians, who are touring Britain prior to their participation in the Worlds at Prague.

These have been arranged as follows:—

Thursday, March 14th, at Abergavenny Town Hall, for which the Welsh Team is Alan Thomas, George Evans, Ron Davies and Johnny Mansfield.

Friday, March 15th, at The Memorial Hall, Barry. Team: Alan Thomas, George Evans, Ron Davies, Phillip Bevan.

Saturday, March 16th, at The Esso Co's Sports Hall, Milford Haven. Team: Alan Thomas, Ron Davies, Alan Morris, and Bernard Dimascio.

The only new "cap" is Phillip Bevan.

To make way for the Australian match at Milford, the all important Glamorgan clash with Staffordshire in the National Counties has been postponed until the 23rd March.

Provided the necessary funds can be raised, Wales will be represented in Prague by the following players—Alan Thomas, George Evans and Ron Davies, Margaret Phillips and Sandra Morgan. Audrey Bates is unfortunately unable to make the trip.

The Welsh Closed in on March 9th, and entries look like being good.

ESSEX NOTES

EAST LONDON are the only Essex League left in the Wilmott Cup. They had a great 5-4 win over Wembley.

Tommy Caldwell pulled off the triple crown in the Chelmsford Championships. He beat Glen Clancy 21-7, 21-12 in the men's singles final and partnered Geoff Newman and Paula Cant to win the men's doubles and mixed. June Crozier beat Betty Bird 21-17, 21-17 in the women's singles final.

Lesley Bell won four titles in the Dagenham Championships but perhaps the most outstanding performance was that of 14-year-old David Brown who defeated Nos. 2 and 3 seeds, Roy Murray and Lionel Parks, in the men's singles before being beaten in three games in the final by No. 1 seed, David Garner.

Frank Bateman.

TALKING POINTS Conducted by **LAURIE LANDRY**

Alma is Misplaced

THE new Women's Ranking List has been a strong talking point up and down the country and it chiefly concerned the placing of Alma Taft at No. 5.

Miss Taft did not appear on the ranking list that started off the season, but she entered the early tournaments with considerable success, reaching the finals at both the East of England and Essex Opens, losing to Lesley Bell in both. The only ranked player that she beat was Joyce Fielder.

Alma then won her first singles in the North of England at Manchester after Miss Bell had been surprisingly beaten by Eileen Starkie, who fell to Alma in the semi-final. Miss Taft then beat Lesley Proudlock in the final.

Her performances at this point were fairly good as they included a win over the then England No. 6 (Miss Fielder) but when she was ranked No. 4 in the middle of October, no one apart from Miss Bell and Miss Fielder of the ranked players had any results. So how could some-

one be placed indiscriminately above many others players such as Jean McCree, Peggy Piper and Pam Mortimer, who at that time had no results upon which to judge.

Since that list there has been one more in which Alma was down-placed just one position to No. 5 following such a loss to Joan Collier in the Welsh Open and a revenge defeat at the hands of Lesley Proudlock at Birmingham. The English Closed saw her lose to Judy Williams fairly convincingly. Judy is placed at No. 7.

Pam Wins

Pam Mortimer, meanwhile, has *real* wins. She beat Lesley Bell in the English Closed and Mary Shannon in a county match shortly afterwards. Pam is marked at No. 6.

Alma says that she could not understand it when she was made No. 4 and genuinely feels embarrassed at now being No. 5.

Players up and down the country wonder why.

To the tournaments and to Folkestone where the Kent Open was once

more a great success. There were one or two complaints about having to climb over barriers and also about the posts supporting the roof getting in the way of play. Both valid points, but these are part of the venue and permanent fixtures.

The Midland Open seems always to be a better tournament than the Birmingham. Much is learnt from the earlier effort. This year it was not better—because the Birmingham went through without a hitch. Well done, Birmingham, both your tournaments passed this year.

The South of England had fewer tables, making it necessary to have a smaller entry. This, for once, showed the advantage of sending in an early entry!

ESSEX CLOSED

THE Essex Closed, which has built up an excellent reputation for playing conditions and organisation, moves into the Metropolitan area this season. It is being held at the Eton Manor Clubs, Riseholm Street, Hackney Wick, on March 30-31.

It is anticipated that there will be a big entry from the East London League.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

by FRANK BATEMAN

CHESHIRE AND KENT GO DOWN

CHESHIRE are becoming like a "Yo-Yo" between the Premier and Second Divisions of the National County Championships—up one year; down the next. This time it is their turn for the big drop, their fate having been sealed over the past month with defeats at the hands of Surrey and Middlesex.

They have only one match to go and even if they win that by the biggest possible margin it will not be enough to save them from a return to the Second Division.

Cheshire were completely crushed by Surrey, who ran out winners at 9-0. In fact, Surrey's superiority was such that Cheshire won only one game when Peter Walmsley was beaten 14-21, 21-17 (expedite), 21-11 by Tony Miller. The remainder of the matches finished two straight and none suffered a heavier defeat than Derek Schofield, who was allowed only eight points in the first game and four in the second, by George Muranyi.

Cheshire did better against Middlesex, the reigning champions, but were well beaten 7-2. Their two successes came from Walmsley, who beat Brian Wright 11-21, 21-13, 22-20, and

Mrs. Bradshaw, who had a straight games win over Mrs. Redfearn. The nearest they came to any further success was when Crossley took a game from David Creamer.

Cheshire's partners in relegation will be Kent who, still searching for their first win of the season, were beaten 6-3 by Surrey.

Kent managed to stay up in the Premier Division last season, but this time they have found it an uphill struggle and have not improved as expected. No Kent player was more disappointed than Tony Piddock, who lost to both Vic Ireland and Muranyi. Piddock saved some shreds of prestige in the men's doubles where he partnered Henry Buist to beat Ireland and Moore.

Joyce Fielder threatened a surprise when she took the first game from Mary Shannon in the women's singles, but the English closed champion recovered to run out winner at 15-21, 21-17, 21-13. Dennis Whittaker also promised well for Kent before going down to Tony Miller at 18 in the third.

Prior to these two matches Surrey suffered a 7-2 defeat at the hands of Lancashire, who now appear strongly

placed to finish as runners-up to Middlesex. Muranyi, against Forshaw, and Ireland, against Mike Symonds, provided the Surrey successes.

I am told, however, that this match proved a "crackerjack," full of good table tennis and explosive attacking shots from both teams. The capacity crowd particularly enjoyed the brand of play provided by Jimmy Moore and Kevin Forshaw. It was attack and counter-attack throughout and it would appear that dull uninspiring play is definitely on the way out.

Lancashire gained yet a further success when they beat Gloucestershire 7-2. In the only other Premier Division match of the month Essex crushed Warwickshire 7-2. As Essex chairman George Eagles stated after the match, which was admirably staged by the Basildon League at Laindon, "The score in no way reflected the closeness of the match."

Derek Baddeley scored a fine win over Bobby Stevens and Pam Mortimer, continuing her recent brilliant form, repeated her English closed success over Lesley Bell at 19 and 17.

The crucial event was the men's doubles where the home pair of Stevens and Raybould had to fight off match points in the second set before beating Baddeley and Millington 18-21, 25-23, 21-14.

Cambridgeshire continue to find themselves out of the depth in the higher sphere of the Second Division (South), suffering two more crushing defeats. Sussex thrashed them 10-0, while Suffolk were almost as severe when they won 9-1. And that was the first rubber that Cambridgeshire have won out of 30 in this division, in which Hertfordshire are the only unbeaten side.

Monmouthshire, newcomers to the championship this season, have obviously been placed too highly in the Second Division (Midland) and by suffering defeats by Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, both at 8-2, they have still to win a match.

Staffordshire with a 9-1 trouncing of Warwickshire now become chief rivals to Glamorgan for this section. Both sides are unbeaten. There were no matches in the Second Division (North) where Lancashire and Yorkshire are both unbeaten.

Somerset crushed Cornwall 8-2 in the Second West, which has three un-

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

March 16	Cheshire v Essex	
March 16	Kent v Warwickshire, Bowaters, Remembrance Road, Sittingbourne	7.15 p.m.
March 16	Lancashire v Middlesex, Atkinson Vehicles Ltd., Winery Lane, Walton-le-Dale, Preston	7 p.m.
March 16	Surrey v Gloucestershire, Colman Institute, London Road, Redhill	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

March 16	Northumberland v Lancashire
March 16	Lincolnshire v Yorkshire

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

March 16	Wiltshire v Dorsetshire
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SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)

March 16	Oxfordshire v Warwickshire
March 16	Glamorganshire v Staffordshire
March 16	Monmouthshire v Worcestershire
March 30	Bedfordshire v Monmouthshire

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

March 16	Sussex v Suffolk, St. Matthew's Parish Room, Silverhill, St. Leonards-on-Sea	6.30 p.m.
March 16	Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire, Reeds Corrugated Cases, Histon	7 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

March 16	Berkshire v Hertfordshire, Y.M.C.A., Parkside Road, Reading	7 p.m.
March 16	Essex v Buckinghamshire	
March 16	Huntingdonshire v Norfolk, Bowling Club, St. Neots	7 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

March 16	Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
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JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)

March 16	Cheshunt v Lancashire
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JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)

March 16	Berkshire v Surrey, St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Newbury	3.30 p.m.
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JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)

March 16	Essex v Middlesex, St. Lukes, Canning Town, E.16	7.30 p.m.
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JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)

March 16	Oxfordshire v Warwickshire
March 16	Monmouthshire v Gloucestershire

beaten teams, Devonshire, Dorset and Wiltshire.

Berkshire moved into second place behind Essex in the Southern Division with a 6-4 win over Buckinghamshire,

and Derbyshire gained a similar position behind Yorkshire in the Midland Division with an 8-2 win over Worcestershire.

Sussex became champions of the Junior Division South when they beat Kent, their nearest rivals, 6-4, to complete their season with an unbeaten record.

Essex, following a 9-1 trouncing of Cambridgeshire, are almost home and dry in the Junior Division East, while, in contrast to their senior side, Monmouthshire still make the pace in the Junior West where they beat Oxfordshire 8-2.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Middlesex	6	6	0	40	14	12
Lancashire	6	5	1	35	19	10
Essex	6	4	2	32	22	8
Warwickshire	6	3	3	27	27	6
Surrey	6	3	3	26	28	6
Gloucestershire	6	2	4	25	29	4
Cheshire	6	1	5	11	43	2
Kent	6	0	6	20	34	0

SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Glamorgan	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Staffordshire	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Warwickshire	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Oxfordshire	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Worcestershire	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Bedfordshire	5	0	1	4	15	35	1
Monmouthshire	4	0	0	4	4	36	0

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

Lancashire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Lincolnshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Durham	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Northumberland	3	0	0	0	4	26	0

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Sussex	3	2	0	1	20	20	4
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Suffolk	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Cambridgeshire	3	0	0	3	1	29	0

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

Devonshire	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Dorset	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Wiltshire	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Somerset	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Cornwall	4	0	1	3	10	30	1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Essex	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Berkshire	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Buckinghamshire	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Hertfordshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	4
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	8	32	0
Huntingdonshire	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Derbyshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Staffordshire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Nottinghamshire	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Worcestershire	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)

Essex	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Hertfordshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	24	6	4
Suffolk	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	1	39	0

JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)

Monmouthshire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Gloucestershire	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Warwickshire	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Staffordshire	1	0	1	0	4	6	0
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)

Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	22	10	6
Durham	4	2	0	2	16	16	4
Lancashire	2	1	0	1	7	9	2
Cheshire	2	0	0	2	3	13	0

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)

Sussex	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Kent	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Surrey	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Berkshire	3	2	0	3	7	23	0

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Essex 7, Warwickshire 2
 R. Raybould bt M. Billington 17, 14; bt D. Baddeley 20, 14. R. Stevens lost to Baddeley —10, 12, —19; bt R. Gunnion 18, 20. C. Barnes bt Gunnion —19, 15, 15; bt Billington 15, 17.
 Raybould/Stevens bt Baddeley/Billington —18, 23, 14.
 Miss L. Bell lost to Miss P. Mortimer —19, —17.
 Barnes/Miss Bell bt Gunnion/Miss Mortimer —18, 16, 18.

Lancashire 7, Surrey 2

K. Foreshaw lost to G. Muranyi —17, 15, —15; bt J. Moore —19, 20, 20. J. Ingber bt Moore 12, 11; bt V. Ireland 19, 10. M. Symonds lost to Ireland 13, —18, —16; bt Muranyi 20, 19.
 Foreshaw/R. Crushan bt Moore/Muranyi 19, —20, 17.
 Miss D. Fitzgerald bt Miss M. Piper 19, —20, 17.
 Symonds/Miss Fitzgerald bt Ireland/Miss Piper 17, 19.

Surrey 6, Kent 3

Miller bt D. Whittaker —18, 17, 18; lost to H. Buist —17, —19. Ireland lost to Buist —21, 15, —16; bt A. Piddock 14, 15. Muranyi bt Piddock —18, 14, 11; bt Whittaker 11, 14.
 Ireland/Moore lost to Piddock/Buist —15, —16.
 Miss M. Shannon bt Miss J. Fielder —15, 17, 13.
 Muranyi/Miss Shannon bt Whittaker/Miss Fielder 17, 16.

Middlesex 7, Cheshire 2

A. Lindsey bt P. Walmsley 8, 6; bt A. Crossley 7, 12. E. Wright bt D. Schofield 20, 18; lost to Walmsley 11, —13, —20. D. Creamer bt Crossley 14, —18, 18; bt Schofield 8, 17.
 Creamer/Wright bt Schofield/N. O'Brien 20, 16.
 Mrs. I. Redfern lost to Mrs. Bradshaw —13, —12.
 Lindsey/Mrs. Redfern bt O'Brien/Mrs. Bradshaw 22, 15.

Surrey 9, Cheshire 0

Miller bt Walmsley 11, 18; bt Crossley —14, 21-17 (expedite), 21-11. Ireland bt Crossley 8, 15; bt Schofield 15, 17. Muranyi bt Schofield 8, 4; bt Walmsley 16, 18.
 Moore/Ireland bt Schofield/O'Brien 14, 10.
 Miss Shannon bt Mrs. Bradshaw 10, 9.
 Muranyi/Miss Shannon bt O'Brien/Mrs. Bradshaw 16, 4.

Lancashire 7, Gloucestershire 2

SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)

Worcestershire 6, Bedfordshire 4
Staffordshire 9, Warwickshire 1
Monmouthshire 2, Oxfordshire 3
Warwickshire 8, Monmouthshire 2

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)
Cambridgeshire 0, Sussex 10
Suffolk 9, Cambridgeshire 1

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)
Somerset 8, Cornwall 2

MIDLAND DIVISION
Worcestershire 2, Derbyshire 8

SOUTHERN DIVISION
Buckinghamshire 4, Berkshire 6

JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)
Cambridgeshire 1, Essex 9

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)
Sussex 6, Kent 4
Berkshire 4, Hampshire 6

JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)
Monmouthshire 8, Oxfordshire 2

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

ALL Leicestershire is awaiting the big event of the year—the junior international between England and West Germany on March 4. A full house looks certain. It will certainly be a busy period for Leicestershire for two days previously the Closed Championships will have been staged.

In the Leicester Y.O.C. 'B' Division Shaftesbury Boys Club lead the way, with R. Hill and T. Sperry both playing well. Having a good run in the Coalville League are Merrylees Colliery, led by the experienced N. Robinson. Surprise results have been a feature of the Loughborough League this season. The young Garendon School side, ably managed by M. Fowler, have produced most of them.

The county coaching programme operated by Tom Whiteman and Philip Reid includes regular visits to St. Chad's, Great Glen and Donington Hall. Peter Harrison, too, is doing great work at Blaby Boys' Club.

Interest in the Leicestershire and District League is being maintained with most divisions very open.

Philip Reid.

INSURANCE OFFICES CHAMPIONSHIPS

(1 February, 1963)

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: D. S. BASDEN (Royal Exchange) bt M. Westoby (London Ass.) 21-16, 16-21, 21-11. P. KIRKLAND (Royal London) bt B. Meisel (Co-op.) 24-22, 21-17. **Final:** KIRKLAND bt Basden 26-24, 21-17.

Women's Singles: Final: Mrs. A. HEWITT (Northern) bt Mrs. B. Clegg (Northern) 21-5, 9-21, 21-16.

Junior Men's Singles: BASDEN bt M. W. Pond (Sun) 21-11, 21-9. **Junior Ladies' Singles: M. POOLE** (Temple Bar) bt M. Rudman (Royal London) 21-19, 21-10.

Veteran Men's Singles: E. C. PROWEN (Eagle Star) bt D. Herington (Unity) 21-10, 21-15. **Veteran Women's Singles: J. TRAVELLER** (Lloyds) bt K. Schumacher (Temple Bar) 21-8, 21-13.

Men's Singles, Lower Divisions: M. J. BISHOP (National Mutual) bt R. W. Hill (Sentinel) 20-22, 21-16, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: BASDEN/MEISEL bt J. Tuttle (Pearl)/J. Barry (Royal Exchange) 16-21, 21-14, 21-19. **Women's Doubles: HEWITT/CLEGG** w.o. V. Palmer (Eagle Star)/J. Wadling (Royal London). **Mixed Doubles: D. BLOY** (London)/Mrs. HEWITT bt Barry/Miss J. Roads (Lloyds) 21-15, 11-21, 21-14.

OFFICIAL NEWS

AMONG the items discussed at The National Executive Committee meeting on 2nd February, 1963 were:

Annual General Meeting. This has been assigned for 6th July, 1963 in the Bishop Patridge Hall, Church House, Westminster, London, S.W.1, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Election of Officers and National Executive Committee 1963/64. The following dates were agreed for the 1963/64 elections:

Nomination Papers to be dispatched by 18th March, 1963.

Nomination Papers to be returned by 16th April, 1963.

Nomination List to be published by 30th April, 1963.

Candidates acceptance of Nomination to be returned by 13th May, 1963.

Voting Papers to be dispatched by 15th May, 1963.

Voting Papers to be returned by 12th June, 1963.

Annual Report. It was agreed that this report be made up to 30th April, 1963, and the sub-committee to deal with it should be Messrs Eyles, Blunn, James and Clemett. Mr. Clemett acting as Editor of the Report.

Torch Trophy Trust. It was noted that this new Trust had been set up with the express purpose of considering an Award to be given to Local organisers of Sport throughout the Country. The N.E.C. expressed great interest in the objects of the Trust and will keep in close touch with the various developments as they arise.

International Matches versus U.S.A. A communication had been received from the U.S.T.T.A. asking if two International matches could be arranged versus their World Championships team when they are in England between the 28th-31st March, 1963. The N.E.C. gave approval to these two matches being staged, one of which has been arranged at Newbury. The organiser of this match will be Mr. A. A. J. Mosson, of 29, Croft Road, Newbury, Berks. The other match will be played in London, the venue not yet having been decided.

Invitation from United States T.T.A. An invitation had been received from

the U.S.T.T.A. for the E.T.T.A. to send two 'Loop' drive players to America to participate in various matches against their players. The N.E.C. agreed that the invitation should be extended to D. Baddeley (Warwicks.) and S. Jacobson (Middx.). These two players will fly to New York on Monday, 4th March and will return with the U.S.T.T.A. World Championships party on the 27th March, 1963.

World Championships—Prague, 5th-14th April, 1963. The Committee agreed that 4 men, 3 women and a non-playing captain should attend these championships. The Secretary of the Association was appointed the Delegate to the I.T.T.F. Congress and will at the same time attend the European Table Tennis Union's Committee meeting to discuss the further items which arise regarding the 1964 European Championships which are scheduled to be played in London in April of that year.

Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Competitions. The Committee noted that the Trustees of these National Competitions have approved a new wording to Rule 2. This new wording will read as follows, commencing with the 1963/64 season:

"RULE 2. A League shall be represented in each tie by three players. A player may represent a League in whose competition he is currently taking part; a player not taking part in any League competition may represent the League in whose competition he last took part. No player may represent more than one League in the competitions in one season."

Alterations to the Rules of the Association. Any alterations to the Rules of the Association which have been received by the closing date 28th February, 1963 will be circulated to the membership during March in accordance with Rule 34 of the E.T.T.A. constitution.

Affiliation Fees. The Committee noted that certain Leagues had not yet finally settled their fees for the current season. The League Hon. Treasurers are asked to deal with this matter during the next two weeks so that the Association's records can be finalised in this respect for the 1962/63 season. The Committee also wished to bring to the notice of all affiliated League Hon. Treasurers Rule 6 (f) which reads as follows:—

"Members' Levy. A levy of 6d. per member for all members registered with or in membership with a League shall be paid in accordance with Rule 7, but the Levy due from members registered with or becoming members of a League after October 31st shall be paid to the Secretary of the Association by the following March 31st."

It is noted that a number of Leagues have not yet remitted the Levy on behalf of their members and also that additional amounts are still due from other Leagues. It would be appreciated if League Hon. Treasurers cleared these outstanding amounts as soon as possible.

Nestles Sports Foundation. The

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

President: Hon. I. G. S. Montagu.

Chairman: I. C. Eyles.

Deputy Chairman: G. James.

Honorary Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

Office of the Association: 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: TRAFalgar 2165).

N.E.C. noted with pleasure that Hon. Life Member, Mr. A. K. Vint, O.B.E. had been asked to act as a Patron of this Foundation. It was agreed that Mr. Vint should accept this position.

Registered Members 1962/63 Season. The following members' applications were endorsed: **G. Muranyi** (Surrey), **S. R. Basden** (Kent), **Miss M. Austin** (Surrey), **Mrs. C. K. Thompson** (Yorks.), **D. A. Brown** (Kent), **C. Collings** (L.B.H.), **L. Pope** (L.B.H.), **A. Thompson** (Yorks.), **C. G. Barnes** (Essex), **A. G. Stegall** (Herts.).

Wilmott Cup. The Draw for the Quarter-Finals is as follows: **Manchester v Barnsley; Birmingham v Oxford; Willesden v East London; Brighton v Gloucester.**

J. M. Rose Bowl. The draw for the Quarter-Finals is as follows: **Barnsley v Manchester; Stevenage v Birmingham; London Business Houses v SUTTON; Staines v Portsmouth.**

Team Selections

World Championships (now confirmed by N.E.C.): **I. Harrison** (Glos.), **D. O. Creamer** (Middx.), **C. G. Barnes** (Essex), **B. R. Merrett** (Glos.), **Miss D. Rowe** (Middx.), **Miss M. Shannon** (Surrey), **Miss L. Bell** (Essex). Non-playing Captain, **R. J. Craydon** (Surrey).

v. Wales (Juniors) Southampton, February 16, 1963. **A. Robinson** (Middx.), **D. Holland** (Glos.), **L. Gresswell** (Middx.), **K. Jones** (Warwicks.). Non-playing Captain, **L. F. Landry** (Middx.).

West German Championships. Frankfurt-on-Main, February 23/24, 1963. **I. Harrison** (Glos.), **Miss D. Rowe** (Middx.). Playing Captain, **Miss D. Rowe.**

v. West Germany Juniors. Bexhill, February 28, 1963. **C. G. Barnes** (Essex), **D. Stanley** (Yorks.), **D. Holland** (Glos.), **Miss L. Bell** (Essex), **Miss C. Holes** (Hants.). Non-playing Captain, **L. F. Landry** (Middx.).

v. West Germany Juniors. Leicester, March 4, 1963. **C. G. Barnes** (Essex), **A. Robinson** (Middx.), **K. Jones** (Warwicks.), **Miss J. Canham** (Herts.), **Miss L. Bell** (Essex).

v. West Germany Juniors. London, E.16. March 5, 1963. **C. G. Barnes** (Essex), **A. Robinson** (Middx.), **L. Gresswell** (Middx.), **Miss L. Bell** (Essex), **Miss P. Holes** (Hants.). Non-playing Captain, **L. F. Landry** (Middx.).

England Teams for International Team Competition at Brighton, February 28, 1963. **MEN: England: I. Harrison** (Glos.), **D. O. Creamer** (Middx.); **England 'B': C. G. Barnes** (Essex), **B. R. Merrett** (Glos.). **WOMEN: England: Miss D. Rowe** (Middx.), **Miss M. Shannon** (Surrey). **England 'B': Mrs. J. McCree** (Essex), **Miss A. Taft** (Middx.).

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WEST OF SCOTLAND OPEN

by GWILLIAN BROWN

RESULTS

McMICHAEL WINS AT LAST

AFTER three unsuccessful appearances in the final Tommy McMichael was acclaimed West of Scotland singles champion at the Headquarters Club, Taylor Street, Glasgow, on January 27. He succeeded to the title, left vacant by Manchester's Jack Clayton, when he beat his Edinburgh clubmate Ian Barclay over three hard fought games by 20-22, 24-22, 21-15.

Of particular satisfaction to McMichael was his quarter-final win over Bertie Kerr, who had beaten him in the finals of 1960 and 1961. McMichael won 17-21, 21-17, 21-17, thus preventing Kerr from making his sixth successive appearance in the final.

This was not an altogether happy tournament for Kerr, who went away without a title for the first time since 1957. He was runner-up with McMichael in the men's doubles, and also in the mixed doubles with his wife Pat.

All eight seeds reached the men's singles quarter-finals, where apart from McMichael's win over Kerr, Jimmy Dow had a surprisingly easy victory against Ally Laidlaw. Barclay was hard pushed by Jim Coyne over three games, while Malcolm Sugden came through against Jim Carswell. In the semi-finals, Barclay had another hard fight before overcoming Sugden 20-22, 21-19, 21-16, but McMichael had little trouble against Dow, who appeared to collapse after losing the first game.

Barclay narrowly won the first game of the final, but McMichael played steadily to just clinch the second then went into the third full of confidence and never looked like losing.

For the second successive year Olive Hawkins hit the jackpot to take everything open to her. She beat Lesley Barrie, Scotland's newest international, in the singles final, partnered Doreen Robertson to retain the women's doubles against Miss Barrie and Sadie Forbes, then teamed up with Dow to beat the Kerr husband and wife partnership in the mixed final.

Miss Barrie and Miss Forbes surprised the second seeds, Mrs. Coats and Greta Shields, in the doubles semi-final, but were well beaten by Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Robertson in the final.

Dow and Mrs. Hawkins, although justifying their position as No. 1 seeds in the mixed doubles, were well tested by Barclay and Miss Julius in the semi-final, where they lost the first game, and again in the final

where the Kerrs took the middle game.

Two youngsters, Jimmy Dow and Malcolm Sugden, teamed up to win the men's doubles crown. They beat the formidable Edinburgh pair of Bertie Kerr and Tommy McMichael in straight games, 12 and 16, and have now been picked to represent Scotland in the English Open. They also join Kerr and Barclay for the world championships in Prague in April.

John Reilly won his first junior title in a stiff final against 13-year-old Willie Gibb with a score of 26-24, 18-21, 22-20.

LANCS. and CHESHIRE**MANCHESTER DROP FIRST POINT IN NINE YEARS**

NOT since season 1953-4 had Manchester previously dropped a point in Division 1 of the Lancashire and Cheshire League until January 28 when the Wilmott Cup-avenging Bolton S.S.S. League team came within an ace of snatching both and felt cheated at only claiming one in a 5-5 draw.

For some inexplicable reason Mike Symonds frittered a first game away to Roy Crusham, overwhelmed him 21-5 in the second, and then lost the decider 21-17.

Had this set been won so would the match, for offsetting this fall from grace Symonds, after diffident opening games, crashed his way through both Peter Walmsley and Kevin Forshaw.

Overshadowing this international colleague on the night, Bryn Farnworth stormed home in brilliant fashion against both Crusham and Walmsley, narrowly lost to Forshaw and partnered Symonds in a spectacular doubles success over Forshaw and Crusham 15 and 10.

Farnworth would appear to have struck a good working partnership with Burnley's George Livesey for they carried on their success at the Lancashire Open by accounting for Neale and Duncombe at the Hartlepoons, losing in the final of the South Yorkshire to the same pair.

National coach Jack Carrington was agreeably surprised at the turn up for his instructional session at the Manchester Y.M.C.A. in early February. Most leagues in both Lancashire and Cheshire had representatives at the four tables in use and from 10.30 a.m. to late in the afternoon Jack was kept hard

Men's Singles, Quarter-Finals: T. McMichael (Ed) bt R. Kerr (Ed) —17, 17, 17. J. Dow (Gl) bt A. K. Laidlaw (Ed) 14, 12. M. Sugden (Ed) bt J. Carswell (Ham) 13, 21. I. Barclay (Ed) bt J. Coyne (Gl) 16, —21, 17.

Semi-Finals: McMICHAEL bt Dow 15, 5. BARCLAY bt Sugden —20, 19, 16.

Final: McMICHAEL bt Barclay —20, 22, 15.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: Mrs. O. W. HAWKINS (Gl) bt Mrs. D. Robertson (Gl) —17, 19, 20. L. BARRIE (Gl) bt S. Forbes (Gl) 13, 9.

Final: HAWKINS bt Barrie 15, 19.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: KERR/McMICHAEL (Ed) bt Coyne/Latham (Gl) —17, 15, 12. DOW/SUGDEN (Gl/Ed) bt Carswell/Hogg (Gl/Ed) 11, 13.

Final: DOW/SUGDEN bt Kerr/McMichael 16, 16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: HAWKINS/ROBERTSON bt Mrs. Anton/Mrs. Mattinson (Gl) 12, 16. BARRIE/FORBES bt Mrs. Coats/Mrs. Shields 9, 16.

Final: HAWKINS/ROBERTSON bt Barrie/Forbes 18, 11.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: DOW/Mrs. HAWKINS bt Barclay/Miss Julius —13, 12, 15. KERR/Mrs. KERR bt Coyne/Mrs. Robertson 13, —15, 12.

Final: DOW/HAWKINS bt Kerr/Kerr —13, 12, 15.

Junior Singles: Semi-Finals: J. REILLY (Gl) bt D. Woodburn (Kil) 8, 15. W. GIBB (Ed) bt D. McIntosh (Dun) 7, 14.

Final: REILLY bt Gibb 24, —18, 20.

at it with youngsters fairly thirsting for any advice that was going.

Voted the best set seen for years by an appreciative Blackpool audience at the Lancashire-Surrey match was that between Kevin Forshaw and Jimmy Moore which went 19-21, 22-20, 22-20 in favour of Forshaw. Those anti-sponge critics must have had second thoughts after witnessing this set which for sustained brilliance could not have been bettered no matter what surface the contestants had used.

Pairing Mike Symonds with Di Fitzgerald in the mixed paid off handsomely as Vic Ireland and Peggy Piper would readily agree, but 7-2 down was hardly justice to a fighting Surrey outfit.

Good to see former Lancashire county founder member and past secretary E. "Bill" Worsley at this match. Old soldiers never die they say—how true.

Could be that Cheshire folk are wondering just what they have done not to have more mention in these monthly notes. Tossing the caber firmly back in Cheshire's court, may it be known that without information from member leagues there can be no mention. The postman still delivers, bush telegraph long having been dispensed with in the Bolton area.

Two young men still in the junior ranks could be the ones to put Cheshire more on the map in the table tennis world. Stockport and Mid-Cheshire Leagues supply them in Roger Hampson and Mike Johns. Big things are predicted from both.

George R. Yates.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by MALCOLM HARTLEY

Hirst Opens Closed Shop

HIRST is a popular name in the Huddersfield area. There are 137 listed in the telephone directory. But the most popular Hirst of all on February 1 was David Anthony, the man who broke a monopoly.

For 14 years the Huddersfield Closed singles has been a closed shop operated by those county stalwarts, Raymond Hinchliff and Stuart Dyson. This year David Hirst beat them both to become a worthy new champion.

He knocked out Ray in the semi-final and was then too mobile for Dyson, who had hit through David Stanley. Hirst had another triumph in the doubles, which he won with Malcolm Mear from Dyson and Stanley.

Mavis Dyson accomplished a treble treble. For the third year in succession she took the women's singles, the women's doubles with Margaret Scaramuzza and the mixed with that other Dyson—husband Stuart.

Other winners were John Kedge (youths) and Harry Newsome (veterans).

It was the first time in 17 years that Ray Hinchliff went home without a title.

A New Name

A new name in the news is that of Alan Hydes, the 14-year-old Barnsley youth champion. In his first open tournament—the South Yorkshire—he overcame such highly-rated northern youngsters as Alan Ransome, Brian Marsden and Mike Johns to win the junior event.

One hopes this splendid start will encourage him to extend his tournament experience. He plays for Barnsley Boys' Club and leads the local league's Division Two averages.

Barnsley's strong women's team reached the late stages of the Rose Bowl by knocking out Leeds and crushing Bradford, their nearest inter-league challengers, 9-1.

Many congratulations to Cynthia Blackshaw on her inclusion in the ranking list—the first Yorkshire player on the ladder since Kathleen Best.

Linda Gordon (Leeds) has done well in recent tournaments in partnership with George Livesey. They took the mixed at the Lancashire and Hartlepoons Opens, but fell in the South Yorkshire final to Cynthia and Pete Duncombe.

Dave Bartlett, the Yorkshire second-teamer, retained the county police championship and won the doubles with Mick Sothcott.

A good performance in the York League was Dennis Martindale's three against Railway Institute's powerful Pollard-Senescall-Davison line-up. With two more from Jerry Dunnington, Heworth "A" were the first to beat Institute for a long time.

There was a similar triumph in the Bradford League for Alan Goldsbrough (Tong), who trimmed the Pitts-Soova-Sugden team of Metal Box, champions and leaders. His team lost 7-3, however.

LINCS. CLOSED

SKERRATT RETURNS

PETER SKERRATT, of Scunthorpe, made a welcome return after two years' absence from the tournament scene in the Lincolnshire Closed at Skegness on February 10. He produced some excellent form to beat Matt Shearer in a hard hitting semi-final, but found Brian Hill too strong in the final. Hill captured a second crown in the men's doubles with Gary Stanley. Wendy Eanor was in unbeatable form in winning the women's singles, where the only major upset was Mary Biggadike's win over the No. 2 seed D. Larrington. She later fell to Pat Chadwick, who was in turn beaten by Mrs. Eanor in the final.

Mrs. Chadwick had the consolation of winning the mixed doubles with Shearer, while the women's doubles went to Marjorie Maxted and Eve Elliott.

R. A. Hood succeeded to the boys' singles crown left vacant by Hill, and judging by his semi-final against W. A. Hance, the future looks bright for Lincolnshire.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: P. Skerratt (Scunthorpe) bt M. Shearer (Grimsby) 21-14, 23-25, 21-19. B. Hill (Boston) bt G. Stanley (Boston) 23-21, 21-8. **Final:** HILL bt Skerratt 21-9, 21-14. **Women's Singles: Semi-Finals:** Mrs. P. Chadwick (Grimsby) bt M. Biggadike (Spalding) 21-14, 21-11. Mrs. W. Eanor (Boston) bt Mrs. P. Lammin (Grimsby) 21-15, 21-11. **Final:** EANOR bt Chadwick 21-7, 21-11. **Boys' Singles: Final:** R. HOOD (Scunthorpe) bt J. Twidale (Louth) 21-13, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: Hill/Stanley bt Skerratt/B. Edlington (Gainsborough) 22-20, 21-16. Shearer/D. Smith (Grimsby) bt J. Radley/G. Curtis (Lincoln) 21-23, 21-7, 21-8. **Final:** HILL/STANLEY bt Shearer/Smith 21-12, 13-21, 21-13. **Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals:** Mrs. M. Maxted/Mrs. E. Elliott (Grimsby) bt Chadwick/Lammin 22-20, 15-21, 21-17. Eanor/E. Kerman (Grimsby) bt Mrs. J. Wright/J. Scott (Lincoln) 21-13, 21-19. **Final:** MAXTED/ELLIOTT bt Eanor/Kerman 21-15, 21-11. **Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals:** Skerratt/Miss Kerman bt Hill/Mrs. Eanor 8-21, 21-19, 21-19. Shearer/D. Smith 21-11. Mrs. Chadwick bt Stanley/Mrs. M. Richardson 21-11, 21-12. **Final:** SHEARER/CHADWICK bt Skerratt/Kerman 21-13, 21-11.

CIVIL SERVICE SHOCKS

by G. A. OWEN

THE usual placid and predictable course of the Civil Service Championships (January 28-February 1) was shattered by a series of surprises. Two of the Men's Singles seeds, holder Henry Buist and Ken Craigie, were beaten in early rounds by Geoff Golding and Len Cooper. It was obviously one of those days for Ken; who lost unexpectedly also in the doubles events, partnered by Len Adams and Margaret Cherry.

None of this worried Tony Piddock, who triumphed easily over Yorkshire's Maurice Pitts and Len Adams to take the Singles title and then retained the Men's Doubles with Henry Buist. His surprise loss in the Mixed, which he held with Marie Know, was followed by the absence of one of their conquerors on finals night.

Betty Landimore emphatically retained the Women's Singles title she gained in the absence of Margaret Cherry last year—and equally emphatically failed to do so in the Women's Doubles.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: A. R. Piddock bt M. J. Pitts 21-11, 21-8; L. G. Adams bt M. Close 21-12, 20-22, 24-22. **Final:** PIDDOCK bt Adams 21-7, 21-15. **Women's Singles:** B. A. LANDIMORE bt M. H. Cherry 21-13, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: PIDDOCK/H. S. BUIST bt Pitts/R. T. Bolton 21-9, 21-15. **Women's Doubles:** CHERRY / Mrs. B. TREGONNING bt Landimore/Mrs. M. Know 21-11, 21-11. **Mixed Doubles:** F. MURPHY/Miss A. BEGLAN w.o. J. O'Hara/Mrs. Tregonning, scr.

Men's Intermediate: J. K. ANDREW bt K. Smith 25-21, 21-16. **Women's Intermediate:** C. A. OLIVER bt H. Dew 21-10, 21-9. **Junior Boys:** SMITH bt V. Miles 21-11, 14-21, 21-16. **Veterans:** K. PECK bt R. E. Carter 19-21, 21-12, 21-16.

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