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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 23

APRIL, 1969

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30th World Championships Preview

by The Editor

JAPANESE BAR ENGLAND'S PATH

NO less a personage than Japan's defending world champion and top seed, **Nobuhiko Hasegawa**, will be lying in wait for English Closed champion **Denis Neale** in the second round of the men's singles event at Munich later this month.

Similarly ill-drawn, in the same round, **Chester Barnes** will be called upon to face **Mitsuru Kono** of Japan, the defeated finalist at Stockholm, who is seeded No. 2.

And, at the same stage in the women's singles event, **Mary Wright** will have Japan's No. 2, the unseeded **Miss Kowada**, to contend with. All in all, it will be a hard road to the rostrum in the Eissporthalle.

Playing in his first world championships, **Trevor Taylor** can look forward to holding his place in the last 64 and to a meeting with **Macovei** of Rumania.

Likewise, **Brian Wright** is due to meet **Secretin** of France and **Alan Hydes**—our only male to be involved in preliminary group play-offs (with **Bert Schoofs** of the Netherlands and **Bulgaria's Beschowischky**)—should come through to meet the French No. 2 **Donny Dhondt**.

Should she be successful in overcoming the winner of a group comprising **Schmollinger** (Federal Germany), **Nayzan** (Iran), **Christensen** (Denmark) and **Popoola** (Nigeria), as she should be, **Judy Williams** will hardly rejoice at the prospect of then meeting the Soviet's **Svetlana Grinberg**!

NEALE'S SECOND ROUND FOE



NOBUHIKO HASEGAWA

Present World Champion in Singles and Mixed Doubles and Asian Champion

Jill Shirley, **Karenza Mathews** and **Pauline Piddock** are all involved in group matches followed by likely meetings with **Rita Pogosova** (U.S.S.R.), **Alica Grofova** (Czechoslovakia) and the defending world champion **Sachiko Morisawa** (Japan) as their respective rewards!

Neale and **Barnes** are scheduled for a second round meeting with English Open champions, **Gomozkov** and **Amelin**, in the men's doubles with **Wright** and **Hydes** likely to be waiting the outcome of set between **India's Mirkasim** and **Khodaiji** and the Anglo-Soviet pairing of **Taylor** and **Uldis Eglitis**.

Barring first round shocks, East Germany's **Geissler** and **Hovestadt** will provide the opposition to **Mary** and **Karenza** and again, with the same proviso, **Judy** and **Jill** should be given the opportunity of making a name for themselves against **Morisawa** and **Saeko Hirota**.

Pauline has been paired with Rumania's **Carmen Crisan** and a probable meeting with the Czech pair **Grofova** and **Kumpostova** in Round 2.

Seeded in the mixed doubles, **Denis** and **Mary** should have Federal Germany's **Leick** and **Kaib** to beat in the last 16 and Japan's **Inoue**/**Morisawa** in the quarters.

Likewise not involved in prior competition, **Chester** and **Karenza** have the Czechs., **Turia**/**Grofova**, in contention for a quarter-final place.

If all goes well, **Brian** and **Jill** should emerge from the groups to take on the Soviet's **Sarkis Sarkhojan**/**Pogosova** with a second Russian pair, **Amelin**/**Grinberg**, waiting for **Trevor** and **Judy**.

Hungary's **Timar**/**Magos** are the likely pair to meet **Alan** and **Pauline** who, should they win, would next cross swords with the top Soviet combination of **Gomozkov**/**Rudnova**.

TEAM HOPES HIGH

Mary Wright and her team-mates have a great chance of boosting England's prestige in the **Corbillon Cup** competition (writes **Johnny Leach**).

They should have no difficulty in out-gunning **Jersey** and **Cambodia**—and luckily avoid **Japan** in the later stages.

So if we hit top form our girls must improve their No. 7 world ranking and at least be involved in a fifth place play-off. Other than England, likely group winners in "B" section are U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, South Korea, Yugoslavia and Poland.

Group favourites in Section "A" are **Japan**, **Hungary**, **Federal Germany**, **East Germany**, **Rumania** and **Sweden**.

Our men also have an easy draw meeting, **Iran**, **Norway** and **Guernsey** in Group A5 but opposition in the final pool is likely to comprise **Japan**, **U.S.S.R.**, **Yugoslavia**, **Hungary** and **Denmark** so further optimism must be tempered with caution.

In the counter Section "B", the final play-offs are likely to involve **North Korea**, **Sweden**, **Federal Germany**, **Czechoslovakia**, **Rumania** and **South Korea**.

ORIENTAL WIZARDS FOR ENGLAND

"PLUM" fixtures against **Japan** will provide home audiences with three opportunities of seeing members of the **Japanese World Championships** squad in action when, from **May 3-7**, they will make a short tour of this country.

International matches, against **England** will be staged in **Nottingham**, **Bolton** and **Birmingham** and it could well be that **Nobuhiko Hasegawa**, who defends his men's singles title at **Munich**, and **Mitsuru Kono**, the beaten finalist at **Stockholm**, may be persuaded to engage in a 3-set series of their own to complete the entertainment.

As the next world championships will take place in **Tokyo** (1971) and **South America** (1973), the forthcoming trip may well provide the last opportunities to witness this class of table tennis for many years to come. Four details are as follows:—

At **NOTTINGHAM** on Sunday, May 4/69 at 7-30 p.m.

Venue: Sports Centre, Bingham.
Tickets: 12/6d. (all one price).
Match Organiser: Mr. J. D. Ellis, 145a, Station Road, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.
Phone: Sutton-in-Ashfield 2543 (home).

At **BOLTON** on Monday, May 5/69 at 7-30 p.m.

Venue: Sports Hall, Institute of Technology, Deane Rd., Bolton.
Match Organiser: Mr. G. R. Yates, 43, Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton.
Phone: Bolton 42223 (home).
Tickets: £1, 15/- and 10/- from Mr. A. Porter, 39, Forest Road, Smithills, Bolton. Phone: Bolton 43151 (home).

At **BIRMINGHAM** on Tuesday, May 6/69 at 7-30 p.m.

Venue: Harry Mitchell Recreation Centre, Broomfield, Smethwick, Warley.
Tickets: 25/-, 20/-, 15/- and 10/-.
Match Organiser: Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
Phone: CALthorpe 2739 (home).
† provisional starting times.



Bound for the 30th World Championships in Munich next month, together with her husband **Brian**, is **Mary Wright** here seen with daughter **Jacqueline Susan** who is now 5-months old.

Picture by Daily Express cameraman **Colin Maher** and reproduced by courtesy of **Beaverbrook Newspapers**.

SEAL OF APPROVAL

WEDNESDAY, April 4, became a date of no consequence in the **E.T.T.A. Election Calendar** when the sending out of **Officer Voting Papers** became unnecessary with the three retiring **Officers** all being returned unopposed.

Chairman Conrad Jaschke had the nominating support of 11 Counties and 32 Leagues, **Deputy Chairman Walter Mitton** was nominated by 9 Counties and 26 Leagues and **Hon. Treasurer Tom Blunn** had the backing of 10 Counties and 27 Leagues.

This happy sequel to a season of great progression augurs well for a furtherance of the policies embarked upon and sets the seal of approval on the new administration.

The Editor.

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'KISS OF DEATH'

Far from creating the spur to get up and at 'em, the spirit of quite a number of team members on promotion to a league's first or premier division is akin to that time-honoured phrase "What must be, must be."

Agreed, the top crust is usually a hard one to bite into, but far too many players, whilst content to take prizes for lower division successes, lose not only their spirit, but also their teeth when moved up into the top strata.

Most leagues have one or two clubs whose monopoly of championship successes is as the "kiss of death" to promoters who, perhaps, have taken a delight in lauding it themselves in lower spheres.

But it is only right, and proper, that they should take a turn on the receiving end, even though the medicine may be distasteful to them.

It need not be so bad as feared, for beneath the top layer of juggernauts are other teams who have, for seasons, maintained their activities with no apparent loss of spirit and yet without tangible reward.

What is questionable, however, is the inducement to players of consequence, but with no previous connection, to climb onto the bandwagon of the success club.

"Join us and win" may well be the slogan and the magnetism of the long-standing champions, but thankfully there are those who remain steadfast in their resolve to tumble the giants to the benefit and the betterment of leagues whose talent is more evenly spread.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

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Hon. Treasurer: Tom Blunn

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INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

by **Conrad Jaschke**

CHAIRMAN OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

European League—Premier Division

Czechoslovakia 4, Fed. Germany 3.							
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
U.S.S.R.	4	4	0	21	7	8	
Czechoslovakia ...	4	3	1	16	12	6	
Sweden	4	3	1	16	12	6	
England	6	3	3	24	18	6	
Federal Germany....	5	2	3	16	19	4	
Hungary	4	0	4	9	19	0	
Rumania	3	0	3	3	18	0	

Second Division

France 4, Denmark 3.
Austria 4, France 3.
Switzerland 5, Luxembourg 2.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
France	5	4	1	23	12	8
Denmark	5	3	2	25	10	6
Belgium	4	3	1	16	12	6
Switzerland	5	3	2	15	20	6
Netherlands	4	1	3	13	15	2
Austria	3	1	2	8	13	2
Luxembourg	4	0	4	5	23	0

Europe Club Cup—Men

Semi-finals:
Budapesti Vasutas v. Slavia Prague—result awaited.
Essen D.T.T.B. v. Mariestads Bois (Sweden) 4-5.

Women.

Semi-finals:
Aussenhandel Berlin v. Vointa Arad (Rumania) 5-4.
Kaiserberg D.T.T.B. v. Ferencvarosi Torna (Hungary) 2-5.

European Fair-Cities Cup

The Fair-Cities Cup (Messe Cup) for teams from cities in which international exhibitions or fairs are held, is the one European competition in which England is not represented. We are at a disadvantage in the Europe Cup because English club teams do not contain the concentration of strong players which is usual on the Continent, where very often the national side play for the same club team. Thus the Fair-Cities Cup would be an ideal competition for an English team to enter, for this is not quite as strong as the Europe Cup, and would give an English side a fairer chance. It is a particularly well organised competition well worth supporting. For financial reasons the E.T.T.A. is not yet able to enter a team, but if any club side in Birmingham, London or another city which qualifies wishes to enter under its own steam, then I would like to hear from them.

World Champions coming

The world champions Japan are sending a party of 25 players and officials to Munich, and half this party including the top players will visit England early in May to play three matches (see front page story).



NOBUHIKO HASEGAWA

The party includes current world singles champions Nobuhiko Hasegawa and Sachiko Morisawa, as well as the chairman and leading spirit of the Japanese Table Tennis Association Koji Goto.



SACHIKO MORISAWA

We are indeed fortunate to have this opportunity to welcome the world champions in England and their dedication and fighting spirit should be an inspiration to all English table tennis players. A recent article by N. Fukatsu who won the women's singles world championship in Ljubljana in 1965 typifies the Japanese spirit. This is what this former champion writes: "Soon after the championships were over I retired from official play because I was no longer confident that I could continue to play my best, and I think only players who are able to devote themselves completely should aspire to represent their country. I hate players who participate in international competition without 100% fighting spirit, training and practice."



KOJI GOTO

A player must always want to win and must resent losing. I did not think I could keep in peak condition after Ljubljana and I think it is very rude towards opponents to play internationally unless one is in complete earnest. I believe playing for one's country is a sacred thing. People ask why do the Japanese win? THAT is why!

Schöler again

For the fifth time in succession, German champion Eberhard Schöler won the national "Top Ten" tournament, played in Berlin recently. Marta Luzova-Hejma won the women's event, with Diane Schöler in second place and Edith Buchholz in third.

Schöler has now been German champion for eight years, and he has been the most successful European player in the last two world Championships. The fact that the I.T.T.F. have seeded him at No. 17 (1) has—not surprisingly—caused a storm of protest in Germany. It is generally felt that at the very least he must be in the top 10 in the world.

56 Nations

No less than 56 nations have entered to play in Munich, an all-time record, and this includes every one of the 30 countries affiliated to the European Table Tennis Union—a proud achievement for E.T.T.U. President Jupp Schlaf who has been living in Munich these past two months to supervise the championships arrangements on the spot. For Dr. Dieter Mauritz, President of the D.T.T.B. and like Schlaf a former international player, it will be a great moment when the champion-

ships open in Munich crowning two years of hard work with the success he promised Congress in Stockholm in 1967.

In the team events, there will be 51 teams in the Swaythling Cup, and 36 in the Corbillon Cup. The Japanese hold all team and individual titles except the men's doubles, held by Sweden's Alser and Johansson.

16 year old wins Hungarian title

Sixteen year old T. Klampar is the new Hungarian men's singles champion, and he also won the men's doubles partnered by 18-year-old F. Timor who beat the previous champion Jonyer. A. Papp won the women's singles, and another very young pair, 18-year-old F. Magos and 15-years-old E. Fuhrs won the women's doubles. Istvan Jonyer and Beatrix Kishazi took the mixed title.

The Hungarians promptly selected their youngest-ever team for the world championships, i.e. Borzsei Beleznai, Jonyer, Klampar and Timor and for the women's team Kishazi, Jurik, Magos and Fuhrs.

Jose Perez wins

Jose Perez (Colombia) won the men's singles title in the recent Medellin International Championships, and also the men's doubles with Jorge Valencia. In the absence of Peru and Venezuela Ecuador won the team title with Elison Ponce and Jorge Guzman.

It is difficult to imagine, but it is a fact that the Libreria Aguirre in Colombia keeps a stock of Table Tennis News for sale to Colombian table tennis fans who read English—quite a compliment to think that our publication is so comprehensive as to be of interest to readers in far away Latin America.

Russians clean up in Wales

The U.S.S.R. players, having won four of the five individual titles at the English Open, went one better at Port Talbot in winning all five senior titles in the Welsh Open Championships. Only in the junior events did home players have any success. Haydn Thomas (Wales) winning the boys' singles and Jill Shirley (England) the girls' singles.

Results:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

D. SURBEK (Yugo.) bt A. Amelin (U.S.S.R.) 20, 19, -16, -19, 14;
S. GOMOSKOV (U.S.S.R.) bt A. R. Piddock (Kent) 20, 16, -13, 11.
Final: GOMOZKOV bt Surbek 18, 12, -21, 17.

Women's Singles:

Z. RUDNOVA (U.S.S.R.) bt S. Grinberg (U.S.S.R.) 8, 13, 14.

Men's Doubles:

GOMOZKOV/AMELIN bt Surbek/Cordas (Yugo.) 19, -20, -16, 16, 19

Women's Doubles:

RUDNOVA/GRINBERG bt J. Shirley (Bucks.)/J. Williams (Sussex) 11, 7, 4.

Mixed Doubles:

GOMOZKOV/RUDNOVA bt Amelin/Grinberg 12, -17, 19, 24.

Boys' Singles:

H. THOMAS (Wales) bt A. Griffith (Wales) 18, 12.

Girls' Singles:

SHIRLEY bt J. Cornock (Warwks.) 15, 16.

The Charge of the Rubber Brigade

by Henry Buist

MANY, many years ago when I was first learning to play table tennis, things were very straightforward. Players were labelled hitters, choppers or all-rounders.

The all-rounder was the knight of the table; if his opponent wanted to hit he would chop, and if his opponent wanted to chop, he would hit. One knew exactly where one was.

If two choppers played, then each game simply lasted twenty minutes. If two hitters played, they would spar for a while, looking for an opening and when one player, by means of cunning or athletic ability, managed to start hitting, his opponent would bow to his prowess and be content to chop for the rest of the point.

The strategy, which was called "wresting the attack", was the subject of many books. It must be added that in those days, ladies did not "wrest the attack". The only unusual thing which one might meet, was a player using a wooden bat or one employing the "old-fashioned" pen-holder grip.

Such exponents were contemptuously called ping-pong players by the young. In spite of this slight display of bad manners, this was a noble era in the sport, and well I remember our club motto:—"Always smile when you lose but don't cheer when you've won and don't practice beforehand that just isn't done".

Very slowly things started to change: the long baggy grey flannel trousers gave way to long baggy grey flannel shorts; track suits were worn; matching plimsolls became common and people changed the rubber on their bats when it became sticky. Such changes were inevitable and no one really minded.

The big crunch came with the introduction of sponge. Imagine the shock to our well-ordered system when a push became a winning shot, and a player, having won the right to attack for a point, would not receive the nice slow, gentle chop which he deserved, but instead a nasty twisting, hissing, snarling return.

The rubber bat maestro with his smooth flowing strokes stood little chance against the wristy lunges of the fat-batted sponger.

Tempers began to fray and the I.T.T.F., realising that the strain on world's mental health was too great, decided on a compromise—sponge was banned but sandwich was allowed.

It was, of course, too late for many people, but those of us who remained thought that things would soon get back to normal. Alas, this was not to be, because along came the loop and finished the old days for good.

One by one the old artists succumbed under the new reign of terror ("Whom doth his subtle rapier pit gegen the bludgeon's might!"), until there were only a few left hiding in the corners and shadows of the lower divisions.

Today the rubber bat is rather like a London tram—there are many people around who have never seen one.

But take heart old rubber bat faithfuls—I have made a discovery—the wheel has turned full circle. The modern player is as lost against rubber as his ancestors were against the fat bats.

Good rubber is again available, so come out of your dark holes and enter the Opens; rip the sandwich trash from your bats, then wash your hands.

Now is the time to join my rubber band and take revenge for your fallen comrades. Use your bats on the foulest way possible; chop when they expect you to hit, hit when they expect you to chop, block their loops,

and completely "rubberise" them by returning some balls without any spin on at all.

We may never be great again—we are a dying breed—but let us not become extinct like the Dodo, rather let us die fighting like The Glorious Six Hundred, taking many with us as we go.

Week-end Conference

UNDER the auspices of the E.T.T.A.'s Press and Publicity sub-committee, there is to be a week-end conference of County Press Officers and Open Tournament Organisers at Sheffield University's Halifax Hall commencing on Friday evening September 19 and concluding after lunch on Sunday, September 21.

Fuller details will be duly circulated as and when finalised.

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LES GRESSWELL

by Philip Reid



PHYSICAL FITNESS

"What was worrying me" Les confided "Was whether I would be able to bridge the gap between Junior and Senior play, but as it happened, things turned out all right". Indeed they did.

Whilst many players find the first year or so out of the junior ranks very trying, Les found this period beneficial. For a start, he decided to increase his summer practice and concentrate on physical fitness.

The result was, that when the season started, he was in the Staines senior team and also playing for Middlesex II in the "Bernard Crouch Trophy" competition. Results proved the wisdom of his efforts.

With some great wins, he kept his place and in many other counties would have walked into the first team. Middlesex, however, with their strength in depth, had Alan Rhodes, Alan Lindsay and Brian Wright as their front-rank men.

Just when it seemed that Les would be making a challenge for a Middlesex first team place, he moved to Cheltenham for three years. He went to train to be a P.E. Instructor and emerged from his studies with great credit.

In between, he continued to play table tennis and won the Cheltenham Closed three years in a row. Les also represented Cheltenham in Western League matches and, additionally, found the time to study table tennis and, in fact, completed a mammoth thesis of 30,000 words.

RETURNED TO LONDON

His studies completed, he returned to London to teach, and at the same time took up his Staines League activities where he enjoyed a very successful season. In the summer of 1967, between leaving College and taking up teaching, Les went coaching at a holiday camp in Ayr.

To Les this was a tremendous challenge. "It was something different from anything I had done before" he said, "It gave me a chance to see whether I could put across table tennis to many who were unconverted and new to the game".

The outcome was that Les was one of the most successful coaches ever to go to Ayr. Johnny Leach was, perhaps, more impressed than anyone. Les, who from the very early days attached great significance to fitness, brought out all these qualities in his coaching.

His pupils loved it and just as long as they remained enthusiastic Les would go on oblivious of time.

Johnny Leach was shrewd enough to see a future for Les with the E.T.T.A. and in this connection, Derek Tremayne, the Association's Organising Secretary who has had extensive experience with the A.A.A., worked out a general plan which got off the ground as a pilot scheme at Sydenham.

Participating in the first sessions were Mike Johns, Karenza Mathews, Mary and Brian Wright. All four had one thing in common—they were completely satisfied with the ideas Les put forward. Within a month, every ranked player was participating and many county players too, but the list had to be limited to the top players.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

Every Monday the Squad gathered for "Pressure Training" and "Conditioning" and the results were immediately apparent. By the summer of 1968, Les was given official recognition.

This training, however, did not affect Les Gresswell's appetite for competitive play and, amongst other things, he won the Bedford Restricted Open last season.

Whilst at Cheltenham, Les had realised his value to table tennis would be increased if he were able to play a more attacking type of game, so he concentrated on this aspect particularly whilst at college. "I still love to defend and my defence still comes in very handy at coaching sessions, but primarily I regard myself as an attacking player now" Les told me.

For some time the need has been felt for an additional staff coach and when the necessary finances became available Les applied for the post and was successful. From January 1, 1969, the E.T.T.A. have, therefore, employed three staff coaches.

It is the intention for Les to assist with both coaching and team training but it is in respect of the latter that Les has a special contribution to make.

Part of his programme is already arranged. Every Monday he holds his Training Sessions and, on Wednesdays, he goes to the Shell Centre, where he liaises with his old coach, Leo Thompson.

Les travelled with the England Junior team to Holland to get a "feel of things" as it were and then went with the England-party to a training centre in Yugoslavia. "It was a wonderful experience" said Les "and team-spirit was built up in a way not normally possible. We were all working to help each other and it really was a tremendous thing. I learnt a lot of things which I am sure are going to be useful to us".

ENCOURAGE ALL STYLES

Certainly no-one can accuse Les of being complacent. I doubt whether he will ever be satisfied, and hope not. I can visualise him probing new ideas, new methods, new approaches all the time.

Getting Les to talk about himself is far from easy, but getting him to talk about table tennis is quite different. He eats, breathes and sleeps table tennis. "I want to help England get to the top in Europe as quickly as possible — this is my immediate ambition" says Les.

"I feel that when I am coaching I must encourage ALL styles. If the individuality of the pupils is preserved, rather than sacrificed, then I feel it will be all to the good. After all, Stanley Matthews, Don Bradman and Denis Compton never fitted into the 'orthodox' pattern did they?"

But, perhaps, the most telling thing of all that Les said was "Whether I am coaching or training, there is one thing I demand and must have—100% effort all the time. Anything less is no use at all to me". It was a spontaneous testimony to the value of the work done by Les that, at the end of last season, a letter signed by all the top players, asked for Les to be recognised officially as a reward for the tremendous help he had given them.

There was then, no problem at all of being 'accepted' by the players once he came on the E.T.T.A. staff. And, of course, word had spread throughout the country of the value of his training methods. It is quite obvious Les is going to have a very full book of engagements on behalf of the E.T.T.A.

Those who feel that Les, in his early twenties, may be too young for so responsible a job, would surely change their minds if they were to see him in action. His knowledge of the game for one so young is immense and his enthusiasm unending.

As a coach he will, I feel sure, unearth a great number of promising players. As a trainer of the England squad, he will certainly make the good players more effective.

The appointment of Les Gresswell was a rather special one and it needed someone with rather special qualifications. Les fits the bill 100%. Let us hope he gets the results his efforts deserve. That will be reward enough for him.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

by Laurie Landry

A very good effort from England Juniors up in Dundee on March 14 resulted in a 9-1 win over Scotland. The only loss was in the last set of the evening when Ian Robertson fell to David Charleston by a narrow margin. David Barr was also impressive for the losers. Individual scores:—

- I. Robertson (Northumberland) bt D. Barr -15 18, 18; lost to D. Charleston 9, -22, -19.
- N. Jarvis (Yorkshire) bt Charleston 14, 14; bt A. Struthers 11, 15.
- A. Fletcher (Yorkshire) bt Barr 12, 18; bt Struthers 11, 15.
- Miss S. Howard (Surrey) bt Miss E. Smith 12, 12.
- Miss L. Bashford bt Miss M. Neish 7, 14.
- Fletcher/Jarvis bt Barr/Struthers -19, 17, 16.
- Miss Bashford/Miss Howard bt Miss Neish/Miss Smith 7, 6.

Next big event is the English Junior Open at Folkestone on May 3/4 and on July 14-18 the European Youth Meeting will be held near Salzburg in Austria. There is also a junior trip to Rumania in June and for this players are being invited to go, if they wish, working down the ranking list.

For the English Junior Open, two Boys and two Girls' teams will be entered for the Team events. England are the holders of the Boys' team

THE reason Les Gresswell joined Bedford Youth Club was simple enough . . . his parents were running it! Bedford, situated a couple of miles from Staines boasted few other attractions for the youngsters of the district with the result that the Youth Club was very popular.

Les, like so many others, just strolled around sampling the various amenities provided at the centre, but it did not take him long to decide that table tennis was the game for him. Since then he has never taken any other sport really seriously, although he has talent at several.

He recalls "Neither of my parents were particularly interested in table tennis but once they saw how interested I was, they gave me every support". Staines Youth League was the first introduction Les had to competitive play and though this league may not have been of a very high standard, it provided him with an introduction to someone who was to help him so materially with his game—Leo Thompson, one of the foremost coaches in the country and happily still very active.

The Staines League sent their most promising youngsters to Slough and Leo took very little time to assess Les Gresswell's chances of doing well. Time has proved him right.

SECURED A PLACE

Les next went to the Middlesex Junior Coaching Class where once again he did very well. With his friend Tony Robinson, he secured a place in the Middlesex Junior team, which was no easy accomplishment having regard to the vast resources at the county's disposal.

Young Gresswell got his place on account of his fine defensive game, his intelligence in picking out the right ball to hit and his complete composure.

What must surely be the dream of every aspiring young player was to come to Les next—a Junior International cap. Whilst he proved too strong an opponent for Wales he found Federal Germany a different "kettle of fish" and lost both his sets 22-20 in the third.

Far from discouraging him, however, it only made Les all the more determined to succeed. A regular on the Open tournament circuit. Les had several good wins in his name including the Gloucestershire and Bournemouth Junior titles.

championship. The following selections have been made:—

Boys:

England I: Trevor Taylor (Herts.) John Dabin (Herts.) and Melvyn Waldman (Middx.).

England II: Ian Robertson (Nthlnd.), Nicky Jarvis (Yorks.) and Tony Boasman (Lancs.).

Girls:

England I: Jill Shirley (Bucks.) and Susan Howard (Surrey).

England II: Linda Bashford (Yorks.) and Jenny Cornock (Warwks.).

To give an idea of the general distribution of standard, the ten players selected for these teams come from nine different counties. Yorkshire is the only county with two players. The following doubles combinations have been nominated:—

Boys: Taylor/Waldman.

Girls: Shirley/Howard and Bashford/Cornock.

Mixed: Taylor/Shirley, Robertson/Cornock, Jarvis/Bashford and Boasman/Howard.

FURTHER SUCCESSES AT DUNDEE

In the Scottish Open Championships played at the Menziehill Community

Centre, Dundee on March 15/16, England's juniors took four titles including two senior ones. Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

M. Sugden (Scotland) bt A. Fletcher (Yks.) 7, 22, 17;

I. Barclay (Scotland) bt I. Robertson (Nthlnd.) 17, 23, 9;

E. Sutherland (Scotland) bt P. Forker (Scotland) 13, 21, 15;

L. F. Landry (Middx.) bt R. Kerr (Scotland) 19, -12, 19, 16.

Semi-finals:

SUGDEN bt Barclay 8, 19, 10; SUTHERLAND bt Landry 13, 13, 23.

Final: SUGDEN bt Sutherland -19, 15, 15, 9.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

S. HOWARD (Surrey) bt O. Hawkins (Scotland) 13, -14, 6, 9;

L. BARRIE (Scotland) bt L. Bashford (Yks.) 17, 22, -11, 20.

Final: HOWARD bt Barrie 16, -12, 15, 19.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

BARCLAY/SUGDEN bt Forker/J. Hawkins (Scotland) 20, -18, 11, 16;

LANDRY/ROBERTSON bt Kerr/J. Mitchell (Scotland) 12, 13, -13, 17.

Final: BARCLAY / SUGDEN bt Landry/Robertson 7, -14, -19, 19, 15.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

BASHFORD/HOWARD bt M. Anton /G. Shields (Scotland) 15, 5, 11;

K. ANGUS (Scotland)/ BARRIE bt M. Coates/J. Fischer (Scotland) 15, 20, -14, 13.

Final: BASHFORD/HOWARD bt Angus/Barrie 15, 17, 16.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

SUGDEN/BARRIE bt Jarvis/Bashford 13, 17, 11;

ROBERTSON/HOWARD bt Kerr/Hawkins 17, 19, -20, -13, 17.

Final: SUGDEN/BARRIE bt Robertson/Howard 10, 8, 5.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

JARVIS bt Fletcher 18, 13; D. GEORGE (Scotland) bt Robertson -15, 21, 21.

Final: JARVIS bt George 8, 13.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

HOWARD bt L. Montague (Scotland) 10, 11;

BASHFORD bt E. Smith (Scotland) 22, -24, 11.

Final: HOWARD bt Bashford 17, 17.

Sue Howard is to be congratulated on her fine treble as is Malcolm Sugden who won the main men's singles event for the third year running.

SANDRA MAKES UP THE "LEE-WAY" AT ESTON

IN the Teesside Junior Open played at the same excellent venue as its senior counterpart, Trevor Taylor won the boys' singles recovering from his previous day's loss to Alan Fletcher in the Northumberland Open.

Fletcher himself was beaten in the first round by Nicky Jarvis who lost in the final of the Under-15 event to Tony Boasman.

Sandra Lee, of Huddersfield, caused the big surprise when she beat Linda Bashford in the final of the -17 girls' singles event gradually wearing her higher ranking opponent down with variation.

Not so at the inaugural Lancashire Junior Open, played in the Bolton Institute of Technology's brand new Sports Hall on March 23 where Linda gained her revenge, in the quarters by scores of 7 and 15, going on to win the title and the Kay Benson Bowl.

Again beaten in the final of the -15 boys' singles by Boasman, Middlesbrough's Jarvis turned the scales in the -17 event by accounting for the Mancunian over three stirring games.

Preston's two 13-year-olds, Donald Parker and Barry Crook had matters all their own way in the -13 boys' singles and gave promise of having a great future.

Results:

TEESSIDE JUNIOR OPEN

Under-17:

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

T. TAYLOR (Herts.) bt N. Jarvis (Yorks.) 16, 14;

I. ROBERTSON (Nthlnd.) bt P. Abell (Yorks.) -29, 17, 14;

Final: TAYLOR bt Robertson 10, 11.

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TEESSIDE JUNIOR OPEN cont.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
S. LEE (Yorks.) bt **S. Pacitto** (Bucks.) -15, 23, 13;
L. BASHFORD (Yorks.) bt **S. Lisle** (Lancs.) 20, -17, 13.
Final: LEE bt **Bashford** -17, 9, 14.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
A. BOASMAN (Lancs.) / **A. FLETCHER** (Yorks.) bt **D. RAYNER/N. FULSTOW** (Yorks.) 13, 13;
TAYLOR/P. FREEMAN (Durham) bt **Abell/Jarvis** 15, 17.
Final: BOASMAN/FLETCHER bt **Taylor/Freeman** -18, 10, 13.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
BASHFORD/LISLE bt **J. Roe/A. Waters** (Yorks.) 10, 15;
V. KING (Yorks.) / **LEE** bt **L. Pacitto** (Bucks.) / **Pacitto** -15, 14, 13;
Final: KING/LEE bt **Bashford/Lisle** 18, -15, 19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
TAYLOR/L. PACITTO bt **Fulstow/King** 6, 17;
ROBERTSON/LISLE bt **Jarvis/Bashford** 17, 19.
Final: TAYLOR / PACITTO bt **Robertson/Lisle** -17, 19, 12.

Under-15:
Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
BOASMAN bt **Fulstow** 15, -16, 12;
JARVIS bt **Rayner** 18, -18, 18.
Final: BOASMAN bt **Jarvis** 14, 14.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
L. PACITTO bt **G. Macrae** (Surrey) 13, 10;
KING bt **J. Walshaw** (Yorks.) 12, 9.
Final: PACITTO bt **King** 19, 17.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
FULSTOW/JARVIS bt **D. Phillips/C. Thompson** (Yorks.) 9, 12;
BOASMAN/RAYNER bt **D. Starkie/M. Starkie** (Yorks.) 17, 12.
Final: BOASMAN/RAYNER bt **Fulstow/Jarvis** 18, 18.

Under-13:
Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
D. ATKIN (Yorks.) bt **T. Robson** (Yorks.) -21, 16, 11;
D. STARKIE bt **C. Mills** (Yorks.) 14, 16.
Final: ATKIN bt **Starkie** 18, 18.

LANCASHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

Under-17:
Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
N. JARVIS bt **A. Fletcher** 16, 19;
A. BOASMAN bt **I. Robertson** -13, 19, 15.
Final: JARVIS bt **Boasman** 15, -15, 17.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
L. BASHFORD bt **L. Chesson** (Kent) 12, 14;
J. CORNOCK (Wrwks.) bt **S. Pacitto** 16, 18.
Final: BASHFORD bt **Cornock** 10, 17.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
P. FREEMAN/ROBERTSON bt **P. Abell/Jarvis** 18, 17;
I. HORSHAM/M. READ (Essex) bt **R. Hellaby** (Essex) / **B. Johns** (Ches.) 19, 18.
Final: FREEMAN/ROBERTSON bt **Horsham/Read** -18, 17, 16.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
V. KING/S. LEE bt **J. Rumjahn** (Lancs.) / **A. Waters** -17, 13, 11;
CHESSON/S. LISLE bt **Bashford/Cornock** -10, 16, 13.
Final: CHESSON/LISLE bt **King/Lee** 8, 17.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
JARVIS/BASHFORD bt **Robertson/Lisle** 14, 18;
BOASMAN/H. WESLEY (Essex) bt **Read/S. Beckwith** (Essex) 20, 19.
Final: JARVIS/BASHFORD bt **Boasman/Wesley** 20, 9.

Under-15:
Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
JARVIS bt **N. Fulstow** -18, 17, 20;
BOASMAN bt **Hellaby** 15, 19.
Final: BOASMAN bt **Jarvis** 7, 22.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
CHESSON bt **J. Hellaby** (Essex) 16, 15.
BECKWITH bt **J. Dyer** (Lancs.) 6, 10.
Final: BECKWITH bt **Chesson** 19, -14, 16.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
BOASMAN/HORSHAM bt **M. Locke** (Essex) / **C. Taylor** (Lancs.) 17, -15, 19;
FULSTOW/JARVIS bt **L. Cooper/B. Roberts** (Lancs.) 18, 15.
Final: BOASMAN/HORSHAM bt **Fulstow/Jarvis** 20, -18, 16.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
DYER/KING bt **B. Murtagh/C. Waite** (Durham) -18, 14, 17;
BECKWITH/HELLABY bt **G. Macrae/J. Walker** (Yorks.) 9, 14.
Final: BECKWITH/HELLABY bt **Dyer/King** 18, 17.

Under-13:
Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
D. PARKER (Lancs.) bt **C. Mills** 11, 15;
B. CROOK (Lancs.) bt **G. Harrop** (Lancs.) 9, 16.
Final: PARKER bt **Crook** 14, 17.

Girls' Singles: Round Robin:
WALKER bt **Macrae** -18, 18, 21;
 bt **D. St. Ledger** (Wrwks.) 4, 9;
Macrae bt **St. Ledger** 12, 11.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by **David Lomas**

ESSEX DOMINATE AT STANMORE

THIRTY-TWO schools produced 44 teams from nine counties who took part in the South-East Quarter-Finals of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association's National Team Competition which was staged at the Sports Arena, R.A.F. Stanmore, Middlesex on March 8.

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Sixteen tables were in use and the organisation was in the capable hands of National Competition Secretary, John Wright, fresh from his task of Referee at the English Open.

Matches were organised in a group system with two points for a win and one for a draw. Each match consisted of eight singles—best of three games—with four players per school team.

Essex dominated the proceedings, having a team in each of the six group play-offs and their brave bid to make it a clean sweep was only halted by Kent and Middlesex. Southall Grammar School's Under-13 girls team notched a fine 5-3 win over Plaistow Grammar School who were one of four Newham teams in the 'finals'.

After ten hours the following teams emerged to qualify for the National semi-finals and final at Stoke-on-Trent on March 29th:

- BOYS:**
- Under-18:** **PLAISTOW G.S.** (Essex) bt **Kingston G.S.** (Surrey).
- Under-15:** **MALORY SECONDARY (BROMLEY)** (Kent) bt **S.W. Ham Tech.** (Essex).
- Under-13:** **ST. HELENA SECONDARY (COLCHESTER)** (Essex) bt **New Beacon Preparatory School, Sevenoaks** (Kent).

- GIRLS:**
- Under-18:** **RECTORY MANOR (NEWHAM)** (Essex) bt **North London Collegiate** (Middlesex).
- Under-15:** **RAINHAM SECONDARY (HAVERING)** (Essex) bt **Perse Secondary, Cambridge** (Cambs.).
- Under-13:** **SOUTHALL G.S.** (Middlesex) bt **Plaistow G.S.** (Essex).

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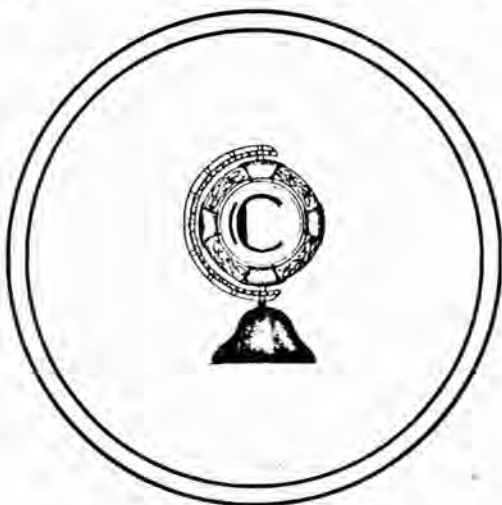
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**THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
THIRD NATIONAL SCHOOL-TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 1968-69**

**by W. S. Mackenzie
Hon. Press and Publicity Officer**

A magnificent playing area, 110 ft. by 160 ft. with 32 tables laid out in four lines, gave just the right background for the youthful enthusiasm and exuberance of the 96 boys and girls who met at the Northwood Sports Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, to compete for the titles, on Saturday, 29th March. There were three age groups for each sex, and a team of four for each event came from the North, the Midlands, the South-East and the South-West to play at the semi-final stage.

The standard of play was very high and very close and the recognised stars, one boy already an "England Player", didn't have it all their own way. The Girls' Under-15 Final, a draw in matches, was decided on games, and the 3rd and 4th places, a draw in matches and games, was decided on a special play-off.

The Chairman of the E.T.T.A., Mr. Conrad Jaschke, gave the tournament the good wishes and "blessing" of the senior body by being present throughout the day, with the Secretary, Mr. Derek Tremayne. An official welcome from the City of Stoke-on-Trent was given to everyone present by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman E. Holloway who was accompanied by his wife. Alderman Holloway also presented the trophies; cups for the winning teams and individual shields for the players. Certificates are being sent to the other players to recognise the fact that they reached the national semi-finals. It is no mean achievement to reach the last four of a national competition, the original number of entrants for which cannot be easily calculated, but must reach into the hundreds.

With the formation of the E.S.T.T.A., and all this interest and enthusiasm, the future of English table tennis must be very bright. With this, of course, also comes much greater responsibility for senior clubs and officials, to see that these boys and girls are received by them when they leave their schools.

RESULTS

Boys' Under-18 — Norman Cook Cup:

1. Moseley Grammar School, Birmingham.
2. Plaistow Grammar School.
3. St. Mary's College, Middlesborough.
4. Millbrook School, Southampton.

Girls' Under-18 — The Claud Kitchenside Cup:

1. Rectory Manor Secondary Girls' School, Newham.
2. Holly Lodge High School for Girls, Liverpool.
3. King Edward VI Camp Hill School, Birmingham.
4. Newbury County Girls' Grammar School.

Boys' Under-15—The Leach-Carrington Cup:

1. Burnley Wood C.S. Boys' School.
2. Millbrook School, Southampton.
3. Malory School, Bromley.
4. The Chantry C.S. School, Martley.

Girls' Under-15—The "Mick Betts Memorial" Cup:

1. St. Cuthbert's R.C. Secondary Modern School, South Shields.

2. Newbury County Girls' Grammar School.
 3. Kenilworth Grammar School, Warwickshire.
 4. Rainham Secondary School.
- Boys' Under-13—The T. Austin Harrison Cup:**
1. Turves Green Boys' School, Birmingham.
 2. St. Helena C.S. Modern School.
 3. Burnley Wood C.S. Boys' School.
 4. Exmouth School.
- Girls' Under-13—The Hartshill Cup:**
1. Holly Lodge High School for Girls, Liverpool.
 2. Southall Grammar-Technical School.
 3. Nechells Eliot Street School, Birmingham.
 4. Cedars School, Leighton Buzzard.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Apr. 19	Gwent Open, Standard Telephones and Cables Canteen, Corporation Road, Newport, Mon.	JBS, JGS	G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon. NPT 8NX.
" 19-20	Slough Junior Open	U-15 BS, GS, BD, GD U-13 BS, GS.	J. A. Pacitto, 73, Bexley Street, Windsor, Berks.
May 3-4	3rd English Junior Open, Marine Pavilion, Folkestone, Kent.		
" 9-10	Crescent Junior (Girls) Open Bowaters Social Club, Sittingbourne, Kent.	U-15 GS, GD, U-13 GS, GD, U-12 GS U-10 GS	P. G. Mannooch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.

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Tournament Survey

by Bill Dale and Laurie Landry

Although somewhat depleted by the absence of so many top names competing in the Teesside "Circus", the Essex Open played on Feb. 22/23 at Harlow still proved to be a grand draw.

Prior misfortune had struck in the progressing of the tournament when Secretary, Bill Dale, was admitted to hospital with "triplets"—flu, bronchitis and a slight touch of pneumonia.

Despite having had little previous experience, Bill's 17-year-old daughter, Tina, took on and made a thorough success of the administrative responsibilities.

Following the draw, at which Tina and her Mother, Gwen, attended in Bill's absence, Gwen agreed, rather reservedly, to endeavour to time the events. As this proved a more difficult task than usual, due to the large entry, an apology is hereby tendered to those whose wait was protracted.

National Umpire, Alf Leigh of Middlesex was the tournament referee, his first incidentally, and an excellent job he made of it. Thanks too must be afforded Mrs. Grace Levett of Chelmsford who donated a wonderful selection of fund-raiser prizes which realised over £12 towards county funds.

There is a sequel to this effort. Lou Hoffman won the first prize—a beautiful dark green tea service—and presented it to "Connie" Warren and Joan Fitzsimons as a wedding present.

Johnny Leach, who travelled back from Teesside with Chester Barnes (who scratched from the men's doubles because of tiredness) presented the awards.

Big shock on Tyneside, in the Northumberland Open on Mar. 8, was the defeat of Trevor Taylor by Alan Fletcher who subsequently lost to David Hirst -6, -3!!! The finals produced a second senior singles title for Tony Clayton against rubber-bat man Henry Buist.

ESSEX OPEN

Men's Singles:

D. BROWN (Essex) bt C. Warren (Surrey) -11, 23, 15;
C. BARNES (Essex) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 16, 17.
Final: BARNES bt Brown 14, -20, 14.

Women's Singles:

J. WILLIAMS (Bucks.) bt C. Mann (Middx.) 9, 19;
S. HOWARD (Surrey) bt L. Chesson (Kent) 8, -15, 10.
Final: WILLIAMS bt Howard 21, 10.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

R. CHANDLER/P. WILLIAMS (Sussex) bt G. Brass (Essex)/Brown 12, 9;
JOHNS/WARREN bt J. Bender/B. Petch (Middx.) -15, 10, 19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

L. HOWARD/HOWARD (Surrey) bt T. Dale (Essex)/J. Fitzsimons (Ireland) 15, 18;
E. BRITTON (Bucks.)/WILLIAMS bt P. Brenchley (Kent)/Chesson 23, 7.
Final: HOWARD/HOWARD bt

Britton/Williams 18, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

JOHNS/L. HOWARD bt S. Gibbs (Essex)/Dale 15, 15;
WARREN/FITZSIMONS bt Williams/H. Lambert (Middx.) 14, 19.
Final: JOHNS/HOWARD bt Warren/Fitzsimons -20, 16, 18.

Youth Singles (Male): Semi-finals:

JOHNS bt G. Davies (Wales) -17, 12, 17;
PETCH bt M. Waldman (Middx.) 12, -16, 13.

Final: JOHNS bt Petch 14, 22.

Youth Singles (Female): Semi-finals:

CHESSON bt Mann 15, -17, 14;
S. HOWARD bt Brenchley 17, 10.
Final: HOWARD bt Chesson 12, 18.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

S. NORTON (Essex) bt S. Summers 15, -15, 13;
L. HOFFMAN (Middx.) bt C. Brenchley 6, 11.
Final: NORTON bt Hoffman 8, 15.

NORTHUMBERLAND OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

H. Buist (Kent) bt H. Dignan (Nthland.) 12, 11;
D. Hirst (Yorks.) bt A. Fletcher (Yorks) 6, 3;
N. Jarvis (Yorks.) bt L. Landry (Middx.) -15, 21, 21;
A. Clayton (Yorks.) bt B. Burn (Nthland.) -17, 17, 17.

Semi-finals:

BUIST bt Hirst 12, 12; CLAYTON bt Jarvis 11, 20.
Final: CLAYTON bt Buist 14, -17, 13.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

M. HEPPELL (Nthland.) bt S. Lee (Yorks.) 13, 12;
L. BASHFORD (Yorks.) bt C. Duncombe (Nthland.) 16, 17.
Final: HEPPELL bt Bashford 19, 12.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

BURN/T. TAYLOR (Herts.) bt Jarvis/A. Ransome (Nthland.) 11, 18;
CLAYTON/J. DAVIES (Yorks.) bt P. Duncombe/S. Lennie (Nthland.) 15, -20, 14.
Final: BURN/TAYLOR bt Clayton/Davies 17, 17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

DUNCOMBE/HEPPELL bt N. Ferguson (Nthland.)/A. Waters (Yorks.) 6, 8;
BASHFORD / P. RICHMOND (Yorks.) bt S. Lee/V. King (Yorks.) 8, 10.

Final: DUNCOMBE/HEPPELL bt Bashford/Richmond 8, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

LENNIE/HEPPELL bt Taylor/F. Kauffman (Nthland.) 15, 17;
J. YEATS (Yorks.)/ LEE bt Burn/S. Lisle (Lancs.) 11, -20, 21.
Final: LENNIE/HEPPELL bt Yeats/Lee 13, 20.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

I. ROBERTSON (Nthland.) bt P. Freeman (Durham) 22, -10, 13;
FLETCHER bt P. Abell (Yorks.) -21, 18, 17.
Final: ROBERTSON bt Fletcher 19, -14, 17.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

LEE bt S. Broadbent (Yorks.) 20, -8, 14;
BASHFORD bt Lisle 13, 14.
Final: BASHFORD bt Lee -17, 6, 15.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

DIGNAN bt S. Day (Nthland.) 12, 14;

L. BROWNING (Yorks.) bt S. Nunn (Yorks.) 14, -17, 11.
Final: BROWNING bt Dignan 14, 20.

SUSSEX CLOSED

THE Sussex men's title and victory over Roger Chandler at Brighton Corn Exchange finally came to Peter Williams on March 2. Chandler was under pressure for the first time against Derek Holman in the semis and Williams continued where the Hampshire man left off. Peter won three events, MS, MD and XD.

Sister Judy had no trouble in the singles but a great deal in the mixed and women's finals, where she lost partnered by Sam Ogundipe and Ann Woodford. The women's doubles final provided the biggest shock at this venue for several years. Carol Randall (Hailsham) and Susanna Kavallierou (Littlehampton), the two rising stars at 16 years of age, were 12-17 down in the final game against Miss Williams and Mrs. Woodford. Aided by two fine "edges" they made the admirable decision to have a go against the champions. Susanna piled on the top-spin to reach 20-19 when Judy tripped over the table leg in returning a short ball, leaving the girls as Sussex women's champions! This was a final that will be remembered for years to come.

The mixed final brought another major upset when Sam and Judy, with a list of open tournament victims behind them a yard long, were beaten by Peter and Ann Woodford.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

R. CHANDLER bt D. Holman -13, 18, 9; P. WILLIAMS bt P. Metters 17, 14.
Final: WILLIAMS bt Chandler 16, 18.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

J. WILLIAMS bt S. Franklyn 8, 17;
A. WOODFORD bt C. Randall 5, 17.

Final: WILLIAMS bt Woodford 6, 11.

Men's Doubles: Final:

HOLMAN/WILLIAMS bt Chandler/Yates 13, 15.

Women's Doubles: Final:

S. KAVALLIEROU/RANDALL bt Williams/Woodford -14, 16, 19.

Mixed Doubles:

WILLIAMS/WOODFORD bt S. Ogundipe/Williams 14, 14.

Intermediate Men's Singles: Final:

G. GOOD bt S. Marley 11, -20, 15.

Men's Veterans: Final:

R. LEWIS bt F. Wales 14, 16.

WILLESDEN CLOSED

CONFESSING to sleeping better on overnight trains, Laurie Landry—after two such "sleeper" nights to and from Manchester for the Lancashire Junior Open—made light of the travel in reaching the finals of the Willesden Closed played on Monday, March 24.

Malcolm Sugden was simply superb against Laurie in the final after the England Junior Captain had disposed of Mike Johns in the semis. Brian Wright was unable to play.

Results:—

M.S.: M. SUGDEN bt L. Landry 12, 12.
W.S.: M. WALKER bt C. Mann -13, 11, 18.
M.D.: M. JOHNS/SUGDEN bt J. Bender/J. Petch 14, 13.
W.D.: MANN/WALKER bt B. BUTLER/J. DALTON 16, -16, 14.
X.D.: JOHNS/WALKER bt E. Snook/M. Symes 17, 15.
B.S.: M. WALDMAN bt J. Colin 13, 9.
V.S.: L. HOFFMAN bt K. Lipscomb 17, 15.

Roger Prowen, son of a former Veterans' champion Eric, won the Minor Singles, whilst Christine Mann won the Girls' Singles after being runner-up for three years.

LINCOLNSHIRE CLOSED

by Joan Robinson

SKERRATT RETURNS AND REACHES FINAL

The Lincolnshire Closed held at Grimsby on March 2 brought a return to the fold, after several years absence, of former champion Peter Skerratt of Scunthorpe. Although short of match practise—he only started playing seriously again a month ago—he brought fresh life into the tournament with his whirlwind approach to the game.

In the quarters, Peter knocked out County ranked David Armstrong and qualified to meet County No. 2 John Beaumont. At the start Peter's lack of practise against the modern loop and top spin game appeared to be too much of a handicap, but Peter is at his best when the chips are down and after losing the first -15 he saved the second game and won 23-21. The third game brought the packed hall to a standstill, and when John reached 20-15 it looked all over, but no, bringing out some tremendous forehand drives Peter took the next five points, and eventually won 23-21, and so reached the final against County Champion Brian Hill.

The final overshadowed anything that had previously been seen, as the two old adversaries set about each other. Hill's rock like defence against Skerratt's cannonball forehand. Hill took the first 21-18 and Skerratt the second 24-22. The final game had Skerratt in front most of the way, but Brian Hill saved two match points and won this great final 23-21, drawing sustained applause that has not been heard at a Lincolnshire Closed for many a long year.

The other Finals were very much "after the Lord Mayor's Show," the Ladies Singles being won by M. Burgess who defeated her town colleague J. White in a long pushing game. These two paired together to win the Ladies' Doubles, and Mary Burgess completed the treble in the mixed with J. Beaumont with a triumph over M. East and Miss M. Green.

The Men's Doubles went to the holders Hill and Armstrong in two straight games over Beaumont and East. The boys' singles produced a surprise result when unranked Geoff Payne of Lincoln completely overwhelmed the red hot favourite T. Herod 21-7, 21-14 in the final. It was also a welcome return to the

LINCS. CLOSED cont.

closed of the Veterans Event and also the Junior Girls having their own singles, but those present will long remember the Men's Final when all others are just a distant memory.

RESULTS

Men's Singles:

Semi-Final: B. Hill (Boston) bt B. Finneran (Grimsby) -16, 12, 13.
P. Skerratt (Scunthorpe) bt J. Beaumont (Spalding) -17, 21, 21.

Final: Hill bt Skerratt 15, -22, 21.

Ladies' Singles:

Semi-final: Miss J. White (Spalding) bt Mrs. C. Moran (Grimsby) 19, -20, 16.

Mrs. M. Burgess (Spalding) bt Mrs. J. Robinson (Lincoln) 21-18, 26-24.

Final: Burgess bt White 8, 18.

Men's Doubles:

Final: Hill and D. Armstrong (Boston) bt Beaumont and East (Boston) 19, 14.

Ladies' Doubles:

Final: Burgess and White bt Moran and Mrs. P. Lammin (Grimsby) 16, 13.

Mixed Doubles:

Final: Beaumont and Burgess bt M. East and Miss M. Green (Spalding) 13, 17.

Boys' Singles:

Final: G. Payne (Lincoln) beat T. Herod (Boston) 7, 14.

Girls' Singles:

Final: Miss J. Sampson (Grimsby) bt Miss J. Hackford (Grimsby) 12, 15.

Veterans' Singles:

Final: B. Finneran bt K. Parker 14, 8.

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

by LES DAVIS

HARRISON'S RECALL IN VAIN

A study of last season's draw sheets underlines the similarity between that season's semi-finalists and this one.

In the Wilmott Cup only Northumberland are absent and this may have been occasioned by the transfer of players to other teams.

Bolton with Denis Neale did not win as easily as one would have expected. Although Neale's superiority was apparent both Eric Coster and Brian Barr did well for Watford.

Huddersfield's, Mear, Hirst and Kedge played well but not quite good enough to beat Birmingham. At 4-all it was left to Ralph Gunnion to beat David Hirst. This, he did handsomely.

Gloucester just could not begin against holders Willesden. Although bringing back Ian Harrison from retirement they could only muster two sets. Dennis Holland really failed.

Although, to my mind, the London Civil Service win over Southampton was a forgone conclusion, one did not expect each L.C.S. player to lose one set each to different members of the Southampton side.

ROSE BOWL

Where are Doncaster and Sutton this year? Guildford thrashed the L.C.S. ladies' team. Miss Moore being the only player to win a set and this only in the third.

A rather different proposition will confront them in the semi-final when they meet Central London's Alma Taft, Judy Williams and Karenza Mathews. Good luck to the newcomers anyhow.

The Huddersfield v. Birmingham score card is a very neat one-sided affair. Each set was won by Birmingham in two straight games.

CARTER CUP

Although Barking's Read, Horsham and Locke overcame the North Middlesex side, each had to bow to the superiority of Melvyn Waldman. This young man's form must be encouraging to the Middlesex officials.

In the other semi-final, North Herts' Trevor Taylor proved himself the star by winning his games with ease. P. Taylor and F. Gunning (Birmingham) fought an exciting contest particularly in the second game when Taylor (after losing the first) won by 34-32!

BROMFIELD TROPHY

Slough and Sittingbourne are again through to the Final. Last season, Slough beat Sittingbourne 5-4. Will it be the Kent team's turn this time? It will be remembered that they won the trophy two seasons ago.

I know a few South Western Counties that would like to be able to claim such a wealth of female talent!

JUNIOR COMPETITION FINALS

These will be held at the Marine Pavilion, Folkestone on Friday, May 3, on the eve of the English Junior Open.

WILMOTT CUP - Semi-finals

Bolton v. Birmingham

Willesden v. London Civil Service

Round 5 results:

Watford 3 Bolton 5.

Huddersfield 4 Birmingham 5.

Southampton 3 London C.S. 6.

Willesden 7 Gloucester 2.

J.M. ROSE BOWL - Semi-finals

Birmingham v. Northumberland

Guildford v. Central London

Round 5 results:

Huddersfield 0 Birmingham 9.

Lowestoft 3 Northumberland 6.

Guildford 8 London C.S. 1.

Central London 9 Southampton 0.

CARTER CUP - Semi-finals

Results:

Birmingham 2 North Herts. 7.

Barking 6 North Middlesex 3.

BROMFIELD TROPHY - Semi-finals

Results:

Bournemouth 1 Slough 8.

Sittingbourne 8 Hull 1.



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COACHING SCHEME

Coaching Awards

THE following Coaches have now received their assessment as Diploma Two-Star Coaches in the new Awards Scheme. Further applications are being received and will be dealt with by the end of May.

J. Cornwell
J. Kennerley
A. Ransome
J. Waterhouse
Mrs. E. Carrington
H. Dignan
N. Isbell
P. F. Taylor

Proficiency Award

This aspect of the Coaching Scheme is now receiving greater impetus and so far 751 Awards have been presented. There is room for a far greater increase in the number of awards and it is hoped that all Associations will co-operate fully.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SPORTS CLUBS

AT this time when it appears that more and more people are becoming interested in playing competitive table tennis it would appear to be necessary to think about the provision of facilities for club matches.

The increased activity in schools table tennis is bound to bring a greater number of people, particularly school leavers, into the game. Unfortunately, many clubs state that, whilst they would like to open their ranks to more members, they have not the facilities to cater for extra and would find it difficult to hire premises to enable them to run additional teams.

One of the simplest answers to this problem is greater use of school facilities and although some clubs and leagues are finding education authorities co-operative, there are others who find it exceedingly difficult to obtain the use of school premises and, in addition, such premises may prove costly to hire.

Some leagues, and even clubs, are thinking in terms of providing their own headquarters. It is hoped that the following paragraphs, extracted from a leaflet prepared by the Greater London and South East Sports Council, will be of some value to anyone interested in such a project.

It should be noted that grants are also available to enable clubs to obtain equipment provided the cost is a minimum of £100.

Amateur sports clubs may receive financial assistance from the Department of Education and Science for capital expenditure on land, buildings, initial equipment including maintenance machinery, and for the professional fees involved in the transactions (but not for general maintenance and repair) provided certain conditions are observed, e.g.

1. The club or organisation, which must be established primarily for use by adults, must be well founded and properly constituted.

2. Membership of the club is open to the public in general without discrimination on account of race, occupation, religion, etc.
3. The club has (or will have on purchase) security of tenure on the land, i.e. ownership or a long lease. Grants are scaled down when the lease is less than 28 years. (Where a grant is required for equipment only, the rules for security of tenure do not apply).
4. No work is started on the project before permission is given by the Department of Education and Science.
5. The club must provide 25% of the cost of the project which must total at least £100.
6. The grant will not exceed 50% of the total cost and will normally not exceed £10,000.
7. The annual membership fee must not be more than £10 10s.
8. Grants are made only where financial need is demonstrated

In the first instance, applications should be made on Form A.W.4 (obtainable from the Regional Office of the C.C.P.R.). Form A.W.4 should be completed in duplicate, one copy to be sent to the Department of Education and Science, F.E. II Branch, 4, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, London S.W.1, and the other to the local education authority (which is empowered to give additional grants and to which separate application should be made).

From the Editor's Postbag

"BLAME THE REFEREE"

HAVING read the letters submitted by Leslie Constable (Jan.) and A. L. Kayes (Feb.) on the Service Rule and the Umpire, and whilst agreeing with them, I would put much of the blame for an umpire's failure to call a fault service on another official—the Referee.

The referee has the power to appoint, overrule (on a point of law) or change an umpire, but with so many lesser qualified persons being appointed as referees, umpires have little hope of firm support from them.

It has been noticeable that at most tournaments where there have been regrettable incidents, the referee has only been a County Umpire. It would, therefore, be in the interests of players and umpires if the referee could always be an experienced National Umpire.

Then, I submit, you would get the same confidence as aroused by Ian Crickmer at the match England v. Russia at Birmingham when he told his umpire "Score according to the laws of table tennis and I'll back every score you call"—but then Ian is a National Umpire.

Mrs. PAT ARCHDALE
26, West View Road,
Keynsham, Bristol.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

I have recently heard, with interest, the new waive of enthusiasm that has taken place at the Headquarters of the E.T.T.A. with the emphasis on trying to make the whole of English table tennis financially stable with the long term views of new deals for Players and others. This is something I feel we must all see succeed, but I do feel that all members generally are inclined to live in the past and look to others for help. To give an extra boost to the endeavours of the few forward looking members of the E.T.T.A., I would suggest the following:—

1. All members over the age of 21 years to be registered playing individuals of the E.T.T.A. at an annual rate of £3 3s. 0d. per season. Each member to be given a membership number which entitles them to participate in any function with E.T.T.A. approval, and also automatically entitles them to a free copy of "Table Tennis News" and E.T.T.A. handbooks, etc.
2. All members under 21 years of age must be registered junior individuals of the E.T.T.A. at an annual rate of £1 1s. 0d. per season, each member to be given a membership number which entitles them to participate in any functions with E.T.T.A. approval, but does not entitle them to a free copy of "Table Tennis News" or E.T.T.A. handbooks etc.
3. All other grades of persons connected with the game to be registered individuals of the E.T.T.A. at an annual rate of £1 1s. 0d. per season which entitles them to a free copy of the E.T.T.A. news and E.T.T.A. handbooks etc., but does not allow them to participate in tournaments or play under E.T.T.A. approval.

I know this will cause shaking of heads, but just carefully think and ask yourself, if you are not thinking back to times of a four shilling bat (now 50/-) and a three penny ball (now 2/-) to see the logic in my suggested proposals.

It has been suggested to me that there are something in the region of 190,000 players in Table Tennis. If only half of these fell into line with the proposals, the E.T.T.A. would have an income of something in excess of £150,000 per annum, and I think that if we as "people" connected with the Game gave it such a financial shot in the arm, what an incentive the E.T.T.A. would have.

B. MANN

20, St. Alban's Villas,
LONDON, N.W.5.

Car-Sticker Competition

THE E.T.T.A. Publicity Committee would like to receive ideas and designs from readers of the magazine for a car-sticker which will give publicity to the sport of Table Tennis.

This can take the form of a slogan and/or graphic symbol but the aim is to provide something which is both appealing to the eye and instantly recognisable as table tennis.

A prize of £5 is offered to the person submitting the design which, in the opinion of the judges, best meets the requirements.

Entries should be submitted to the E.T.T.A. 26, Park Crescent, London W1N 4HA, by 31st May, 1969.

Obituary

Mr. S. R. Hoddy

The death of Sid Hoddy on the 15 March was a great shock to the many who will remember him as a considerable figure in table tennis administration in the fifties and early sixties. Probably his greatest contribution was his two seasons as chairman of the National County Championships from 1957 to 1959, which was a time when they were consolidating themselves into their present role as the major competition in the calendar. It was unfortunate that this involved him, quite unwittingly, in the politics of administration and the circumstances of his defeat at the 1959 election left a scar which never really healed. This, coupled with a misunderstanding which led to his leaving the E.T.T.A.'s. Rules Committee resulted in the premature retirement from the national game of an able administrator who could ill be spared. He had a clear and analytical mind which made him an invaluable member of any rules or drafting committee; he was also an able speaker who made many notable contributions to E.T.T.A. Annual General Meetings. He started administrative work in the 1940's with the North Middlesex League, being chairman from 1950 to 1956 and president from 1960 until his death. He served on the Middlesex County Committee from 1949 to 1961 and was a vice-president. He qualified as a National Umpire in 1956 as the seventh such qualifier and was considered one of the Association's most competent umpires in the 1950's. In latter years he had confined his activities to the small Northmet League although he did undertake the organisation of the V.I.P. hospitality committee at the European Championships in 1966.

One can but extend deepest sympathy to his devoted wife, Carol, to whom he had been happily married for so many years, and also to his daughter.

Local Radio is here to stay

by John Woodford

A RECENT announcement by the Conservative Party that they intend to launch 100 local commercial stations if they are returned to power should convince all sporting bodies and all publicity-minded individuals in table tennis that not a minute can be lost in co-operating with this medium.

In my capacity as Publicity Officer for Sussex, I made my first contact with BBC RADIO BRIGHTON some eighteen months ago. The station has now been on the air for 14 months. During that time table tennis has been involved in some 30 broadcasts in Friday and Saturday evening sports programmes and has

been accepted as one of the leading sports giving regular contributions.

How ever high the standard of table tennis reports in the local and county press, all county press officers and local league press officers in the cities and larger towns should now be thinking of participation with local radio.

Of the eight BBC stations now in existence, seven are now receiving regular contributions from their respective local table tennis press officers. The exception is at Stoke, where the league have stated that their arrangements with the local press are so good that they do not use radio. This minority attitude is one which might suit Stoke but is quite unacceptable from the national publicity viewpoint. It is as important for table tennis to be knocking at the door of every radio station as it is to be represented on every Sports Council. Table tennis has one of the finest organisations, in comparison with sports such as badminton, at league, county, national and international levels. Many people, even inside our game do not know that table tennis is the only sport with a European League.

These facts have to be hammered home time and time again! When they are realised the image of table tennis as a semi-major sport is made, whereas in most cases, new sports producers regard it as something fit only for the dining room table! They will still remain in ignorance unless we get out there and keep on talking. Radio gives us yet another massive opportunity to show the public how far we have come since the war.

ALMOST USELESS

Supplying lists of results for the sports announcer to read on the programme, is in my view, almost useless. Most stations will accept scripted contributions to be read on the air by the local press officer. In some counties, this could be the function of the county press officer, who providing he is in close touch with the news of the local league, can provide a wider report with items on the county's stars, but of course, slanted to provide full publicity for the town's local players where the radio station is situated.

Better still, interviews with star players, local or county can often be arranged. Even better, if a really big tournament is being held in the area, here is a real chance to use initiative and bring either England stars or even foreign stars to the microphone.

In Sussex we are lucky to have the English Open at our disposal for publicity purposes. Luckier still is the fact that Radio Brighton's studio is across the street from the Corn Exchange, the tournament venue. This year I intended to make two broadcasts myself on the Open, but after some negotiations it amounted to four with the Radio Brighton sports producers asking for additional 'live' interviews. The climax was an interview, taped and broadcast later in the day, with Zoya Rudnova, the Russian champion and Judy Williams, the English champion, who happens to speak fluent Russian, as interpreter. The producers were delighted with the results which made the highlight of the Friday evening sports programme.

GOT TO "LIVE"

Lists of results, supplied to both Press and Radio make dull reading and listening. Press and Radio copy has got to 'live'. Interesting, sometimes controversial 'copy' must be found. All the angles have got to be used, in the same way as the national dailies will 'blow-up' what seems to some as trivial incidents into something big.

As the press must have pictures, radio must have illustration in the form of recordings and interviews. Full co-operation between table tennis publicity men and the radio producers can produce excellent

results as they have at Brighton. But we know our sport best, we are the experts in the eyes of the radio men, therefore we must come up with the ideas of how to produce a bright and sparkling radio image.

Eventually, it may be necessary to appoint assistants to county press officers, to cope with the demands of the radio and television companies. Whatever happens, table tennis must be ready to respond to the challenge to provide any new publicity media with the service it must have; or better than that, provide information and ideas better than any other sport.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SUGGESTIONS

by Karoly Javor

Former Hungarian international and Manager/Coach of the Australian Teams at Munich.

UP until 1957, the World Championships were held annually but from then on, due to the increasing administrative costs, the I.T.T.F. decided to hold them biennially.



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Championships Suggestions cont.

Now, according to what we read in various publications, changes are again envisaged and Victor Barna, writing in "World Sports," gave his suggestions to ease the financial burden of the host country.

Victor's solution is to have elimination rounds, as in soccer, with only 16-20 teams going forward to the actual championships. As the host nation is responsible for food, accommodation and local transport, 16-20 teams instead of 45-50 would cut the costs considerably.

But, as I see it, this plan would only help the host nation and hinder the rest, especially the poor ones and those countries in which table tennis is viewed as a very minor sport.

It is presumed that Victor would have his zoning geographically with the host and title holder nations automatically included in the final 16-20.

In effect, this would mean that other nations would have more expense for, by qualifying, they would incur the further cost of travelling to the World Championships venue.

In Australia and other countries where players get little or no financial assistance from their Association, the money has to be raised the hard way or Dad pays the lot.

Granted the elimination rounds would create more interest, but no such tourney would bring in enough money to cover the expenses, probably not even for the host nation.

I believe we have to find other ways to make the World Championships cheaper to run and, for what they are worth, here are my suggestions which players and officials can judge for themselves.

Team matches should be of one game only instead of the best of three.

I know that it is hard to imagine playing one game only but if we have to make drastic changes, then one game is better than no game at all (the zoning system would mean no game for more than half of the competing countries).

NOT UNFAIR

The 1-game system would give a little more hope to the team with a lower standard of play for it is easier to win one game than two. This in itself would create more interest without being unfair.

Doubles sets in the individual events to be the best of three games instead of five.

The foregoing would have the consequential effect of saving 3-4 days and a lessening of costs for the host nation but would still allow for a fully representative entry.

To cut the length of the championships reduces the costs but to make them more interesting increases income.

My suggestions for the team events would be to formulate four groups to play off on a Round Robin basis in four different cities with the host country.

For two days the various cities would then be responsible for accommodation and travel including transportation to the final venue.

In England, for example, group matches could be staged in London,

Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester, and London could be the place to conclude the team matches and conduct the individual events.

If there were, say 40 men's and 28 women's teams, each city could stage group competitions involving 10 men's and 7 women's teams respectively and there would be, at least, three very strong teams in each group.

On a one-game basis, teams could play 6 rounds per day and still play less than with 3 rounds of the present system.

MANY HOURS LESS

We have to admit, that no system would make an interesting match out of Japan and Australia, as at present. But we should not even try to eliminate the only chances of the weak nations to play against the champions.

The winners of the 4 groups would play another Round Robin for the 1-4 places, the runners-up for the 5-8 places and so on.

Admittedly, it would mean a few more matches but still many games and many hours less than at present and by bringing the more even teams together would make the Championships more presentable and probably more profitable.

Even the early stages in the different cities could mean full houses, as the people of that particular city might not be keen enough to travel a long way to watch a game, but would watch it on their own doorstep.

Changes will have to come because it is becoming increasingly difficult for the host nation to cope but we must not bring in zoning or any other system which would stop the majority of teams—even if they are the weak ones—from competing in the World Championships proper.

Soccer needed zoning, as they cannot play a match every day, but we can. Table tennis is still growing and we need a new system too. But it must be one affording the same chance for every team to participate be they weak or strong, helped by their Government or not.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

At its Annual General Meeting at Brighton on March 1, the International Table Tennis Club elected the Hon. Ivor Montagu as President for another year.

Former international Ernie Buble was elected as Social Organiser and, together with Match Secretary, Laurie Landry, they hope for an active year.

First event will be the annual rubber bat tournament at Ultra Ltd., in London on May 24 at 5-30 p.m.

If there are any organisations, or Leagues, that would like the International Club, which can call on over 120 past and present senior and junior internationals, to play matches with a bit of spice or variety, or to give exhibitions and present prizes, just contact the secretary, Laurie Landry, 53 Hillfield Road, London, N.W.6. Home telephone: 01-794 6753.

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baffle him with the soft one



IN order to provide an adequate report and photographic coverage of the 30th World Championships in Munich, and the subsequent Japanese tour of this country, publication of the final (May) issue of TABLE TENNIS NEWS will be held back for approximately ten days.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Colin Clemett, Secretary of the E.T.T.A.'s. Umpires and Coaching Sub-Committee has changed his address to 7, Brookmead Way, Langstone, Havant, Hampshire.

S.T.D.

E.T.T.A. Deputy Chairman, Walter Mitton, is now on S.T.D. dialling—0723 64775.

Appreciation

ON the occasion of the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy competition final, at Oldham on March 29, Stan Parr, the former Lancs. and Cheshire League Secretary, was the recipient of a record player. His wife, Eileen, was presented with an evening bag.

Handing over the gifts, subscribed to by former colleagues and member league donations, Lancashire's President, Jack Livingstone paid tribute to Stan's work over a number of years.

Having now departed the county, on Civil Service promotion, Stan's new address is 7 Ennerdale Crescent, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, where old friends will be welcomed.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

by Grove Motlow

GREAT COME-BACKS

IN their home match against Cheltenham, Bristol certainly "zoomed" off to a good start with a 4-0 lead but Cheltenham fought back to narrow Bristol's victory to 5-4. For Bristol, D. Caines and C. Feltham each won 2 and R. Bowden one whilst the visitors' victories came from P. Slack, who won 2, Peter Cruwys and M. White.

Exeter, after being 1-4 down in their home match against Swindon, also fought back and thanks to an excellent team effort they won 5-4. Mike Rattue started the rallying call ably supported by Mike Putland and Paul Stone and it was Stone who beat A. Wolff (Snr.) in the final set.

Against Swindon who were without Gwen Hazell, Exeter Ladies had a very easy win by 8 sets to 1, with 6 rebles being obtained by Mrs. Spray and Mrs. Ware.

Newport Ladies had a very narrow win in their away match against Weston their 5-4 success being largely attributable to the form of Stella Jones who won her three sets with one each from Barbara Roden and Susan Poole.

For the home team, Mrs. Bull won 2, whilst Mrs. Sare and Mrs. Wood each had a solo.

Present league positions are:— (leading)

MEN	P.	W.	L.	F.	A	Pts.
Plymouth	6	5	1	33	21	10
Exeter	6	5	1	31	23	10
Bristol	5	4	1	27	18	8
Weston	5	3	2	27	18	6

WOMEN	P.	W.	L.	F.	A	Pts.
Bristol	6	6	0	42	12	12
Newport	6	3	3	22	32	6
Swindon	6	3	3	22	32	6
Exeter	5	2	3	23	22	4

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Cliff Darley

PLEASANT SURPRISE

CONGRATULATIONS to Denis Neale and Alan Hydes on their selection as members of England's World Championships squad. Alan's inclusion came as a surprise, but a very pleasant one.

The Sheffield Combined Association successfully staged their first international match at the Civic Hall wherein a crowd approaching 1000 saw England draw with Rumania. Following the excellent presentation, I feel sure an even bigger crowd will be attracted in June when England play Federal Germany to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Sheffield and District Works League.

Barnsley's Ace club reached the final of the Yorkshire Club competition (Women's Section) when represented by Muriel Jones, Mildred Mosley and Eileen Starkie.

Mick Stephenson received his Bradford League senior badge when he helped in the final Yorkshire League success over Doncaster by 10-0. Against Malcolm Machin, from being 7-7, Mick won the next 14 points in a row.

Bradford women have need to beat both York and Hull if they are to win their division. Their third successive win was over a Leeds team without the services of Linda Forkes and Alison Waters.

Len Browning is still causing upsets both in the men's and veteran singles at open tournaments. At Sheffield he beat Derek Munt and in the Midland Counties Open won his second veteran's title of the season.

There was a big surprise in the Yorkshire Area play-offs of the English Schools' team championships when Hymers College, Hull, last year's national champions, were eliminated by Roundhay. The match was drawn 4-4 but the Leeds team of Nigel Davies, Nicky Marshall, Tony Morris and Steve Whittaker went through on "games."

Hull Junior Girls lost 1-8 to Sittingbourne in the semi-final of the Bromfield Trophy competition. In Kent, only Lynda Sutton found any form worthwhile being successful against Bernadette McGrorty.

HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH NOTES

by David Obee

GREAT STUFF, PAUL!

HIGHLIGHT of March activity in the County was the excellent performance of Ramsey's Paul Charlton who celebrated his seventeenth birthday with a great win in the Wisbech Open. Paul took the junior boys' title in this newly staged event, beating no less a player than Peter Taylor in the semis, and Roger Marchant (Northants) in the final.

Diane Maxfield carried off the junior girls' title in the Oxford Open last season, but Paul's success was only the second by a Hunts. player in open competition. With only 2/3 years of table tennis behind him, this level-headed young man clearly has a fine future in the game.

Another performance worthy of mention during the month was that of Mary Maxfield. Partnering John Beaumont (Lincs.), Mary failed by the narrowest of margins to annex the Bedford Open mixed doubles title against John Thurston and Carol Chapman (Cams.). Considering that there was a very considerable entry in this event (including Stuart Gibbs and partner) this was a fine display.

In their last match of the current campaign, the county side fell to Northants 3-7, but how that score flattered the visitors! The Northants team saved 2 match points in the mixed to avoid a 4-2 deficit, whilst Roger Steward came back from a hopeless position in the last men's singles against Brian Cullis to win at "deuce."

Earlier in the evening, Cullis had demoralised John Goodall with his easy handling of the loop and fine backhand attack to get his side off to a good start.

The juniors went down 2-8 to Northants in the afternoon, with young Roddy Marchant gaining revenge over Charlton for his defeat of the previous weekend.

WISBECH RESTRICTED OPEN

- M.S.: G. BARNES bt S. Gibbs 14, 17.
- W.S.: B. CASSELL bt M. Burgess 14, 20.
- M.D.: BARNES/D. BOWLES bt Gibbs/Levett 18, 17.
- X.D.: GIBBS/L. WOODCOCK bt K. Armstrong/J. White 19, -20, 17.
- Y.S.: P. CHARLTON bt A. Marchant -16, 18, 19.

WISBECH CLOSED

- M.S.: J. SELL bt B. Wilson.
- W.S.: B. CASSELL bt K. Mitchum.
- M.D.: SELL/WILSON bt K. Burton/T. Burton.
- W.D.: CASSELL/MITCHUM bt A. Luckloo/D. Tooke.
- X.D.: WILSON/CASELL bt G. Calvert/Mitchum.
- Y.S.: P. LOUGHLIN bt P. Singletery.



Diploma Coach, Geoff Newman, is above seen with three of his budding stars at Maldon Youth Centre. All three boys only started playing this season and two of them have already earned their Bronze Award under the E.T.T.A.'s. Proficiency Scheme.

Photo by courtesy of Essex Chronicle Series Ltd., Westway, Chelmsford.

KENT NOTES

by Charles M. Wyles

PASSING OF A PRESIDENT

THE death of our President, C. STUART CHIESMAN has been felt as a great personal loss to both Officers and Members.

Mr. Chiesman's interest over the last four years was marked by his attendance at a number of functions and matches. His personal encouragement and interest in the Association's fortunes was much valued. We have indeed lost a friend.

Congratulations to the County Juniors on winning the Southern Divisional title for the fourth time in five seasons. With such a wealth of talent now available, the selected team to challenge for the national title will be a strong one.

If only the Seniors had played as well in the first half of the season as in the second! However, fourth place is very creditable in their first back in the Premier.

The Junior Closed Championships produced the usual crop of surprises. A record entry "taxed" the organisational qualities of the Woolwich Association who, as usual, were equal to the demands made of them.

Winners:

B.S.: B. Grimwade.
G.S.: P. Brenchley.
B.D.: Grimwade/R. Tilling.
G.D.: Brenchley/L. Chesson.
X.D.: J. Dabin/Brenchley.

U-15:

B.S.: S. Endersby.
G.S.: Chesson.
B.D.: P. Guttormsen/S. Williams.
G.D.: Brenchley/Chesson.

U-13:

B.S.: Guttormsen.
G.S.: A. Chesson.
B.D.: Guttormsen/J. Norman.
G.D.: A. Chesson/J. Holtham.

All credit to the newly formed Headcorn League on their ambitious and successful Closed Championships which drew an excellent entry for the one day event. Most successful was Bernard Garrett who won the men's singles and doubles with Tony Baldwin.

County social activities have not been neglected as witness the popular Ashford Dinner/Dance. With over 100 guests, one of the highlights was a giant Tombola session with 52 prizes (everyone donated). The affair proved an excellent forerunner to the County Dinner/Dance to be held in Folkestone on May 2.

Good luck to the Sittingbourne girls on their second bid to capture the Bromfield Trophy after their narrow loss last year.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John M. Barnes

DENSHAM RETURNS

AS the season draws to a close the Hertfordshire Inter-club Competitions are reaching their final stages. In those semi-finals that have

already been played, I.C.L. were victorious over Hemel Hempstead G.P.O. in the Open Competition, and Haileybury Boys' Club over Bedwell Community Centre in the Intermediate Competition. The Ladies' Final will be between Water Lane and I.C.I.

The Senior Individual Closed Championships saw the successful but brief return from retirement of Terry Densham, beating G. Maxwell (Watford) 21-17, 21-18 in the Men's Singles Semi-final. Barry White (Cheshunt) won the other Semi-final against D. Gilbert (Watford) 21-16, 21-18. In the Final Terry Densham beat Barry White 21-13, 25-23. The Ladies' Singles title was taken by Mrs. D. Baines with a 21-19, 21-17 win over Barbara Peters.

In the Junior Individual Closed Championships, Peter Taylor took both the Under-17 and Under-15 Boys' Singles titles with wins against M. Harper (Letchworth) in the finals of both events. The Under-13 Boys' title went to P. Roseberry (Stevenage) over D. Sherbourne (Letchworth). Miss J. Hartwell (Cheshunt) won both the Under-13 and Under-15 Girls' singles events against Miss S. Harding (Letchworth) in both finals, but failed to take the third title, losing in the final of the Under-17 to Moira Carter (St. Albans).

In the County Schools' Championships, there were entries from twenty schools. Champion School took both the Under-17 and Under-13 Boys' events, the Under-15 going to Letchworth. The Girls' Under-17 was won by Mount Grace.

In the Inter-league Competitions, Watford First Team lead the First Division with North Herts. in second place, two points behind with a match in hand. Bishops Stortford head the Second Division with a set's advantage over Watford Second Team, but with Welwyn First and Second Teams close behind, and all with matches to play it should be an interesting finish. The Junior Competition is also very open, between the top three teams—North Herts. First and Second Teams and Cheshunt First Team. Clearly by the time of going to press, or soon after, some very important matches will have been played in all the Inter-league competitions.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

"O, SUZANNA!"

RUNNING neck-and-neck with Carol Randall in the Sussex newspapers table tennis headlines is 17-year-old Suzanna Kavallierou from Littlehampton. Sussex journalists have had a mighty struggle to spell her name correctly and now they find she has an up-and-coming 11-year-old brother Andros, already strong enough to play for Littlehampton juniors.

Suzanna has a Hungarian mother, a Greek father and a brand of top-spin which is already worrying Judy Williams. Suzanna took Judy to 16 in the third at the Kent Open. The same top spin was also decisive in the defeat of Miss Williams in the women's doubles Sussex Closed final.

Now finishing her last season as a junior, the Littlehampton starlet faces the big gap between junior and senior county play. Her ambition is to be a physical education teacher and should she be successful in gaining admission to the Chelsea College of Physical Education at Eastbourne in September, as a pupil, she will find one of her fellow pupils is Surrey's Sandra Goldsmith, another exponent of top-spin. Suzanna's most recent successes on the Sussex inter-league front was at Bexhill when she beat the Sussex junior No. 3 boy Stephen Marley 14-21, 23-21, 21-18 and another county player Mark Bull 21-19, 21-19. The person behind the rise to fame of Miss Kavallierou has been the Littlehampton Roman Catholic priest and table tennis coach Father B. J. Rowley. Jovial Father Rowley himself collected the attention of the national press when he competed in the qualifying rounds of the English Open!

The new Sussex junior champions are Arthur Downer (Brighton) and Carol Randall (Eastbourne). They both fought battles in the finals against the No. 2 seeded players Graham Good and Miss Kavallierou. Graham got his own back against Downer at the Sussex Closed and also beat the Brighton league player Colin Monson, a stalwart of the Hailsham club and the Eastbourne league.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ralph Gunnion

HOPES DISPELLED

IN front of a large and enthusiastic crowd at Coventry Baths, Warwickshire were well and truly beaten by Kent and what slender hopes remained of retaining Premier Division status were soon dispelled.

Against Leicestershire, in the Junior Division, a final 7-3 win carried Warwickshire to another series of Junior Challenge matches.

Birmingham, continuing their policy of encouraging young players in Open Tournaments, sent eight of them to the Lancashire Open at Bolton.

Thanks must be expressed to the good souls who rose early to take them namely Reg Cornock, Colin Hammond and particularly John Heaton who, in easing the load on Maurice Goldstein's back, undertook the prior arrangements.

Birmingham's Wilmott and Rose Bowl teams have reached the semi-finals again, both having been called upon to travel to Huddersfield.

The ladies were convincing winners, by 9-0, but the men were rather fortunate to win 5-4 after being 3-4 down.

In the Carter Cup, Birmingham lost 3-7 to North Herts, which was a somewhat disappointing result after the fine performance against Manchester.

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ESSEX NOTES

by Harry Walker

FORWARD POLICIES

George Eagle, our Chairman, is at present working on a new plan for the constitution and administration of the County. The theme is intended to bring all member leagues more into the organisation of affairs at County level and to modernise present methods so that more of the Committee's time can be spent on the future and not on the past.

A party of players from Chelmsford League were going to Holland for the Easter Holiday as guests of the T.S.T. Club at Schiedam. Stuart Gibbs was expected to be in the party and "Stew" far from being "sad" (as depicted in the Feb. issue of TABLE TENNIS NEWS) is in fact quite happy and it should not be long before he will be back at the top challenging for his rightful place in the International Squad.

In the London Federation of Youth Clubs Championships at Stepney, the boys of Fairbairn House (Barking) carried off four of the five titles. John Holton won the U-19 singles and also the doubles with Brian Cox.

L. Birchinall won the U-15 singles and teamed up with Paul Hinson to win the U-17 doubles. These wins are a credit to Len Hoffman, the coach at the club—another training ground Len has found for Essex juniors.

Quite a number of leagues have held their Closed Championships and the main winners were:—

EAST LONDON

M.S.: R. J. Stevens.
W.S.: Miss T. Dale.
M.D.: P. Curtis/Stevens.
X.D.: Stevens/Mrs. A. Hall.

ROMFORD

M.S.: K. H. Beamish.
W.S.: Miss S. Hession.
B.S.: I. Horsham.
G.S.: Miss J. Jameson.
M.D.: J. Brewit/R. Wesley.
W.D.: Miss Owen-Flood/Hession.
X.D.: Beamish/Hession.
V.S.: S. A. Taylor.

SOUTHEND

M.S.: M. Watts.
W.S.: Mrs. M. Pemberton.
B.S.: J. Willson.
G.S.: Miss M. Thacker.
M.D.: R. Eley/Watts.
W.D.: Mrs. Challis/Miss Pemberton.
X.D.: Watts/Challis.
V.S. (M.): E. Allen.
V.S. (W.): M. Goodale.

CHELMSFORD

M.S.: T. Caldwell.
W.S.: Mrs. S. Carroll.
B.S.: M. Storey.
G.S.: Miss L. Pates.
M.D.: S. Conquest/G. Gale.
W.D.: Mrs. M. Buck/Mrs. P. Cant.
X.D.: Caldwell/Mrs. J. Caldwell.
V.S.: G. C. Wheeler.

Congratulations to Bobby Stevens, Shelagh Hession and Mike Watts on winning three titles in their championships.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Jim Beckley

UNBREAKABLE RECORD?

FOR the tenth time, Derek Schofield, English team selector and Cheshire county player, has won the singles title of the Stockport Closed Championships. Local correspondent George Stafford, predicts that Derek's record may never be broken. I have a feeling that he may be right.

Venue for this season's Cheshire Closed will be the Armoury, Greek Street, Stockport. The date is

April 19 and play commences at 9-30 a.m.

At the time of writing, the final of the Bradley Cup in the Chester TT League is to be played between the two First Division sides ICI Lostock and County Officers. Although both teams are more or less level in the league, I pick ICI to win.

Well Cheshire are once again assured of top class table tennis next season. Their 9-0 win over a depleted Gloucester side and a 6-3 success over Warwickshire confirmed Cheshire's immediate future. Ever since I have been connected with Cheshire they seem to have been

struggling to avoid relegation. It would be a nice change, if next season, they could be seen running for—champions?

In the Crewe TT League, it looks all over bar the shouting. Rolls Royce seem to be walking away with Division One, with Permanent Way probably taking second place.

It was a pity that only 20 players turned up for Peter Simpson's recent coaching session in Cheadle Heath. When Peter returns to the district, let's have a better turn-out, for a coach of Peter's calibre deserves better appreciation.



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NORTHANTS NOTES

by Gwyn Powell

NORTHANTS FINISH WITH DOUBLE VICTORY

NORTHANTS completed their County Championship programme with two grand victories against Huntingdonshire. The senior team recovered well from a 1-3 deficit to win all the remaining sets and take the match by 7-3. George Tsow was again in impressive form and won both his singles in straight games to retain his unbeaten record in county matches this season. Ann Lenton had a fine win over Diane Maxfield and Goodall and Tsow combined well to take the men's doubles. The juniors won by a comfortable 8-2 margin with both Roderick Marchant and Nick Haydock winning all their events.

Earlier in the month, Marchant did well to reach his first junior open final at Wisbech. This he narrowly lost to Paul Charlton of Hunts, by 19, 18, 19, but had his revenge in the county match when he won 17, 17, 13. Unfortunately four of this year's junior team will be too old for the junior ranks next season and several new players will have to be blooded.

In the Bedford restricted open, the promising Northampton player, Steve Lyon, gave a great display against English international Stuart Gibbs when he took the first game 31-29 but then lost 15 and 15. Only the previous day at Wisbech Lyon, partnered by Wellinborough's Roderick Marchant, reached the semi-final of the men's doubles where they lost 19, 19 to Chester Barnes and David Bowles. With several more players of this calibre fighting for a place in the County team Northants can look forward to even better things than this successful season have produced.

Roger Steward, the county No. 3, won the final of the Northampton league's annual tournament when he beat Steve Lyon 16, 7, 13.

Lyon had some compensation for his defeat when he combined with Tony Rowson to win the men's doubles final in another great match in which their opponents were Colin Hogg and Bryan Bond who were making their seventeenth appearance in the final of this event. Other title winners were:—

Ladies' Singles: Emily Twiselton.

Ladies' Doubles: Eileen Tye and Jean Yuill.

Mixed Doubles: Bryan Bond and Emily Twiselton.

Veterans Singles: Norman Blincow.

Boys' Singles: Nick Haycock.

Boys' Doubles: Haycock and Ray Kingston.

Girls' Singles: Margaret McInnes.

Division I and II Singles: Leo Behan.

Division III and IV Singles: David Berridge.

Division V, VI and VII Singles: Peter Minney.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by Geo. R. Yates

SAD TIDINGS FROM MERSEYSIDE

DISTRESSING news from Merseyside was that announcing the death, on March 26, of Liverpool's Lancashire and Cheshire League Match Secretary, Jimmy Green. Despite having been housebound for many months there was no more diligent correspondent than Jimmie whose lively contributions to the "Digest" will leave a space it will be difficult to fill.

Jimmy's loss is one that will be mourned far beyond the city boundaries for such stalwarts are few and far between.

As expected, Stockport duly won the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy, at Oldham on March 29, with a final 8-1 win over a youthful Bolton quartet. In the semis, Stockport beat Blackpool 6-3, after the seashiders had equated a 3-0 lead, and Bolton achieved the same result over Wirral.

A notable absentee at the Oldham gathering was Lancashire's chairman, Arthur Upton who, following a severe nose bleed on the previous day, was an unwilling inpatient at Liverpool's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital over the weekend.

Arthur missed out too on the failure of Lancashire to achieve the desired result over Lincolnshire at Norcross, Blackpool. The Red Rose had to win 10-0 or 9-1 without the loss of more than two games and the first two sets brought down the curtains on hopes of contesting the promotion challenge matches.

After a season with Stockport, the first division Lancashire & Cheshire League trophy will be handed back to Bolton at the A.G.M. of the two counties to be held in the Lancashire township on May 19 at the Saddle Hotel—the same venue as last year. The "Trotters" completed their 8-match programme without the loss of a point.

Also from Stockport, Blackpool will take the Ladies' Division 1 trophy whilst outgoing from Bolton will be the Junior Division 1 cup to Manchester who defeated their neighbours 6-4 in the final match.

By beating Wirral 8-2, Sale won the Division 3 (South) championship after both teams had been level on points and sets throughout the season.

It is to be hoped that all member leagues of the Lancashire and Cheshire Associations will make the England v. Japan match, to be played in Bolton on May 5, known to their members and help fill the 1,011 seats.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Pike

HAPPY HUNTING GROUND

STRATFORD is not only the birthplace of William Shakespeare but a very happy hunting ground for the Staffordshire table tennis team. It was there that they crushed Warwickshire 9-1 to win the Midland section of the second division, and so earn the right to go to Reading this

month for the county championship play-off.

With the county second team winning the Midland division it means a double celebration, and for this, we congratulate both teams on a very fine season.

After a disappointing start, the junior team finished in a blaze of glory and better things can be expected of them next season. Staffordshire have waited a long time to get the better of Warwickshire and it was unfortunate that the day they did, their chairman, Malcolm Scott, was ill in bed.

From the county success story to the county tournament. This was held in the Potteries and was again dominated by players from the South. Brian Keates is the new holder of the men's singles, while Dorothy Deeley retained the women's trophy. Rita Beebe was beaten in the final, but she had a good tournament in the doubles events. One name emerged from the Wolverhampton tournament that we should hear a lot more about in the future. It was that of young Steve Dunning who upset one or two senior players on a day that went fairly well to the form book.

Wolverhampton chairman, A. H. McIlreath, was in charge of both tournaments.

My last port of call on the tournament front is at West Bromwich. Here singles champions Peter Eaton and Dorothy Deeley both kept their titles, but as at Wolverhampton, it was a lesser known that deserves a mention. Reg Bowen, at 40, was beaten in the semi-final of the men's singles, the final of the veterans, and the semi-final of the men's doubles. I would endorse what it said in a local press report, that this was a fine performance by a player who has been out of the game for some years.

Two news items from the County League. Wolverhampton juniors won the third division title under the guidance of Arthur Thomas, but on a sadder note, Dudley have been suspended by the committee from the first division.

The county junior sub-committee are organising two junior rallies, at Lilleshall on May 11th and at Northwood on June 29th. Staffordshire's lot was not a happy one when they made the long journey north for the Teesside tournament. They were beaten in the first round by Warwickshire.

Talking of Warwickshire, and we often do in Staffordshire, I was a little concerned to read Ralph Gunnion's notes in last month's magazine about their Club Cup competition. It would appear that if Mica win this event, they will represent Warwickshire in the National competition with Staffordshire players in their side. Perhaps we should go back to Stratford and play that county all over again.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Ron Cox

SHOCK FOR GIBBS

RECENT local highlight was the Bedford and District League Re-

stricted Open held at the Badminton Hall, Bradgate Road.

Entries not only reached a record in number (including 117 for the men's singles), but also in quality with England-ranked Stuart Gibbs and a former ranked Roger Chandler taking part together with England Juniors Peter Taylor, Michael Read, Christine Mann and Sue Beckwith.

It was pleasing too, to note local successes, with Bedford League player Barbara Hammond reaching the final of the women's singles and also the doubles final with Anita James.

Semi-final of the men's singles saw the shock defeat of Gibbs by Brian Petch (Midx). In the final, however, Chandler regained the title he last won two years ago.

The women's singles final saw a stubborn pushing battle between Christine Mann and Barbara Hammond which the Willesden player won over three games.

Essex pair Gibbs and Tommy Caldwell took the men's doubles beating Petch and John Bender.

The women's doubles brought another success for Miss Mann partnered by Carol Chapman of Cambridge.

Carol too, had a second win in the mixed when partnering another Cambs. player, John Thurston, to beat John Beaumont (Lincs.) and Mary Maxfield (Hunts.).

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Walter Reeves

ALL CHANGE AT DERBY

IT was a case of all change in the Derby League's individual championships when unseeded Chris Francis knocked out title holder Doug Foulds (twice previously a winner) in the quarters of the men's singles event.

Opposed by near-veteran Albert Hough in the final, Francis was hard pressed in the third game, with the score at 1-1, but weathered the storm at 19-20 down to win and thereafter galloped away in the fourth.

Left vacant by Carol Randall, the women's singles title was won by Mrs. Corkin. In the boys' event P. Madin was the winner but I am sure we shall see much more of his defeated opponent 13-years-old Ivor Warner.

As a prelude to the County Closed Championships, Chesterfield brought their big guns into action in the County League but too late, it would appear, to stop Derby from winning the Division 1 title.

Derby Championship results:—

M.S.: C. FRANCIS bt A. Hough 13, 11, 21, 16.

W.S.: Mrs. CORKIN bt Mrs. Houldsworth 16, 11.

M.D.: D. FOULDS/HOUGH bt Blackburn/Chatwin 17, 19.

X.D.: WHITEHALL/HOLLIS bt Corkin/Corkin 15, 16, 18.

J.S.: P. MADIN bt I. Warner 13, 15, 10.

V.S.: D. SALMON bt W. Reeves 16, 10.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

EDNA'S REIGN TERMINATED

IN the GREAT YARMOUTH Closed Championships, at Erie Electronics, Gordon Wood retained his title, but it was veteran Vic Ralls who gained most of the limelight, when he reached the men's and veteran singles final, only to be beaten in both. On the way, Vic defeated the No. 2 seed, Paul Gilbertson Wes. Haydock, Johnny Mansi and Bob Cooper before disposing of Derek Jenkinson in the semis. Then Mansi reversed the verdict in the veterans. Linda Woodcock, playing in her first Yarmouth championship, ended Edna Allen's long reign. Edna's daughter tells me that her mother has won the Ladies' title seventeen times, though not all consecutively.

Results:—

M.S.: G. WOOD bt V. Ralls 14, 19, -16, 12.

W.S.: Miss L. WOODCOCK bt Mrs. E. Allen 10, 13.

B.S.: J. Fuller bt S. Hales 13, 16.

Y.S.: J. Fuller bt T. Carter 15, 7.

G.S.: Miss J. ALLEN bt Miss A. Pearson 14, 15.

V.S.: J. MANSI bt Ralls 12, 12.

M.D.: P. TYE/P. GILBERTSON bt C. Fields/W. Haydock 19, 18, -18, 20.

W.D.: E. and J. ALLEN bt Miss L. Read and Miss J. Rackham 9, 9.

X.D.: WOOD/WOODCOCK bt Gilbertson/E. Allen 15, -16, 15.

WYMONDHAM League have also held their Championships. Here Stephen Bassett of East Harling, the former Norfolk Junior Champion, defeated Roger Meadows of Nomads "A", after beating his brother Peter in the semis. The holder, Les Rayment of Thetford "A", lost to Roger Meadows in the other tie. The Meadows brothers took the Men's Doubles for the sixth time. Results:

M.S.: S. BASSETT bt R. Meadows 17, -15, 15, -17, 19.

J.S.: J. SCENT (Hingham "B") bt N. Sparrow (Attleborough Double Six).

Div. II: N. Kemp (Old Buckenham "B") bt R. Shiplee (Saints "D") 19, 18.

Div. III: V. George (Hingham "B") bt M. Patrick (Att. Doub. Six) 14, 16.

M.D.: P. & R. Meadows (Nomads "A") bt Bassett and T. Osbourne (E. Harling) 21, 16, -20, 14.

Congratulations to Betty Cassell upon winning the Women's Singles in the Wisbech Open, when she defeated Mrs. Mary Burgess 14, 21, after being 14-20 down in the second game. Chester Barnes beat Stuart Gibbs in the Men's Singles. Further congratulations to Betty upon beating Alma Taft to qualify for the English Open, where she lost to the Czech. No. 1 and European Champion, I. Vostova 19, -18, -13, -12.

Norfolk's chairman, Gerry Rix, and Secretary, Eric Fairhead have both completed 21 years service to the County, and were each presented with a silver salver at the Norfolk Annual Dinner.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

COTEMAN'S RECORD GOES — AND LOFTY'S

Cambridge City were beaten in the Inter-Zone round of the Wilmott Cup by Watford who took an early 4-0 lead. City pulled back to 2-4 and came within an ace of making it 3-4 when Tony Littlechild took Eric Coster to a decider but 6-3 was the verdict in favour of the Herts. team. John Thurston had two wins and Alan Ponder beat Coster.

In the S.E.M. League, Cambridge City beat Ely and District in the

men's section but suffered a set-back when they lost the junior encounter. John Coleman lost his 100% record in going down to Stephen Palmer.

The City ladies won 7-3 although Ely were without their star player, Carol Chapman.

A comfortable victory over Bedford made the position of Cambridge City men unapproachable at the head of the division. Against their junior counterparts Cambridge lost 1-9 but Carl Dellar, Brian Thomas and Eddie Day were far from disgraced many of the sets going to three games.

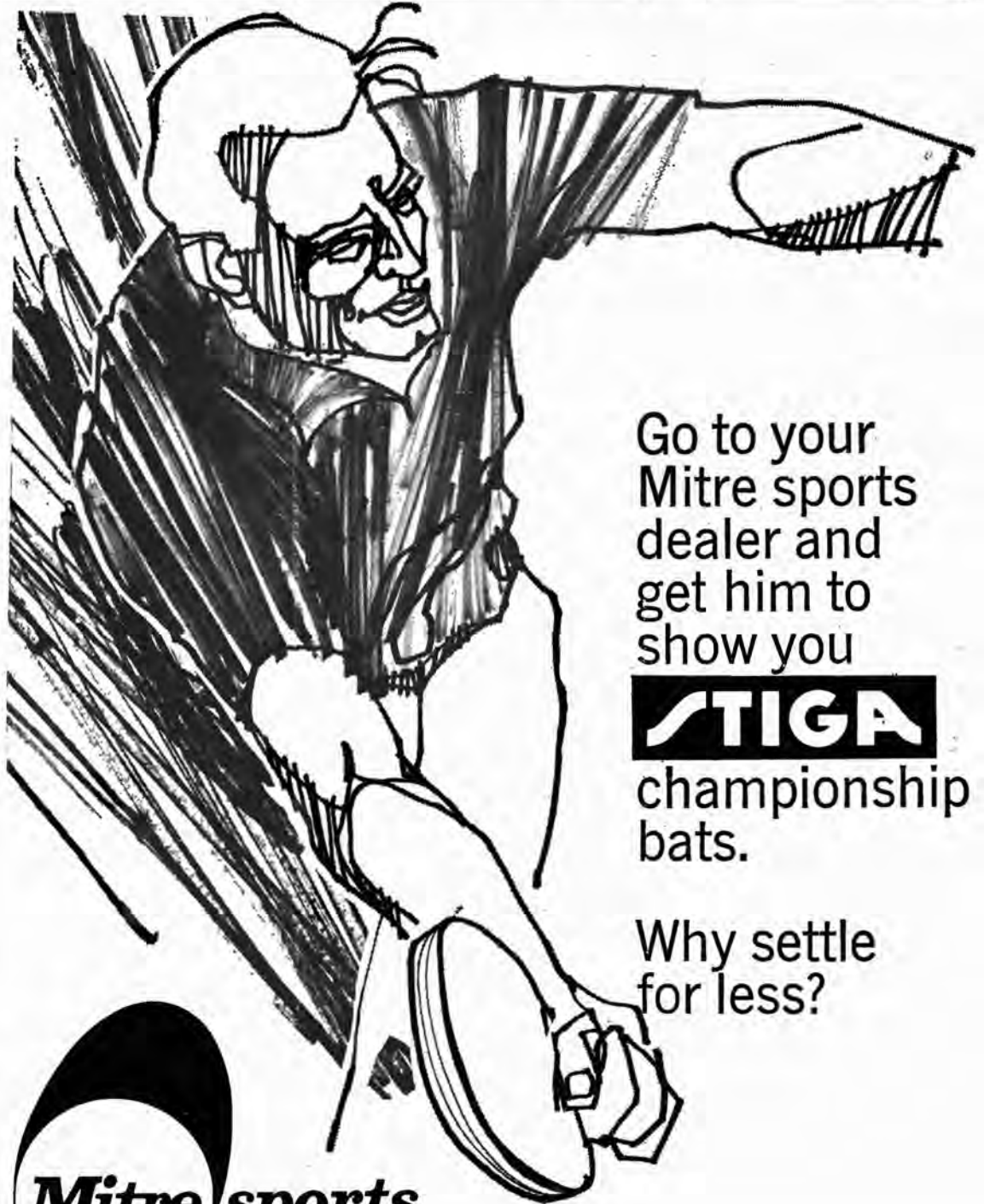
Bedford also won the ladies match and are hot favourites for the championship. City veterans have yet to

lose a match but were held to a 5-all draw, "Lofty" Adams losing his 100% record.

In the County Championships, Cambs. have completed their fixtures without winning a match and obtained their only point when holding Hunts. to a draw.

New Chesterton Institute dropped their first point of the season when they were held to a draw by Cambridge University who are second in the table. Hospitals are gradually creeping out of the danger zone with the help of Malcolm Stennett but St. George's looked booked for the drop.

Promotion bound from the second division are Soham III and Impington V.C.



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LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

STATUS RETAINED

LEICESTERSHIRE clinched their place in Division 2 (Midland) when they beat Oxfordshire 6-4. Charlie Jacques, with two wins, turned in another good display and with Steven White and John Iliffe both winning one and the Men's Doubles. Leicestershire's other set came from Rita Beith in the Ladies' Singles.

The 'Leicestershire Closed' produced plenty of exciting games but not many surprises. Iliffe added the Men's Singles title to his YMCA Open when he beat Colin Truman in the final and Mrs. Beith, as expected, took the Ladies title beating Audrey Watson. A splendid temperament brought Bob Phillips victory in the Intermediate Singles against Bob Geary. In the Junior Singles, Andy Holdsworth played splendidly against Tony Branson whose attitude at the table was, to say the least, disappointing. Clive Stretton, Loughborough's newest star, swept all opposition aside to take the Under-15 Singles title against a gallant Sally Elsdon. County captain John Bryant provided some of the best play in beating Mike Long in the Veterans' final.

Jacques/Truman, semi-finalist opponents in the singles, played together in the doubles and took the title by beating the scratch pairing of Phil Powell and Rodney Pickering. Mrs. Beith and Mrs. Rogers proved far too strong in the Ladies Doubles where they played two county junior players, Susan Baxter and Janet Hamer in the final. Mrs. Rogers took a second title when, partnered by Steven White she won the Mixed Doubles against Truman and Glenys Odams. The Boys' Doubles went to singles finalists Branson and Holdsworth but only after a good fight by Terry Hall and Chris Brewer. The Championships were excellently run by Les Hunt and his helpers, Gordon Wells and Ernie Johnson.

Leicester turned in their best *Midland League* display of the season when they, most unexpectedly, beat Chesterfield 7-3. Star of the match was Graham Hughes with wins over Colin Deaton, Tony Hunt and John Wallhead.

The juniors have completed their fixtures and can be well satisfied, being, as they have been, without Tony Branson, Dave Carter and Andy Holdsworth. Paul Randell has had a wonderful season, finishing 100%. Backing him well have been Alan Philpott and Alan Chapman.

The semi-final stage of the *Rose Johnson Bowl* competition has now been reached with Parmeko, Wigston Fields I, Loughborough and King Richards Road WMC still in. Closest semi-final was that between Loughborough II and King Richards Road WMC I, where David Arterton needed to score 14 points in the final game against County No. 1 Charlie Jacques, to give his team victory. He could manage only 5 and the visitors won 336-328.

The *Rose Johnson Cup* final will be contested by Barwell Liberal and Northwood. On paper the former should win easily enough but Northwood gave a great display in the semi-final, beating Electricity 7-2.

The *Loughborough League* are contemplating starting a Summer League for the first time this year. The idea, first mooted by chairman David Arterton, is that the league will be on a handicap basis. Certainly if the experience of the Leicester League is anything to go by, it is well worth the effort. Big news in the Loughborough League is that Monitor have dropped a point in Division 3 after 16 consecutive wins. Polish 'B', with a maximum by Richard Stabik, were the team to achieve this feat.

In the *Leicester League*, Barwell Constitutional have deservedly retained the first division title by beating King Richards Road WMC. In this match Ernest McLeish beat Charlie Jacques in the first set and this proved decisive, Barwell winning 0-4. Knighton Park look likely to take 4B whilst County Hall II have carried all before them in 8B.

The *Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy*—the ladies individual handicap competition—was duly retained by Pat Kilsby, who turned in a fine performance. Her opponent in the final was Jean Hall who surprised many by reaching the final but there was no doubt she reached it on merit.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by "Geordie"

ENTHUSIASM IN ABEYANCE

In holding Lancashire to a 5-all draw, the senior county team retained their unbeaten record for the second successive season in Division 2 (North). This does not create much enthusiasm, at the time of writing, because to gain a place in the play-offs, we have to depend on Lincolnshire taking 2 sets from the Lancastrians who require a 10-0 win for the title. Slide rule computation will otherwise be required if Lancashire obtain a 9-1 result.

Although weakened by the absence of Brian Burn against Lancs, a victory should still have been within the capabilities of the fielded side. Maureen Heppell and Cynthia Dunscombe played well and must surely be the strongest second division pairing in the country.

Ian Robertson, on international duty, was sadly missed by Northumberland juniors when they crashed 1-9 to Lancashire. The only encouraging feature was Bob Appleby's victory over Kingsley Harrison and his narrow defeat by David Newton.

In the quarter-finals of the *Rose Bowl*, Lowestoft were disposed of 6-3, Maureen Heppell and Cynthia Dunscombe winning three sets each. Pauline Jackson played well without reward.

Having dropped only one point, Newcastle YMCA 'A' look certain of winning the Northumberland League Division 1 title. Alan Ransome, despite his "off" night against Lancashire, has played superbly in the matches his administrative duties have allowed but much credit is cast on Peter Hoyles, Terry Hart and the remarkable consistency of Cynthia Dunscombe playing in the No. 4 position.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

SOTON'S BITTER FORETASTE

SOUTHAMPTON'S representatives in the County Teams got some idea of what to expect if they achieve their Premier Division aim, when they were drawn against strong London opposition in the National Competitions. In the Wilmott Cup, they were given a chance by London Civil Service, when Stuart Gibbs did not play, but with wins by Tony Piddock, two by Henry Buist and one by Brian Cook the visitors were rarely in trouble. The only time Southampton looked in with a chance was when David Davies beat Buist but, with the score at 3/3, Civil Service won the last three sets. In the Rose Bowl, only one set extended to a third game against the Central London team of Judy Williams, Karenza Mathews and Alma Taft—still this is not a bad team to go out to!

In the club knock-out competition, Bitterne Park (Southampton) were lucky to advance to the final when Penny Bonner failed to arrive for their match against Merton (Bournemouth). Giving three sets away left the match at 4/4 with Christine Davies to play her No. 1 Bogey, Joyce Coop in the deciding set. Christine, however, was equal to the occasion and gained her first win over her opponent this season. Bitterne Park now meet Four T's Club in the final.

In the inter-town league, Southampton made sure of the mixed division championships with a 10/2 win over Portsmouth with Pauline Edwards ending Daphne Gray's 100% record. Bournemouth hopes of the Men's division received a severe setback when they were forced to field a complete reserve team against unbeaten Aldershot, as their regular players were involved in tournaments. Southampton's 7/3 win over Portsmouth makes sure they retain their junior division title—a fine achievement as they have not fielded their two top juniors in this team.

Southampton's Closed attracted a strong entry and Bournemouth players made their impression in the Men's singles. County champion and No. 1 seed, Bill Moulding, together with previous champion and No. 2 seed, Chris Edwards, have never won this tournament, and lost in the quarters. The Pickard brothers from Bournemouth were the giant killers. Brian knocked out Edwards while Chris beat Moulding. In the semis, however, they both went out; Brian to Pete Smith and Chris to David Davies. In the final Pete Smith retained his title with a two-straight win.

In the women's singles, the main early upset was the defeat of County player Angeline Mills by junior Julie Daniels. The final, however, was the usual battle of the twins. Christine Davies turned the tables on her sister to win the title for the first time since 1962. Pauline Edwards had held the title for the past four years. Junior singles holder Stuart Tannahill also lost his title when Keith Summerfield recovered from 16/19 in the third to win at 19.

The National YMCA tournament brought success to the Bournemouth team of Brian and Chris Pickard with Keith Summerfield. In the semi-final they beat Reading 5/3 despite three wins by A. Chilvers and their final victory was against Wales by the same score with G. Stevens, winning the three for their opponents.

Two teams from Millbrook school, Southampton have reached the last four of the English Schools' Tournament. In the area finals the under-15 team of John Dane, Gary Langland, Ian Doe, and Steven Bessant, won each match by a maximum 8/0. The under-18 team of Nicky Chulk, Graham Wells, Tony Cox and John Colbourne also won each match to reach the national semi-final.

SURREY NOTES

by John Zenthon

"HOLIDAY" AT AN END

THANKS to the first team's win over Kent II, Surrey have now made sure of going forward to compete in the promotion challenge matches but a lot more will be required of them if promotion is to be achieved, and a quick return to the second division is to be avoided. The holiday is over!

Now nearing the end of the season, the inter-league competitions, for the first season run entirely by the County, are drawing to a close. Guildford have emerged as clear winners of the Arthur Williams Rose Bowl, for women, not having lost a match. In fact, they have only conceded two games all season which is quite an achievement. Byfleet were the runners-up. In the Sutton Trophy, for juniors, Byfleet got their revenge.

Although not all matches have been completed yet, in the Percy Johnson competition, Group 'A' has been won by Wandsworth II with Thames Valley I being runners-up. Group 'B' still has matches outstanding, the outcome being in the balance.

Perhaps the least said about the Harding Cup the better. For the first time in many years, South London have produced an inter-league side but I am sure that Mr. Parodi wishes they had not, for at this late date, only two of their six matches have been played.

Apparently the reason for the resultant shambles is that the only club willing or able to provide a venue was Mr. Parodi's own. How about it, South London? Surely you can do better than this.

In conclusion, on behalf of the long suffering types who don't complain (and that does not mean me), may I suggest that if you want to talk during a County match—or any other for that matter—you refrain from doing so during play.

Surprisingly, certain players are among the worst offenders and to them I would suggest that your teammates might even do better if they thought you were watching instead of distracting.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

"OR SO IT SEEMS"

A disappointing loss to Essex 4-5 means that the Premier Division title is now beyond our grasp, so it seems, but the 2nd team have had a very good season and came second to Surrey, whom we defeated.

The juniors were also second to the strong Kent side but congratulations to Melvyn Waldman on his 100% record winning all his 12 sets. Melvyn also won 7 out of 8 in the "Bernard Crouch Trophy" competition and here again Middlesex finished up second.

In the Middlesex Inter-League, North Middlesex II won by a single game average over Willesden and here again Waldman played his part.

"Bernard Crouch Trophy"

Second half results:

Middlesex	2	Essex	7
Essex	8	Surrey	1
Middlesex	5	Surrey	4

Final Table

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Essex	4	3	1	24	12	6
Middlesex	4	3	1	18	18	6
Surrey	4	0	4	12	24	0

DIVISIONAL TABLES TO DATE

Premier	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	7	6	0	1	46	17	12
Yorkshire	7	6	0	1	42	21	12
Middlesex	7	5	0	2	44	19	10
Kent	7	5	0	2	39	24	10
Cheshire	7	3	0	4	32	31	6
Sussex	7	2	0	5	24	39	4
Warwickshire	7	1	0	6	15	48	2
Gloucestershire	7	0	0	7	10	53	0
2nd SOUTH							
Surrey	6	5	0	1	46	14	10
Middlesex II	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Essex II	6	4	1	1	35	25	9
Buckinghamshire	6	3	1	2	37	23	7
Kent II	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Hertfordshire	6	1	0	5	17	43	2
Norfolk	6	0	0	6	8	52	0
2nd NORTH							
Northumberland	5	4	1	0	40	10	9
Lancashire	5	4	1	0	39	11	9
Yorkshire II	5	4	2	0	20	20	4
Lincolnshire	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Durham	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Cumberland	4	0	0	4	2	38	0
2nd MIDLAND							
Staffordshire	6	6	0	0	49	11	12
Glamorgan	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Warwickshire II	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Derbyshire	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
Leicestershire	6	2	0	4	22	38	4
Monmouthshire	6	1	0	5	20	40	2
Oxfordshire	6	0	0	6	11	49	0
2nd WEST							
Hampshire	6	5	1	0	44	16	11
Somerset	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Worcestershire	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Devon	6	2	0	3	33	27	7
Dorset	6	2	0	4	21	39	4
Wiltshire	6	1	1	4	21	39	3
Cornwall	6	0	0	6	14	46	0
SOUTHERN							
Surrey II	5	3	1	1	33	17	7
Buckinghamshire II	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Worcestershire II	5	2	2	1	25	25	6
Hampshire II	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Berkshire	5	1	2	2	24	26	3
Oxfordshire II	5	0	1	4	13	37	1
MIDLAND							
Staffordshire II	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Nottinghamshire	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Lancashire II	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Derbyshire II	5	1	1	3	17	33	3
Shropshire	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
Denbighshire	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
EASTERN							
Hertfordshire II	5	4	0	1	31	19	8
Suffolk	5	3	2	0	29	21	8
Northamptonshire	5	3	1	1	25	25	7
Bedfordshire	5	2	1	2	30	20	5
Cambridgeshire	5	0	1	4	19	31	1
Huntingdonshire	5	0	1	4	16	34	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTH							
Kent	6	6	0	0	48	12	12
Middlesex	6	4	1	1	43	17	9
Sussex	6	3	1	2	33	27	7
Surrey	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Buckinghamshire	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Hampshire	6	2	0	4	27	33	4
Berkshire	6	0	0	6	4	56	0
NORTH							
Lancashire	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	32	8	6
Northumberland	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Durham	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Cheshire	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
Cumberland	4	0	0	4	6	34	0
MIDLAND							
Warwickshire	6	6	0	0	55	5	12
Leicestershire	6	5	0	1	40	20	10
Nottinghamshire	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Staffordshire	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
Derbyshire	6	2	1	3	25	35	5
Denbighshire	6	1	0	5	22	38	2
Oxfordshire	6	0	0	6	5	55	0
EAST							
Essex	5	5	0	0	45	5	10
Hertfordshire	6	5	0	1	45	15	10
Northamptonshire	6	4	0	2	33	27	8
Bedfordshire	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Suffolk	6	1	1	4	20	40	3
Huntingdonshire	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Norfolk	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
WEST							
Monmouthshire	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Glamorgan	5	4	0	1	40	10	8
Wiltshire	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Somerset	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Worcestershire	5	1	1	3	13	37	3
Gloucestershire	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

Promotion Challenge Matches: Apr. 12 & 13 - C.W.S. Printing Works, Elgar Road, Reading. 2-30 p.m. and 7-0 p.m. on Saturday, 12th; 10-30 a.m. on Sunday, 13.

Junior Challenge Matches: May 17 & 18 - Burford Grammar School, Burford, Oxfordshire. 1-0 p.m., 3-30 p.m. and 6-45 p.m. on Saturday, 17th. 9-30 a.m. and 12-0 noon on Sunday, 18.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

(continued from Back Cover)

SOMERSET 6 WORCESTERSHIRE 4
0-2 down became 4-2 up for Worcs. before the outstanding Eric Hall came on to stop the rot. J. Harty 16-9 up on John Bell in 1st when Expedite came in—he won 15, -16, 13. Good XD win by Tony Kinsey and Pat Beazer.

WORCESTERSHIRE 5 DEVON 5
Devon's 3rd drawn match this season, and from 1-5 down!

WILTSHIRE 2 HAMPSHIRE 8
Hants. too good in all departments for Wils., but a promising debut by F. Bailey who beat Chris Edwards.

DEVON 7 CORNWALL 3
HAMPSHIRE 8 SOMERSET 2
With a division title so near Hants. made no mistake against visitors missing No. 1 Eric Hall. 1-1 after two close singles matches but then the superiority of the Hants. women started to tell. J. Harty did well to work his way through the masterly defence of Peter Smith (19, -9, 13).

WILTSHIRE 3 DORSET 7
Dorset's first ever win over Wiltshire, and a nice present for John Dale who made his 50th appearance for the visitors.

Southern Division

BERKSHIRE 7 OXFORDSHIRE 3
HAMPSHIRE II. 6
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE II. 4

A good win by Hants. after their disappointing result v. Surrey II. Six sets finished at 15 in third or closer, the best being the WS win by Joy Dalton over Angeline Mills by -18, 11, 20. Five MS won by Hants.

SURREY II. 5 BERKSHIRE 5
Surrey fielded an ineligible player and forfeited his two MS sets from their 7-3 win.

WORCESTERSHIRE II. 6
HAMPSHIRE II. 4

A surprise but welcome result which lifts Worcs. to 3rd place—best ever result for this team. Seven sets needed a deciding game and the three doubles wins gave Worcs. the match.

Midland Division

LANCASHIRE II. 3
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 7
SHROPSHIRE 4
DERBYSHIRE II. 6
DENBIGHSHIRE 2
LANCASHIRE II. 8
STAFFORDSHIRE II 8
DENBIGHSHIRE 2

Eastern Division

BEDFORDSHIRE 5 SUFFOLK 5
HUNTINGDONSHIRE 3
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 7

Junior South

KENT 8 MIDDLESEX 2
Middlesex missed the studying Gibson although Junior Closed Champion Neil Santon not disgraced on debut. Melvyn Waldman's win -19, 14, 14 over John Dabin no real surprise as Dabin had heavy cold and all Kent team (particularly girls) played well.

SURREY 4 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 6
All three Surrey boys in good form in an interesting match and might have salvaged a point with a full team (Susan Howard absent).

SUSSEX 9 BERKSHIRE 1
A good result for Sussex, but the best performance the solitary Berkshire success for Wendy Slade and Miss S. Taylor beat the new Sussex Closed WD champions.

KENT 9
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 1

A surprisingly easy win for Kent, on top form throughout. John Dabin's win over Robin Napper by -17, 15, 17 the only close result and on this form Kent must fancy their chances in the Challenge.

HAMPSHIRE 4 SUSSEX 6
MIDDLESEX 5 SURREY 5

A great start for Middlesex with Ray Jones beating Paul Bishop and when Sheila Hamilton and Anne Painter took GD 18, 19 over Linda and Susan Howard, Middlesex led 3-1. But from then on a more predictable series of results.

Junior Division North

DURHAM 1 YORKSHIRE 9
Paul Freeman's win over another junior international, Allan Fletcher, could still catch the selectors eye (he has also accounted for Tony Boasman and Ian Robertson).

NORTHUMBERLAND 1
LANCASHIRE 9
Rather one-sided, with only Bob Appleby (replacing Ian Robertson) a winner for the home team. Tony Boasman, David Newton, and Susan Lisle all impressive.

CHESHIRE 4 DURHAM 6
YORKSHIRE 4 LANCASHIRE 6
A real disappointment for Yorkshire who, with so many good and promising players, can not find a combination to beat the Red Rose. The only bright spot for Yorks. was Alan Fletcher's 11, 12 defeat of Boasman who had looked great until then. David Newton's maximum, the best for a Lancs. side which fought for everything.

Junior Division Midland

DENBIGHSHIRE 10
OXFORDSHIRE 0
DERBYSHIRE 5
STAFFORDSHIRE 5
DERBYSHIRE 7
DENBIGHSHIRE 3
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 2
WARWICKSHIRE 8

No real chance for Notts. with Alan Croome on senior duty. Fine recovery by Dave Fairholm to beat Finbar Gunning 19, 17 after trailing 1-9 in first. Janet Campbell's 20th and last junior match for Notts., not one to remember but Fairholm's second singles win closed a match that could have been closer than 2-8.

DENBIGHSHIRE 3 STAFFS. 7
OXFORDSHIRE 3 DERBYSHIRE 7
WARWICKSHIRE 7
LEICESTERSHIRE 3

A good win here for Sue Clarke against Susan Baxter by 17, -16, 18.

Junior Division East

SUFFOLK 2
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 8
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 8
HUNTINGDONSHIRE 2
A convincing win by Northants in their final match. Roderick Marchant and Nick Haycock each won two BS and Marchant took XD with Susan Gordon 25, 20 after trailing 15-20 in 2nd.

HERTFORDSHIRE 4 ESSEX 6
3-0 and then 4-3 up, Herts. should have won, but the XD defeat of Trevor Taylor and Moira Carter by Micky Read and Susan Beckwith the deciding factor. But what a fright Taylor had from Bob Hellaby, winning 20, -15, 12.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE 7
BEDFORDSHIRE 3

A great team effort brought Hunts. their first-ever junior win. 13-year-old Paul MacArthur who beat Geoff Major and Paul Charlton's two wins (including one over Brian Hutchinson by 23, -15, 27) deserve special mention.

NORFOLK 6 SUFFOLK 4

Junior Division West

WORCESTERSHIRE 5
WILTSHIRE 5

Last season's result repeated—the only two draws in this division in these seasons. Worcs. boys responsible for all five sets won by the home County, with Derek Aston unbeaten.

GLAMORGAN 4
MONMOUTHSHIRE 6
GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2
SOMERSET 8
GLAMORGAN 10 WORCS. 0.

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

ESSEX TAKE 4th TITLE IN FIVE YEARS

DESPITE the unbelievable result from Chelmsford, Essex notched their second consecutive Premier title and their 4th in 5 years. The Yorkshire record in their 3 seasons since coming up from 2nd North has also been impressive—1st, 2nd, 2nd.

In the other seven divisions, Northumberland is the only County to retain a title, but there is a completely different picture in the 5 Junior Divisions where the 5 Counties competing in the Challenge will be the same as last year (assuming that Essex avoid a 0-10 defeat from Bedfordshire, the only result that could deny them their 7th success in 8 years).

It is hoped that averages will be ready in time for publication in next month's magazine.

Premier Division

ESSEX 4 YORKSHIRE 5

C. Barnes lost to A. Hydes 8, -18, -22; bt J. Kedge 12, 10.
D. Brown lost to Hydes -8, -14; lost to A. Clayton -15, 16, -14.
S. Gibbs lost to Kedge -20, -18; bt Clayton 15, -17, 14.
Barnes and R. Stevens lost to Hydes and Kedge -18, -16.
Mrs. L. Radford bt Mrs. P. Bassano 16, 9.
Stevens and Mrs. Radford bt Clayton and Mrs. Bassano 17, 12.

One of the most unexpected results ever—few would have given Yorkshire (Denis Neale absent) a chance. Even when Alan Hydes and John Kedge made the score 2-3 with M.D. success over Chester Barnes and Bobby Stevens no Essex supporter in the 500 crowd worried. But Hydes took Barnes from 18-20 in 3rd, Stuart Gibbs was unable to recapture his form of the previous weekend and went down two-straight to Kedge which brought Alan Clayton, on Premier debut, to play David Brown with the match score 4-all. Despite a few alarms Clayton got home comfortably in the 3rd to end a remarkable match.

YORKSHIRE 5 MIDDLESEX 4

D. Neale bt B. Wright 16, 15; bt L. Haslam 12, -28, 9.
A. Hydes lost to Wright -23, -25; bt M. Sugden -22, 17, 18.
J. Kedge bt Haslam 20, 18; lost to Sugden -8, -18.
Neale and A. Clayton bt Haslam and Sugden -10, 18, 19.
Miss L. Bashford lost to Mrs. K. Mathews -13, -12.
Hydes and Mrs. P. Bassano lost to Wright and Mrs. Mathews -6, -23.

Middlesex needed to win 7-2 or 6-3 and 14-6 on games and started well being 3-1 and 4-2 up. Denis Neale stepped in to stop this, John Kedge beat Les Haslam (why did the visitor stop hitting at 19-13 up in 1st?) and Alan Hydes who had already had a nailbiter with Wright won one against Malcolm Sugden. But the real turning point was M.D. where Yorks. won from 2-11 in 3rd.

Gloucestershire 0 Cheshire 9

R. Morley lost to M. Johns -18, 19, -16; lost to B. Kean 17, -10, -14.

M. White lost to Johns -14, -18; lost to D. Schofield 20, -13, -16.
C. Feltham lost to Kean -10, -12; lost to Schofield -12, -12.

Morley and White lost to Johns and Kean -16, -14.

Miss M. Jones lost to Miss J. Heaps -9, -13.

Feltham and Miss Jones lost to Schofield and Heaps -7, -24.

Middlesex 4 Essex 5

B. Wright lost to C. Barnes -14, -20; bt D. Brown 28, 17.

L. Haslam lost to Barnes -17, 17, -12; lost to S. Gibbs 18, -19, -14.

A. Lindsay bt Brown 16, 11; lost to Gibbs -18, -16.

Haslam and Lindsay lost to R. Stevens and Barnes -16, 15, -12.

Mrs. K. Mathews bt Mrs. L. Radford 15, 18.

Wright and Mrs. Mathews bt Stevens and Mrs. Radford -16, 14, 19.

A real nerve-tingler this, with Middlesex four times down, four times levelling. Best set, XD with Karenza Mathews surprisingly having little trouble with Bobby Stevens, much with Lesley Radford. 8-16 down in the 3rd, then a great pull back and win by Brian Wright and Karenza. Chester Barnes too good, but when Alan Lindsay saw off David Brown, Middlesex looked home and dry. But not for the first time 'Les' Haslam found wanting in a crisis and Stuart Gibbs gave Essex the match. Earlier, Gibbs had looked at half pace then V. Lindsay, gathering points rapidly at the end of each game from poor positions.

SUSSEX 4 YORKSHIRE 5

P. Williams lost to D. Neale -15, -18; lost to A. Hydes -18, -21.

R. Chandler lost to Neale -11, -17; bt J. Kedge 12, -15, 12.

S. Ogundipe lost to Hydes -12, -15; bt Kedge 16, -19, 21.

Chandler and Williams lost to Hydes and Neale -17, -12.

Miss J. Williams bt Mrs. P. Bassano 15, 10.

Ogundipe and Miss Williams bt Kedge and Mrs. Bassano 17, 15.

Denis Neale and Alan Hydes dominated a first class match winning all their sets and the match for Yorkshire. John Kedge found the going tough against more experienced opponents, and Sammy Ogundipe played yet another Expedite. Judy Williams far too strong for Pat Bassano.

Warwickshire 1 Kent 8

R. Gunnion lost to A. Piddock -12, -16; lost to D. Basden 20, -18, -19.

M. Billington lost to Piddock -13, -9; lost to H. Buist -12, -16.

D. Munt bt Basden 13, 16; lost to Buist -8, -17.

Billington and Munt lost to Buist and Piddock -18, -17.

Miss J. Cornock lost to Mrs. P. Piddock -13, -15.

Gunnion and Miss Cornock lost to Basden and Mrs. Piddock -19, -22.

Warwicks, showed little fight and were outclassed. Only Derek Munt with a straight games win over Derek Basden showed a hint of true form.

CHESHIRE 6 WARWICKSHIRE 3

M. Johns bt R. Gunnion 13, 17; bt M. Billington 18, 12.

B. Kean bt Gunnion -18, 19, 20; lost to D. Munt -16, -12.

D. Schofield bt Billington 18, -16, 15; lost to Munt -14, -14.

Kean and Schofield bt Billington and Munt -15, 8, 18.

Miss J. Heaps bt Miss J. Cornock 13, 15.

Johns and Miss Heaps bt Gunnion and Miss Cornock 10, 10.

With nothing at stake this match never rose to any heights and the best thing was the congenial surroundings of the new Macclesfield I.C.I. venue.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1 KENT 8

R. Morley lost to A. Piddock -17, -15; bt D. Basden -16, 11, 12.

M. White lost to Piddock -9, -8; lost to H. Buist -21, -11.

C. Feltham lost to Basden -13, -11; lost to Buist -19, -9.

Feltham and White lost to Buist and Piddock -15, -12.

Miss M. Jones lost to Mrs. P. Piddock -15, -18.

Morley and Miss Jones lost to Basden and Mrs. Piddock -11, -15.

SUSSEX 3 MIDDLESEX 6

P. Williams lost to B. Wright -10, -14; lost to M. Sugden -10, -15.

R. Chandler lost to Wright -17, -13; bt Lindsay 10, 10.

S. Ogundipe lost to Sugden -11, -7; lost to Lindsay -16, -16.

Chandler and Williams bt Lindsay and Sugden -10, 21, 12.

Miss J. Williams bt Mrs. K. Mathews 18, 20.

Ogundipe and Miss Williams lost to Wright and Mrs. Mathews -16, -16.

An impressive return by Malcolm Sugden despite losing MD with Alan Lindsay when a game and 18-12 up.

Chandler and Williams lost to Hydes and Neale -17, -12.

Miss J. Williams bt Mrs. P. Bassano 15, 10.

Ogundipe and Miss Williams bt Kedge and Mrs. Bassano 17, 15.

Denis Neale and Alan Hydes dominated a first class match winning all their sets and the match for Yorkshire. John Kedge found the going tough against more experienced opponents, and Sammy Ogundipe played yet another Expedite. Judy Williams far too strong for Pat Bassano.

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LINCOLNSHIRE 7 DURHAM 3

A great tussle with J. Beaumont's win over Wilf Barker the highlight. Slow-starting Beaumont lost the first at 9, gradually improved to take the second at 18 and trailed all the way to Barker in the third with some fascinating rallies. But Barker served off at 18-17 and Beaumont easily took the next three points for victory. Connie Moran, happily recovered from illness, made a welcome return for Lincs.

NORTHUMBERLAND 5 LANCASHIRE 5

This expected division decider produced stalemate. Brian Burn injured, but Northumberland recovered from 1-2 to 4-2 then trailed 4-5 before Stuart Lennie levelled the match for the last time. Kevin Forshaw, with tight defence and wonderful cross-table backhands, in superb form as was Maureen Heppell. Peter Dunscombe made his debut for the home team but could not hold Forshaw, and Burn's replacement Alan Ransome found that too much admin. work does not improve one's game. Lincs. entertain Lincs. with all to play for.

LANCASHIRE 8 LINCOLNSHIRE 2

Never really "on", Lancashire's task of beating Lincolnshire 10-0, or 9-1 with the loss of only two games, to pip Northumberland proved too much for them.

The championship was lost in the first two sets when John Clarke lost in straight games to Brian Hill, and Kevin Forshaw was taken to a decider by John Beaumont.

Subsequently play became more relaxed although Beaumont had the beating of Bob Kelly.

Second Division Midland

DERBYSHIRE 7

MONMOUTHSHIRE 3

Derbyshire's slightly stronger women and doubles pairings swayed a close match their way.

GLAMORGAN 5

WARWICKSHIRE 5

OXFORDSHIRE 4

LEICESTERSHIRE 6

Clive Alcock's first singles win for the County, inspired Oxford to their best performance of the season. Had David White and Alcock clinched MD (lost 22, -21, -15) or had White taken care of J. Iliffe when 10-4 up in third they could have scored their first point.

LEICESTERSHIRE 2

DERBYSHIRE 8

MONMOUTHSHIRE 6

OXFORDSHIRE 4

WARWICKSHIRE II. 1

STAFFORDSHIRE 9

Warwickshire's five-year stranglehold on this division broken by a Staffs. team which fully deserved its success.

Second Division West

CORNWALL 4 DORSET 6

Dorset sped to a 6-1 lead, the sixth success being the second singles win by Trevor Smith, a valuable acquisition for Dorset. Poor Cornwall just are not getting the luck at vital times.

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