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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 19

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Pyrotechnics in Budapest

by JOHNNY LEACH

I wish everyone could have seen England's brilliant 5-2 victory over Hungary in the European League clash at Budapest on November 5. If you'd been there you would have been as proud of our players as I was, in particular of Denis Neale and Chester Barnes who covered themselves with glory.

Let me do the next best thing by taking you through the match picking out the fireworks. Chester fired the first rockets with a most efficient two-straight victory by 16 and 18 over Borzsei, Europe's No. 2. Though trailing 7-10 in the first game and 8-10 in the second, Chester kept plugging away with cleverly placed loop drives, patiently waiting for opportunities. When opportunity came he invariably produced a ferocious kill, just what was needed to pierce the brick wall defence of his Hungarian opponent.

Next Denis showed that he, too, was in fizzing form with a surprisingly easy two-straight win over Beleznai, Europe's No. 8, by 13 and 13. Denis dictated matters with his backhand, which worried his opponent a great deal, finishing off most points with a forehand smash.

But the Hungarians are doughty fighters, and we couldn't expect them to go on taking punishment without giving some in return. First Jurik beat Pauline Piddock by 7 and 17, and then Hungary levelled the match 2-2 through Beleznai and Klampa taking the doubles from Denis and Chester by 16-21, 21-15, 23-21.

Although she got more to grips in her second game, Pauline was just not consistent, nor sufficiently experienced to cope with Jurik. As for the doubles—well, the scores speak for themselves. Our lads played and fought well. In the third game they trailed 12-18, recovered to 18-18, trailed again 18-20 and still pulled back to deuce. It was anybody's game, but the Hungarian pair just got the edge.

The mixed doubles, which was due to follow, was vital; so after consultation with the players, who were acting as a team desperately keen to win, I decided that Chester Barnes should pair up with Karenza Mathews. This decision paid handsome dividends. Karenza, normally at

her most vulnerable against defensive opponents, was a heroine. She seemed quite oblivious to the amount of spin employed by Borzsei and Jurik in their backspin returns, scoring point after point with fierce forehand kills mostly wide down her opponents' backhand wing.

So, with Chester forcing the ball upward with cleverly placed loop drives of varying pace, and Karenza making the kills, the England pair won in straight games by 17 and 8 and we were back in the lead.

The singles between Denis and Borzsei which followed was a cracker all the way. Take the first game, which seemed never-ending to those of us with tautly-strung nerves. Hitting and killing returns coming from all directions, Denis led 10-5, fell behind to 14-17 and 19-20, but eventually clinched the game at 30-28.

In the second game the rallies were so long and strenuous that at 14-18 Denis looked ready to drop, so tired one almost hoped he would take a rest in preparation for a third and deciding game. But in fact Denis had no intention of giving in, at that, or any other stage. He gritted his teeth, forced himself to move to the ball, and started to fight back. The measure of his determination was a winning of that game by 21-19, and so of the match for England by 4-2.

No praise could be too high for Denis's performance in this match which both saved and won the day for England amid electric tension. The rest of the team and I were jumping out of our seats so frequently we felt as exhausted afterwards as we might after an extra hard training session.

Finally Chester showed what a cool customer he can be by going straight to the table and making easy work of his match against Beleznai. He won 14 and 8 to complete a 5-2 English victory.

What a cracking November the 5th it turned out to be!

Congratulations

To Mary and Brian Wright on the birth of a daughter, Jacqueline Susan, at 5-30 a.m., on Saturday, November 9. wt. 6 lbs. 1½ ozs. Both well.

'DOUBLE' FEATURE

Pictured right is Gregory Peck, who plays the star role in the 20th Century Fox production "The Chairman", here seen in action during the shooting of the table tennis scenes in the film.



Below: Conrad Yama, who plays the part of Mao Tse-Tung, is being coached by Johnny Leach in preparation for his table tennis scenes.

Johnny was appointed table tennis adviser, coach and a double for the film in which Gregory Peck is the star.



'The Chairman' is produced by J. Lee Thompson, who directed 'Guns of Navarone'

DOWNFALL AT NORWICH

AFTER holding a 3-2 lead over Sweden in their European League match, at Norwich on December 5, England slumped to defeat when first Denis Neale lost to Hans Alser and then, with the scores equal, Kjell Johansson hammered the Scandinavians to 4-3 victory with a straight game's win over Chester Barnes.

England began brightly with Neale accounting for Johansson in the

opening set but, alas, this proved to be our only singles success.

Individual scores in match order were: D. Neale bt K. Johansson 13, 17; C. Barnes lost to H. Alser 7, -15, -18; Mrs. K. Mathews lost to Mrs. M. Neidert 16, -16, -9; Barnes/Neale beat Alser/Johansson -12, 19, 20; Barnes/Mrs. Mathews bt Johansson/Mrs. Neidert 10, -16, 13; Neale lost to Alser -16, 10, -13; Barnes lost to Johansson -10, -8.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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THE 'TIGHT ONES'

What is it about the average male table tennis player that makes him so reticent to part with money?

Why should he shy away like a startled foal when approached for a registration fee, a club subscription, a fine, or even a shilling for a publication such as this?

One can be forgiven in assuming that matters appertaining to the sport are of interest to him and yet when the running of such affairs are in need of financing he simply does not want to know.

How many players, even now, at this advanced stage of the season, are owing monies to their club or to its secretary who, with the patience of Job, is still awaiting reimbursement for sums paid out of his own pocket?

Why should the light remain shining over the table and the club continue to provide a match ball when contributions towards such overheads remain outstanding? Try seeking credit from the Electricity Board!

By any comparisons table tennis is a cheap sport, and yet this reluctance to part with no great sum is begrudged by no small number.

An ambitious league eager to present the best of table tennis to its members are shunned like the plague when tickets are proffered for sale.

Make them complimentary, or at a give away price, and like locusts they will descend but in stripping the event of profit, or of breaking even, matters not one jot to them.

But enough of the free shows, charity begins at home, and what player turning out for his own club, on his own table refers to it otherwise than a "home" match.

Christmas is a time for the giving of presents so why not make a start with your club secretary and pay up your dues and demands.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

President: T. Austin Harrison.

Chairman: Conrad Jaschke.

Deputy Chairman: Walter Mitton.

Hon. Treasurer: Tom Blunn

Management Committee:

Maurice Goldstein, Malcolm E. Scott, Keith Watts and George R. Yates.

INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

by Conrad Jaschke

CHAIRMAN OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

THE brilliant form of Denis Neale and Chester Barnes has given us a splendid start in the European League with a home win against Federal Germany and an away victory over Hungary. Whilst attending a meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Table Tennis Union in Belgrade recently, I noticed a new respect for the E.T.T.A. amongst our European colleagues who have been impressed with our attempts to put England back into the top bracket in international competitions. A long road still lies ahead, but at last one feels that we are moving in the right direction.

The tone of the Belgrade meeting was set by Jupp Schlaf, the dynamic President of the E.T.T.U. who warned committee members against the dangers of complacency. "It would be easy" said Mr. Schlaf "to sit on the laurels of our achievement in launching the European League, but this is just a beginning, and much more remains to be done before European table tennis can fulfil its true potential".

After outlining the many tasks yet to be undertaken, such as exchange of experiences in coaching techniques, pioneering work in European countries where table tennis is underdeveloped, improvements in the organisation of European Championships, and inauguration of inter-continental challenge matches, Mr. Schlaf pointed out that the work involved would prove too onerous for the small number of people who are at present actively engaged in E.T.T.U. organisation.

He therefore proposed an enlargement of the "Praesidium" (the equivalent of our Management Committee) by splitting the post of Secretary/Treasurer so that two separate people could be elected to these posts, and by adding a fifth officer who would be responsible for publicity and public relations, and dealings with radio, press, television etc., under the direction of the President.

Mr. Schlaf's views were strongly supported by the committee and it was unanimously decided to propose the implementation of these changes to the special European Congress at Munich, so that they could become effective for next season.

The E.T.T.A. strongly support the policy of the E.T.T.U. committee which will result in a strengthening of European table tennis, and indeed proposals which the E.T.T.A. have submitted for consideration at the I.T.T.F. Congress at Munich are designed to give an impetus to the creation of really strong Continental Federations within the framework of the I.T.T.F.

The E.T.T.A. also include proposals designed to stimulate thought and discussion about the future of the I.T.T.F. itself, and I think I can say that these proposals have been carefully thought out, and so far have been well received. One proposal of immediate importance is the suggested amendment to laws to allow prize money of up to 1,250 Swiss Francs for any event—the present limit is 75.

EXPERTS SAY TABLE TENNIS BALLS SHOULD BE YELLOW

Scientific tests at Braunschweig University in Germany have proved

conclusively that white is one of the least suitable colours for table tennis balls. Sighting of the ball, and ability to concentrate, would be greatly enhanced by the use of a coloured ball, and the optimum shade appears to be a yellow with a slight tinge of orange. 40,000 balls in this shade have been produced for large scale practical use, and a final verdict must await the outcome of these practical tests. A full report of all the scientific tests carried out at Braunschweig will be available early in 1969.

ARE THE CHINESE COMING?

The organisers of the 1969 World Championships still do not know whether or not the Chinese team will compete in Munich. However, the Chinese Trade Delegation in Bad Godesberg have stated that if China does send a team to Munich, it is unlikely that they would accept any invitations to play in Western European countries.

GOTO INITIATES DRIVE IN JAPANESE SCHOOLS

Mr. K. Goto, the new President of the Japanese Table Tennis Association, has been instrumental in initiating a scheme for table tennis training for school children in Japan, and the scheme was launched at a meeting of teacher-trainers in Nagoya city earlier this year. It is interesting to note that this more or less coincides with the launching of our own English Schools Table Tennis Association here.

OBITUARY

The young players may never have known her, but older players and officials will learn with deep sorrow of the death of Trude Pritzi, of Austria, who was the world's women's singles champion in 1937, runner-up in 1938, and women's doubles champion in 1938 (with Hilde Bussmann of Germany) and 1946 (with Gizi Farkas of Hungary). Miss Pritzi was one of the world's greatest-ever defensive players, and off the table she will be remembered for her charm and happy personality. Born on January 15, 1920, she died on 21st October after a long illness.

THIRD ALL AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nigeria won the men's team event in the Third All Africa Championships, with United Arab Republic second, Ghana third, Dehomey fourth and Mali fifth. U.A.R. were the winners in the women's team event, with Ghana second and Nigeria third. Emmanuel Quaye (Ghana), who played in England for two seasons, won the men's singles title.



RANKING LISTS

AUSTRALIAN—Men: (1) McDonald; (2) Stirling; (3) Pascoe. Women: (1) Javor; (2) Gilbert; (3) Cleaves.

SOUTH AFRICAN S.A.T.T.B.—Men: (1) H. Naidoo; (2) Meyer; (3) D. Naidoo. Women: (1) Barry; (2) Ramsay; (3) Holt.

GUERNSEY—Men: (1) Rihoy; (2) Cochrane. Women: (1) Du Feu; (2) Hartland; (3) Blampied.

European League

SECOND DIVISION		
Austria	1	Denmark 6
Netherlands	2	France 5
Denmark	6	Switzerland 1
France	5	Belgium 2
Switzerland	4	Netherlands 3

IRISH CORNER

Ireland's table tennis players put up a remarkable performance at the Paralympics in Tel-Aviv (writes Kevin Drum). All four competitors brought home medals, John Hughes (silver) and Jimmy Gibson (bronze) both being beaten in close games by the new champion. Gibson also took the silver medal for snooker. The girls too showed their versatility, Frances White winning a silver in the singles, sharing the bronze with Rosaleen Gallagher in the doubles, and also taking the silver for swimming. Miss Gallagher won medals in all four sports in which she competed, i.e. table tennis, archery, swimming and wheelchair sprint.

"Connie" Warren and Joan Fitzsimmons successfully defended their singles titles in the County Dublin Championships and together they also won the mixed.

In the County Down Open, Tommy Caffrey defeated Tony Piddock but lost to Jim Langan in the final. In the Ulster Open Langan succumbed to Malcolm Sugden, and Lesley Barrie made it a double for Scotland by beating Joan Fitzsimmons in the final.

SNIPPETS

U.S.S.R. have offered to reverse their European League fixture and therefore we shall play them in England just after the English Open We have had to decline an invitation to play in the East German Open Alan Hydes, of Yorkshire, is having a month of training and play in Sweden The two young ranked Australian players Alan Frankenburg and Paul Pinkewich will be in England for several weeks early in 1969 and organisers wanting them to play matches or participate in tournaments should contact Alan Ransome, 21a, Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Yorks.

OFFICIAL NEWS

HANDBOOKS

ALL leagues should now have received a supply of the new Official Handbooks, at a rate of one per club plus three copies for the League's principal officers. Additional copies may be purchased at 2/6d., each, plus 6d. postage from the E.T.T.A. Secretariat.

HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENTS

THE supplement to the Handbook is in the closing stages of production, and will contain lists of all affiliated leagues, Counties, individuals and other organisations. These are extremely useful for reference purposes and copies will be sent direct to all recipients of the Handbook. However, we still require all AFF. 1 forms (green) in order to show the most up-to-date information possible.

TOURNAMENT DIARIES

IT is to be regretted that stocks of these diaries are completely sold out. It is not practicable to obtain a further supply at this stage of the season, but a larger stock will undoubtedly be carried next year. In the meantime, details of all tournaments will be found in the TOURNAMENT DIARY published in this magazine.

OPEN TOURNAMENT NEWS

IT is with regret that the cancellation of the Bournemouth Restricted Open, scheduled to have been played on January 12, is announced. This is due largely to financial problems and only serves to remind us how slender is the thread by which tournament finances hang, in spite of all the hard work behind the scenes.

Due to a printing error, the tournament at Yeovil on December 8 was listed as the West of England Open. This was always intended to be a Restricted Open, and in spite of valiant attempts by the Tournament Organiser, Mr. K. Palmer to run the event as a full Open, this will have to be a restricted Open and, to avoid confusion, will be known as the Wessex Restricted Open.

TABLES FOR HIRE

THERE are still a number of the Jaques tables for hire by Clubs. Basically, the hire terms are £15 per annum for 4 years and 1/- per annum thereafter. These are brand new, first class tables and further details will be supplied on request.

LINCOLN LOTTERY

ONE of the easiest ways for Counties to raise funds, tickets are now being made available to all Counties. A 50% rebate on sales is offered and if your County does not participate, then Leagues can take tickets direct, but please check with your County Secretary before taking action. Full details of the Lottery can be obtained from Mrs. Betty Mitton, 16, The Whins, Newby, Scarborough, Yorks.

ENGLISH OPEN

IN view of the cancellation of the Scandinavian Open, this season's English Open will attract more foreign

entries than ever before, so make a note of the date—February 27-March 1. With the World Championships following in April, countries will be anxious to give their players top-class match play in preparation.

PARTY TRAVEL TO MUNICH

ENQUIRIES are being made for party travel to Munich for the World Championships in April, but it would help considerably to know if the demand is likely to be sufficient for air charter. At present, it is envisaged that a party arrangement would cover the period of the individual events and that only bed and breakfast would be booked. Your views would be most welcome.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Secretaries are requested to address all official correspondence to either Derek Tremayne or Albert Shipley at the E.T.T.A. office, and not at their private addresses which could cause delay in receipt and reply.

TWO TEAR ? POST

SOME subscribers to TABLE TENNIS NEWS are suffering delay in receipt of their copy. However, be assured that all copies are despatched within 48 hours of publication on the 10th of each month and the differences in time taken to deliver seem too incredible to believe. Subscribers are requested to check the correctness of the address, as many of the addresses have been given to us by the previous publishers, and could now have changed.

TEAM SELECTIONS

SELECTED to play for England in two matches against the Netherlands in women's international matches were:

At Wellingborough, Northants on December 9.

Pauline Piddock (Kent)
Lesley Radford (Essex)
Judy Williams (Sussex)

At Crystal Palace on December 10.

Maureen Heppell
(Northumberland)
Jill Shirley (Bucks.)
Judy Heaps (Cheshire)

The Netherlands team trained by Yugoslavian, Dusan Tigerman, was selected as: Mieke ten Broek, aged 19, Mary van Ruiten, aged 17 and the Dutch Women's Singles champion, and Veronique van der Laan, aged 16, who is currently the Benelux Junior Girls' Singles champion.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Following the recent junior internationals and the England versus Israel matches, the Club has got 10 new Associate Members (Junior internationals) and one new ordinary member, Peter Williams of Sussex. At the International Club match against Israel, pre-war international Stanley Rose came to watch and joined up.

Club Chairman, Geoffrey Harrower, the former international and England captain, and also Organiser of the 1954 World Championships at Wembley, is getting some good coverage in the "Daily Telegraph" for Table Tennis.

The purpose of the Club is, of course, to do what it can for table tennis in any way whatsoever. If any League or Association would like the Club to arrange matches, present prizes or play against local sides, please contact Hon. Sec. Laurie Landry at 53, Hillfield Road, London, N.W.6. (01-794-6753).

JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS

BURY, Lancashire will be the first port of call for the junior representative team of Federal Germany when they make a short tour of Northern England in early January.

For the first time ever, the Bury and District League will undertake the staging of a junior international match for which tickets are now on sale priced at 7/6d., 5/- and 3/6d., with a limited number of standing tickets at 2/-.

These can be had from the Match Organiser, Mr. John E. Henderson, A.C.A., 31, Maple Avenue, Whitefield, Manchester. M25 7EP. Home

telephone: WHITEfield 4934. Applications should be accompanied by the appropriate remittance and a stamped addressed envelope.

CHAMPION AT "THE PALACE"

DRAGUTIN SURBEK, the current European men's singles champion and title winner in this season's Netherlands, Austrian and Yugoslav Opens, will spearhead Yugoslavia's team to oppose England at the Crystal Palace Recreation Centre on Friday, December 13.

Selected teams are as follows:—

ENGLAND: Denis Neale (Yorks.), Chester Barnes (Essex), Karenza Mathews (Middlesex) and Judy Heaps (Cheshire).

Non-playing captain Johnny Leach.

YUGOSLAVIA: D. Surbek, Anton Stipanovic and Miss Mirjana Resler. Non-playing captain Mr. Borivoje Popovic, the Secretary of the Yugoslav Table Tennis Association.



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INTERIM REPORT 1968-69

Prepared by
Gerald Gurney

A dozen or so counties have now formed their own Associations and will be staging full-scale qualifying tournaments leading to the National Event; this is very pleasing but we cannot rest content until all counties have their own organisation.

There can be no doubt at all that the demand exists in schools everywhere—among the pupils at least; the most common difficulty is to find teachers who are willing to take on the considerable work involved. In only one or two instances are Local Authorities reluctant to give all the help they can; most are prepared to send out information to schools and to play their part in the inauguration of county associations. A single teacher can work wonders and surely there must be at least one enthusiast in each county. Most of the associations already formed made a start with only half a dozen (or fewer) teachers attending the inaugural meeting, and it is a mistake to think that more are essential. The great thing is to make a start and grow gradually from there.

For the 1968-69 Championships at least teams may—in certain circumstances—be accepted even if no association exists; the organisers will have to be satisfied that efforts have been made to set up an association and that all interested schools have at least had an opportunity of taking part.

The following counties have a properly-constituted Association:

Buckinghamshire—W. B. Cartledge, 128 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, High Wycombe.

Cambridgeshire—D. W. Cupit, The Village College, Sawston.

Cheshire—A. Jones, Malpas County Secondary School, Chester Road, Malpas.

Cornwall—M. R. Cotton, County Secondary School, Heamoor, Penzance.

Cumberland—J. Earl, 16 Nelson Square, Egremont.

Derbyshire—R. Ayres, County Secondary School, Brimington.

Devonshire—R. Stuckey, Exmouth School, Gypsy Lane, Exmouth.

Essex—D. Lomas, 1 St. Mary's Road, Burnham-on-Crouch.

Lancashire—A. Chesworth, St. Mary's R.C. Secondary Modern School, Renton Road, Stretford.

Shropshire—S. M. Turner, Blessed Robert Johnson Secondary School, Wellington.

Somerset—No Secretary at present, but Mrs. D. Henderson, 'Highfield House', Ebdon Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, is Correspondent.

Surrey—D. M. Harrhy, Ewell County Secondary School, Danetree Road, West Ewell.

Warwickshire—M. Lewis, Nicholas Chamberlaine Comprehensive School, Bedworth, Nuneaton.

Most of the following counties are making progress towards setting up an Association:

***Bedfordshire**—Mrs. D. Harmer, 84 Brooklands Drive, Leighton Buzzard or Patrick Shallard, O.B.E., M.A., Chief Education Officer, Bedfordshire County Council, Shire Hall, Bedford.

***Berkshire**—C. Arnold, 58 Kingsbridge Road, Newbury, or T. D. W. Whitfield, Director of Education, County Education Office, Shire Hall, Reading.

Dorset—G. W. Biles, 79 Dennis Road, Westham, Weymouth, or J. R. Bradshaw, County Education Officer, County Hall, Dorchester.

***Durham**—E. A. Mann, Boynton School, Middlesborough, Teesside (also Correspondent for Northumberland, Newcastle and Teesside).

Gloucestershire—C. P. Milroy, M.A., Chief Education Officer, County Education Office, Shire Hall, Gloucester.

Hampshire—R. M. Marsh, M.A., County Education Officer, The Castle, Winchester.

Herefordshire—M. L. Edge, Director of Education, County Offices, Hereford.

***Hertfordshire**—D. Williams, 48 Auckland Road, Potters Bar, or S. T. Broad, County Education Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

Huntingdon—Ian C. Currey, Director of Education, Gazeley House, Huntingdon.

***Kent**—A. J. W. Woolven, West Kent College of Further Education, Tunbridge Wells.

Leicestershire—S. C. Mason, Director of Education, County Offices, Grey Friars, Leicester.

***Lincolnshire**—D. L. Worrell, 111 Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln. (Inaugural Meeting to be held shortly).

***Middlesex**—J. M. Wright, 124 Rusthall Avenue, Bedford Park, London, W.4.

Norfolk—E. J. Fairhead, 11 Brabazon Road, Norwich, NOR57N, or Dr. F. Lincoln Ralphs, Chief Education Officer, County Education Office, Stracey Road, Norwich, NOR. 49A.

Northamptonshire—M. J. Henley, M.A., Chief Education Officer, 'Springfield', Cliftonville, Northampton, NN1 5BQ.

***Northumberland**—See **D u r h a m** (above).

Nottinghamshire—W. G. Lawson, Director of Education, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

Oxfordshire—M. J. Chalk, Burford Grammar School.

Rutland—J. A. Simmonds, M.A. (Cantab.), Chief Education Officer, County Education Offices, Catmose, Oakham.

Staffordshire—P. Hancock, 113 Dartmouth Avenue, Westlands, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

***Suffolk**—B. Nelson, Chantry Secondary School, Mallard Way, Ipswich. (Inaugural Meeting to be held on 9th December).

Sussex—Rev. B. J. Rowley, St. Catherine's, Beach Road, Littlehampton, or B. S. Braithwaite, Chief Education Officer, County Hall, Lewes.

Westmorland—G. K. Greenwood, B.A., B.Ed., Director of Education, County Hall, Kendal.

Wiltshire—E. Howell, 7 Dorchester Road, Swindon, or J. H. Bradley, Chief Education Officer, County Hall, Trowbridge.

Worcestershire—I. R. Crickmer, 12 Cypress Street, Harbourne, Worcester, or J. C. Brooke, County Education Officer, Castle Street, Worcester.

***Yorkshire**—Rea Balmford, 205 Park Avenue, Hull.

In the first list the name and address given is that of the elected Secretary; all correspondence and queries should be sent to him. It is hoped very much that secretaries will arrange inter-county matches.

In the second list the teacher or local E.T.T.A. Official named will be very pleased to hear from others wishing to help in setting up a County Association and/or arranging qualifying tournaments leading to the National Event. Where necessary the name and address of the County Education Officer is given; it is the normal practice to approach the Physical Education Organiser through him. The General Secretary of the Association, G. N. Gurney, M.A., Guildhall Orchard, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex (Ardleigh 330)—is already in touch with the County Education Officers named, and nearly all of them are making enquiries within their own Authorities. Individual schools should write to them direct to declare their interest.

It is very difficult to know exactly how many counties in the second list above will be nominating teams for the National Championships 1968-69, but confident assurances have been received from those marked X and there is still time for others to join in so that this may be a truly National Event in the Association's very first season.

A copy of the Championship Rules (as ratified) has already been sent to all Secretaries and Correspondents and the grouping of counties for the National Quarter-Finals has already been published in 'Table Tennis News'. Other major Rules are as follows: six events, Boys Under-18, Under-15 and Under-13; Girls Under-18, Under-15 and Under-13 (all as on 1-2 September, 1968); open to all schools in England; teams of 4 players at the same school; matches of 8 sets (all singles); 'Group Play' where possible.

The Quarter-Finals will be played as follows: South-East (R.A.F. Stanmore) on 8 March (nominations by 23 February); South-West (venue not fixed) on 8 March (nominations by 23 February); Midland (Harry Mitchell Centre, Smethwick) on 1 March (nominations by 16 February); North (venue not fixed) on 1 March (nominations by 16 February).

The Semi-Finals and Finals will be played in the Midlands on 29 March.

The third Far East Air Force Championships and the second Joint Services Championships were held at R.A.F. Seletar, Singapore from October 6-10. For the second time only, players from all three Services were brought together in one huge tournament involving nearly 150 competitors.

The Team Championships

The first two days were devoted to the team events, in which Seletar captured all but one of the main titles. The men won all seven of their matches and became both F.E.A.F. and Joint Services Champions against the opposition of five other R.A.F. teams, one team from the Royal Navy and five from the Army.

Squadron Leader Neville Shorrick of R.A.F. Seletar emerged as the only player to win all his games. Runners-up to R.A.F. Seletar in the Joint Services event was No. 19 Signals Regiment, who also finished up as the Army Team Champions, thanks to the hard-hitting play of their No. 1 L/Cpl. Ngau.

In the ladies' section No. 4 Co. W.R.A.C. Tanglin led by Capt. Felicity Harlow retained their title from two R.A.F. teams and one W.R.N.S. The outstanding player was S.A.C.W. Wake for R.A.F. Seletar which helped her side retain the W.R.A.F. Challenge Trophy from R.A.F. Changi.

The Individual Championships

The honours in the finals of the Joint Services Championships were shared between the Army and the R.A.F. Marginally, the main awards went to the Army whose Jim Pemberton, a U.K. based civilian, retained his men's singles title with a 3-1 win over S/L. Shorrick. Again in the men's doubles Cpl. How and L/Cpl. Ngau beat R.A.F. opponents Chief Tech. Brewis and Sgt. James.

Cpt. Harlow gained a sweet and narrow revenge for her defeat in the team championships, by defeating S.A.C.W. Wake in the women's singles final. But S.A.C.W. Wake partnered by L.A.C.W. Gooch of R.A.F. Seletar defeated Cpt. Harlow and W.O. Thomson in the doubles.

In the F.E.A.F. section, Seletar's players again dominated the tournament by capturing all three titles. S.A.C.W. Wake took the women's singles, S/L. Shorrick the men's, and Brewis and James the doubles.

Jim Pemberton was the men's singles winner in the Army individuals, Cpt. Harlow coming out top in the Women's section. Ngau and How won the men's doubles.

The Far East Fleet Championships was the smallest section. Leading Cook Han won the men's singles from his H.M.S. Terror teammate steward Fong and these two combined to win the doubles. Wren Tew beat Wren Purdy in the women's singles.

TEESSIDE BONANZA

A vast organisation has been set up on Teesside with a view to presenting the biggest table tennis tournament seen in the North of England since the war.

In fact it will be three tournaments in one to take place over a weekend next February. The three events will be:—

1. The "plum" European League match between England and Rumania on February 21st.
2. An international team event involving top European teams on Saturday, the 22nd.
3. The Teesside Open Championships which has attracted some of the best players in the world. This will be played on Saturday with the later stages and finals on Sunday the 23rd.

Once the decision to hold it on Teesside was announced local league organisations at Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool got together to make the event into a major annual sporting date.

The local authority needed little persuading that such a tournament would enhance the prestige of their area and chipped in with sponsorship worth £300 to ensure that all facilities

possible will be available to organisers, competitors and officials during the three days.

FINEST IN THE WORLD

One of the most important factors in the tournament will be the lighting facilities—the finest in the world—which are being built into the brand-new sports centre at Eston, which means players will be more likely to reproduce their best form; umpires can do their jobs more easily and more accurately; spectators can watch more easily; and Press photographers will be able to work without flash for action shots during the tournament.

Since the announcement that the European League match would take place on Teesside, local associations have taken very seriously the business of securing Teesside as a world centre for table tennis. The past six months has been a story of combined thought and effort on the part of table tennis officials and local authority representatives.

In fact, organisation has taken on the urgency of a military operation. A series of committees has been set up to look into every aspect of the event from the competitors in play to officials at work; from spectators' information to accommodation for visitors. Table tennis organisers are handling most of the general organisation and Press publicity, but committee work is being keenly supported by the council.

SOLVED IN ADVANCE

Special committees look after publicity (Press and advertising), sponsorship and hospitality. These, in their turn, are broken down into various sub-committees meeting regularly formally and informally. Over 250 players are expected. Their arrival, accommodation, meals and travelling about Teesside during their stay are all problems which will be solved in advance in an effort to keep the whole massive event running smoothly.

There will be tiered seats for about 2,000 spectators in Eston Sports Hall and in fact the tournament will be the first major sporting event to be staged there.

A restaurant with a fully licensed bar is near at hand for meals and refreshments during the day.

A detailed system of loudspeaker announcements will operate to keep everyone fully informed about matches and results as they come in.

For further information please contact:—

Mr. Alan Ransome, Tournament Organiser, 21a, Church Lane, Ormesby. (M'bro 34214; M'bro 46285 (office); or M'bro 2914 (messages).

Mr. John Gibson, 22, Dorset Close, Redcar (M'bro 43492).

Mr. G. Lambelle, Press Officer, 23, Kipling Grove, Fairfield, Stockton. (66608; 43009 (4 p.m. afternoon). Teesside Recreation Department.

NEW CLUB WITH INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR

EARLIER in the year, the *New Zealand Sports and Social Club which leases 11½ acres of parkland in Wimbledon alongside the famous All-England Lawn Tennis Club, completed its first annual table tennis championships.

The club is directly affiliated to the E.T.T.A. and Mrs. Anne Kentish (Scotland) and Peter Thompson (New Zealand) won the singles titles.

Peter is a former member of the New Zealand national team and was a most consistent winner of regional open championships throughout his home country when at his peak in 1958-60.

Other title winners were:—

W.D.: Mrs. Carol McCarthy and Mrs. Jill Mahon.

M.D.: Brian McIvor and Peter Thompson.

X.D.: Thompson and Mrs. Patsy Staniskewski.

* Membership is open to people of all nationalities and the grounds consist of 2 rugby fields, 1 cricket pitch, 18 tennis courts—14 lawn and 4 hard, 1 bowling green and a large social pavilion.

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TONY BOASMAN

by Philip Reid



the finals of the 'Boy of the Year' competition. He was runner-up to Haydn Thomas—a position he was to occupy for the following two seasons. Tony's style and natural ability made him an obvious choice in a competition where no matches were played, but he was quick to show he had all the ingredients needed when playing for points.

In the Kent Under-13 Doubles he partnered a French boy, LeFebvre. Tony had never seen him before and it was obvious problems of style, lack of knowledge of each other's game, etc., could arise. The only problems, however were those presented to the opposition. The Anglo-French pair won the competition. In the Cumberland Open, Tony beat Lancashire's two and three ranked juniors, Colin Lang and Stephen Kaufman and these wins were instrumental in moving up to number two in the ranking list. It was a position he was soon to justify.

In January he was brought into the Lancashire Junior team against Cumberland. No one would pretend this was the toughest possible baptism but Tony took his chance well. Much tougher was the match with Yorkshire, who were then the Northern Junior Division Champions.

The county from the East of the Pennines were playing well enough to keep the title and it was clear an exceptional effort would be needed from someone in the Lancashire side if they were going to be denied success. It came sure enough—from Boasman. In a really wonderful display he beat both Clayton and Fletcher and Lancashire won 7-3. The title was theirs.

Tony had started his appearances in the County Championships with a total of eight wins out of eight. It was a season in which Tony had really 'arrived' on the scene.

Before the start of the following one Tony had become runner-up 'Boy of the Year' again this time to Peter Taylor. Tony had practised long and hard in the Summer of 1967 and it was about to bring tangible result. Although not qualifying for the final Junior Trials in London, it was clear the England selectors already had their eye on Tony. He was included in Group 'A'.

SECURES HIS PLACE

Having secured his place in the Lancashire Junior Team he set about the Northern tournaments and was successful in some events at almost every tourney he entered. He reached the Semi-final of the Boys' Singles in the North of England Open, the final of the Merseyside Open (where he lost to Brian Mitchell) and then took the Cumberland Open Junior Singles title.

In the Pontefract Open he not only reached the last eight in the Men's Singles but actually won the Men's Doubles with Brian Burn his partner. In the Yorkshire Junior Open, Tony partnered Alan Fletcher in both the Junior Doubles and Under-15 Doubles. In the Junior Doubles they

reached the final before losing to Koch and Thomas but they were too strong for all opposition in the Under-15 event, which they won.

"Distance No Object" may well be the slogan which could be put on the Boasman car for certainly Tony doesn't mind how far he has to go. The Portsmouth Junior is typical. Tony was playing so well he was hardly ever off the table. He beat higher-ranked Michael Wald and David James on his way to taking the Boy's Singles, then proceeded to take the Under-15 Singles and Doubles.

A move to Number 7 in the England Ranking List followed shortly afterwards.

The highly-successful Teesside Junior Open provide Tony with another two successes. The closest of all the finals was Tony's Under-15 Singles set with Alan Fletcher who he ultimately beat at 19 in the third. The pair then took the Under-15 Doubles title. Meanwhile in the Junior Division (North), Lancashire again looked to Tony in their final set of the season when they led 5-4 against Yorkshire. Tony did not fail them and Lancashire retained the title they had taken the previous season. Tony's only defeat of the season in the division came at the hands of Tony Clayton.

1967-68 had been a year of success and consolidation. Without bringing off many spectacular wins (but at the same time remembering he was still only 14-years-old) Tony had made steady progress. He could be well satisfied.

ATTACKING PLAYER

Since his early days, Tony has always been an attacking player but in the last season or two he has been building up a formidable defence to support it. In times of trouble, however he is still more likely than not to try to hit his way out of it.

At the end of 1967-68 season he received his annual Runners-Up prize at Bognor, this time being second to Tony Langan. The England Junior Trials, which followed soon after was an occasion when Tony was desperately keen to do well but in fact he failed to show his best form. The England selectors however were too far-sighted to be misled and he was given No. 3 spot—a position about which it is hard to argue. As if to justify his inclusion he travelled to Newbury the following weekend and took the Junior Singles title.

A fortnight later he was in Holland, gaining his first Junior International cap. Nervous at the outset, he lost his first set but then took the next two in great style.

With so much natural ability and so sound a temperament, it is not difficult to imagine Tony going a long way in the game. He is virtually an un-coached player though he has been given a lot of helpful advice from various people, Laurie Landry, of course, foremost amongst them.

This then, is the story of Tony Boasman—to date. But I have an idea it is only just the beginning. He has, I think, all the attributes to bridge the gap between Junior and Senior International standard. With two more years as a junior—after this season — time is on his side and Lancashire are pleased with their latest gift to English table tennis. And with good reason.

Ombudsman

THIS month's problem comes from an Inter-league secretary who is finding it more and more difficult to arrange inter-league matches and Wilmott Cup games. His letter says Mondays and Wednesdays are out due to intensive training organized by the E.T.T.A. for the international squad. Saturdays and Sundays are out because of tournaments and County matches. Fridays are needed for travelling or rest, so leaving only Tuesdays and Thursdays. The rules of the Wilmott Cup say that three dates must be offered, one of which must be a Saturday. The letter goes on to quote many interesting facts, the most important of which is "Surely the Rose Bowl and Wilmott Cup Competitions are to table tennis what the F.A. Cup is to football—the showpiece of their respective sports and nothing should have priority over them". With the proper co-operation, nothing at county or international level should be arranged to clash with these competitions, and, most important of all, the National Council should not arrange a meeting on Finals Day as they have done for the past two years. The writer appreciates the fact that the E.T.T.A. are anxious to have a strong international team and approves of the strict training and discipline needed to achieve this.

We set the ball rolling and asked the views of various secretaries, club players, county players and internationalists. Upon summarizing the replies we find:—The international squad training is a must. Unfortunately too many players are not using it to the full. The Wilmott and Rose Bowl Competitions should have priority over inter-league or club matches. There should be liaison with the county championships so as not to clash with county matches. Common sense on the part of representative match secretaries should prevail so as not to arrange Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches on important major Open Tournament dates. Members of the international squad should be excused training on the rare occasions when such matches cannot possibly be fixed on any other date. As to National Council Meetings on a Finals Day, this is just lack of co-operation between the Subcommittee and the National Council. This will be brought to the notice of councillors at the next Council Meeting. Some of the replies we received from players impel us to add this rider. Secretaries of Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl teams, if you want these competitions to be the showpiece of English Table Tennis, make sure you give the players perfect playing conditions. We have had so many complaints of bad ones!

WANTED

WANTED copy May 1966 TABLE TENNIS NEWS and 1956 Tokyo World Championships Programme. Will pay top price. Please reply: P. J. Thompson, 2 Alwyne Mansions, Alwyne Road, Wimbledon, London S.W.19.

PEOPLE take up playing table tennis from joining a Youth Club, at the works canteen or perhaps at school. But one lad took it up before he had visited any of these places. Yes, before he had even been to school.

When son Tony had reached the tender age of three, Mr. Boasman senior introduced into the household at Flixton a table tennis table which had cost the princely sum of £8. From its initial installation its most enthusiastic occupant was Tony and in his father he found a patient and willing tutor.

By the time he had reached eleven-years-of-age, Tony was ready for league table tennis and his first season found him playing in the unpretentious - sounding Manchester League, Division 5 (South Central). He represented the Fallowfield Club. Few players enter League table tennis at so early an age but Tony was far from over-awed. He gave some splendid displays, winning more games than he lost.

The following season saw Tony launched on the tournament circuit and he caused a sensation in his very first open. Keith Lawrence was then the England number one junior but, still unknown outside of Manchester, Boasman beat him in two straight. Close games they may have been (27-25, 21-19) but there was no doubt the Mancunian deserved his win.

Not slow to appreciate the talent in their midst and although only twelve-years-old he was moved up to the 2nd Division. He did so well that before the season was out he was having an occasional game in the 1st Division and adapting himself to the higher standards demanded. Manchester League was not the only one to have the benefit of Tony's services. The local Urmston League had Tony operating in their first division. It was altogether a very encouraging start.

FOUR LEAGUES

1966-67 season was a great one for Tony. He decided — rightly — he couldn't get too much practice and he joined no fewer than four leagues — Manchester, Urmston, Stretford and Sale. As the season opened, Tony travelled to Bognor Regis for

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Dec. 15	Swindon Open Pinehurst Sports Hall, Swindon, Wilts.	JBS, JGS	G. G. S. Turnbull, 139, Grange Drive, Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, Wilts.
1969			
Jan. 2-3-4	10th ENGLISH CLOSED Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre, Norwood, London, S.E. 19.		D. R. Tremayne, E.T.T.A. Room 323, 26-29, Park Crescent, London, WIN 4HA.
Jan. 5	Yorkshire Junior Open, Y.P.I. Ferens Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull, Yorks.		R. Balmford, 205, Park Avenue, Hull, Yorks.
Jan. 5	Winton Y.M.C.A. Restricted Open Winton Y.M.C.A., Winton, Bournemouth, Hants.	JBS, JGS	J. Luther, 66, Frederica Road, Winton, Bournemouth.
Jan. 12	Bournemouth Restricted Open Town Hall, Bournemouth, Hants.	JBS, JGS	C. J. Buck, 18, Sherwood Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.
Jan. 18	Lancashire Open, Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Northern Sports Club, Lostock, Bolton, Lancs.	VS	G. T. H. Fackrell, 11, Halton Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, Lancs. Closing date: 7.1.69.
Jan. 19	Oxfordshire Open, Sports Hall, Gosford Hill School, Kidlington, Oxon.	VS	R. J. Smurthwaite, 34, Springfield Oval, Witney, Oxon.
Jan. 25	Pontefract Restricted Assembly Rooms, Pontefract.	Open JBS, JGS VS	G. L. Johnson, 17, Rhodes Crescent, Pontefract, Yorks.
Jan. 25-26	Kent Open, Marine Pavilion, Folkestone.	YBS, YGS VS	C. M. Wyles, 48, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

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MAXWELL'S BRIGHT IDEA

by Ken Mathews

I might never have known about Maxwell, if I had not chanced to play him in the early days of his technical development. On that occasion he was using a new bat of which he seemed rather proud, I could see no difference in it except that it looked rather large. I beat him fairly easily—everybody did that—and then I shook hands with him. As I did so I felt a distinct tingle run up my arm. I put it down to a freak of nature and thought no more about it.

I thought no more about it that is, until one evening a few weeks later when I happened to be playing in the village hall and I noticed that Maxwell was involved in a match on the other table. My game was interrupted by hoots of laughter from Maxwell's match. He had always been considered as rather a non-starter as far as Table Tennis was concerned; his averages in the village fifth team never rose above about ten per cent. He had certainly hit an all-time low that night though because he was quite incapable of hitting the ball on the table. No matter how hard he tried the ball flew off in all directions except where it ought to have gone and eventually, panting and glaring at his bat, he had to withdraw from the match. The way he glared at his bat made me notice it. It was not the one I had seen before but an odd pear-shaped version.

That second incident must have made an impression on my mind because I was unusually interested when I saw about a month later, that his team was due to play in another match in the village hall. I decided to call in on my way home.

I noticed the large van parked nearby with the curious aerial thing poking out of its roof but it did not mean anything to me then.

I was just in time to see Maxwell play his last set. It was against a pretty good player who I believe had once been invited to a county trial. Maxwell beat him 6 and 4. He had won his other two rather more easily. He was certainly the hero of the hour but for some reason I could not take my eyes off his bat. It was a flat bat, round and very large. Every time he played a stroke it seemed to my ears to make a kind of popping noise.

I happened to be standing near the door and as Maxwell left—in rather a hurry I thought—I could have sworn that I heard a low hum coming from the bag he was carrying. I saw him climb into the van outside and as he drove away the aerial disappeared from view through the van's roof.

I called on Maxwell the next evening. I didn't beat about the bush and within ten minutes he seemed to decide that his only course was to confide in me.

For a long time he had been working in his spare time on making the

thing he had always dreamed of—an electronic bat. He took me out to a shed in his back garden. Inside there were masses of electrical bits and pieces and gadgets making strange buzzings and bleepings; it was certainly all very impressive. He tried to explain how his bat worked. It was an incredibly complicated affair involving radar and impulses and echo soundings and goodness knows what else. I was completely baffled by it all but I was certain about one thing; he could never use that bat in a match again.

He argued and pleaded. He had set his heart on winning the village closed singles title. The only chance he had was if he used his electronic bat. It had a lot of teething troubles but now he said that he had perfected it. I told him that I couldn't stand by and see him beat players if he was using that bat to do it with.

In the end I think it was partly curiosity—just to see if he could do it—that made me relent. That and the fact that he promised that if he did win he would immediately reveal the secret of his success.

The village championships were held the next week. Needless to say he stormed through the rounds and got to the final never losing more than seven points in any game. His incredible improvement was a sensation in the village and everyone was there for the final.

He won the first 21-5 and it seemed that nothing could stop him winning the title, particularly when he was 20-6 up in the second.

That was probably exactly what the Vicar thought as well, because it was at that moment that he chose to lean across the umpires' table to pick up the presentation cup. As he did so his elbow knocked the jug of water placed there for the use of thirsty players. It was a large jug and still fairly full and as it hit the ground it sent a flood of water all over the floor under the players' feet.

Poor Maxwell gave a great shriek and lit up like a torch. As he jumped about crackling and giving off blue sparks I raced out of the hall and leapt into his van round the corner. Frantically I threw all the switches and pressed all the buttons I could see. When I got back to the hall they had Maxwell laid out on the floor.

A short while after he came out of hospital he moved away from the village. Before he went he was trying to interest me in operating some contraption that would guide a new radio-controlled ball he was inventing. Of course I would have no part in his lunatic schemes.

If ever you have to play a short, rather thin chap with glasses and you find that the ball seems to be dodging past your bat, be warned though because it may be Maxwell.

A QUESTION OF RANKING

What has the world got? . . . What has Europe got? . . . What have our counties got? . . . What have the England juniors got . . . that our England seniors have not got?

ANSWER—'A ranking list'.

Why is this? Why have we got instead a seeding list 'for the guidance of tournament organisers'?

Why don't our players know where they stand, OFFICIALLY?

The answer, it seems to me, is a certain diffidence and lack of courage on the part of our administrators.

But, speculation on this on my part achieves little. Perhaps *a senior selector will give us an authoritative statement on this important matter.

The Press generally refer to ranked players. Advertisers 'rank' players.

But without a ranking list who is to say who is the No. 1 player in the country. Denis Neale and informed observers think he is. But my friend 'Joe Bloggs' after winning three sets in his 5th Division match, now declares that he is!

A number of top players modestly claim that they are. Come to that, I'm playing rather well myself these days.

The E.T.T.A. should resolve our dilemma. Put us in our places. Indeed, put all the top players in their correct places . . . in a RANKING LIST!

Charles E. Davies

45 Upper Vernon Road,
Sutton, Surrey.

*The Chairman of the National Selection Committee, Tom Blunn, concerns himself with this very topic in his article 'Seeding, Ranking or Grading — Which?' in this issue. Ed.

UMPIRES WANTED

ONCE again the English Closed Championships are near at hand and I have again been appointed the Organiser of Umpires.

Invitations have been extended to all Umpires who helped in last year's Championships and to others known to be interested in coming along to Crystal Palace. But there is always a chance that someone has been overlooked, either by change of address, or that I do not know of their interest.

I should, therefore, be glad to hear from anyone interested, particularly those available to help on the Thursday evening session and all day Friday.

Charles M. Wyles.

48 Eversfield Place,
St. Leonards-on-Sea,
Sussex.

Tournament Survey

Contributed by

**Rea Balmford, Laurie Landry
and A. Wilcocks**

"CONNIE" WARREN, after struggling through the earlier rounds, played magnificently in the final stages to win the men's singles title at the Woolwich Open on November 9/10.

This was a tournament that produced a number of surprises not least being John Dabin's victory over Ian Harrison, Eric Coster's dismissal of Trevor Taylor and the subjugation of 'Les' Haslam by David Brown.

Most exciting set in the Portsmouth Open, on November 17, was the semi-final win of Barry Hill, on expedite, over Sammy Ogundipe. Scotland's Malcolm Sugden won the men's singles, taking over from Surrey's Ron Penfold, but Jill Shirley retained her counterpart title.

Both at Hull, on November 3, and in the Cumberland Open at Workington on November 23, Denis Neale reigned supreme. Surprises on Humberside were the defeats of Tony Clayton by the bearded Colin Eltringham, and Brian Kean, Scotland's No. 2, by Middlesbrough junior Nicky Jarvis.

Hammering at the door of Laurie Landry's "ranking office" is Northumberland's Ian Robertson of Tyne-mouth, an England "B" Group junior.

Winner of the boys' singles at his last three tournaments, young Robertson figured in a classic encounter with Lancashire's Tony Boasman at Workington which was a delight to behold.

His previous final successes were against Peter Abell at Hull and Jarvis at Warley, both his victims being "A" Group players.

Middlesbrough's Linda Bashford is another junior with claims for promotion following her women's and junior girls' wins in the East Riding tournament.

What too of Lancashire's Susan Lisle, who at Workington, had wins over Scotland's Corbillon Cup player Lesley Barrie and Doreen Schofield of Cheshire?

All these results, together with the prodigious feats of Kent's Dabin, provide food for thought and for the indigestion of the National Selection Committee!

Results:—

WOOLWICH OPEN: RESULTS

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
L. Landry (Middx.) bt J. Dabin (Kent) 17, -15, 17; C. Warren (Surrey) bt B. Hill (Surrey) 16, 20; A. Piddock (Kent) bt S. Gibbs (Essex) -15, 10, 20; D. Brown (Essex) bt G. Muranyi (Surrey) 15, -16, 15.

Semi-finals:
WARREN bt Landry 16, 14; PIDDOCK bt Brown 18, -20, 17.

Final: WARREN bt Piddock 15, -19, 10.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:
J. HEAPS (Ches.) bt L. Radford (Essex) 16, -17, 20.

J. WILLIAMS (Sussex) bt J. Shirley (Bucks.) 22, 18.

Final: HEAPS bt Williams 14, 21.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

H. BUIST (Kent)/PIDDOCK bt D. Basden/B. Meisel (Kent) 10, 2.

M. CREAMER (Surrey)/WARREN bt Gibbs/O. Haslam (Middx.) 20, -13, 21.

Final: BUIST/PIDDOCK bt Creamer/Warren 13, 17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

J. BILLINGTON/E. CARRINGTON (Essex) bt Heaps/Radford -18, 10, 23.

S. HESSION (Essex)/WILLIAMS bt Shirley/M. Walker (Middx.) 17, 15.

Final: BILLINGTON/CARRINGTON bt Hession/Williams 12, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

GIBBS/RADFORD bt S. Ogundipe (Sussex)/Williams -18, 19, 20.

T. TAYLOR (Herts.)/HEAPS bt E. Coster (Herts.)/Shirley 19, -21, 9.

Final: GIBBS/RADFORD bt Taylor/Heaps -13, 16, 13.

Junior Singles: Semi-finals:

T. TAYLOR bt Dabin 16, -10, 6; M. READ (Essex) bt P. Taylor (Herts.) -20, 7, 18.

Final: TAYLOR bt Read 14, 14.

HULL AND EAST RIDING OPEN:

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

D. NEALE (Yorks.) bt D. Bartlett (Yorks.) 9, 10; A. HYDES (Yorks.) bt J. Kedge (Yorks.) 12, 11.

Final: NEALE bt Hydes 20, 11.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

L. BASHFORD (Yorks.) bt K. Perry (Warwks.) 11, -15, 15.

D. SCHOFIELD (Ches.) bt B. Cassell (Norfolk) 17, 13.

Final: BASHFORD bt Schofield -19, 16, 17.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HYDES/NEALE bt P. Duncombe (Yorks.)/Kedge 13, 5.

A. RANSOME (Northld.)/N. JARVIS (Yorks.) bt D. Berry (Lancs.)/B. Kean (Ches.) 15, 15.

Final: HYDES/NEALE bt Ransome/Jarvis 12, 14.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

S. PEGG (Derbys.)/PERRY bt Bashford/P. Richmond (Yorks.) 14, 13.

L. FORKES (Yorks.)/SCHOFIELD bt M. Brook (Yorks.)/A. Wright (Lincs.) 9, 16.

Final: PEGG/PERRY bt Forkes/Schofield 13, -18, 10.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-final:

HYDES/SCHOFIELD bt D. Schofield (Ches.)/C. Moran (Lincs.) 11, 7.

KEDGE/FORKES bt Neale/Perry -21, 15, 17.

Final: HYDES/SCHOFIELD bt Kedge/Forkes 17, 14.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

I. ROBERTSON (Northld.) bt R. Clarke (Warwks.) 17, 13.

P. ABELL (Yorks.) bt Jarvis 21, -16, 17.

Final: ROBERTSON bt Abell -14, 19, 8.

Junior Girls' Semi-finals:

BASHFORD bt N. Sothcott (Yorks.) 19, 10; V. KING (Yorks.) bt L. Sutton (Yorks.) 17, 13.

Final: BASHFORD bt King 16, -20, 14.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

T. DONLON (Ches.) bt N. Lusher (Yorks.) 15, 15.

F. BRIGGS (Yorks.) bt K. Jordan (Herts.) -14, 18, 17.

Final: DONLON bt Briggs -19, 19, 15.

PORTSMOUTH OPEN: RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

B. HILL (Surrey) bt S. Ogundipe (Sussex) 16, -22, 11.

M. SUGDEN (Scotland) bt P. Shirley (Bucks.) -18, 17, 17.

Final: SUGDEN bt Hill 11, 15.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

P. EDWARDS (Hants.) bt S. Howard (Surrey) -17, 12, 16.

J. SHIRLEY (Bucks.) bt C. Davies (Hants.) 16, 15.

Final: SHIRLEY bt Edwards 12, 10.

Men's Doubles: Final:

B. MEISEL (Kent)/SHIRLEY bt G. R. Golding (Kent)/Ogundipe 15, 16.

Women's Doubles: Final:

DAVIES/EDWARDS bt Shirley/M. Walker (Middx.) -19, 19, 15.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

S. HAHN (Bucks.)/EDWARDS bt Shirley/Shirley -12, 16, 15.

CUMBERLAND OPEN: RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Neale (Yorks.) bt A. Warents (Northald.) 5, 11; D. Schofield (Ches.) bt R. Kelly (Lancs.) 16, -20, 18; R. Bhalla (Northald.) bt S. Kaufman (Lancs.) 21, 17; B. Burn (Northald.) bt A. Boasman (Lancs.) 14, 19.

Semi-finals:

NEALE bt Schofield 14, 17; BURN bt Bhalla -20, 19, 10.

Final: NEALE bt Burn 9, 16.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

M. HEPPELL (Northald.) bt L. Bashford (Yorks.) 14, -20, 14.

S. LISLE (Lancs.) bt D. Schofield (Ches.) 24, 14.

Final: HEPPELL bt Lisle 11, 6.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

P. BECK (Surrey)/NEALE bt H. Dignan/T. Hart (Northald.) 15, 16.

BURN/P. HIRST (Yorks.) bt R. Kettlewell (Northald.)/Warents 16, 17.

Final: BECK/NEALE bt Burn/Hirst 15, 18.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HEPPELL/SCHOFIELD bt M. Hail/C. Rose (Cumb.) 14, 8.

BASHFORD/P. RICHMOND (Yorks.) bt N. Ferguson (Northald.)/A. Waters (Yorks.) 16, 17.

Final: HEPPELL/SCHOFIELD bt Bashford/Richmond 19, 12.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

BURN/HEPPELL bt P. Cameron (Scotland)/M. Holliday (Cumb.) 6, 16.

NEALE/L. BARRIE (Scotland) bt Hirst/Waters 14, 19.

Final: BURN/HEPPELL bt Neale/Barrie -18, 13, 13.

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Boasman bt J. Willis (Cumb.) 7, 10; N. Jarvis (Yorks.) bt I. Johns (Ches.) 17, 13; P. Abell (Yorks.) bt M. Bell (Cumb.) 14, 16; I. Robertson (Northald.) bt D. Armstrong (Northald.) 18, 21.

Semi-finals: BOASMAN bt Jarvis 13, 19; ROBERTSON bt Abel 16, -17, 12.

Final: ROBERTSON bt Boasman 13, -14, 20.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

BASHFORD bt Waters -17, 16, 22;

LISLE bt J. Walshaw (Yorks.) 5, 8.

Final: BASHFORD bt Lisle -14, 14, 9.

SQUAD NEWCOMER

AFTER his men's singles success in the North of England Open at Manchester, Orville B. "Les" Haslam was invited to join the International Squad. His acceptance led to his first appearance in England's colours against Ireland in Bangor.

SEEDING, RANKING OR GRADING - Which?



By Tom Blunn

Chairman, National
Selection Committee

A rose by any other name . . . !
So it is with the list of names issued by the Selection Committee. Whatever the title given to it, the players, the press, and many people will always regard it as a Ranking List, and as such it will exert more influence than it deserves. The main purpose of the list is to help Open Tournament organisers to seed the top players so that good finals can be assured. This it does of course but in addition

it provides the players with intensive competition amongst themselves and the critics with a load of ammunition to fire at the selectors.

An official ranking list deprives the selectors of the scope they need to carry out a progressive policy. There are always critics ready to prove that a player has been chosen for a team in preference to someone higher on the list. Players are apt to feel affronted if a player lower down the list has been preferred in a recent selection; local officials are quick to support the player and the result is friction between the selectors, the players and local officials.

NO CERTAIN METHOD

The choice of order in any ranking list always brings forth its critics as there is no certain method of selection. What may appear to be a fair ranking one day is out of date in a few weeks. It is only practicable to produce a list once or at the most, twice a season, and although this is sufficient for seeding in open tournaments it does not satisfy the demand for regular rankings.

So why issue a list at all? Because it must be done for open tournaments purposes and because all concerned expect it. And however it is explained or whatever it is called it will be regarded as a ranking list and treated as such.

If a list is to be issued then it will be more satisfactory if a system of

selection can be evolved that can stand up to criticism. The possibility of lining up the Master Points Scheme with tournament and other results has been considered and a scheme will be presented to the National Council for consideration very soon. This may be called a Grading Scheme and the positions will be worked out on a points basis and so at least one problem will be solved.

REVISED EACH MONTH

The remaining problem is that of the use to which the list will be put. Clearly the Selection Committee will not use it for selection purposes but it will be of great help to tournament organisers. It will help the players generally by creating the competition amongst themselves whereby they will be able to see almost instant results. The list will be revised each month and published in the magazine. Open tournaments should benefit by greater participation by the top players.

The selectors will be free to select in accordance with a progressive policy, providing a balance between youth and experience and, as re-

quired, choosing 'horses for courses'.

The players want a scheme to reflect their current form in relation to each other and it is hoped that the Grading Scheme will provide it.

Incidentally, the scheme will provide a boost for the Master Points Scheme which has not recently been given the prominence that it deserves. It is a scheme that gives instant progressive awards by which lower grade players can move up the line. There is no reason why the M.P.S. should not be used in every League and County in order to provide local ranking lists.



We wish all our readers
a Happy Christmas

and a

Prosperous New Year



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★ ★ ★ Czechoslovakian Tour ★ ★ ★

The International Matches

by Brian Mitchell

FIRST IN FIFTEEN YEARS!

England 4 Czechoslovakia 3, at Oxford, November 8th, 1968.

WHAT you are reading now could have been the story of one of the most amazing recoveries ever in an international match.

When England lead 3-0, all won, incidentally, by a margin of two points in the third game; and Ian Harrison led by one game to nil; and 9-2, in the doubles, England looked within easy reach of victory.

Amazingly, Miko and Dvorak pulled back to win the set, and in the next, Harrison was unable to contain Miko as Hydes had done.

Jill Shirley, however, was not interested in letting a dramatic situation develop, and overcame Milena Polackova to make the score 4-2 to ensure a victory which was the first (in which men players have been involved) since 1953.

Finally, Dvorak outpaced Hydes in the only two-game set of the evening.

Initially this match was beset by problems and caused headaches for all those involved in its organisation. Firstly, because of a setback in the health of his expectant wife, Brian Wright was forced to withdraw from the match and Alan Hydes took his place. Secondly, the Czechs were held up by fog in Prague and actually arrived in the hall after the match had been scheduled to start. Thirdly, because of the late start and the need by T.V. of a firm result, the planned mixed doubles set was cancelled from the programme, leaving the match to be decided on a best of seven basis.

In spite of these setbacks, the whole affair was well staged by the Oxfordshire Association and covered by B.B.C. television.

Individual scores (in match order) were:—

Hydes bt Miko -19, 16, 22; Harrison bt Dvorak -20, 14, 19; M. Heppell bt M. Polackova -18, 14, 20; Harrison/Hydes lost to Dvorak/Miko 17, -19, -16; Harrison lost to Miko 13, -8, -15; J. Shirley bt Polackova 13, -16, 17; Hydes lost to Dvorak -16, -18.

England 4 Czechoslovakia 4 at Ashford, Kent, on November 11th 1968

A repeat of his performance against Vlado Miko, in the semi-final of the men's singles event at the Birmingham Open, would have brought the house down for Mike Johns. But it was Miko who had the last laugh in winning two-straight to force a division of the spoils.

Lesley Radford returned to the international scene and had little

difficulty in disposing of Miss Polackova as was also the case with Judy Williams.

Making his senior debut against continental opposition, Trevor Taylor had a splendid win over Dvorak and played his part in a good all-round team performance. Scores:

Taylor lost to Miko -18, -16; Johns bt Dvorak 8, -12, 20; L. Radford bt M. Polackova 13, 17; Johns/Taylor lost to Dvorak/Miko -18, -17; Johns/Radford lost to Miko/Polackova -18, -19; Taylor bt Dvorak 11, 18; J. Williams bt Polackova 11, 9; Johns lost to Miko -16, -17.



"MEDAL FOR MALCOLM"

E.T.T.A. Management Committee member, Malcolm Scott, is above seen as the recipient of a Czech lapel badge. Conferring the "award" is Czech captain and former Swathling Cup player Ivan Andreadis.

Birmingham Open

by John Pike

MIKE TRIUMPHS AND DESPAIRS

FOLLOWING their international match with England at Oxford, the Czechs travelled the odd 60 miles to Birmingham, and there won four of the five major events in the open tournament on November 9.

Keeping a watchful eye on the proceedings at Warley were some of the game's top administrators, who earlier in the day had attended the "100 Club" luncheon at Edgbaston.

Highlight of the men's singles, which was won by the Czech Dvorak, was undoubtedly the semi-final clash between Mike Johns and Miko. This match produced the best table tennis of the tournament with Johns coming out on top 21-15 in the third. His success was short lived however, for in the final he was never in it against Miko's team-mate, Dvorak.

As Alan Hydes, seeded No. 3 also reached the semi-final, one can say this event ran very much to the form book.

Pride of place in the women's singles must go to Dorothy Deeley of West Bromwich. On her way to the final, where she was beaten by the Czech, Milena Polackova, she brought off a career-best with a sparkling win over England-ranked Maureen Heppell. This was followed by a semi-final win over Kath Perry, but then in a somewhat disappointing final, there was too much "pushing" to make it a spectacle, she had to play second fiddle.

There was a surprise too in the women's doubles where Birmingham's Jenny Cornock and Diane Simpson staged a thrilling recovery to take the title against the favourites Polackova and Heppell.

The men's and mixed doubles events turned out to be a double triumph for the Czechs, but credit here to the Midland Pair Glenn Warwick and Kath Perry for reaching the final.

Ian Robertson and Linda Bashford took the honours in the junior singles and at the other end of the scale, the veterans' event, George Tsow from Coventry successfully retained his title.

It would be wrong to finish this report without a mention of Maurice Goldstein. Back at the helm after his accident this year, Maurice and his committee did another first class job at Warley. Results:—

Mens' Singles: Semi-finals:

M. JOHNS (Ches.) bt V. Miko (Czecho.) 15, -16, 15; A. DVORAK (Czecho.) bt A. Hydes (Yorks.) 13, 19.

Final: DVORAK bt Johns 10, 15.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

M. POLACKOVA (Czecho.) bt D. Simpson (Essex) -10, 14, 10. D. DEELEY (Staffs.) bt K. Perry (Warwks.) 17, 19.

Final: POLACKOVA bt Deeley 18, 11.

Men's Doubles: Final:

DVORAK/MIKO bt B. Burn (Northld.) /Hydes 7, 18.

Women's Doubles: Final:

J. CORNOCK (Warwks.)/SIMPSON bt M. Heppell (Northld.)/Polackova -19, 17, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

MIKO/POLACKOVA bt G. Warwick (Staffs.)/Perry 12, 15.

Junior Boys' Singles: Final:

I. ROBERTSON (Northld.) bt N. Jarvis (Yorks.) 19, 15.

Junior Girls' Singles: Final:

L. BASHFORD (Yorks.) bt S. Lisle (Lancs.) 19, 12.

Junior Doubles: Final:

R. CLARKE (Warwks.)/S. HEAPS (Ches.) bt M. Hall/J. Sykes (Warwks.) -19, 15, 15.

Veteran Singles: Final:

G. TSOW (Northants.) bt L. Heppell (Northald.) 16, 14.

After winning four of the five major events in the Birmingham Open, the Czech party stopped off for a well earned rest at the Claverley home of Malcolm Scott, the Staffordshire chairman. With close on 40 guests present, it gave local officials

the chance to talk to our European friends as well as a number of leading England officials.

A good time was had by all and I am sure all those present, would want me to say a big thank you to Malcolm's wife Kathleen.

J.P.



MIDLANDS HOSTESS
HILARY GROVE

Czech players, Vlado Miko and Antonin Dvorak, were weekend guests of ATV Network secretary, Hilary Grove here seen wearing her 'Miss ATV 1968' sash.

No novice at the game herself, Hilary — a former Warwickshire County No. 1 Junior—first came to prominence in season 1957-58 when she won the Midland Area junior girls' title of the national 'Eagle/Girl' competition.

Among her many successes, Hilary can look back on winning the 'Birmingham Mail' women's singles title in 1961 and the junior girls' events at both the West of England and Gwent Open tournaments in 1962.

In the following year she represented Birmingham in the Rose Bowl competition and, in 1965-66, won the women's singles title in the Worcestershire County Closed and in the Bromsgrove League championships.

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YUGOSLAVIAN OPEN, Belgrade, November 7-9th

'Alas, it was not to be' — *by Pauline Piddock*

WHEN Denis Neale was one game and 20-15 up against Dragutin Surbek, the reigning European champion, in the first set of the men's team final against Yugoslavia, the few English people watching had visions of England's men winning their first International team event since the era of Johnny Leach, now watching on the sidelines as captain. But, alas, it was not to be.

At this vital stage, Surbek served and the rally proceeded until Denis got the ball up to put away, but he mistimed his hit, making it 20-16. Surbek then steadied himself and served four aces which Denis put, what seemed like miles, off the end. These same services had troubled him throughout, but at this stage of the match the Yugoslav spectators 'went mad' and unnerved Denis who had been in complete command throughout. The game was lost 22-20.

For the first time we were completely subdued, we'd been 'robbed', and all the time the Yugoslavs were cheering their hero. But, when the final game began, Denis soon quietened them, going quickly into an 8-3 lead. He held on and at 12-8 it was Surbek to serve. We never dreamed it would happen, but Denis again mishit 4 services! It broke Denis for a few minutes and in that short time Surbek got to 20-14 up. It's all over, we thought, but no, back came Denis to take the next five points, what Yorkshire grit! But it was hoping against hope and Denis lost the next point, and with it the whole match.

It seemed to take the heart out of Chester, who then lost comfortably to Stipanovic whom he had beaten easily a few weeks before in Holland. The doubles were our last hope, but, although getting off to a good start, Denis and Chester could not hold the Yugoslavs who won comfortably.

To reach the final of an event which included every top European country was a really excellent performance. To prove it, Chester and Denis had beaten East Germany, Russia and Hungary on the way.

EARLY SETBACK

Against E. Germany Denis and Chester were never fully extended. However, against Russia, they suffered an early setback. To our surprise, Sarkhojan played singles instead of Amelin, and it proved to be a good choice. In the first set on, he beat Chester comfortably with the Essex man never really being able to master this left-hander.

But the Russians' delight was short-lived for it was to be their only victory.

Denis got the better of Gomozkov and he and Chester outplayed Gomozkov and Amelin in the doubles to put England 2-1 up. Denis then added the finishing touches by beating Sarkhojan and that put the Russians out and England through to the Semi-Final.

Here, England faced a Hungarian team which included Borzsei and

Beleznai, the same two players who down Chester and Denis had beaten a few days previously in England's great win in the European League.

With Denis and Chester, Johnny had decided that their best order was that in which Chester played Borzsei first. Having tossed up and won this all important order, Chester went on to play Borzsei with our hopes pretty high. What we hadn't reckoned with was that the conditions in Belgrade were much slower than those in Budapest, thus giving the defensive Borzsei an advantage.

The first two games were shared. In the decider, Chester was immediately in trouble and the Hungarian's defence began to tell on the slower table. Try as he might, Chester just couldn't make up the leeway and he lost 12-21.

So, England were one down again, as against Russia. And again, it was the man from the North who levelled the scores. After easily winning the first against Beleznai, Denis again played well in the second set but couldn't get away from the Hungarian who played very well to save two match points and eventually won it 25-23. Prospects looked bright for the 'Magyar' team, but Denis soon dulled their hopes by winning the third convincingly 21-11.

In the doubles our men faced Beleznai and Josef Papp who, like Beleznai, is an attacking player. Chester and Denis combined well and should have won two straight having taken the first 21-12 and leading 20-16 in the second. Somehow the Hungarians pulled back this deficit, saved a further three match points and won 24-22. In the final game, except for a few points, when a lead of 5 points became one of 2, the Englishmen were well on top eventually winning 21-14.

WORN DOWN

In the fourth set of five, Denis looked as though he was going to repeat his win over Borzsei. But, from leading by one game and 13-11, he was gradually worn down. With a little luck, he might well have made it, but it was left to Chester to put England through to the final. And he did it by the skin of his teeth!

One game and 10-12 down to Beleznai, Chester fought hard and took the second to level. In the decider, he needed all his nerve, speed and skill to pull up from 3-7 down to snatch the game away from the Hungarian's grasp at 21-19. Knowing that he was having trouble with his forehand, Chester tried to play as much backhand as possible but, at 19-11, he hit two superb forehands that left us shaking in our seats!

This unfortunately, was the end of England's run, but for the services of Surbek, England might well have taken first place.

In the Women's team event, we were drawn to play Greece, who didn't appear, so Karenza Mathews and myself played Hungary in our first match.

First set on was Karenza who played Beatrix Kishazi who is a

player not to be overlooked, for in the semi-final of the women's singles, she beat Ilona Vostova, the 14-year-old winner of the European Women's singles in Lyons.

So it was not surprising that Karenza lost which brought me on to play Erzsebet Jurik. Although improving on my European League result by taking the first game, I was gradually worn down by the Hungarian's solid defending, losing comfortably in the third. The doubles was also lost in three and with it, the match 3-0. Hungary went on to beat W. Germany, who were without Edit Buccolz, in the semis, but lost 3-0 to Rumania in the final.

TOO FAST FOR CHESTER

Individual Events

NOBODY particularly excelled in the individual events, Denis being the most successful. First he beat Kusinski of Poland, then Cordas, the Yugoslavian No. 5, both 3-0. In his next round he came up against the former European champion Kjell Johansson of Sweden who just had the edge winning 3-2.

Having beaten a Yugoslav, Temunovic, Chester was a bit off form in losing to the Yugoslav No. 8, Gajic, who was too fast for Chester.

Karenza came through comfortably against the young East German, Petra Stephan, 3-0, but then lost to Eleanora Mihalca. Karenza has of course, beaten the Rumanian before, but found that with rubber on the backhand, Mihalca is a much more difficult opponent.

I played the Yugoslav No. 6, Kovacev beating her 3-0, but found the slightly unusual defence of Danuta Szmít-Calinska, Poland, too much for me, losing 3-1.

As we fared no better in the doubles, Denis and Chester losing to Bernhardt and Chris Johansson of Sweden in the second round. Karenza and I also fell in the second round to the East German pair, Gabriele Geissler and Doris Hovestadt.

In the mixed doubles, a little more luck could perhaps have come our way. However, Denis and I lost to the Czech pair Kunz and Jitka Karlikova, whilst Chester and Karenza lost in five to the eventual winners, Gomozkov and Zoya Rudnova of the USSR. They had previously beaten the Rumanian pair Reti and Mihalca.

REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE

Looking back on the tournament, one cannot help but make mention of the remarkable performance of Surbek on continuing his run of not being beaten by a European player since he surprisingly won the European men's singles title last April.

But he had some close shaves in these Championships. Against our own Denis Neale, five match points were saved; in the final of the men's singles he had three match points against him in the fourth game when

Gomozkov was 2-1 up; and against Giurgiua of Rumania in the team event, he saved two match points! Guts are certainly a large part of his game.

There were a few surprise results among the foreign players, some of which are noted here. The French No. 1, Jacques Secretin, beat Borzsei 2-0 in the team events. Yugoslavia's No. 3, Anton Stipanovic, had a win over Jaroslav Stanek, the Czech, also in the team events. Stanek lost to Sarkhojan in the singles event.

Stipanovic also beat Borzsei in the singles before losing 3-2 to Gomozkov and Kocsis, a little known Hungarian, beat Kollarovits, European No. 13.

After her victory over Vostova, in the women's singles, Kishazi led Maria Alexandru 2-0 and 14-11 in the final before the fighting Rumanian pulled through. She is now using rubber on both wings and beat Rudnova, the Russian European No. 2, in the semi-final.

Because of the shortage of international tournaments this season, every top-flight country in Europe entered in preparation for the World Championships in April. So, even though our individual performances were not as good as hoped, the performance of our men in coming second in a competition which had the strength of a European Championships promises better things to come.

Results:

MEN'S TEAM EVENT

ENGLAND 3; EAST GERMANY 0.
Neale bt Zitzmann 16, 18; Barnes bt Rave 12, 11; Barnes/Neale bt Rave/Zitzmann 17, 21.

ENGLAND 3; RUSSIA 1.

Barnes lost to Sarkhojan -15, -19; Neale bt Gomozkov 15, -15, 18; Barnes/Neale bt Gomozkov/Amelin 15, 20; Neale bt Sarkhojan 18, 18.

Semi-Final:

ENGLAND 3; HUNGARY 2.

Barnes lost to Borzsei -14, 15, -12; Neale bt Beleznai 12, -23, 11; Barnes/Neale bt Beleznai/Papp 12, -22, 14; Neale lost to Borzsei 13, -15, -15; Barnes bt Beleznai -14, 17, 19.

Final:

ENGLAND 0; YUGOSLAVIA 3.

Neale lost to Surbek 12, -20, -19; Barnes lost to Stipanovic -17, -16; Barnes/Neale lost to Surbek/Stipanovic -16, -14.

WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT

ENGLAND 0; HUNGARY 3.

Mathews lost to Kishazi -14, -14; Piddock lost to Jurik 19, -16, -12; Mathews/Piddock lost to Jurik/Kishazi -7, 22, -16.

MEN'S SINGLES

Neale bt Kusinski (Pol) 16, 9, 13; bt Cordas (Yug) 12, 10, 11; lost to K. Johansson -25, -13, 13, 19, -17. Barnes lost to Gajic 20, 8, -8, -12, -21.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Mathews bt Stephan (E.G.) 17, 20, 17; lost to Mihalca (Rum) 19, -15, -16, -11. Piddock bt Kovacev (Yug) 17, 7, 9; lost to Calinska (Pol) -17, 13, -19, -15.

YUGOSLAVIAN OPEN

Continued

MEN'S DOUBLES

Barnes/Neale lost to C. Johansson/Bernhardt (Swe) 8, -19, 9, -18, -13.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Mathews/Piddock bt Veljic / Mirocevic (Yug.) 13, 8, 15; lost to Geissler/Hovestadt -19, -18, -15 (E.G.).

MIXED DOUBLES

Neale/Piddock bt Domicz/Lasota (Pol) 14, 13, -20, 19; lost to Kunz/Karlikova (Czech) -17, -16, 17, -19. Barnes/Mathews bt Reti/Mihalca (Rum) 14, 11, -16, 14; lost to Gomozkov/Rudnova (Rus) -13, -15, 19, 15, -19.

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

D. SURBEK (Yugo.) bt H. Alser (Sw.) 18, 17, 18;
S. GOMOZKOV (U.S.S.R.) bt K. Johansson (Sw.) 16, -15, 18, -19, 21.
Final: SURBEK bt Gomozkov -18, 12, -15, 24, 11.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

B. KISHAZI (Hun.) bt I. Vostova (Cz.) -13, 13, -16, 17, 12;
M. ALEXANDRU (Ru.) bt Z. Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) 18, 22, 11.
Final: ALEXANDRU bt Kishazi -16, -17, 16, 16, 15.

Men's Doubles: Final:

A. STIPANIC (Yugo.)/SURBEK bt A. Amelin (U.S.S.R.)/Gomozkov 15, 19, 24.

Women's Doubles: Final:

M. NEIDERT (Sw.)/RUDNOVA bt Alexandru/E. Mihanca (Ru.) 13, -15, 22, -12, 13.

Mixed Doubles:

GOMOZKOV / RUDNOVA bt Amelin/D. Hovestadt (E. Ger.) 9, 15, 16.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

by Laurie Landry

WALES DO BETTER

PHILIP BEVAN captained this season's Welsh juniors to a "best-for-over 15-years" 3-7 defeat at St. Luke's Youth Club, London on November 2.

Naturally, Haydn Thomas was the main success for Wales with his two victories over England's Melvin Waldman and John Dabin, who gave Thomas a fright when leading 20-16 in the decider!

The other win for Wales came in the top doubles in which Jim Grey and Thomas combined very well indeed.

Individual scores (England names first) were:

M. Waldman lost to H. Thomas -10, -14; bt J. Grey 15, -6, 8.
J. Dabin lost to Thomas 10, -16, -24; bt Grey 11, 13.
A. Fletcher bt A. Griffiths 10, 12; bt J. Neale 7, 15.
M. Read bt Griffiths 16, 16; bt Neale 13, 11.
Fletcher/Waldman lost to Grey/Thomas -13, 20, -16.
Dabin/Read bt Griffiths/Neale 15, 17.

DABIN UPSETS RANKINGS

JOHN DABIN of Kent, solidly defending with the odd hit, in the North Herts. Junior Open played at Stevenage on October 26-27, played excellently to beat No. 2 Waldman and No. 3 Boasman to win the U-17 singles.

Again to the fore in the Kent Junior Open, at Folkestone on November 3-4, Dabin's one defeat was at the hands of England's No. 1, Trevor Taylor.

In this latter tournament, the only event to go abroad was the U-15 Girls' Singles which was won by Ellen Klatt of the Netherlands.

Jill Shirley underlined her supremacy by taking the Girls' U-17 singles event in both tournaments and on each occasion Surrey's Susan Howard was her unwilling victim.

NORTH HERTS. JUNIOR OPEN

Stevenage, Oct. 26/27

Under-17

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

J. DABIN (Kent) bt M. Waldman (Middx.) 16, 13.

A. BOASMAN (Lancs.) bt A. Fletcher (Yorks.) 19, 20.

Final: DABIN bt Boasman 16, -13, 17.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

J. SHIRLEY (Bucks.) bt J. Cornock (Warwks.) 11, 7.

S. HOWARD (Surrey) bt L. Pacitto (Bucks.) 16, 6.

Final: SHIRLEY bt Howard 13, 16.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

S. HEAPS (Ches.)/P. TAYLOR (Herts.) bt M. Fryer/C. Jones (Kent) 13, 19.

R. NAPPER/M. WALD (Bucks.) bt Dabin/P. Guttormsen (Kent) 11, -14, 19.

Final: HEAPS/TAYLOR bt Napper/Wald 18, 17.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

S. HOWARD/SHIRLEY bt L. Howard (Surrey)/L. Pacitto 18, 15.

CORNOCK/S. LISLE (Lancs.) bt C. Mann (Middx.)/S. Pacitto (Bucks.) 18, 22.

Final: HOWARD/SHIRLEY bt Cornock/Lisle 12, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

BOASMAN/S. HOWARD bt Napper/Shirley -11, 10, 18.

DABIN/CORNOCK bt Fletcher/S. Lee (Yorks.) 14, 17.

Final: BOASMAN/HOWARD bt Dabin/Cornock -16, 19, 14.

Under-15

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

HEAPS bt Boasman -19, 16, 16. R. HELLABY (Essex) bt P. Taylor -21, 13, 14.

Final: HEAPS bt Hellaby 16, 12.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

S. BECKWITH (Essex) bt L. Howard -20, -15, 24.

L. CHESSON (Kent) bt L. Pacitto 12, -17, 13.

Final: BECKWITH bt Chesson -20, 13, 15.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

BOASMAN/I. HORSHAM (Essex) bt C. Carle (Essex)/J. Fuller (Norfolk) 12, 21.

HELLABY/M. LOCKE (Essex) bt Guttormsen/S. Williams (Kent) 11, 11.

Final: BOASMAN/HORSHAM bt Hellaby/Locke 15, -16, 10.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

L. HOWARD/L. PACITTO bt J. Dyer (Lancs.)/V. King (Yorks.) 14, 13.

CHESSON/P. BRENCHLEY (Kent) bt Beckwith/G. Locke (Essex) 10, 18.

Final: CHESSON/BRENCHLEY bt Howard/Pacitto -16, 16, 19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

HEAPS/HOWARD bt Boasman/Brenchley 22, -17, 22.

GUTTORMSEN/CHESSON bt Taylor/Pacitto 19, 8.

Final: HEAPS/HOWARD bt Guttormsen/Chesson 19, 16.

Under-13

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

HEAPS bt Fuller 8, 8. GUTTORMSEN bt T. Everett (Herts.) 9, 8.

Final: HEAPS bt Guttormsen -17, 20, 18.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

L. HOWARD bt J. Hartwell (Herts.) 10, 3. G. LOCKE bt L. Jones (Wales) 16, 15.

Final: HOWARD bt Locke 15, 14.

Under-11

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

EVERETT bt B. Matthews (Berks.) 12, 19. G. HAMILTON (Herts) bt R. Prosser (Herts.) 10, 18.

Final: EVERETT bt Hamilton 14, 14.

Girls' Singles:

(3 only) J. ALLINSON winner.

KENT JUNIOR OPEN: RESULTS

Under-17

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

T. TAYLOR (Herts.) bt A. Boasman (Lancs.) 16, 9.

J. DABIN (Kent) bt S. Heaps (Ches.) -18, 15, 18.

Final: TAYLOR bt Dabin 14, -16, 11.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

J. SHIRLEY (Bucks.) bt J. Cornock (Warwks.) 3, 11.

S. HOWARD (Surrey) bt S. Lisle (Lancs.) 18, 13.

Final: SHIRLEY bt Howard 14, 20.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

BOASMAN/A. FLETCHER (Yorks) bt I. Horsham/M. Read (Essex) 11, -18, 11.

T. TAYLOR/M. WALDMAN (Middx.) bt J. Grey/H. Thomas (Wales) -15, 13, 18.

Final: BOASMAN/FLETCHER bt Taylor/Waldman 18, 21.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

S. HOWARD/SHIRLEY bt L. Howard (Surrey)/L. Pacitto (Bucks.) 19, -16, 10.

CORNOCK/LISLE bt S. Lee (Yorks)/C. Mann (Middx.) 16, 13.

Final: HOWARD/SHIRLEY bt Cornock Lisle 15, 15.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

T. TAYLOR/S. HOWARD bt Waldman/Mann 13, -19, 13.

BOASMAN/S. PACITTO (Bucks.) bt Read/S. Beckwith (Essex) -15, 5, 14.

Final: TAYLOR/HOWARD bt Boasman/Pacitto 15, 7.

Under-15

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

P. TAYLOR (Herts.) bt Heaps 18, 28. R. HELLABY (Essex) bt Boasman -13, 18, 10.

Final: TAYLOR bt Hellaby 20, 18.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

E. KLATT (Netherlands) bt L. Howard 15, 12.

P. BRENCHLEY (Kent) bt L. Pacitto -10, 12, 17.

Final: KLATT bt Brenchley 19, 17.

Boys' Doubles: Final:

HEAPS/P. TAYLOR bt Boasman/Horsham 12, 17.

Girls' Doubles: Final:

BECKWITH/B. MCGROBRTY (Kent) bt S. Heltzel (Netherlands)/Klatt 18, -14, 19.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

BOASMAN/BRENCHLEY bt Heaps/L. Howard 15, 11.

Under-13

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

HEAPS bt P. Guttormsen (Kent) 12, 20.

J. CONSTANT (France) bt T. Everett (Herts.) 6, 10.

Final: HEAPS bt Constant -17, 16, 13.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

L. HOWARD bt G. Macrae (Surrey) 7, 7.

G. LOCKE (Essex) bt R. Fierlier (Netherlands) 16, 17.

Final: HOWARD bt Locke 9, 16.

Boys' Doubles: Final:

HEAPS/K. JAMES (Devon) bt D. Bargerter (France)/Constant 12, 11.

Under-11

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

EVERETT bt B. Matthews (Berks.) 16, 16.

A. STICKLES (Kent) bt D. Funnell (Kent) 10, -19, 14.

Final: EVERETT bt Stickles 8, 9.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

L. HOLTAM (Kent) bt A. Waters (Kent) 19, 14.

A. GEDGE (Sussex) bt A. Fletcher (Kent) 8, 6.

Final: HOLTAM bt Gedge 20, 19.

Twilight on Ian Harrison

GLoucestershire's Ian Harrison, who has made 178 international appearances for England, stunned the table tennis world on November 12 by announcing his complete retirement.

He represented his country as recently as November 9, against Czechoslovakia at Oxford, beating Antonin Dvorak but losing, in the deciding game, to Vlado Miko.

January's issue of TABLE TENNIS NEWS will contain a tribute to Ian written by Peter Madge.

Obituary

Howard G. Vincent

IT is with deepest regret that we record the recent death of Howard G. Vincent, the Chairman of the Grimsby and District Association. He entered the game as a player in 1932 and continued as a member of the Old Wingham's Club until his death. He was Match and Fixture Secretary of the Association from 1936 until the war, when he served as a Navigator in the R.A.F. and was granted a Commission. Upon demobilisation in 1946 he again took up his position with the Grimsby Association and continued until 1963, also acting as General Secretary for two years. In 1965 he was appointed Chairman and continued until he died in office. For 'Vinnie', as he was affectionately known to a wide circle in Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and further afield; a fitting epitaph would be that he gave much more to Table Tennis than he ever received and that the game was his sport, his pleasure and his life.


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What about the unfit players ?

asks **KEN BAKER**

HAVING read Mary Wright's article 'Are you fit to play Table Tennis?' (Table Tennis News, Oct.), I feel compelled to state the case for the other side of the coin. The short answer to Mary's headline in my own case is, of course, a categorical 'No!' and I suspect that this thought has struck a good many of us.

Over recent years much emphasis has been placed on getting fit, keeping fit, practising hard, training hard, and all those other dismal prospects for making us into better players.

But what about the players who are hopelessly unfit? How about making Table Tennis more enjoyable for us and forgetting all about the top strata?

To achieve this object I would like to make the following suggestions:

1. No rounds of any tournament should commence before 4 p.m. Nine o'clock in the morning is a time to come home to go to bed.

2. Barnes, Harrison, Neale, Wright, Gibbs, etc. should be given a room on their own in which to hit the ball back and forth at terrifying speeds without making the rest of us feel even more inferior. They should be banned from knocking in the main hall.

3. Bobby Stevens should act his age and stop flying around all over the place getting back 'impossible' shots.

4. The imperious voices heard booming over the microphones should be replaced by a discreet official whose main task would be to search out each individual certified 'unfitter' and ask him politely if he would be prepared to take part in the proceedings at that precise moment.

5. Must we have those hideously bright electric light bulbs over each table? Surely some gently flickering candles would do? They create such a pleasant atmosphere. After an all-night card session the present lighting arrangements are just too much to bear.

6. All certified unfit players should be given a special seeding in the draw at all tournaments. This should be arranged so that the person we are likely to lose to beats us without taking too much out of us. Far better to go out quickly and cleanly than a long drawn out match that we're going to lose anyway.

Obviously those aforementioned certified unfit players must be carefully selected for seeding purposes. In order to help tournament organisers I submit the following suggested

ranking list. The qualifications are that the player must primarily be generally recognised as unfit before his standard of play is taken into consideration. My list is as follows:

1, Alan Lindsay; 2, George Muryani; 3, Ken Baker; 4, Gordon Chapman; 5, Len Cooper; 6, Dave Gilbert; 7, Zennon Schramm; 8, Gerry Cooklin.

I find it impossible to go below Gerry Cooklin but what a card player he is!

So please Mr. Organisers, spare a thought for the smoking, drinking, all-night card playing section of the table tennis community and try to make life a little less arduous for us for a change.

MERTON RESTRICTED

OPEN

TITLES WELL SPREAD

SOME 87 competitors took part in this popular tournament which saw three singles titles go to separate areas—to London, Southampton and Plymouth.

Brian Petch (Middlesex) won the men's singles beating Chris Pickard (Hants.) 9 and 15 in the final. In the semis, Pickard beat David Davies 18 and 16 while Petch was successful against Cliff Duffey (Dorset) by 11 and 6.

Mrs. Pauline Edwards (Hants.) accounted for her twin sister, Mrs. Christine Davies, in the final of the women's singles 17, -12, 14, after defeating Yvonne Wilson 6 and 16 in the semis. Tournament Secretary, Mrs. Joyce Coop lost to Mrs. Davies in the other semi 6 and 16.

David James (Devon) won the junior boys' singles with a 14 and 16 success over Soton's Stuart Tannahill, while Chris Edwards and A. Ward beat Davies and Bill Moulding -17, 16, 20 in a tense men's doubles final.

Trevor Smith and Joyce Coop took the mixed with a -18, 18, 14 success over Edwards and Miss A. Mills.

The twin sisters won their usual women's doubles 7 and 12 over Bournemouth's Mrs. J. Smith and Miss J. Hudson.

TELEVISION MATCH

ENGLAND versus The International Club is a highlight for television viewers on Friday, December 20 in a match to be played at Northwood Sports Centre, Cromer Road, Northwood, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

CAPTAIN FOR IRELAND

PETER SIMPSON of Leeds, E.T.T.A. Staff Coach (North), was appointed non-playing captain of the England team to play Ireland in Bangor, N.I., on November 28. Selected team was:—O. B. 'Les' Haslam (Middx.), M. Johns (Ches.), P. Williams (Sussex), Judy Heaps (Ches.) and Lesley Radford (Essex).

THE 8th MACCABIAH GAMES

by Alan Shepherd

THE Games themselves take place every four years and are closely modelled on the Olympic Games. Athletics, Boxing, Fencing, Judo, Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Cycling, Gymnastics, Weightlifting and Rifle Shooting are the normal competitions, but Table Tennis, Golf and Lawn Tennis are added.

In our sport, there are Men's and Women's team events and the usual knock-out individual tournaments. Jewish athletes and players from all over the world compete and all live together in an Olympic style Village. There are traditional Opening and Closing Ceremonies at which athletes and officials march past, attended generally by upwards of 50,000 spectators, in a huge Stadium.

In 1961 and 1965 our stars were Jeff Ingber (Lancs.) and Stan Jacobson, Irene Ogus, Joyce Abrahams and David Offenbach (Middlesex); of these Irene and Joyce are now in the United States and Canada respectively while it is believed that Jeff and Stan are unlikely to be available. Therefore almost a completely new team must be found.

Apart from David Offenbach, likely contenders are Jack Bender (Middlesex) and Melvin and Stephen Waldman (both Middlesex). However, I am hoping that all Jewish table tennis players will apply to take part in the trials to be held at the premises of Maccabi Association London, 73, Compayne Gardens, London, N.W.6 on Sundays, January 12 and/or March 16.

Girl applicants are very much required and the field is wide open for a good player to get selected. Forms of application can be had from me at 10, Woodedge Close, Forest Side, Chingford, E.4.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

SURREY NOTES

by John Zenthon

BARRY HILL TO THE RESCUE

SURREY continued their unbeaten run in the Second Division South of the County Championships with a 6-4 win over Bucks. With the last set to be played, Surrey were 5-4 up and everything depended on Barry Hill who was to play Jill Shirley's brother,

Paul, who had taken 'Connie' Warren to three and, quite frankly, his chances were regarded as slim. The pundits were proved wrong, however, as Barry cantered home in two straight.

At Kingswood, the second teams of Surrey and Bucks met, but this time honours went to the visitors 6-4. The girls, as usual, did all that was required.

In the mixed doubles, it was unfortunate that Emezc—who had come in for Campbell—and Miss Lambert lost their first game after having been in a winning position, as they then took the second comfortably but could not hold their opponents in the decider.

The excitement was maintained throughout the evening with sets going alternatively to Bucks and then to Surrey. Surrey were 5-4 down with the last set to play and the home team's hopes rested on Davies whose opponent was Hahn whose No. 3 ranking in the visitors' team raised all eyebrows.

Regretably, feelings were not kept under control and Hahn made quite sure that Bucks took the two points. Davies, never a particularly light player on his feet, and an exponent of the undesirable habit of foot stamping when playing the ball, was readily joined by Hahn in providing the spectators with a spectacle of the table tennis equivalent of an Irish clog dance. It could only have been their possible 'enjoyment' from an otherwise disappointing set.

The Juniors beat Berks 8-2, Paul Bishop losing to Cox (Berks No. 1) rather surprisingly as Tony Hickey had already beaten him. Surrey's other loss came in the boys' doubles, Hickey and Francis going down in the third.

Revised senior ranking list:—

Men: 1, C. Warren; 2, B. Penfold; 3, B. Hill; 4, G. Chapman; 5, T. Campbell; 6, C. Davies; 7, E. Emezc; 8, Z. Schramm and 9, M. Kercher.

Women: 1, Mrs. M. Wright; 2, Mrs. J. Head; 3, Miss S. Howard; 4, Mrs. B. Miles; 5, Miss H. Lambert; 6, Miss L. Howard and 7, Miss S. Goldsmith.

On the umpiring scene, John Smith who some time ago went to Luton, has now been transferred back and will offset the County's loss of George White who has moved up to Yorkshire.

The Surrey Closed will be held on January 18-19 at Goblin Works Canteen, Leatherhead and entry forms can now be had from Stan Buchan, 124 Portnalls Road, Coulsdon. Phone: Downland 52910.

Susan Howard became the first recipient of the Jim Forrest Memorial Trophy which was presented to her during the opening county match against Norfolk.

Congratulations too to Sid Morton on his appointment as Referee for the England v. Hungary match at Bracknell on February 7, 1969.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

CAMBS. 'BIRD' HAS FLOWN

In the South-East Midlands League, Cambridge City have begun well with victories over St. Neots and Peterborough. John Thurston has displayed good form with ample support from Stephen Andrews and Tony Littlechild. Together with Trevor Waller and Ken Muhr the City look good for the championship again.

The Juniors have also won their first two matches despite the absence of David Silk who has been out of action with an injured arm. Hard luck on the ladies who have had the misfortune to lose the services of Betty Bird—she has left the district—having a 100 per cent record in her two matches played.

Sandra Grainger is now back in the team and with Margaret Cornell (Cambs. Junior Champion), Sally Browning and Sue Wakefield will endeavour to capitalise on their good start.

In the Wilmott Cup, Cambridge City had a good win at Lowestoft despite the absence of Thurston. They cruised home 7-2 with Waller, Andrews and Littlechild in command. Cambridge City Ladies lost 6-3 to Lowestoft in the first round of the Rose Bowl and again Betty Bird was unbeaten.

New Chesterton Institute are again setting the pace in the Cambs. League and look likely champions once more. Several teams are chasing including YMCA, Guildhall, University Press and Soham. Cambridge University too are now in the 1st Division and could be in the hunt before long.

Brian Jones, John Ashman and Eddie Sharp are prominent in the Soham team. For YMCA, John Laker has been the man in form thus far bringing off some notable victories as have Muhr and Waller. Guildhall, who have 'pushed' the best of teams, including N.C.I. who only beat them 6-4, have Atkinson as their star man.

In the Cambridgeshire Cup Competition, which involves Cambs. City, Ely and Wisbech, the City easily retained the trophy on November 4th when they finished well ahead of Ely. The City team of Thurston, Andrews and Alan Ponder lost only one set when Andrews went down to Brian Jones. Barry Wilson of Wisbech showed good form and should be a great asset when he has the will to dispose of the opposition.

City Junior players such as Carl Dellar and Brian Thomas, who are in reserve positions, have been prominent in recent matches and should make their presence felt in the not too distant future.

S-E MIDLANDS LEAGUE

Currently topping the Men's Section are Ely with Cambridge City in second position. Bedford head the Ladies Section and look like being a hard nut to crack. Ely and Cambridge lead the Junior Section with

Cambridge on top in the Vets, closely followed by Northampton.

Reported to be playing well for Wellingborough is Roderick Marchant.

KENT NOTES

by Charles M. Wyles

A 'BRANCH' FOR BETTY IN MAIDSTONE

WITH yet another Kent Junior Open Championship behind us, most would agree that this year's event was one of the most successful for years. With an increase of near 25 per cent in entries and a small invasion from the Continent, the timing was well within the finishing limits required.

There is no doubt that Folkestone is the 'Mecca' of Junior T.T. with the forthcoming English Junior Open on May 3-4, 1969 when we expect to see again many of our young Continental friends. Incidentally, the County Association has arranged their Annual Dinner at the Wampach Continental Hotel, Folkestone, on the evening of Friday, May 2nd. This is on the eve of the National Championships. The organisers expect a complete 'sell-out' well before the day.

Two new ladies have appeared on the Kent League scene. A French exchange teacher, M. Viola, now in the Bromley area, and a welcome return to the county of Betty Bird, who is now living near Maidstone. This should liven up the ladies competition at all levels.

Congratulations to the Ashford League on promoting a very successful International match, when the Czech team visited the town and played against England before a near full house. A pointer of 'things-to-come'.

The Annual Canterbury Inter-Association Tournament drew a large entry and with it the usual crop of surprises.

Winners were: MS, Stan Brocklebank (Canterbury); WS, Lynda Chesson (Sittingbourne); MD, Barry Grimwade (Sittingbourne) / Ray Tilling (Bromley); WD, Ruth Wilson (Folkestone) / Moira Stevens (Maidstone); XD, Brocklebank / Joyce Reeves (Maidstone).

This Tournament was preceded by a similar Ashford Inter-Association event from which the following winners emerged:—

MS, Steve Hill (Tonbridge); WS, Lynda Chesson; MD, Ken Baker (Tunbridge Wells)/Graham French (Woolwich); WD, Lynda Chesson/Paula Brechley (Sittingbourne).

The entry forms for the Kent Open on January 25-26 are now available from me. A new innovation will be the gift of a refreshment voucher for every set umpired. This system was recently tried at a smaller Tournament with the saving of 1½ hours on the usual finishing time.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Cliff Darley

NEALE EXTRACTS STINGS

CONGRATULATIONS to Denis Neale on his victories over the two Hungarian B's in Budapest on November 4th and to Alan Hydes on his win over Vlado Miko, the Czech, at Oxford on November 8th.

Denis did well to overcome the hoodoo Borzsei and Beleznai previously had on him but what of Alan, subsequently beaten by Malcolm Corking in a Yorkshire League match at Middlesbrough?

Making his debut for Barnsley was the former Huddersfield player Stuart Dyson, now playing for Brook Motors, but his team lost 4-6 to Harrogate. Ace, with a 5-4 win over Victoria II in the Yorkshire Club competition, go into round two thanks to a Brian Starkie treble.

In Bradford, which is Yorkshire's biggest league with 166 teams, it would appear that the clubs running for honours will be the ones most successful in signing players from neighbouring leagues.

Since the league altered its ruling, last year, players from Dewsbury, Leeds and Halifax are now playing with Bradford clubs. Penholder Sylvia Broadbent, aged 16, was called up for Bradford's female team against Barnsley and, despite the short notice, dropped nary a game in a 6-4 victory.

Castleford, Pontefract have entered the Yorkshire League again after a lapse of several years but lost 0-10 to Redcar who are newcomers to the league.

Gerrard Knowles, who won the Junior Open in 48-49, and his brother Roy, did not wish to be considered for selection after 22 years of competitive play, although both are still active with the Pontefract club. Brian Milner, who played for the County in 1952, has dug out his pumps, and hard bat again, and is going great guns in Division 2.

In Hull, Pete Bowsley has been suspended by Y.P.I. and has joined another club. Alan Fletcher won his sets on his debut for England Juniors against Wales and, with Tony Boasman of Manchester, won the Kent Junior Open Doubles title.

Alan Heap, former Lancashire Junior, is now playing in Hull and beat Dave Bartlett on his first outing!

Whilst the Yorkshire selectors were meeting at the Hull Open, Middlesbrough's Linda Bashford reached the final of the women's singles which she won in no uncertain manner. On Merseyside too, she beat Lancashire's Connie Moore in a great quarter-final after being 15-20 down in the decider!

Well played Linda, and well played Nicky Jarvis who reached the boys' semis at both Manchester and Liverpool.

As a result of invitations sent to schools 33 boys and 13 girls took part in a competition and coaching rally for under-14's. About fifteen of them will be invited to another session later in the season.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

BON VOYAGE, ALAN

NORFOLK'S Captain, and leading player for the past five years, Alan Coby, has left this country for Bermuda. Coby set an example by travelling hundreds of miles to play in Open tournaments, and did more than any player, apart from Betty Cassell (to whom Alan owed a great deal) to arouse interest in Norfolk in what went on in the great big world outside. It was this characteristic that made Coby outstanding. We wish him good luck and good table tennis overseas.

Betty Cassell has been continuing her remarkable career with an appearance at the Hull Open. She fell to the holder, Doreen Schofield, in the semi-final. Yarmouth's Pat Kelf, studying at Hull University, had the misfortune to run into Betty in the first round of the doubles. We hear that Duggie Clutton, who did such good work coaching at Yarmouth, and is now on the Hull committee, was also there in a non-playing capacity, but working hard.

Nothing ventured, nothing won! Such must have been the delighted reaction of Wymondham enthusiasts who saw their side notch their first East Anglian League victory in the senior division. They defeated Ipswich 6-4, Les Rayment, Stephen Bassett, Joe Aldrich, Janet Sloper and Linda

Kowalski achieved this splendid result by a league much smaller than its opponents.

November used to see the activity associated with the Norfolk Closed, but, now that the Civil Defence H.Q. venue is no longer available, this event will probably be held on February 1st. The County has to thank the Norfolk Education Committee for making available the new sports hall at Wensum Lodge.

In the Norwich League, YMCA have beaten the champions, CEYMS, 6-4, after six or seven seasons. Both clubs are now neck-and-neck. Norwich Union are in the happy position of seeing four of their five teams in the first two in their respective divisions, with two of them at the top.



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NORTHUMBRIAN NOTES

By "Geordie"

LENNIE FOR THE KILT!

THE Northumberland senior team remain undefeated after a convincing 7-3 win over Yorkshire II in Division 2 (North) of the County Championships. Arthur Chilvers proved an adequate substitute for Brian Burn who was unable to play through illness, and Stuart Lennie won both his singles convincingly.

The juniors disappointed against the powerful Yorkshire side and the only victory came from Chris Shepherd who beat Alan Fletcher, the English No. 5.

Stuart Lennie has been notified that he is being considered for Scottish national honours and all Northumberland wish him future success.

The pride of Northumberland table tennis at present is Ian Robertson, our leading junior. He has won three consecutive junior titles all of which were contested by boys ranked above him.

It seems as if present National Junior Trials are proving quite inadequate when someone who is ranked only in the "B" Group can win the Hull, Birmingham and Cumberland tournaments.

Tony Boasman, England No. 3, has succumbed to him twice, Simon Heap, the No. 8 once and a host of "A" Group players.

The Northumberland League's chances of progressing further in the Wilmott Cup are in jeopardy at present due to Lennie being ineligible through lack of league appearances and Alan Ransome, once again, sustaining an injury to his wrist.

However, the League is not lacking in depth of good standard players and will be represented by Burn, Chilvers and Peter Duncombe against Huddersfield in the second round.

M.O.S.S. "A" and Newcastle Y.M.C.A. "A" still remain unbeaten in the Northumberland first division and their respective No. 1's, Duncombe and Ransome boast 100% records.

Entrants in the knock-out cup competition have diminished to 16 with possible favourites M.O.S.S. "A", Y.M.C.A. "A", Revac "A" and North Shields Y.M.C.A. "A" still in contention.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

WILLIAMS TAKES OVER No. 1 SPOT

EVERYTHING is happening to the new Sussex No. 1 player Peter Williams. Following Peter's elevation to the international squad earlier this year, the Sussex selectors made their decision to switch the Eastbourne player to Sussex No. 1 and Roger Chandler from the top to No. 2 on November 6th.

Modest Peter found himself in one of the trickiest situations of his table tennis career in the Sussex v. Gloucester premier clash at North Mundham, Chichester on November 16th. Insufficient room between tables at the Woolwich Open, left him with a foot injury during a doubles match and a doubtful starter for the county match. The selectors decided to take a gamble and keep him in the team against Gloucester, who (fortunately for Sussex) had just lost the services of Ian Harrison.

Peter started by losing to Dennis Holland and then failing in the men's doubles with Roger Chandler against Morley and Holland. With Sussex leading 4-2 and badly needing to clinch the points, Peter went to the table partly immobile and bandaged to the knee. Throwing caution aside he fought a tremendous battle with the wily Roy who was beaten 21-17 third set. Sussex went on to win 6-3, Peter went on to the Portsmouth Open where he was seeded No. 2 but scratched from the singles as his foot was still giving trouble.

The following day, with the prospect of having to withdraw from the England team to play Ireland at Bangor on November 28th, Peter reported to a London hospital for the result of a second X-ray. The news was that he had had a broken bone in his foot for ten days and was taken out of the game entirely for three weeks. The problem now is whether he will be fit for the great clash with "bogy team" Cheshire at Lewes Boys Club on December 14th.

Meanwhile sister Judy has been keeping right in the minds of the England selectors with victories galore in the North of England at Manchester, and for England at Ashford, Kent against Czechoslovakia.

The other Sussex woman player hitting the Sussex head-lines is Eastbourne's Diane Gard, who captured the Nicholls Cup for the top eight

Sussex women, beating Worthing coach Pat Wales in the final. This event produced an odd Sussex women's ranking list, which is expected to be further amended at the forthcoming Sussex women's inter-league event when Hastings and Eastbourne will again be favourites to reach the final.

The current crop of Sussex juniors is one of the best in recent years. Arthur Downer (Brighton), Graham Good (Hastings), Carol Randall (Eastbourne) and Suzanne Kavalairou (Littlehampton) all look star material against local rivals, but the team have suffered several big defeats when up against the other southern counties.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

BRIGHT JUNIOR PROSPECTS

LEICESTERSHIRE Juniors had an exciting 6-4 win over Staffordshire in a junior (Midland) fixture, Susan Baxter being concerned with three of the six Leicestershire wins. As each of the boys—Tony Branson, David Carter and Chris Brewer—each won one, it could fairly be termed a team win. Susan—who has been such a tower of strength in the team—is almost certain to miss the next match, at Wrexham, as she is expected to be required for first team duty at Newport.

In the **Rose Johnson Bowl** there have already been many exciting finishes but the best was the one between King Richards Road WMC II and Knighton Park III. With one set to go Knighton were 17 points behind and the result appeared a foregone conclusion. League Chairman John Ellis, however, thought otherwise and at one stage led Graham Pickering 20-2 before finally winning 21-4, the match ending in a tie.

In the **Midland League** the Men's First Team, having dropped 4 points, are virtually out of the running for the championship. The Men's Second Team had a good win over Darlaston with Melvin Matts on top form. The Intermediates lost to Birmingham 8-2, whilst the Ladies lost to West Bromwich but beat Nottingham.

The Juniors are doing better than can reasonably be expected of them with Paul Randell the outstanding prospect. Big wins over Oxford and Coventry have boosted their confidence. Alan Philpott and Alan Chapman are both playing well and with Nicky Baxter and rapidly-improving Robert Neal also available, Leicester are stronger in this direction than for some time.

In the **Leicestershire Towns League**, Leicester are notable absentees this season. It is hoped, however, they will return next season as this popular competition is not the same without them. The three matches played have all brought exciting finishes, each match finishing 6-4. At the moment Loughborough look favourites to retain their title but of course it is far too early to give any definite indication.

In the **Leicester & District League** Symingtons have at last dropped a

point—to Belvoir YMCA II. Murray Baldwin recorded his usual maximum for the Market Harborough side but Belvoir showed greater all-round strength and deserved a draw. A team to watch in 9A are Outlook Boys' Club. Their team of P. Foster, S. Martin and J. Riley look capable of promotion at the first attempt. Another young team doing well are Great Glen II (8A). Dermot Whelan, Charles Granger and Mick Carpenter are playing with the sort of consistency which brings promotion.

In the **Loughborough and District League**, Sawley, thanks largely to a maximum from T. Leatt, took a point from Division 2 promotion aspirants Fisons 'B'. In Division 1, Fisons 'A' held the strong Cottons 'A' side to a draw with R. Stanford unbeaten. Monitor are still going well in the 3rd Division, spearheaded by Barry Ball and Technical College look likely to provide a strong challenge in this division.

Coalville, with three divisions and Melton Mowbray with two are both going along smoothly. Coalville have a good prospect in Maurice Newman, now playing first division table tennis in the Leicester and District League whilst Melton, of course, have the Baxter family who themselves compose the Egerton Park team, consisting of father Norman, County star Susan, and Nicky, who could well follow his sister into the County team.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Jim Beckley

DIANE JOHNSON OPTS FOR LANCs.

A date for the Cheshire 'Closed' Championships has yet to be fixed. No doubt the event will once again be held at the Bredbury Steelworks. A venue becoming more popular with the lack of suitable facilities in the county. If anyone in the county knows of premises capable of holding such a tournament, let me know.

Rumour has it that George Fackrell, the present Treasurer of the county, is to retire at the end of the season. Well, if this is so, everyone will be sorry to see him go for he has done a tremendous amount of work. This is George's 13th season on the administrative side and as far as I can make out his only unfulfilled ambition is to see the 'Cheshire Open' in gear again.

Diane Johnson, one of Cheshire's best players for many years and on the fringe of county honours for the past few seasons, has, I hear, signed for neighbouring Lancashire.

Colleague John Bottomley came up with a valid point at the recent county match when he pointed out that this column needed more news of other leagues.

All I can say is that I have made my effort by writing to each league secretary requesting news items, but with obviously no response. Maybe the Table Tennis News will have more effect!

WESTERN LEAGUE BULLETIN

by Grove Motlow

RATTUE ON TARGET

WESTON - SUPER - MARE were narrowly beaten 5-4 in their home match against Exeter, the result being in abeyance until the final set when Mike Rattue had a comfortable win over J. Garland.

It completed a treble for Rattue who had a surprisingly easy victory over Tony Kinsey.

In their next match, against Bristol 2nds, Rattue continued his winning ways with three more victories in a 7-2 Exeter success.

Swindon, making a welcome return, had a 6-3 home win over Newport with junior Tony Woolf unbeaten and the Wiltshire side followed up with a convincing 9-0 victory over Taunton.

Cheltenham were surprisingly beaten 5-4 by Bristol 2nds despite three wins by M. White.

Taunton put up a good fight in their home encounter with Plymouth before losing 6-3. For the visitors, A. Wright, D. James and R. Parkin shared the spoils.

Kinsey had 3 wins for Weston when they beat Newport 6-3. Once again John Bloomer, for Newport, did well to win two and followed up with a treble in the 6-3 defeat of Cheltenham.

Without Betty Gray, in the Ladies' Section, Newport crashed 8-1 to Swindon whose Gwen Hazell and J. Price secured maximums.

In their next match, still without Mrs. Gray, Newport triumphed 6-3 over Weston with Stella Jones the Welsh star.

Weston also lost to Exeter despite Doreen Henderson's brilliant form in securing three wins. For Exeter, Maureen Spray and Valerie Addicote each won two and Joan Ware one.

At home to Bristol, the Devonshire "violets" shrunk to 6-3 defeat at the hands of Bristol after leading 2-0. The visitors then took command to establish a 4-2 lead halted by Joan Ware's defeat of Pat Rowe. But Jean Golding and June Watts clinched the match against Mesdames Spray and Addicote.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by "Moonraker"

FIRST SUCCESS IN 12 MONTHS

DESPITE a fighting display by Wilts first-ever 'teenage' skipper Bill Moulding, Worcester just nosed ahead to win 6-4—after being thrice in arrears—when the 'Moonrakers' played their second 2nd Division West fixture at Hereford.

Congratulations to Wilts Junior (West) side who recorded their first success for over a season with a 7-3 win over Glos at Charlton Kings.

Swindon's County Umpire, Eric Scotson—County League Secretary for the past 2½ years—has resigned

following a business move. His loss to both Swindon and Wilts will be hard to replace while his moving reduces the number of County Umpires to an all-time low.

County Secretary Don Hillier takes over as Wilts League Secretary for the remainder of the season.

Swindon 'B' were the first side to topple Devizes 'A' in the Wilts League (Div. One) while Wootton Bassett recorded their initial win at the expense of West Wilts 'B' in a match that could have gone either way.

A past junior County seed, Elaine Lanham, extended the experienced and ex-county player Kathleen Waters to -11, 15, -7 when Swindon 'B' beat Salisbury in the Mixed Division while women's seed Pauline Hawkins went down to two unseeded Swindon players Mrs. K. Leslie and Mrs. B. Moody with only Margaret Alexander (County No. 2) preventing Swindon 'A' from recording a maximum over Devizes in another Mixed encounter.

Wilts junior seed No. 2 Peter Davies went down to both F. Potem (No. 6) and B. Gronski (No. 5) when West Wilts Juniors—for whom County No. 1, R. Arney won his three singles in straight sets—won at Swindon.

Leading Teams (as on 29.11.68):

	Div. One					
	P	W	L	F	A	Pt.
Warminster	4	4	0	34	6	8
Devizes 'A'	4	3	1	32	8	6
Swindon 'A'	3	3	0	27	3	6
Swindon 'B'	4	3	1	22	18	6

	Women's Div.					
	P	W	L	F	A	Pt.
Devizes	1	1	0	8	2	2
Swindon	1	1	0	6	4	2
Salisbury	2	0	2	6	14	0

	Mixed Div.					
	P	W	L	F	A	Pt.
Swindon 'A'	3	3	0	26	4	6
Devizes	2	1	1	9	11	2
Swindon 'B'	3	1	2	9	21	2

West Wilts having withdrawn their details have been expunged from the records.

	Junior Div.					
	P	W	L	F	A	Pt.
West Wilts	2	2	0	18	2	4
Swindon	2	1	1	11	9	2
Salisbury	2	1	1	7	13	2

With suitable venues hard to come by West Wilts will be staging their Individual Championships on the evening of Saturday, February 1 and all day Sunday, February 2 at The Canteen, N. H. Engineering Co. Ltd., Bradley Road Works, Trowbridge.

The finals of all events will be decided on the Sunday evening.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ralph Gunnion

SHOCK FOR BIRMINGHAM

PERHAPS the biggest shock for many years to Birmingham came in their Midland League game with West Bromwich. With their strongest team available, Birmingham fell 6-4 to West Brom. who were without their No. 1 Glenn Warwick.

This was a severe jolt to Birmingham's hopes of winning the Midland League title and must be the first time they have lost to West Bromwich in years. All the other Brum sides are doing well, and before the season ends we hope some of the younger players will have developed enough to take over the first team places.

The Warwickshire county sides are having mixed fortunes, the first team have yet to win, but the 2nd and junior teams, are both undefeated.

In the recent Birmingham Open, the only Birmingham player to figure in a final was Jenny Cornock who, with Diane Simpson, won the women's doubles.

Jenny, who is England's No. 3 Junior Girl—the first Birmingham girl to be ranked so high for years—is fast becoming one of the best female players in the county and will soon be challenging for the No. 1 spot.

Jenny apart, no other players from Birmingham are really coming on as they should. With the Schools League and all the coaching that is being done we should be getting some better players than we are.

Perhaps the Management Committee had better wake up before it is too late. We have the largest league in the country and yet very few outstanding players and it seems to me, something is wrong somewhere.

In the Warwickshire League, Stratford-on-Avon who are newcomers, won their first match 6-3. This is a very encouraging start and let us hope that shortly they will be one of the strongest leagues in the Association.

The League comprises eight teams, but unfortunately only three are from outside Birmingham which is a pity considering the number of leagues within the county.

HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH NOTES

by David Obee

TRIUMPH FOR MAXFIELD TWINS

IN the opening match of the current campaign the County side turned in a spirited performance against Herts II at Borehamwood.

The final score of 6-4 in favour of the home side reflects the closeness of the match, in which no fewer than 7 sets went to a deciding game.

The Maxfield twins, Diane and Mary, scored something of a personal triumph with wins in all their games whilst Alan Albon won one singles.

Near neighbours Cambridge dealt both St. Neots and Peterborough crushing blows in the South-East Midlands League, winning 8-2 and 10-0 respectively in the men's section, although finding things tougher in the other departments.

Since, however, Cambridge look serious contenders for the men's championship the county teams can take heart. Along with St. Neots and Peterborough, the Hunts Central League is again taking part this season, but although strong in juniors do not appear as yet to have the same strength as last season in the senior department.

The value of the S.E.M. League, as has been said before, is inestimable in helping the county selectors, with every leading player in the county taking part.

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1969

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on
JANUARY 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1969

Finals:
Saturday, January 4th, at 2 p.m.

Thursday, 2nd January, from 6 p.m.—Qualifying Competitions.

Friday, 3rd January—Play will continue from 9 a.m. During the session commencing 6-30 p.m. there will be semi-finals of the Men's and Women's Singles and the Men's and Women's Doubles.

Saturday, 4th January—Finals of all events at 2 p.m.

Tickets obtainable at door

Thursday, 2nd January (from 6 p.m. only)	- - -	2/6
Friday, 3rd January (all day)	- - - - -	5/0
Saturday, 4th January (morning and afternoon only— including finals)	- - - - -	7/6
(Children under 15 each day 2/6)		

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Gwyn Powell

PROMISING START TO SEASON

NORTHANTS made an excellent start to their second season in the Eastern Division of the County Championships by beaten neighbouring Bedfordshire by six sets to four. George Tsow, in his first representative match for the County beat C. Crowe and B. Copperwheat comfortably and with his penholder style and mastery of spin is going to be difficult to defeat. In this match Northants raced to a commanding 5-0 lead but then lost three in a row until Tsow made sure of victory by beating Copperwheat.

The juniors, as expected, found Hertfordshire, with both Peter and Trevor Taylor playing, too strong but the girls salvaged two sets to make the score 2-8. Against Norfolk, Roderick Marchant and Nick Haycock both won all their events and with Margaret McInnes taking the girl's singles, after losing the first game 9-21, the home county ran out 7-3 winners. Ann Ekins played very steadily in her first county match and combined with Marchant to win the mixed doubles.

Since the formation of the County Squad there has been greater interest and competition for places in the County teams this season and it is hoped that this will continue in the coming months. After the last meeting of the squad the selection committee published the following ranking lists:—

Men: 1, John Goodall; 2, George Tsow; 3, Roger Steward; 4, Bryan Bond; 5, Terry Sutton; 6, Steve Lyon; 7, Roderick Marchant; 8, Doug Gwillim; 9, John Harrison.

Women: 1, Mrs. A. Lenton; 2, Miss P. Rixon; 3, Miss M. Coleman; 4, Miss A. Machin; 5, Miss D. Doyle; and 6, Mrs. D. Rivett.

In the South-East Midlands League, Northampton teams are doing well with the men, veterans and juniors still unbeaten. The team secretary, Bob Berridge, has had considerable difficulty in getting players to represent the men's team recently and the results are very creditable under the circumstances. Why are some of the better players in the town not interested in representative matches?

After mentioning Town 'A's long successful run in the Kettering Premier Division last month, it was almost inevitable that sooner or later they would be beaten. In fact it happened before the November issue was published when Rothborough 'A' with T. Cross, A. Mold and C. Harper inflicted on them their first defeat for six years. Despite this setback Town 'A', consisting of T. Sutton, D. Cole and T. Tear should still take the championship at the end of the season.

The County Association was delighted to be asked by the E.T.T.A. to stage the England v. The Netherlands Women's International match on December 9th. A special committee immediately set to work to make all the necessary arrangements for this the first International to be held in Northamptonshire, and it is hoped that other similar matches will be allocated to the county in the future.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Pike

SATISFACTORY START

WITH the first and second teams both winning, and the juniors only losing 6-4, Staffordshire were well satisfied with their county results in November. After the 'A' team's performance at Oxford, they won 9-1, that play-off in April now looks a distinct possibility. It was the first time out for the 'B' team and thanks to Derek Baddeley and Mac Evans, they just had the edge over Lancashire at Stoke.

The junior game with Leicestershire was played a day late at Wolverhampton. A mix-up on dates saw Staffs at the Woodfield Club on the Saturday, but the visitors were obviously under the impression the match was to be played on the Sunday. Come in John Wright.

Talking of Leicester, I was interested in Phil Read's article on Glenn Warwick. This is the sort of thing that should boost the circulation of the 'Table Tennis News' in the county. At present I am amazed at the number of top players and officials in the county who never see the magazine.

There were two tournaments in November, first the Staffs restricted and then the very popular Woodfield tournament. Both were again very successful with the Potteries and Wolverhampton sharing the honours in the restricted, while local charities benefited from the Woodfield tournament.

West Bromwich, the county league champions, made a promising start to their first division programme with a 6-3 win over Wolverhampton 'A'. The two new promoted clubs, Walsall 'B' and Wolves 'B' were both beaten away from home. Third division newcomers Lichfield went down 8-2 against Walsall juniors.

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LANCASHIRE NOTES

by Geo. R. Yates

HARTSHORN'S MARAUDERS!

BURNLEY'S representative trio of Jack Keogh, George Livesey and the evergreen Arthur Hartshorn created the early season shocks by ousting Manchester from the Wilmott Cup and inflicting the second defeat of the season on champions Stockport in Division 1 of the Lancs. and Ches. League.

Jeff Ingber was a treble winner for the Mancunians whose only other success was credited to Kevin Forshaw against Hartshorn. Carrying the "whitewash brush" on the night was Jack Clayton with nought to show for his labours on a Manchester table!

Against Stockport, Keogh's one loss was to Anglo Brian Kean who also beat Hartshorn. Derek Schofield's only singles success was over Livesey who, with Hartshorn, lost to Schofield and Kean in the doubles. Don Berry had an unrewarding night for the Cheshire side.

But how about this result in Division 1: Manchester 2 — Hyde 8! Hyde's Brian Baldwin was a treble winner for the visitors his scalps comprising those of Laurence Chapman, Tony Boasman and Nigel Heaps.

With Roy Crusham replacing Heaps, the Mancunians came back to beat Liverpool 6-4 on November 6. Crusham, a former county player, had wins over Peter D'Arcy and Bruce Cain losing the last set of the match to Gordon Birch who himself lost to Chapman.

In the Ladies' Division 1, Warrington's Susan Lisle did herself proud against Liverpool with wins over Barbara Cain, Judy Crafter and Joyce Randall but the Merseysiders won 6-4.

It was a different story at Blackpool, however, where Connie Moore and Pat Gleeson claimed maximum returns against a Liverpool team showing one change, Muriel Francis replacing Joyce Randall.

A youthful Lancashire county quartet beat the Royal Air Force 7-2 at Bolton on November 30. Bolton's Clive Heap did well in this representative fixture inflicting the only defeat on the R.A.F. singles champion Dick Clode who had wins over Colin Lang and Stephen Kaufman. Also undefeated in two sets was Tony Boasman.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

Premier	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	2	2	0	15	3	4
Essex	2	2	0	14	4	4
Sussex	2	2	0	13	5	4
Yorkshire	2	1	1	10	8	2
Kent	2	1	1	8	10	2
Glouc.	2	0	2	6	12	0
Cheshire	2	0	2	4	14	0
Warwicks.	2	0	2	2	16	0

Second South	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Kent II	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Middlesex II	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Essex II	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Bucks.	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Hertfords.	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Norfolk	1	0	0	1	0	10	0

Second Midland	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Staffords.	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Warwicks. II	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Glamorgan	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Leicesters.	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Monmouths.	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Derbys.	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Oxfords.	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

Second West	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcs.	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Hampshire	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Somerset	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Devon	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Wiltshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	0
Dorset	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Cornwall	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Junior South	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Middlesex	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Kent	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Bucks.	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Hants.	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Sussex	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Berks.	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

Junior Midland	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warwicks.	2	2	0	0	20	0	4
Leics.	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Notts.	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Derbys.	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Staffs.	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Denbighs.	1	0	0	1	0	10	0
Oxfords.	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

Junior East	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	2	2	0	0	20	0	4
Herts.	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Beds.	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Northampts.	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Suffolk	2	0	1	1	5	15	1
Norfolk	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Hunts.	1	0	0	1	1	9	0

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Essex II v. Surrey, T. A. & V. R. Hall, 153, East Street.	7-00 p.m.	
	Prittlewell, Southend.		
	Middlesex II v. Kent II, East Finchley T.T. Centre, 142, High Road, East Finchley, N.2.	7-30 p.m.	
Dec. 21	Norfolk v. Buckinghamshire, C.E.Y.M.S., Brigg Street, Norwich.	6-30 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Norfolk v. Essex II, C.E.Y.M.S., Brigg Street, Norwich.	6-30 p.m.	
	Buckinghamshire v. Essex II, Horlicks Ltd., Stoke Poges Lane, Slough.	7-00 p.m.	
	Kent II v. Norfolk, St. Edmund's School, Old Charlton Road, Dover.	7-15 p.m.	
	Surrey v. Hertfordshire, Room 3, National Recreation Centre, Crystal Palace.	6-30 p.m.	

SECOND DIVISION NORTH	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Durham v. Cumberland, Houghton-le-Spring Y.M.C.A.	7-00 p.m.	
	Yorkshire II v. Lancashire, Edgar Allen & Co. Ltd., Vulcan Road, Sheffield, 9.	7-15 p.m.	
Dec. 15	Northumberland v. Lincolnshire, North Shields Y.M.C.A.	2-30 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Durham v. Northumberland, Houghton-le-Spring Y.M.C.A.	7-00 p.m.	
	Lancashire v. Cumberland, Montague Burton, Halliwell Clothing Works, Wapping Street, Bolton.	6-30 p.m.	
	Lincolnshire v. Yorkshire II, Lincoln Y.M.C.A., Guildhall Street	6-00 p.m.	

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Derbyshire v. Staffordshire, The Police Station, New Beetwell Street, Chesterfield.	7-15 p.m.	
	Glamorgan v. Oxfordshire, Jackson Hall, Westgate Street, Cardiff.	7-00 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Monmouthshire v. Leicestershire, Alcan Welfare Hall, Rogerstone.	7-00 p.m.	
	Monmouthshire v. Glamorgan, Alcan Welfare Hall, Rogerstone.	7-00 p.m.	
	Staffordshire v. Leicestershire, Raleigh Hall, Swinerton, Stone.	7-15 p.m.	
	Warwickshire II v. Derbyshire, Erdington Y.M.C.A., Reservoir Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 24.	7-00 p.m.	

SECOND DIVISION WEST	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Dorset v. Devon, Dorchester Youth Centre, Colliton Street, Dorchester.	7-15 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Somerset v. Cornwall, St. Andrew's Hall, Station Road, Taunton.	7-15 p.m.	
	Cornwall v. Wiltshire, Sir James Smith's School, Camelford.	7-30 p.m.	
	Devon v. Somerset, Plymouth and District, T.T.L Headquarters, Devonport.	7-15 p.m.	
	Hampshire v. Worcestershire, Winton and Moordown School, Coronation Avenue, Bournemouth.	6-30 p.m.	

SOUTHERN DIVISION	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Berkshire v. Hampshire II, Y.M.C.A., Parkside Road, Reading.	2-30 p.m.	
	Oxfordshire II v. Buckinghamshire II, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford.	6-30 p.m.	
	Surrey II v. Worcestershire II, Kingston Grammar School, London Road, Kingston-on-Thames.	7-00 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Oxfordshire II v. Surrey II, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford.	6-30 p.m.	

MIDLAND DIVISION	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Lancashire II v. Shropshire, Alfred Turner Secondary School, Prospect Road, off Liverpool Road, Cadishead.	7-15 p.m.	
	Nottinghamshire v. Denbighshire, Notts. T.T. H.Q., Beech Avenue, New Basford, Nottingham.	7-15 p.m.	
	Staffordshire II v. Derbyshire II, Wednesbury Youth Centre, Wednesbury.	7-30 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Denbighshire v. Shropshire, Queens Park Sports Centre, Wrexham.	7-00 p.m.	
	Derbyshire II v. Lancashire II, The Police Station, New Beetwell Street, Chesterfield.	7-15 p.m.	
	Nottinghamshire v. Staffordshire II, Armstrong Hall, Brougham Avenue, Bull Farm, Mansfield.	6-45 p.m.	

EASTERN DIVISION	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Cambridgeshire v. Bedfordshire, Metal Box Co., Wisbech.	7-00 p.m.	
	Huntingdonshire v. Suffolk, Eaton Socon Institute, Eaton Socon.	7-00 p.m.	
	Northamptonshire v. Hertfordshire II, Doddridge Church Rooms, Doddridge Street, Northampton.	6-30 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Cambridgeshire v. Huntingdonshire, St. Andrew's Hall, Soham.	7-00 p.m.	
	Suffolk v. Northamptonshire, Gisleham School, Gisleham, Nr. Lowestoft.	7-00 p.m.	

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 7	Buckinghamshire v. Sussex, Slough Community Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.	3-00 p.m.	
Dec. 14	Berkshire v. Middlesex, Y.M.C.A., Parkside Road, Reading.	2-30 p.m.	
	Hampshire v. Kent, Territorial Drill Hall, Fareham.	3-00 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Kent v. Berkshire, St. Edmund's School, Old Charlton Road, Dover.	3-30 p.m.	
	Middlesex v. Hampshire, East Finchley T.T. Centre, 142, High Road, East Finchley, N.2.	4-00 p.m.	
	Sussex v. Surrey.		

JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Durham v. Cumberland, Houghton-le-Spring, Y.M.C.A.	3-00 p.m.	
	Northumberland v. Cheshire, Y.M.C.A., North Shields.	2-30 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Cheshire v. Yorkshire.	3-00 p.m.	
	Durham v. Northumberland, Houghton-le-Spring Y.M.C.A.	3-00 p.m.	
	Lancashire v. Cumberland, Montague Burton, Halliwell Clothing Works, Wapping Street, Bolton.	3-00 p.m.	

JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLAND	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Derbyshire v. Leicestershire, Queens Park Sports Centre, Wrexham.	3-00 p.m.	
	Oxfordshire v. Nottinghamshire, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford.	6-30 p.m.	
	Warwickshire v. Derbyshire, Birmingham City Transport Bus Garage, Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham, 14.	6-00 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Leicestershire v. Derbyshire, Knighton Park T.T.C., Avenue Road Extension, Leicester.	3-00 p.m.	
	Nottinghamshire v. Denbighshire, Nottingham T.T.L. H.Q., Beech Avenue, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.		
	Staffordshire v. Warwickshire, Woodfield Sports and Social Club, Penn Road, Wolverhampton.	6-30 p.m.	

JUNIOR DIVISION EAST	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Essex v. Huntingdonshire, St. Luke's Institute, Jude Street Corner, Canning Town, E.16.	2-30 p.m.	
Dec. 15	Bedfordshire v. Northamptonshire, Brooklands Residents Hall, Brooklands Drive, Leighton Buzzard.	3-00 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Huntingdonshire v. Suffolk, St. Neots Bowling Club, St. Neots.	7-00 p.m.	
	Northamptonshire v. Essex, Doddridge Cong. Church Hall, Castle Hill, Doddridge Street, Northampton.	4-00 p.m.	

JUNIOR DIVISION WEST	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Glamorgan v. Gloucestershire, Bridgend Y.M.C.A., Angle Street, Bridgend.	2-30 p.m.	
Dec. 15	Wiltshire v. Monmouthshire, N.H. Engineering Canteen, Bradley Road, Trowbridge.	7-00 p.m.	
Dec. 21	Worcestershire v. Somerset, "Treloen", Roberts End, Hanley Swan, Nr. Malvern.	3-30 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Monmouthshire v. Somerset, Alcan Welfare Hall, Rogerstone.	3-30 p.m.	
	Wiltshire v. Glamorgan.		

COUNTY DIARY

FIXTURES AND VENUES FOR DECEMBER, 1968

Premier Division	Date	Match	Time
Dec. 14	Gloucestershire v. Essex, New Ramblers Boys Club, Milton Avenue, off Podsmead Road, Gloucester.	7-15 p.m.	
	Kent v. Middlesex, "J" Sports Centre, Maidstone.	7-00 p.m.	
	Sussex v. Cheshire, Lewes Boys Club, Landport Road, Landport Estate, Lewes.	7-00 p.m.	
	Yorkshire v. Warwickshire, Messrs. Fields & Co., Colour Printers, Clayton Road, Bradford.	7-15 p.m.	
Dec. 15	Middlesex v. Cheshire, East Finchley T.T. Centre, 142, High Road, East Finchley, W.2.	2-30 p.m.	
Jan. 11	Cheshire v. Kent, Byrne Avenue Baths, Rockferry, Wirral.	7-15 p.m.	
	Essex v. Sussex, Lucton Youth Centre, Lucton C.S. School, Borders Lane, Loughton.	7-00 p.m.	
	Warwickshire v. Gloucestershire, Friary Youth Club, Abbey Street, Nuneaton.	7-00 p.m.	
	Yorkshire v. Middlesex, Messrs. Fields & Co., Colour Printers, Clayton Road, Bradford.	7-15 p.m.	

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

CORNWALL SLUMP IN 2 WEST

MIDDLESEX and Essex set the pace again in the Premier Division although Essex ran into Tony and Pauline Piddock in great form at Canterbury. The main item from the other divisions is the change in 2nd West, once noted for the closeness of the results. Cornwall, who drew four matches last season have twice slumped 1-9 this season, once to new-to-this-division Hampshire who were surprisingly held by Devon.

PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire 3 — Yorkshire 6
M. Johns lost to D. Neale -11, -12; bt A. Hydes 19, -9, 19.
B. Kean lost to Neale -7, -15; lost to J. Kedge -12, -18.
D. Schofield lost to Hydes -11, -8; lost to Kedge -22, 15, -25.
Miss J. Heaps bt Miss L. Forkes 11, 9.
Kean/Schofield lost to Neale/Hydes -14, -19.
Johns/Heaps bt Kedge/Forkes 15, 16.

Three times Cheshire recovered from being a set down, but the last three were all Yorkshire. Great credit to John Kedge, 15-20 down in 1st to Derek Schofield, who won this game at 24-22 and the vital third 27-25. Narrow victory for Mike Johns over Alan Hydes, but he was no match for Denis Neale.

Kent 3 — Essex 6
A. Piddock bt C. Barnes 18, -17, 15; bt S. Gibbs 17, 11.
D. Basden lost to Barnes -17, -15; lost to D. Brown -16, -15.
E. Baker lost to Gibbs -14, -17; lost to Brown -16, -19.
Mrs. P. Piddock bt Mrs. L. Radford 17, -17, 15.
H. Buist/Piddock lost to Barnes/Brown -18, 19, -11.
Basden/Mrs. Piddock lost to Gibbs/Radford 12, -14, -16.

The match turned on the doubles, both going to Essex who increased their 2-1 lead to 4-1. Tony Piddock, whose convincing defeat of Stuart Gibbs had this far been the only home win, then followed his wife Pauline's victory over Lesley Radford by notching a great win over Chester Barnes which brought the house down (300 spectators) and pulled Kent back into the match. Essex, however, were untroubled in the last two sets with David Brown proving a capable deputy for injured Bobby Stevens.

Middlesex 9 — Warwickshire 0
B. Wright bt D. Munt 14, 19; bt R. Gunnion 15, 10.
L. Haslam bt Munt 10, 14; bt D. Backhouse -18, 10, 11.
M. Sugden bt Gunnion 10, 14; bt Backhouse 14, 10.
Mrs. K. Mathews bt Miss K. Perry 17, -18, 16.
Haslam/Sugden bt Backhouse/Munt 9, 11.
Wright/Mathews bt Gunnion/Perry -20, 12, 13.

Probably still stiff after an eventful journey, Derek Munt was unable to get started against Les Haslam, whose powerful shots left his opponent stranded. Munt in better form against Brian Wright and possibly deserved to go to a deciding game. The Warwickshire star undoubtedly Kath Perry who extended Karenza Mathews and frequently found her wanting.

But Middlesex otherwise in complete control.

Sussex 6 — Gloucestershire 3
P. Williams bt R. Morley 18, -11, 17; lost to D. Holland -22, -11.
R. Chandler bt R. Morley 22, 12; bt J. Charles 7, 11.
S. Ogundipe lost to D. Holland 18, -6, -8; bt J. Charles, 12, 17.
Miss J. Williams bt Mrs. K. Stuart 7, 6.
Chandler/Williams lost to Holland/Morley 11, -14, -11.
Ogundipe/Miss Williams bt Charles/Stuart 8, 6.

With the exception of Dennis Holland, who was outstanding, Gloucestershire seemed lack-lustre. John Charles tried hard but lacks experience for this class of play and was unfortunate to meet Sammy Ogundipe in his first set. Peter Williams with leg bound from knee to ankle (injury in the Woolwich Open) did well to get the better of Roy Morley in a close set. Roger Chandler showed improved form on demotion to No. 2 and Holland needed expedite for the decider with Ogundipe.

SECOND SOUTH

Buckinghamshire 4 — Surrey 6
Jill Shirley the only unbeaten player as 6 sets went to 3 games. 5 men's singles to Surrey and the experience and promise of Jean Head and Susan Howard combined to achieve the 6th. "Connie" Warren the best man.

Essex II 5 — Kent II 5
Dennis Johnson the only success for Essex in M.S., Kent taking the other five. But Essex women very strong and the doubles combinations proved right for them: had David Brown not been on 1st team duty Essex could have taken full points from this good-tempered match.

Hertfordshire 3 — Middlesex II 7
In the opening set, Eric Coster led Laurie Landry by a game and 15-5; lost this game at 17; led 20-16 in the 3rd and got no more points. What a tonic that win would have been to Herts., particularly as Trevor Taylor and Brian Barr both won their first singles. But the heat was now off and Middlesex lost only one more set (Landry to Taylor). But what might have happened?

SECOND NORTH

Cumberland 1 — Lincolnshire 9
Lancashire 10 — Durham 0
Considerably strengthened by the capture of Diane Johnson and the return of Connie Moor, Lancs. were too good for Durham. Some good table tennis with Wilf Barker the best for the visitors although cruelly treated by Kevin Forshaw.

Yorkshire II 3 — Northumberland 7
With average age 19 (youngest senior side in the Championships?) Yorks. by no means disgraced but the experience of the visitors eventually pulled them through. Tony Clayton, last season a junior, continues to improve and could be challenging for a Premier place very soon—he won both singles here.

SECOND MIDLAND

Glamorgan 8 — Derbyshire 2
First 4 sets to the Welsh, then Derby took M.D. and W.S. (good

will this for Sandra Pegg over Margaret Phillips), then 4 more to Glamorgan. Margaret Jones and Graham Davies both in excellent form and Robert Bishop and Fraser Anderson both better than for some time.

Oxfordshire 1 — Staffordshire 9
Fine win, by 7 and 14, for Miss King and Mrs. Wingent over Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Deeley but otherwise all Staffs. who, in this form, must have excellent chances of taking the division and may even be thinking of promotion.

Warwickshire II 7 — Monmouthshire 3
Very much closer than the score might suggest. Unbeaten Graham Binney the Warwickshire mainstay, although taken close by Haydn Thomas, and John Spencer won both his singles for Monmouths.

SECOND WEST

Cornwall 1 — Worcestershire 9
After dropping the first two sets (Truscott -21, 11, -16 to Hawkins; Parkins to Lush -19, 12, -13) which should both have been won in straight games and then W.D. the same way, Cornwall neither got nor deserved another chance. Mick Hawkins and Ray Lush for Worcs. stood at 6-all in 3rd game of M.D., then took next 15 points for victory.

Devon 5 — Hampshire 5
Dorset 1 — Somerset 9
Worcestershire 6 — Wiltshire 4

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hampshire II 10 — Oxfordshire II 0
No real test for this young Hampshire team for whom Brian Pickard and Chris Shetler made Senior debut. With last-minute reserves Oxfords very weak and did not take a game.

Surrey II 4 — Buckinghamshire II 6
Worcestershire II 6 — Berkshire 4
Berkshire led 4-2 but then Worcs. took three very close sets, all in three. After 11 minutes for the first game, 13 for the second, Expedite came in at 19-all in the 3rd in the Brian Belcher v. Albert Foster set. Foster led 20-19; lost 20-22. Berks. led 19-18 in 3rd in X.D. but three good service returns by John Heathcote made the match score 4-all. Mike Prosser a game and 16-19 down to Bob Thornton: won this, then the 3rd for a 5-4 lead. Young J. Gregory was quickly overcome by Heathcote to give Worcs. a notable victory.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Derbyshire II 5 — Denbighshire 5
Shropshire 0 — Nottinghamshire 10
K. Morris so close to success against J. Ellis in Shropshire's first C.T.T.C. match, but his -18, 23, -20 the best that his team could manage.

Staffordshire II 6 — Lancashire II 4
EASTERN DIVISION
Bedfordshire 4 — Northamptonshire 6
Good recovery by Beds., from 0-5 to 3-5 but George Tsow stopped this and gave Northants full points by beating Brian Copperwheat. Plenty of workmanlike play, with the visiting men more impressive than the home, and as so often before the Beds. women Anita James and Barbara Hammond showing real fighting spirit.

Suffolk 6 — Cambridgeshire 4

JUNIOR SOUTH

Berkshire 2 — Surrey 8
Hampshire 6 — Buckinghamshire 4
A real shock to Bucks, even without Mike Wald. Jill Shirley outstanding but a fine win by Hampshire (who have not had much success in this division in recent seasons). The way was opened for them by Stuart Tannahill's 8, 18 defeat of Robin Napper in the seventh set.

Sussex 2 — Middlesex 8
JUNIOR NORTH
Cumberland 0 — Cheshire 10
Lancashire 8 — Durham 2
Paul Freeman the star for Durham, his 10, 18 defeat of England No. 3 Tony Boasman being the highlight. Little other serious resistance offered by the visitors, although Jim Laing showed promise.

Yorkshire 9 — Northumberland 1
Another England ranked boy to fall was No. 5 Alan Fletcher, beaten by Northumberland No. 2 C. Shepherd. Yorkshire are making a determined effort to take the junior title this year but a 9-1 margin does not really do justice to the visitors. Two convincing wins for Nicky Jarvis.

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Derbyshire 4 — Nottinghamshire 6
Oxfordshire 0 — Warwickshire 10
Howard Lloyd came closest to success for this inexperienced Oxford team when he went down -18, -19 to Finbar Gunning. Otherwise, Warwickshire far too good.

Staffordshire 4 — Leicestershire 6
Susan Baxter saved the day for Leics. when it looked as if Staffs. would snatch a point. 6-14 down in 3rd to Helen Blower she tightened her game, levelled at 17-all and won 10, -20, 18. A really fine set followed between the top boys, with no quarter asked or given and Tony Bronson just holding off Robin Deeley 20, 20. Susan Baxter then gave Leics. a winning lead partnered by C. Brewer and scored a personal maximum from the match. Stephen Dunning and Richard Pearson each then took a singles for Staffs. for 4-6.

JUNIOR EAST

Essex 10 — Norfolk 0
An encouraging performance by Neil Brierley who came in at No. 3 for Essex and really took his chance, conceding 38 points in his two singles wins. Robert Hellaby displayed unexpected nerves in his first set (with Stephen Palmer) and dropped a game.

Northants 7 — Norfolk 3
Norfolk's John Fuller really worried Roderick Marchant, losing -19, -24, then won his other set. Margret McInnes continues to improve and was the best of the girls on view. Northants No. 2 Nick Haycock again verified his ranking with two singles wins and a doubles.

Huntingdonshire 1 — Hertfordshire 9
JUNIOR WEST

Gloucestershire 3 — Wiltshire 7
Only Ian Terrett of this Gloucs. team had County match experience (he won both singles) and the others seemed rather overawed. Wiltshire's first win since March, 1966 when they won the division.

Somerset 2 — Glamorgan 8
Monmouthshire 10 — Worcestershire 0
County debut for 12 year old Kim Allen who was understandably nervous in her first X.D. with Haydn Thomas. After this she played well and could give years of service to Monmouths.