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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 21

FEBRUARY, 1969

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ENGLAND v. RUSSIA

INTERNATIONAL table tennis comes to Eastbourne for the first time on Tuesday, March 4, when England take on the Soviet Union in a European League, premier division match at the Winter Garden.

The E.T.T.A. Organiser for the match is Charles M. Wyles of 48, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. An attendance in the region of 800 is anticipated with 80% tiered seating.

All enquiries for seats should be made to the Winter Garden Box Office ('Phone' Eastbourne 25252).

The Soviet Federation have waived their right to stage the match in Russia—they played England in Birmingham last season—because their players are desirous of defending their English Open titles in Brighton from February 27—Mar. 1.



English Open men's singles title holder, Stanislav Gomozkov, is here seen in jovial mood when partnered by a smiling Svetlana Grinberg. Miss Grinberg and Zoya Rudnova are the holders of the women's doubles title and can be expected to defend it at Brighton.



In addition to Gomozkov, the Soviet No. 2 Anatoliy Amelin, here seen executing a backhand drive, can also be expected to play both at Brighton and at Eastbourne. Both photographs are by courtesy of the Novosti Press Agency

KENT OPEN

WRIGHT SUPREME AT FOLKESTONE

as narrated to the Editor by Laurie Landry

BRIAN WRIGHT, who scratched from the Lancashire Open the previous weekend because of 'flu, turned in his best tournament performance for five years when he swept to victory in a star-studded men's singles event in the Kent Open at the Marine Pavilion, Folkestone on Jan. 25-26.

Only Denis Neale was missing from the apostolic number of nationally seeded players but it was No. 5, Middlesex international Wright who eventually triumphed.

Two-straight was his win over David Brown in the quarters subsequent to which his fighting qualities were in evidence when first he beat Trevor Taylor and then, in the final, Chester Barnes—both from an opening game deficit.

A pointer to Wright's resolve came early on in the proceedings when he disposed of Peter Williams 5 and 6!

Main shock to the International Squad was inflicted by Ron Penfold whose tremendously improved backhand paid handsome dividends when he accounted for his Surrey teammate "Connie" Warren (-21, 18, 19) and Alan Hydes.

Prior to the semis, Hydes had figured in an epic struggle with

Maurice Billington which went to the Yorkshireman 23-21 in the decider.

Play halted on adjacent tables when Billington, retrieving in the manner of Bergmann at his peak, suddenly counterhit a seeming winner from Hydes to equate the third game score at "deuce."

A reflex "screamer", the shot took everyone by surprise, not least Hydes, but alas it was not enough.

Righfully complaining at the lack of top-ranking opposition in the Lancashire Open, Maureen Heppell travelled the length of the country to square her account on the Kent coast.

By concentration and steady hitting she brought about the defeat of English Closed champion Judy Williams but was unable to repeat the performance in final opposition to Karenza Mathews.

Still game for more, on her return from Yugoslavia, Jill Shirley, succumbed to Karenza in the semis but won the Under-20 title by beating Miss Heppell after the Northumberland player had ousted Mrs. Mathews.

Trevor Taylor won the counterpart youths' event after beating Ian Robertson in the semis but the long journey down must have seemed worthwhile for the Tynemouth boy after his win over Barry Hill (Surrey), in the men's event.

KENT OPEN continued on page 6

Hopes Dashed

England's slender hopes of contesting the Premier Division title of the European League—held by the U.S.S.R.—were dashed in Dunajska Streda on Jan. 29 when beaten 4-3 by Czechoslovakia.

Leading 3-2 at the conclusion of the Mixed Doubles, both Denis Neale and, finally Chester Barnes succumbed in straight games to S'aneK and Kollarovits respectively.

Individual scores:—

- G. C. Barnes lost to J. Stanek -20, 21, -10.
- D. Neale bt S. Kollarovits 18, 19.
- Mrs. K. Mathews lost to Miss I. Vostova -9, -12.
- Neale/Barnes bt Stanek/V. Miko -17, 13, 20.
- Barnes/Mathews bt Stanek/Vostova 16, -13, 18.
- Neale lost to Stanek -14, -12.
- Barnes lost to Kollarovits -19, -10.

A full report will appear in the March issue which, because of the date of the English Open, may be subject to a slight delay in publication.

STOP PRESS

'Mr. Five by Five'

SUBSEQUENT to the unanimous decision of the E.T.T.A.'s National Council to send the maximum permitted number of players to Munich, for the 30th World Championships' from April 17-27, Johnny Leach has named five men and five women to carry England's colours:—

MEN:

- Denis Neale (Yorks.)
- Chester Barnes (Essex)
- Trevor Taylor (Herts.)
- Brian Wright (Middlesex)
- Alan Hydes (Yorkshire)

WOMEN

- Mary Wright (Surrey)
- Judy Williams (Sussex)
- Jill Shirley (Bucks.)
- Karenza Mathews (Middlesex)
- Pauline Piddock (Kent)

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Editorial: George R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs. Phone: Bolton 42223.

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

VERY shortly now, England's teams to compete in the 30th World Championships in the Eissporthalle, Munich from April 17-27, will be announced.

In a Press Release issued last month, team manager Johnny Leach stated that the players chosen would comprise those he personally considered would achieve the best results.

From this statement one can discount, as a yardstick, the revised Seeding List which was released subsequent to the English Closed Championships and which has evoked a certain amount of criticism.

The only certainty appertaining to selection would appear to be that this will be made from the ten men and nine women who make up the International Squad.

Membership of this elite group apart, further consideration will rest with the National Selection Committee, under the chairmanship of Tom Blunn, but the final choice will be the prerogative of Johnny Leach.

Such onerous responsibility should be deserving of further state recognition for it is to be doubted if the efforts which merited his M.B.E. are commensurate with the task confronting him now.

Partial easement of this set task could well be afforded by a decision of the National Council in deciding to send a full complement of players to Munich which was not the case, in less affluent times, for the previous championships held in Stockholm, Sweden.

It is always difficult to utilise a full complement effectively and the National Council may well consider it more beneficial to send an adequate team with one or two very young players to attend and participate purely for experience.

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

FRANCE ON THE ASCENDANCY

Since last month, the following European League results have come to hand:—

Premier Division

Rumania	2	Czechoslovakia	5
Sweden	5	Hungary	2
U.S.S.R.	5	Federal Germany	2
Czechoslovakia	4	England	3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Sweden	3	3	0	13	8	6
U.S.S.R.	2	2	0	12	2	4
Czechoslovakia	3	2	1	12	9	4
England	4	2	2	15	13	4
Federal Germany	3	1	2	9	12	2
Hungary	3	0	3	7	14	0
Rumania	2	0	2	2	12	0

In the Second Division, France scored a narrow 4-3 win over Denmark and this should ensure them of the Championship. There was a time when France were one of the strongest countries in the world and there are signs that the hard work which the French Association has put into coaching and training schemes is beginning to bring results. Other results:—

Second Division

Denmark	7	Luxembourg	0
Netherlands	3	Belgium	4
Switzerland	4	Austria	3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	4	3	1	22	6	6
France	3	3	0	14	7	6
Belgium	3	2	1	12	9	4
Switzerland	3	2	1	9	12	4
Netherlands	4	1	3	13	15	2
Austria	2	0	2	4	10	0
Luxembourg	3	0	3	3	18	0



A typical action shot of Fed. German champion, Eberhard Schöler who won his country's two sets against the U.S.S.R. in the recent European League match played in Moscow. "Ebby" had wins over Gomozkov (16, 20) and Amelin (19, 17).

In this match Edit Buchholz took a hammering from Zoya Rudnova, 7 and 9, and Martin Ness was without success.

SCHOLER RETAINS TITLE

Eberhard Schöler had a terrific struggle in the recent German National Championships at Hagen

before he retained his Men's Singles Championship. At 2-all in the final against Bert Jansen, Schöler was 15-20 down in the deciding game, but his marvellous temperament and concentration enabled him to pull back and win. In the Women's Singles, Diane Schöler reached the final, but lost in three straight games against Agnes Simon.

SUGDEN SUPREME

In the Scottish National Championships, Malcolm Sugden showed himself far superior to the opposition and had a comfortable win in the final. Finals results were as follows:—

- M.S.: Sugden bt Hawkins 8, 16.
- W.S.: Angus bt Hawkins -17, 18, 12.
- M.D.: Sugden/Kean bt Sutherland/Anderson 11, 16.
- W.D.: Hawkins/Angus bt Smith/Smith
- X.D.: Dow/Hawkins bt Sutherland/Smith -17, 17, 17.
- J.D.: Barr/Struthers bt George/Duffy -14, 18, 20.

The E.T.T.A. have given Scotland permission to include Stuart Lennie in the International Squad and Ranking List and Stuart promptly gained No. 2 place in the new rankings recently published. The full Scottish list is as follows:—

MEN

1. M. Sugden
2. S. Lennie
3. B. Kean
4. E. Sutherland
5. R. Kerr
6. I. Barclay
7. J. Dow
8. G. Anderson

GROUP "A"

- Section 1
- P. Cameron
- J. Hawkins
- T. McMichael
- J. Reilly
- Section 2
- J. Campbell
- D. W. Hogg
- D. McIntosh
- R. Yule

WOMEN

1. L. Barrie
2. O. Hawkins
3. K. Angus
4. E. Smith
5. B. Johnston



BOYS

1. D. Barr
2. D. George
3. D. Charleston
4. R. Partyka
- A. Struthers

GIRLS

1. E. Smith
2. M. Neish
3. Ch. McBeath
4. E. Laird

SWEDEN'S 'JOHNNY LEACH'

In the same way as the E.T.T.A. have appointed Johnny Leach as Team Manager and sole selector this season, the Swedish T.T.A. now have named Lollo Hammarlund to a similar position in Sweden. He has the task of selecting teams, and team captains when he himself is not able to travel.

IRISH CORNER

Following the recent "Round Robin" tournament held among Ireland's top players for the purpose of ranking, the following list has been issued (writes Kevin Drum).

MEN

1. J. Langan
2. T. Caffrey
3. C. Thompson
4. T. Langan
5. S. Reilly
6. N. Sloan

WOMEN

1. J. Fitzsimons
2. B. Warwick
3. J. Geary
4. J. Mahony
5. C. McKeown
6. S. Falkner

The newly reformed branch of the Munster Association were first in the field with their team for this month's (Feb.) interprovincial at Bangor. Only new cap is C. Crowe from Limerick. The team is:—J. Christie, K. Madden, D. Foley, C. Crowe, Mrs. B. Cody and Miss F. Dawkins.

Czechoslovakia's top players Stanek and Kollarovits, as well as Marta Luzova-Hejmova, Stuart Gibbs and exiled Hungarian George Muranyi will be the star attractions at the Irish Open to be held in Dublin on February 13/14. It is hoped that the Czechs may also play two international matches against Ireland during their visit.

SEEDING LIST

TAYLOR ON THE UP-AND-UP

TREVOR Taylor of Hitchin, Herts., is the ascending star in the new Seeding List issued by the E.T.T.A. for the benefit of tournament organisers subsequent to the English Closed Championships.

From being 10th in the previous list, the 16-years-old No. 1 English junior moves up to No. 3 in the senior list directly behind Denis Neale and Chester Barnes.

Lists: (former positions in brackets):

MEN

1. D. Neale (Yorks.) (1)
2. G. C. Barnes (Essex) (3)
3. T. Taylor (Herts.) (10)
4. C. J. Warren (Surrey) (5)
5. B. D. Wright (Middx.) (6)
6. M. Johns (Cheshire) (8)
7. O. B. Haslam (Middx.) (7)
8. D. Brown (Essex) (—)
9. A. R. Piddock (Kent) (—)
10. A. Hydes (Yorks.) (9)
11. S. R. Gibbs (Essex) (4)
12. P. Williams (Sussex) (11)

WOMEN

1. M. Wright (Surrey) (1)
 2. J. Williams (Sussex) (8)
 3. J. Shirley (Bucks.) (6)
 4. K. Mathews (Middx.) (2)
 5. P. Piddock (Kent) (4)
 6. J. Heaps (Cheshire) (7)
 7. M. Heppell (Nthland.) (3)
 8. L. Radford (Essex) (5)
 9. D. Simpson (Essex) (10)
 10. L. Bashford (Yorks.) (—)
- Equal
10. S. Howard (Surrey) (—)
 12. J. Billington (Essex) (9)

Ian Harrison (Gloucs.) having retired and Ralph Gunnion (Warwickshire) have been replaced by David Brown and Tony Piddock.

The two Yorkshire girls, Mrs. Pat Bassano (nee Dainty) and Cynthia Duncombe (now playing for Northumberland) have been displaced from the seedings by two junior players, Linda Bashford and Susan Howard.

INTERNATIONAL SQUAD

THE Selection Committee also reviewed the composition of the International Squad and have named the top ten men and the top nine women on the Seeding Lists. This means that Diane Simpson of Essex joins the Squad and that Stuart Gibbs (Essex) and Peter Williams (Sussex) have been omitted.

"ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN"



A member of England's Swathling Cup team in Stockholm at the last World Championships, Stuart Gibbs is here seen sadly occupying a back seat. Photo by courtesy of Danton & Co. Management Ltd.

SCOTLAND v. ENGLAND

ESSEX players Diane Simpson and David Brown will make their senior international debut against Scotland in a match to be played at Motherwell Town Hall on Saturday, February 15.

Subsequent to the international match, the team which also includes "Connie" Warren (Surrey), Tony Piddock (Kent) and Judy Williams (Sussex) will participate in the North Lanarkshire Open on the following day. England's non-playing Captain at Motherwell will be Derek Schofield.

MARY BACK

JOHNNY Leach announced the following team to represent England against Hungary at Bracknell on February 7:—Denis Neale (Yorks.), Chester Barnes (Essex) and Mary Wright (Surrey).

LEA GREEN SETS THE SCENE

by Walter Reeves

A meeting was held during November to decide whether or not to form a Derbyshire Schools' T.T. Association and at Lea Green Youth Training Centre, on December 12th, it came into being.

Invitations were sent out to all schools in the county inviting eight pupils from each, with an official in charge, and such was the overwhelming response that plans had to be hastily revised when 132 pupils turned up.

The general plan was that pupils should receive some fundamental instruction, watch an exhibition and films, and then take part in a tournament.

Instruction was under the direction of Northern Staff Coach, Peter Simpson, assisted by Derbyshire Coaches Tony Chatwin, Malcolm Allsop and myself but because of time limitations this was only of a basic nature.

The Exhibition was given by England players Denis Neale and Alan Hydes which gave the youngsters some idea of the long road that lies ahead if they are to acquire a similar degree of skill.

Due to the lack of time, the numbers entering and a rapidly thickening fog, the tournament was played on a one-game basis, with the exception of the finals, and four winners under and over 15 years of age will receive a voucher for their efforts.

The response must surely have convinced anyone with doubts that the day was worthwhile. Whilst, at the moment, I cannot report the formation of a league, I am pleased to report the event for I consider it to be a great step forward in the history of Derbyshire Table Tennis.

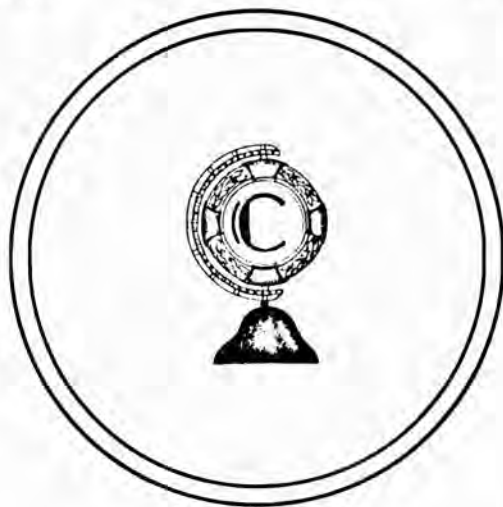
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Party Travel to World Championships in Munich—£28 10s 0d

A quotation has been obtained for a party (subject to a minimum of ten passengers) travelling to Munich for the individual events of the World Championships. The sum of £28 10s. 0d. (NOT inclusive of admission tickets which would cost approximately £4) includes 2nd Class rail and steamer from London—Munich via Dover/Ostend, with Couchette accommodation in each direction, and three nights bed/breakfast only at a moderate hotel, based on twin bedded room booking.

Departure would be at 15.00 hours on Wednesday, April 23, arriving in Munich at 09.26 on April 24, the first day of the individual events. The return journey will commence on Sunday, April 27, at 20.52 hours, arriving back in London at 16.00 hours on Monday, April 28.

The V-form amount for this trip is £7 0 0d. out of the £50 allowance, leaving £43 0 0d. personal spending allowance. In addition, £15 in Sterling may be taken abroad.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of these arrangements should send a £5 deposit to A. W. Shipley, E.T.T.A., 26-29, Park Crescent, London W1N 4HA. Closing date for applications is Friday, Feb. 28, 1969.

OFFICIAL NEWS

TABLE TENNIS BROCHURE

IN its attempts to secure sponsorship, the E.T.T.A. Sponsorship Committee found that many industrial and commercial concerns knew very little about the size and scope of our sport, and rather than quote cold facts and figures, it was decided to create an illustrated brochure, designed primarily to inform and attract sponsors. Copies of this brochure are being made available to all Leagues and Counties, and it is hoped that Secretaries will not only find them of interest but that they could prove useful in many ways such as securing that ideal venue for a local organisation uncertain of the needs of our sport. We would certainly like to hear your views on the brochure and, of course, any ways in which it was of benefit to your Association.

HANDBOOK SUPPLEMENTS

QUANTITIES of Part II to the Official Handbook have now been sent to all Leagues, with the offer of further supplies on request. It is

realised that it has appeared later in the season than on previous occasions but the delay was caused by wishing to produce a Supplement with the maximum amount of up-to-date information. This was also the reason for those repeated requests for a return of the green affiliation forms. However, it would be pleasing to learn of your wishes in this respect, for although it is possible to publish a Supplement by early November, the degree of accuracy would depend on the information available at the time.

"TABLE TENNIS NEWS"

A copy of our magazine will by now have reached all League Secretaries in an effort to widen the circulation. It was felt that some areas did not know of the existence of a table tennis magazine and we hope that at least some of you will have been able to introduce some new readers. Please show the magazine to your Committee and take it with you to your local Championships.

ANY OLD RELICS ?

AS you may know, the E.T.T.A. was born in April 1927 and, therefore, is gradually moving out of living memory. Personalities come

and go, but we are anxious to preserve the record of the past in the form of documents such as handbooks, match programmes etc., and pieces of equipment such as nets, bats and badges. Therefore, if anyone feels that he can add to the existing Archives of the Association, would you please contact Mr. I. R. Crickmer, 12, Cypress Street, Barbourne, Worcester—we will be delighted to hear from you. Ian is the Chairman of the E.T.T.A. Archives Sub-Committee.

E.T.T.A. RULES

LEAGUE and County Secretaries are reminded that under Rule 59(b) of the Association, proposals for the alteration of Rules must be submitted in writing, to reach the General Secretary of the E.T.T.A. not later than the last day in February.

TIT-FOR-TAT"

IT has been very interesting to read copies of newsletters issued by Leicester, Wisbech and Essex County, and it would be pleasing to receive copies from other Leagues. This would give opportunity for an exchange of views and due note has been taken of items appearing in E.T.T.A. bulletins being used in local productions, thus spreading information to that normally inaccessible person, the ordinary Club member.

RETURN THAT POT

ON several occasions this season, Tournament Organisers have been embarrassed by not having a trophy to present to the winner of a tournament, due to the forgetfulness of the previous holder to return the trophy. All trophy holders are therefore reminded of this need, which is covered by E.T.T.A. Tournament Regulation No. 23.

'The Admin Wallah'



Here seen, out of uniform, is Albert Shipley the E.T.T.A.'s Administrative Secretary, and compiler of the Official Notes. Needless to say, the picture was not taken at the offices of the Association in Park Crescent, London, W.1.!

E.T.T.A. ELECTIONS 1967/68 by Tony Wickens

IN the 1967/68 Elections, the electorate consisted of 36 County Associations and 310 Local Leagues, with a total voting strength of 598 (County Associations 1 vote each, 42 Leagues with 3 votes, 168 Leagues with 2 votes and 100 Leagues with 1 vote each). In the election of Chairman 26 Counties and 110 Leagues sent ballot papers, of which 10 had to be rejected; of Deputy Chairman 25 Counties and 108 Leagues, of which 12 had to be rejected; of Treasurer 24 Counties and 102 Leagues, of which 14 had to be rejected. Papers were received after the closing date, and therefore not included, from 2 Counties and 7 Local Leagues. The highest percentage of the electorate voting in any of the three elections was 39%.

The Scrutineers felt that it was unfortunate that of 375 papers scrutinised, 36, almost 10% had to be rejected, after the persons concerned had taken the trouble to send papers in. The National Council have, therefore, agreed that the Members of the E.T.T.A. be given some idea of why papers had to be rejected. Papers were rejected for one of the following six reasons:—

- (1) Organisation purporting to vote not on list of organisations eligible to vote. (3 papers)
 - (2) Deliberate abstention. (5 papers)
 - (3) Organisation voting not stated on paper. (7 papers)
 - (4) Organisation voting not stated, and incorrect one inserted. (5 papers)
 - (5) Second signature not that of a "responsible Officer." (12 papers)
- Note: Nine were signed by a "Committee member", which the Scrutineers do not accept as being an "Officer", and three by a Life Vice-President, who is not subject to the control of being re-elected and therefore not "responsible" even if an Officer.
- (6) "Responsible office" held by second signatory not stated, or not legible. (4 papers)

E.T.T.A. COACHING SCHEME

by Derek R. Tremayne

COACHING COURSES

THE following courses have been arranged by the Central Council of Physical Recreation from whom further details are available at 26, Park Crescent, London W.1.

April 19-26—
Barton Hall, Torquay, Devon
(course for personal performance).

July 12-19—
Lilleshall Hall, Newport, Shropshire
(course for coaches and players intent on improving their personal performances).

These courses will be directed by E.T.T.A. Staff Coaches.

FREE SESSIONS FOR LEAGUES

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COACHING SCHEME continued

coaching. The majority of those requesting free sessions have already been dealt with but we hope that more replies will be forthcoming from those leagues who have not yet responded. The free sessions already given appear to have been most successful from reports received.

UNDER-13 COMPETITION

The National Coaching and Schools Sub-Committee of the E.T.T.A. have agreed to go ahead with the organisation of this new competition.

It was felt that in the first year of this event, Leagues would be asked to run a competition to discover their boy and girl champion in the Under-13 age group (i.e. Under 13 on June 30/68).

The names of their two champions should be submitted to me at the E.T.T.A. office by Thursday, April 30/69.

Players will then be allocated to one of our Regional Finals to be played, at venues to be decided, on Saturday, May 31/69.

The National Finals will be held at a venue, probably in the Midlands, on Saturday, June 31/69. Two boys and two girls from each of the Regional Finals will go forward to the National Finals.

Whilst the names of your League champions are not required until April 30, it would help in the administration of the event if indication could be given, on the tear-off slip of the notices which have gone out to all League Secretaries, of your interest in the competition.

SCHOOLS CENTRE DATES

Malton—Feb. 15 and March 15.

Louth—Feb. 15, Mar. 1 and 29.

St. Austell—Feb. 22-23 and Mar. 22.

Ashford (Kent)—Feb. 22 and Mar. 29.

Nuneaton—Feb. 22 and Mar. 8.

Exmouth—Feb. 8 and Mar. 8.

Worle—Feb. 8 and 22, Mar. 8.

Both the Cheshire Schools Centre and Valley Gardens, North Shields are due to open at the end of February and details can be had from the Northern Staff Coach, Peter Simpson.

REGIONAL CENTRE DATES

Bradford—Mar. 30, Apl. 27, May 18 and June 15.

Stockton—Mar. 16, Apl. 13, May 11 and June 8.

Crystal Palace—Feb. 16, Mar. 30, Apl. 13, May 4 and June 8.

Ipswich—Mar. 16, Apl. 27, May 18 and June 15.

Northampton—Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apl. 26 and May 24.

Further details of centres in the North may be obtained from Peter Simpson (30, Vesper Gate Mount, Leeds 5) and of centres in the South from Jack Carrington (24, Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex).

JUNIOR PROFICIENCY AWARD SCHEME

Details of the scheme in the form of an illustrated brochure are now available from Jack Carrington.

COACHING AWARD SCHEME

Enrolment forms and brochures are now available from staff coaches or the E.T.T.A. office.

An Announcement by Johnny Leach England's Team Manager

AFTER his retirement as a player, I invited Ian Harrison to become more interested in the Captaincy and training side of the game, and during early January he became involved in training with members of the International Squad, to assist in every way possible and to become accepted by the players as an official.

Ian has already been non-playing Captain of the England team in matches against Czechoslovakia, Israel and the Netherlands. The vast

experience he has gained, in all parts of the world, during his playing career in which he appeared for England in the record number of 178 international matches, and as a member of England's Squad in both six successive World and European Championships, can, I am sure, be of great benefit to the Association in general and the International Squad in particular. Thus I intend to use Ian more regularly as a non-playing Captain of England teams.

As you are aware, the World Championships are to be staged in Munich from April 17-27 this year. It will give the game in this country a great boost, if, as has been my endeavour throughout the season, we can achieve a good result at Munich.

Unfortunately, the Hungarian team were unable to stay in this country as planned, for a training session after their match at Bracknell on February 7, but the players who will represent England at Munich, together with the reserve players, will be chosen within a week of that date.

From then on, the playing activities, tournament entries and doubles partnerships of these players will be strictly controlled throughout.

Finally, I must emphasise that the teams chosen will be those players who I personally consider will achieve the best results in Munich.



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Tournament Survey

by The Editor

DESPITE the absence of top seeds Brian and Mary Wright, the final stages of the Lancashire Open Championships, played at Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton on Jan. 18, were not devoid of excitement. Climax came when the fourth seed, Alan Hydes, won the men's singles title for the first time.

Set of the whole day, however, was the pulsating semi-final meeting of Manchester's Kevin Forshaw and Middlesex international 'Les' Haslam which the southerner won by the skin of his teeth 27-25 in the decider.

Major shock of the day also occurred in the men's singles when, in the third round, Cheshire international Mike Johns was ousted by Pat Glynn of Birmingham who, in the next round succumbed to local entrant Colin Lang.

Maureen Heppell reclaimed the women's singles title she last won in season 1966-7 but not without trouble in disposing of Lancashire's Diane Johnson, herself a winner—as Miss Wright of Cheshire—in seasons 1960-1 and 1961-2.

Over at Pontefract, on January 25, the entry was very much a localised one especially in the men's event which was dominated by the Tykes.

Only Lancashire's Bob Kelly received a look-in, and that but briefly, in opposition to Peter Hirst in the semis. Former England junior, Tony Clayton, crashed his way past the Huddersfield star to take the title.

His Hull colleague, Alan Fletcher, won the boys' singles event for the third successive year to keep all the male titles within the county.

Outsiders came into their own in the women's events, the singles title being won by Kath Perry but only after really hard labour against the stubborn defence of Eileen Starkie.

Partnered by Sandra Pegg, of Chesterfield, Miss Perry collected a second title in the doubles but from then on the Yorkshire palms remained clenched.

LANCS. OPEN Results

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

K. Forshaw (Lancs.) bt C. E. Lang (Lancs.) 17, 18; O. B. Haslam (Middx.) bt R. E. Gunnion (Warwks.) 16, 19; A. Hydes (Yorks.) bt B. Farnworth (Lancs.) 7, 17; J. Kedge (Yorks.) bt A. L. Clayton (Yorks.) -18, 13, 18.

Semi-finals:

HASLAM bt Forshaw -9, 15, 25; HYDES bt Kedge 9, 9.
Final: HYDES bt Haslam -16, 13, 11.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

D. JOHNSON (Lancs.) bt S. Lee (Yorks.) 12, 17; M. HEPPELL (Northald.) bt C. Moore (Lancs.) 20, 12.
Final: HEPPELL bt Johnson 14, -18, 16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HASLAM/L. F. LANDRY (Middx.) bt B. Johns/M. Johns 16, 18; B. BURN (Northald.)/HYDES bt R. E. Gunnion (Warwks.)/S. Lennie (Northald.) -19, 19, 17.
Final: HASLAM/LANDY bt Burn/Hydes 16, -18, 24.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HEPPELL/S. PEGG (Derbys.) bt D. Griffiths (Warwks.)/O. Hawkins (Scotland) 10, 19; JOHNSON/MOORE bt L. Bashford/P. Richmond (Yorks.) 15, 8.
Final: JOHNSON/MOORE bt Heppell/Pegg 15, 9.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

HYDES/HEPPELL bt Forshaw/Moore 11, 18; M. JOHNS/JOHNSON bt Haslam/M. Leigh (Lancs.) -19, 14, 16.
Final: JOHNS/JOHNSON bt Hydes/Heppell -19, 20, 15.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

L. J. BROWNING (Yorks.) bt H. B. Dignan (Northald.) 12, 12; F. HAMER (Lancs.) bt B. J. Griffiths (Warwks.) 15, -13, 19.
Final: BROWNING bt Hamer 16, 14.

15th WINTON Y.M.C.A. RESTRICTED OPEN

by John Luther

JUST under 100 players occupied 13½ hours to get this tournament through.

Much high-standard play was witnessed and none more so, in the third round, than the meeting of 15-year-old Marcus Hall of Birmingham and Southampton's Trevor Smith. The young Warwickshire pen-holder gave Smith a hard time of it before the Hants player won -22, 12, 18.

Youngest competitor was Miss J. New (Bournemouth), aged 9, who appears to have a distinct future in the game ahead of her.

Final results:

Men's Singles: W. MOULDING (Wilts.) bt D. Davies (Hants) -21, 14, 19.

Women's Singles: J. COOP (Hants.) bt P. Bonner (Wilts.) -21, 13, 14.

C. DIFFEY (Dorset)/T. SMITH (Hants.) bt T. Levett/S. Conquest (Essex) 16, 19.

Women's Doubles: C. DAVIES/P. EDWARDS (Hants.) bt Coop/A. Mills (Hants) 19, 12.

Mixed Doubles: DAVIES/DAVIES bt T. Ward (Wilts.)/Edwards -20, 12, 19.

Boys' Singles: K. SUMMERFIELD (Hants.) bt M. Hall (Warwks.) 9, -21, 11.

Girls' Singles: J. HUDSON (Hants.) bt J. Daniels (Hants.) -11, 21, 16.

PONTEFRAC T OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

A. Clayton (Yorks.) bt N. Fulstow (Yorks.) 19, 12; S. Nunn (Yorks.) bt B. Starkie (Yorks.) 12, -12, 13; P. Hirst (Yorks.) bt M. Dainty (Yorks.) 12, -18, 15; R. Kelly (Lancs.) bt R. Brothwell (Yorks.) 19, 15.

Semi-finals:

CLAYTON bt Nunn 11, 12; HIRST bt Kelly -18, 19, 13.
Final: CLAYTON bt Hirst 18, 15.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

E. STARKIE (Yorks.) bt L. Forkes (Yorks.) 18, 14; K. PERRY (Warwks.) bt P. Bassano (Yorks.) -24, 19, 17.
Final: PERRY bt Starkie 13, -17, 15.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

CLAYTON/J. DAVIES (Yorks.) bt Hirst/G. Moss (Yorks.) 19, -21, 14; B. ALLISON/M. DAINTY (Yorks.) bt Brothwell/D. Sykes (Yorks.) 18, 10.
Final: CLAYTON/DAVIES bt Allison/Dainty 9, 17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

S. PEGG (Derbys.)/PERRY bt C. Brooksbank/B. Whitfield (Yorks.) 9, 8; BASSANO/FORKES bt L. Sutton/L. Twidale (Yorks.) 21, 20.
Final: PEGG/PERRY bt Bassano/Forkes -20, 15, 16.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

P. SPENCER (Notts.)/PEGG bt Clayton/V. King (Yorks.) 20, 20; HIRST/S. BROADBENT (Yorks.) bt Moss/Forkes 16, 16.
Final: HIRST/BROADBENT bt Spencer/Pegg 19, 18.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

A. FLETCHER (Yorks.) bt B. Lowe (Notts.) 14, 12; N. FULSTOW (Yorks.) bt S. Rossington (Yorks.) 17, 17.
Final: FLETCHER bt Fulstow 19, -19, 16.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

S. LEE (Yorks.) bt King 22, 14; SUTTON bt Broadbent 13, 14.
Final: LEE bt Sutton 19, 15.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

F. BRIGGS (Yorks.) bt N. Lusher (Yorks.) 11, 13; NUNN bt K. Mitchelmore (Yorks.) 17, 17.
Final: NUNN bt Briggs 20, 14.

KENT OPEN Results

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

T. Taylor (Herts.) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 15, 12; B. D. Wright (Middx.) bt D. Brown (Essex) 18, 12; R. Penfold (Surrey) bt A. Hydes (Yorks.) 20, -25, 17; G. C. Barnes (Essex) bt O. B. Haslam (Middx.) 11, 19.

Semi-finals:

WRIGHT bt Taylor -16, 15, 18; BARNES bt Penfold 11, 19.

Final:

WRIGHT bt Barnes -13, 18, 18.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

K. MATHEWS (Middx.) bt J. Shirley (Bucks.) 9, 11; M. HEPPELL (Northumberland) bt J. Williams (Sussex) 15, -18, 17.

Final:

MATHEWS bt Heppell 18, -13, 13.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HYDES/C. J. WARREN (Surrey) bt Haslam/Johns 17, 15; BARNES/BROWN bt R. J. Stevens (Essex)/Wright 12, 8.

Final:

HYDES/WARREN bt Barnes/Brown 16, 19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

MATHEWS/SHIRLEY bt S. Hession (Essex)/Williams 8, -13, 16; L. RADFORD/D. SIMPSON (Essex) bt J. Billington/E. Carrington (Essex) 19, 16.

Final:

MATHEWS/SHIRLEY bt Radford/Simpson 8, -19, 17.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

HYDES/HEPPELL bt S. R. Gibbs (Essex)/Radford 15, -6, 15; BARNES/MATHEWS bt Wright/Shirley 12, 18.

Final:

BARNES/MATHEWS bt Hydes/Heppell 9, 10.

Youth Singles Boys': Semi-finals:

TAYLOR bt I. Robertson (Northumberland) 11, 6; HYDES bt J. Dabin (Kent) 13, 13.

Final:

TAYLOR bt Hydes 17, -13, 10.

Youth Singles Girls': Semi-finals:

SHIRLEY bt Simpson 11, 11; HEPPELL bt Mathews 12, -7, 11.

Final:

SHIRLEY bt Heppell 16, -17, 19.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

R. ETHERIDGE (Kent) bt Z. Schramm (Surrey) 19, 19; L. HOFFMAN (Middx.) bt G. Harding (Kent) 12, 19.
Final: ETHERIDGE bt Hoffman 11, 16.

'INTERNATIONAL MATCH'

CONGRATULATIONS to English international Cornelius J. Warren, of Mitcham, Surrey and Irish Corbillon Cup player Joan Fitzsimons, of Dublin, who have recently announced their engagement.



Joan (pictured above) and "Connie" plan to get married after the World Championships in Munich, both being hopeful of participating.

Wanted copies Table Tennis for 1956-1959 inclusive. State price to P. Smith, Clumber, Chavey Down Road, Bracknell, Berks.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Feb. 22/23	Teesside Open, Eston Sports Centre, Middlesbrough.	Team Championships	A. Ransome, 21a, Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Yorks.
" 22/23	Essex Open, Harlow Sports Centre.		A. W. Dale, 9, Paternoster Close, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
" 23	Yeovil "American" Restricted Open, Houndstone Camp, Yeovil.		K. F. Palmer, 12, Barton Gardens, Sherborne, Dorset.
Feb. 27 — Mar. 1	The 42nd ENGLISH OPEN, Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton, Sussex.	MVS, WVS Team Championships	D. R. Tremayne, E.T.T.A. Secretariat, 26-29, Park Crescent, London, W1N 4HA.
Mar. 8	Northumberland Open, Ministry of Social Security, Long Benton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.	JBS, JGS, VS.	T. A. Morpeth, 59, Preston Avenue, North Shields, Northumberland.
" 8	Wisbech Restricted Open, Isle of Ely College, Wisbech.	YS GS	B. H. Tolliday, 75, Stow Road, Wisbech, Cambs.
" 9	Bedford Restricted Open, Badminton Hall, Bradgate Road, Bedford.		Mrs. E. W. Pacey, 17, Brook Street, Bedford, Beds.
" 9	Teesside Junior Open, Eston Sports Centre, Middlesbrough.	U-17 BS, GS, XD, BD, GD, U-15 BS, GS, U-13 BS, GS.	A. Ransome, 21a, Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Yorks.

EXETER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Bernard Snook

BIGGEST ENTRY YET

A total of 81 entries, the biggest entry to date, contested the Exeter Junior Championships at Exeter Y.M.C.A. on January 25.

This competition is increasing in popularity every year and those that took part included entries from Southampton, Bournemouth, Bristol and Somerset, to name a few. Youngest competitor was Janet New of Southampton, aged 9.

The Open boys' singles title was won by David James of Plymouth, the other titles being shared by the Hampshire contingent.

Exeter's only success was in their own closed singles where Paul Stone won in straight legs over Alan Lewis who has been runner-up in this event more times than he cares to remember.

E.T.T.A. Organising Secretary, Derek Tremayne presented prizes to the following winners:—

Boys' Open Singles:

D. James bt P. Rose 8, 18.

Girls' Open Singles:

J. Woolf bt P. Beaser -19, 20, 17.

Boys' Doubles:

P. Crane/K. Summerfield bt D. James/K. James 15, -24, 16.

Girls' Doubles:

J. Hudson/Woolf bt J. Daniels/C. Hutchings -18, 16, 16.

Mixed Doubles:

Crane/Hutchings bt A. Lewis/Woolf -18, 12, 19.

U-15 Boys' Singles:

Crane bt B. Pound -17, 11, 5.

U-15 Girls' Singles:

P. Beaser bt S. Beaser 15, 20.

Exeter Boys' Singles:

P. Stone bt A. Lewis 16, 19.

Exeter Girls' Singles:

S. Wannell bt K. Hooper 7, 15.

ESSEX SCHOOLS' T.T.A.

THE 1969 Championships will be played at Great Baddow Comprehensive School, Chelmsford, on Sunday, Feb. 16 commencing at 10 a.m. Events to be organised will comprise Under-15, Under-17 and Under-19 for both Boys and Girls. A separate Under-13 event will be run by the Association in order to provide a boys and a girls team for entry to the English Schools' Championships. At the A.G.M., it was agreed to keep in line with the National Association by organising the Championships on a 4-a-side basis.



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The Swathling Club

by VICTOR BARNA

FOUNDED in 1967, the Swathling Club has many aims, the most important being to help old friends who, perhaps, find themselves in a less fortunate position than ourselves. It is also concerned with arranging get-togethers, fostering friendships, regardless of nationality, and trying to encourage younger players to the idea that, in the long run, making and keeping friends is just as important as winning cups and tournaments.

The history of the Club is very short and was founded by a handful of people (21 to be exact) led by Zarko Dolinar. At the last World Championships in Stockholm, a meeting was held at which Officers and a committee were elected, and work began immediately.

I was, and still am, amazed at the enthusiasm concerning the Club. Players, especially those of the older generation, responded right away, national Associations immediately gave a helping hand, promising more help in the future and the number of letters received applying for membership from people who, unfortunately, were not eligible, is just unbelievable.

NOT SNOBBISH

Only players and captains who have represented their country in a World Championship are eligible by "invitation" only. Lots of people may think that we want to create an exclusive, snobbish Club. I can assure you this is not so, and our final aim is to include everybody who is eligible.

However, for the present, we think that a morally stronger Club can be built if we go slowly and first enlist people who have the same ideal or shall I say idealism as the founder members, who want to help and are proud of the fact that they are members of a well meaning Club.

In due time everybody will receive invitations but at the moment some of our representatives have difficulty in contacting the older players of the pre-war generation.

GENEROUS HELP

Sincere thanks are due to the Federal German and French Associations for their most generous help given to the Club right from the outset. The French Association, led by Mr. Mercier and Mr. Duclos, arranged free hospitality for the duration of the European Championships in Lyons for three of our members nominated by us.

Our good friends Dr. Mauritz and Mr. Schlaf, of the Federal German Association, arranged a fabulous ten days free holiday for fifteen Swathling Club members. Furthermore, they have already offered free hospitality for ten Swathling Club members for the Worlds which will take place in Munich from April 17-27.

It is difficult for us to realise how much it means to our guests to "re-live" the atmosphere of a great

tournament and to be with their old friends. Thank you Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund and the Federation Francaise, I hope other Associations will follow your most appreciated example.

PAST ACTIVITIES

Two get-togethers were arranged at Stockholm, which were very pleasant. Even more successful was the one held in Lyons. Singing, dancing, chatting in ten different languages did not stop anybody from enjoying themselves. The next one will be held in Munich and we are all looking forward to it.

Another get-together was held at Bad Honningen in Germany from September 7-15 last year and among the members present were Standa Kolar, Bo Vana, Ichiro Ogimura, Richard Bergmann, Ivan Andreadis, Wilmos Harangozo, F. Tokar, Zarko Dolinar and many others old and young.

favour. The sporting gesture probably cost him the match!

At the European Championships, the award went to Eva Koczian of Hungary who, despite a severe leg injury, continued to play, in all events, rather than scratch, not wanting to let down her team and doubles partner.

So far it has not been decided whether an award will be presented every year or only at World Championships. The award for Munich has already been donated and is a replica of our emblem. Our good friend, committee member, Joe Veselsky, is responsible and I am sure the recipient will like it.

DENMARK

The members of the Danish Swathling Club are offering a Cup to the Danish Association to be given annually to the player or official who has done the most for Danish table tennis. A very good idea and no



The big tournament atmosphere to which Victor refers is here depicted at Wembley on the occasion of the European Championships of 1966.

For the 1968 European Championships with the help of the French Association we were able to invite as our guests three ex-World Champions, Bo Vana of Czechoslovakia, winner of the 1938 and 1947 World Singles, Standa Kolar, also of Czechoslovakia, World Champion in 1936 and Trudi Pritzi from Austria, World Champion in 1937. Our three guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was a happy occasion for all concerned.

AWARDS FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

To encourage "fair play" and "sporting gestures", the Club decided to give an award to the best sportsman at each World Championship. In 1967 at Stockholm, the prize went to Kjell Johansson of Sweden who, at the most critical stage in his match against Gomozkov (USSR) rectified an error made by an umpire in his

doubt will stimulate affairs in Denmark.

SWATHLING CLUB TIES

A Club tie has been designed for members and we hope they will be ready by April for the Worlds. The price will be approximately 15/-, though no need to say, those members who cannot afford to buy one, will not have to pay.

HON. IVOR MONTAGU

We are very glad that the President of the International Table Tennis Association accepted our invitation to join the Club as an Honorary Member. In his letter he says: "I shall be glad to accept and wish every success to the Club in achieving its aims. I am sure my Mother would have been glad to hear of its foundation. My regards to All members."

NATIONAL TEAMS COMPETITION

by Les Davies

INTO THE FOURTH ROUND

WE are now into the Fourth Round of all competitions. In the WILMOTT CUP Competition three of last season's semi-finalists are still battling for eventual honours.

Willesden, the holders, with practically the same team, are strongly placed with, one surmises, *London Civil Service* their strongest Southern opponent.

This discounts *Gloucester* who, without Bryan Merrett and Ian Harrison will find it harder to surmount each remaining obstacle.

In the Northern half *Birmingham* and *Bolton* appear to be favourites although *Huddersfield* with J. Mear, J. Kedge and D. Hirst had a convincing win over *North Yorks*.

Oxford's match with *Reading* provided thrills with the result of 5-4 including four three game sets. D. White (*Oxford*) featured in two of these with four games going to deuce!

E. Hall of *Bristol* won two sets against the weakened *Gloucester* side. His team mates were unable to match his form and consequently *Bristol* were once again unable to reach the inter-zone rounds.

Against *North Middlesex*, *Willesden* had no difficulty whatsoever. All sets were won in straight games.

ROSE BOWL—*Huddersfield Ladies*, Miss Lee, Miss Preston and Mrs. Dunne played well to beat *Chesterfield* but praise must be accorded to Mrs. S. Pegg who won two sets for the losers.

It was no fault of Mrs. Coop that *Bournemouth* went down to *Southampton*. She won all her games and must have felt pleased with her efforts but sorry for her Team.

Newcomers *Guildford* are certainly making their presence felt. In an exciting encounter they defeated *Slough's* Misses J. Shirley, J. Williams and B. Camps by 5 sets to 4. It was only until the ninth set that Mrs. Miles decided the issue by defeating Miss Williams. With the Haward Sisters, *Guildford* were well represented.

With the exception of *Birmingham* last season's semi-finalists are conspicuous by their absence.

Sutton, the holders, were beaten 6-3 by *Sittingbourne* in the first round then *Sittingbourne* went down 9-0 to *Central London*!

Birmingham easily defeated *Midland neighbours Northampton*. It is noticeable that near-veteran Mrs. Griffiths is still winning games.

Romford's Mrs. Hewitt played extremely well for the losers against *Southend*. She beat each of the opposing players.

CARTER CUP—Three of last season's semi-finalists remain in the competition. This is surprising having regard to the age limit condition.

Bromley, holders, defeated *Bognor* without losing a set. Their team of C. Jones, S. Enderby and R. Tilling played convincingly although S. Morley offered the greatest resistance for the losers.

National Teams Comp. continued

North Herts, narrowly succumbed to Dunstable who won 5-4. Three sets went to three games.

North Yorks, have also done well in their first year. They will however find N. Herts, very strong opposition in the quarter-finals.

Another close match resulted when Slough played N. Middlesex. Apart from the 5-4 result no fewer than four sets required a deciding game.

BROMFIELD TROPHY

Sittingbourne won well against Leicester although short of their best players.

This is the first time that Birmingham has not reached the semi-finals. Dark horse Hull beat them 5-2. Miss King played particularly well for Hull.

Miss A. Hutchins won her three easily when assisting Bournemouth against Southampton.

The holders (Slough) scraped through against Barking. The Pacitto sisters again proved their strength although Miss S. Beckworth, in particular, played well for the losers.

NATIONAL CLUB COMPETITION

The Rules of this competition are being revised. County Secretaries will be notified as soon as possible. Will Counties' Committees please note that they will be again asked to forward nominees. Champion county clubs, only, will be eligible for entry into the competition.

From the Editor's Postbag

GRADING SYSTEM

I was extremely interested to read in the December issue of Table Tennis News about ranking in general and gradings in particular.

Being a very keen (amateur) statistician I set about looking into various grading systems in 1962 looking for one which would serve a small league equally as well as it would if used on a National scale.

I finally settled on a system similar to that used in the chess world and this system is now mid-way through it's initial official season in the Leicester and District League where every one of some 900 players are Graded (and consequently ranked) according to strength—right from the top player down to the raw beginner.

Basically it works like this:

Each player has a Grading number (in Leicester the top player has 329 and the bottom few around 70-80) which serve solely as a comparison. Every time a player plays he receives his *opponents* number, plus 50 if he wins or minus 50 if he loses. The resulting number is added to that player's Grand Total for the season.

The only concession is that if a player beats another with a number more than 50 below his own then this *does not count*. Similarly for the

player who loses to a player more than 50 above. The idea being that if the difference is more than 50 then the higher Graded player should always win.

If the lower player wins then this is counted for both players.

This system may at first sound complicated but it is extremely easy to apply and, the most important point, most accurate.

At the commencement of the season each player receives a number, based on the previous season's results, which he keeps for the rest of that season and this is not altered until the beginning of the next season.

However, for purposes of short term selection, etc., each player's results over any period whatsoever can be easily grouped and analysed (by dividing number of sets played into points totalled giving a new Grading for that particular period) which, of course, is the whole idea of such a system.

I hope this letter is of some interest to someone, especially perhaps Tom Blunn, and you might note that this Grading System is easily adaptable to a large organisation (the British Chess Federation use one very similar to cover the whole of Britain).

I can supply more details if necessary.

JOHN BOWNNESS

Leicester & Dist. T.T.L.
28, Drinkstone Road,
Leicester, LE5 5DH.

HEAVY ONUS

LESLIE Constable suggests (Table Tennis News, January) that the service rules do not apply to international matches. My own experience supports this view, and I shall never forget what happened after I had faulted the German, Arndt, for rolling the ball out of his hand instead of projecting it upwards (after two warnings). There was a loud whisper from one of the eminent English officials sitting behind me, "do not call any more faults".

The position is a little better nowadays, but there is still the widespread impression that foreign players should not be faulted for service; otherwise, they may not come to this country at all!

However, I would like to bring up an entirely new subject: the heavy onus on Umpires of doubles matches. This is what they have to do:

1. Watch the service to see that:
 - (a) the ball is projected upwards (?);
 - (b) from the flat (?) hand;
 - (c) from behind the table.
2. See that the ball lands in the correct half of both the server's and the receiver's court.
3. See if it hits the net en route.
4. See that the correct order of striking is maintained: (difficult this if the players are all unknown to the umpire).
5. Be prepared at all times to tell the players who exactly is serving

continued on page 12

THE WINNING PAIR FROM SPALDING

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Federal Germany's female captain, Helga Kaiser, signs the visitors' book at Bury Town Hall watched by members of the team and the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. John Lord. Stood on the far left is Northern Staff Coach, Peter Simpson who drove the team over from Hull. Next, inside, is the bespectacled figure of John Henderson, the match organiser who is the Hon. Treasurer and Match Secretary of the Bury and District League. *Photo by courtesy of the Bury Times.*

IAN AND JENNY STEAL THE SHOW

by Geo. R. Yates

England 3 Federal Germany 5, at Bury January 4, 1969

IF only England's juniors could have reversed the order of play, a 0-4 interval deficit would have forced their backs to the wall and brought from them a face-saving comeback.

Well as young Simon Heaps began the match against Klaus Scheven, one could not fault him for lack of effort despite his loss.

Lack of fire, doubtless attributable to nerves, was sadly lacking from our girls in their doubles set that followed and Tony Boasman, after a bright beginning against Holger Schlohm, suffered a disappointing fade-out.

Christine Mann was much more "with it" in her singles set against Rose Diebold but victory went to the better player.

Jenny Cornock returned to the table for the mixed doubles in partnership with Ian Robertson, and like Miss Mann in the previous set, shook herself free from hesitancy to excel in a well merited win.

The match was irretrievably lost when Boasman and Heaps went down in the boys' doubles, but nothing could tarnish the glitter of England's successes in the final two sets.

Firstly, Miss Cornock whistled her way past Siglinde Prell to stir the audience out of their reverie.

Robertson saw to it they were kept awake in the final encounter when, in the manner of an animated Disney creation, he accounted for Rudi Sitzmann who capitulated under all-action pressure. Scores (in match order) were:—

S. Heaps lost to K. Scheven -19, -18;
J. Cornock/C. Mann lost to R. Diebold/S. Prell -13, -13;
A. Boasman lost to H. Schlohm 11, -18, -8;
Miss Mann lost to Miss Diebold -15, 17, -12;

I. Robertson/Miss Cornock beat R. Sitzmann/Miss Prell -12, 15, 18;
Boasman/Heaps lost to Sitzmann/M. Weiss -15, -17;
Miss Cornock bt Miss Prell 16, 13.
Robertson bt Sitzmann 14, -13, 16.

ENGLAND JUST LOSE AGAIN

by Laurie Landry

England 4 Federal Germany 6, at Barnsley, January 6, 1969.

FEDERAL Germany again defeated England by a close margin in the second junior international but, again, a 1-4 deficit at the half-way stage was no position from which to build a victory.

Whilst Nicky Jarvis only just lost in his first international, in the first set on, Melvin Waldman just could not produce the form of the previous day when he went down to Sitzmann, the visitors' No. 1.

John Dabin gained his revenge over Manfred Weiss to make it 1-2 but the loss of the girls' doubles—the one set we really expected to win—and the boys' took the Germans into a 4-1 lead.

Jarvis played excellently to win his other singles. So did Waldman and Dabin but they just could not win. Waldman led by a game and 13-7 against Schlohm.

Linda Bashford and Susan Howard both managed to win in straight games which makes their doubles defeat all the more surprising. Match order scores were:—

N. Jarvis lost to H. Schlohm -19, -19;
M. Waldman lost to R. Sitzmann -16, -7;
J. Dabin bt M. Weiss -16, 14, 14.
L. Bashford/S. Howard lost to R. Diebold/S. Prell -12, -13;
Jarvis/Waldman lost to Scheven/Sitzmann -17, 17, -11;
Miss Bashford bt Miss Diebold 20, 15;
Jarvis bt Weiss 16, -9, 13;
Waldman lost to Schlohm 22, -19, -15;
Miss Howard bt Miss Prell 19, 19;
Dabin lost to Sitzmann -13, 16, -17.

FEDERAL GERMAN JUNIOR TOUR

YORKSHIRE JUNIOR OPEN by Rea Balmford

FLETCHER PROVES HIS POINT

PLAYED for the first time on a Sunday, at Hull Y.P.I.'s new Sports Hall on January 5th, the Yorkshire Junior Open attracted an entry which included not only all but four of the top twenty-four ranked juniors, but twelve more Group "A" and "B" players. In addition Federal Germany entered their full international side which had beaten an England team 5-3 at Bury, Lancs. on the previous night.

The Germans were not as dominant as usual, even though two of the five Under-17 titles—the Boys' Singles and the Mixed—went abroad, the former for the third successive year.

1969 winner was top-ranked Rudi Sitzmann, who got home with a 16, 18 win over local boy Alan Fletcher, who in no way disgraced himself in an entertaining final.

Fletcher, in fact, recently demoted from No. 5 to No. 8 in the National Rankings, "thumbed his nose" at the selectors with straight wins over Federal Germany's No. 2, Klaus Scheven and higher ranking England players Simon Heaps (No. 7) and Nicky Jarvis (No. 5).

John Dabin, ranked No. 2, fell to Manfred Weiss, who was Jarvis's victim in the quarters and Tony Boasman (No. 6) was on the wrong end of a three-gamer with Sitzmann at the same stage.

But the real shock of the event came in Round 2 where, in his first outing Ian Robertson, who has made a meteoric rise to No. 4 in the rankings, fell to up-and-coming Sheffield boy David Rayner -11, 14, -10.

Rayner went on to beat Holger Schlohm before going down to Melvyn Waldman in the quarters. Waldman himself had found Sitzmann just that little bit too good after taking the first game.

MOVED UP

Surrey's Howard girls, holders of the U-15 singles and doubles titles, moved up to take both senior crowns, with Susan the singles winner with a surprisingly easy win over Linda Bashford.

Another pair to move up were Boasman/Fletcher, who graduated from the U-15 to the senior Boys' Doubles winners.

Jarvis took over the U-15 title and Susan Beckwith the counterpart girls' event with a final win over Valerie King who, in a difficult passage, had dismissed "bogey" player Linda Bashford and Paula Brenchley, after the latter had put an end to top seed Lynda Chesson.

The two Kent girls paired to win the U-15 Doubles and in two U-13 events, the favourites, Heaps and Linda Howard, were never troubled.

U-17

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

R. SITZMANN (Fed. Germany) bt M. Waldman (Middx.) -18, 19, 15;
A. FLETCHER (Yorks.) bt N. Jarvis (Yorks.) -20, 22, 16.
Final: SITZMANN bt Fletcher 16, 18.

Girls' Singles: Semi-final:

S. HOWARD (Surrey) bt R. Diebold (Fed. Germany) 8, 16; L. BASHFORD (Yorks.) bt J. Cornock (Warwks.) 16, -15, 17.
Final: HOWARD bt Bashford 12, 18.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

A. BOASMAN (Lancs.)/FLETCHER bt K. Scheven/R. Sitzmann (Fed. Germany) 17, 9; P. FREEMAN (Durham)/I. ROBERTSON (Northumb.) bt H. Schlohm/M. Weiss (Fed. Germany) 13, -8, 12.
Final: BOASMAN/FLETCHER bt Freeman/Robertson -7, 14, 17.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

L. HOWARD (Surrey)/HOWARD bt Diebold/S. Prell (Fed. Germany) 21, 19; CORNOCK/S. LISLE (Lancs.) bt Bashford/C. Mann (Middx.) 19, 19.
Final: HOWARD/HOWARD bt Cornock/Lisle 11, 20.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

WEISS/DEIBOLD bt Scheven/Lisle 17, -18, 9; SCHLOHM/CORNOCK bt Jarvis/Bashford 20, 17.
Final: WEISS/DIEBOLD bt Schlohm/Cornock 17, 16.

U-15

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

JARVIS bt S. Heaps (Ches.) 19, 10;
BOASMAN bt N. Fulstow (Yorks.) -20, 17, 19.
Final: JARVIS bt Boasman -17, 20, 16.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

S. BECKWITH (Essex) bt S. Broadbent (Yorks.) -20, 15, 14; V. KING (Yorks.) bt P. Brenchley (Kent) 19, 18.
Final: BECKWITH bt King 14, 11.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

FULSTOW/JARVIS bt Boasman/I. Horsham (Essex) 17, 19; HEAPS/P. TAYLOR (Herts.) bt P. Guttormsen (Kent)/R. Hellaby (Essex) -15, 8, 16.
Final: FULSTOW/JARVIS bt Heaps/Taylor 10, 16.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

BRENCHLEY/L. CHESSON (Kent) bt J. Hellaby/S. Read (Essex) 20, 16; BECKWITH/L. HOWARD bt J. Dyer (Lancs.)/King 17, -19, 15.
Final: BRENCHLEY/CHESSON bt Beckwith/L. Howard 14, 13.

U-13

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

HEAPS bt C. Thompson (Yorks.) 11, 15; GUTTORMSEN bt J. Fuller (Norfolk) -18, 15, 7.
Final: HEAPS bt Guttormsen 13, 13.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

L. HOWARD bt J. Barker (Yorks.) 7, 12; G. MACREA (Surrey) bt J. Walker (Yorks.) 11, 17.
Final: L. HOWARD bt Macrea 10, 12.

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED

by **GEORGE LAMBELLE**, Press Officer, Teesside Open

There's been a revolution in the six towns of Teesside. No fighting. Just a change of mind that's made men realise the importance of enjoying their spare time. Twelve months ago table tennis was represented nationally with an open tournament of no great significance. Other sports were similarly unimportant. Now everything has exploded and this month sees the biggest table tennis event ever to take place in the North of England. This article is about the place where it all happened . . .

The hazy winter skies of Teesside balance themselves precariously on fulcrums of chimneys, cooling towers and cranes. And they echo to the clanging of steel girders, the hissing of welding equipment that upstages the whispering of scientists as the top brains of Britain contribute to the progress of a country.

Teesside, in short, is a Great Industrial Conurbation. The locals have another name for it, but whatever its called Teesside boasts the greatest chemical complex in the world, and traditions welded in the steel of bridges and big ships.

But ask the workmen about their home and they'll probably talk about the beer—heavy gravity ale measured in happiness six pints at a time.

All things considered, it's a fair mixture of brains and brawn which has suddenly become a puzzlement with spare time suddenly becoming Leisure—in the hand books of sociology students. Everywhere speakers use the new expression and secure themselves a wise sea of nodding heads some of which actually understand. And the result is that Teesside strolls into 1969 ahead of the country with facilities of an incredible standard.

It came about mainly because of the parochial pastime of civic rivalry. About 15 years ago, Billingham started work on what has since become a super town centre, the eye-catching hub of which is its sports forum. And it was the Forum that started things going. Every town on Teesside wanted one.

Stockton built a sports centre. Thornaby did the same and called it a pavilion. Eston is opening a sports centre in a week or two. Other things have gone alongside these developments such as swimming baths, which dot the landscape like freckles on a teenager. There's golf, cricket, football, tennis (indoor and outdoor), squash courts, ice skating, ten-pin bowling, indoor bowling (as per the park greens), gymnastics, netball, basketball

Just name it and it's more than just duplicated on Teesside. Table tennis is top of the lot. It has suddenly caught on in incredible fashion. Football, cricket, golf and other formerly one-sport clubs have all formed table tennis sections. They've all joined the leagues until there are so many it's too time-taking a job to count them all. But what's more to the point, they've set the scene for something bigger. This month, they'll get it. We originally called it the Teesside Open. But events have turned it into a five-nation triple event with a European League match between

England and Rumania on February 21st, an International Team Match involving England, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Australia, Scotland and eight top county teams, and the Open itself, which automatically has become truly international. We can say a lot about these matches in an effort to persuade people to come. Indeed we've done so as part of one of the biggest publicity drives that has ever taken place on Teesside. We've got the best players in Europe competing. There's the interest of the European League, with England well placed. There's the interest of television broadening the scope of the audience (I.T.V. are showing the highlights of the League match 24 hours later). Our local station, Tyne-Tees Television, has already expressed an interest and has carried an interview with our international juniors together with an exhibition of play. And there's the promise of more T.V. to come.

But the purpose of this article is to tell you more about the place in which all this is occurring. Earlier this year the six towns of Teesside were joined by statute into one county borough. After only a few months we find the towns joined in spirit too. The days of rivalry are over and the understanding of what to do with leisure is virtually complete. Even the left wing fighters of the Thirties have changed their outlook. They encourage all sports. And so far as table tennis is concerned councillors young and old have turned up trumps. Last year's Open was run by enthusiasts for enthusiasts. This year the event has become a council-sponsored spectacular. The new sports centre at Eston will house it. Council officials are spending a great deal of time on the venture. All our literature and advertising is being prepared by the council. They regard it as prestige for a young area flexing its muscles and showing itself to be more than a sweat shop producing steel and chemicals.

And that means the ambitious table tennis organisers of the area have suddenly been endowed with the means to put Teesside ahead of the rest of the country in this sport. If you live elsewhere and dispute this, that's all to the good.

But we're setting the standards now and it's up to you to beat them. The England number one was born in Middlesbrough. We've three nationally ranked juniors, two of whom played for England juniors last month. And none of them are sure of victory against their local rivals. Their ambitions mean fighting times ahead for the seniors all over the country.

Facilities are tremendous. Take the hall at Eston where the inter-

nationals will be played. Jaques tables . . . superb spectator accommodation and information . . . the best lighting in the world (quartz iodine) . . . and we're confident that this month will show us the best audience in the world.

Leagues are drawing players from all strata of society to such an extent that it's clearly a greater leveller than socialism in the extreme.

Everyone in Teesside wants these matches—not just for the sake of one event, but for what they can bring in future years. Failure is unthinkable. Indeed it's virtually impossible. The council led the way and local businessmen have followed. One man, for instance, has offered about £200 worth of support; the local newspaper is putting up a trophy and helping to advertise the event with features and a competition; other firms are donating cash and prizes; table tennis officials are working hundreds of man hours covering every aspect of the tournament from hospitality to actual play; press and television coverage to stewarding and umpiring. If you're coming to stay, incidentally, let us know and we'll fix you up with the accommodation you want (write to Trevor Stevenson, Accommodation Secretary, Teesside Open Table Tennis Championships, 61, Westmorland Road, Lakes Estate, Redcar, Teesside). You'll see top class table tennis from players soon to compete in the English Open and World Championships, all approaching their best.

When the games begin it will mean the end of a year of organising, pleading and thanking. Then we start on the next one.

We've done everything we can to give England an event to be proud of. The world is coming to Teesside to watch and to play table tennis. The world will take home memories to pass on to its friends. You can do the same.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by Harry Levine

NOVELTY DOUBLES AN INNOVATION

THE Third Annual Individual Tournament took place on December 23rd at Severn Street Athletic Institute. There were 220 entries from individuals and 30 schools were represented.

Although proving difficult to organise, the novelty doubles, in which strong players were paired with weaker ones, caused a great deal of fun.

One outstanding feature was the discovery of 11-years-old Alan Cotton of Brandwood Secondary School, who played his first game of table tennis only three weeks previously, yet

managed to win the Under-12 event, in splendid style.

The prizes were presented by Warwickshire international, Ralph Gunnion, who complimented the players on the high standard of their play and on their strong spirit.

Tribute was paid to Mr. Adrian Evans, the Treasurer, who shouldered the major part of the preparatory work of the tournament, and who was the man responsible for obtaining the large number of entries.

Results:—

Under-12.

G.S.: L. Mills (Nechells, Eliot St.) bt G. Mills (Brandwood) 14, 16.

B.S.: A. Cotton (Brandwood) bt D. Bailey (Nechells, Eliot St.) 18, -15, 13.

Under-13:

G.S.: L. Mills bt S. Price (Nechells Park) 17, 15.

B.S.: J. Nix (Turves Green) bt J. Lutwyche (Gower) 16, 16.

Under-15:

G.S.: W. Hayward (Camp Hill Grammar) bt D. St. Ledger (Nechells Park) 4, 8.

B.S.: R. Broadmore (Moor End) bt L. Mucklow (Alderlea) -18, 20, 14.

Under-17:

G.S.: W. Hayward bt S. Bailey (Nechells, Eliot St.) 15, 14.

B.S.: F. Gunning (Moseley Grammar) bt M. Davies (Nechells Park) 6, 15.

Novelty Doubles:

L. Fulford/A. Mustoe bt F. Gunning/S. Green 21, -10, 17.

As a result of the matches played last term, the following teams have qualified for the Premier Division:—

Saltley Grammar "A" and "B"
Sheldon Heath Comprehensive "A"
Moseley Secondary (South)
Moseley Grammar (South)
Greenhore College (South)
Turves Green (Kings Norton)
Nechells, Eliot St. (Aston)
Nechells Park (Aston).

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

1969 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by W. S. MACKENZIE

THE Semi-Finals and Finals of the National Event, which is being conducted for the first time wholly by the English Schools Table Tennis Association, will be held on Saturday, 29th March, at the Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. This is a fine recently built centre, and 20 or so tables will be in use, with specially sited tables for the finals. Play will start at 2-0 p.m. in 6 events which are open to all schools in England, and 30 counties will at some stage have taken part. These events are Boys, under-18, 15 and 13 and Girls in the same age groups. Teams will consist of four players all from the same school, and matches will be of 8 sets, all singles.

The response to this competition has shown a tremendous development in the playing of organised table tennis. 15 new county associations have been formed in recent months which leaves a gap in the country of only 8 counties. Progress is being made, however, and it is confidently hoped that the 1970 Nationals will be complete.

Senior clubs are asked to do all they can to help the schools, for here are the champions of the future.

MAUREEN HEPPELL

by Philip Reid

THE small market town of Hexham, situated as it is near to Hadrian's Wall, has a long and distinguished past. But until recent years it has had few claims to fame in the sporting line until an enthusiastic professional dancing teacher put a change to all that.

For many years Len Heppell has been a keen table tennis player and when his younger sister, Philomena, showed some enthusiasm he decided the time had come for Hexham to stake a claim in the International field.

Len wanted Philomena to be England's No. 1 Junior and he had no intention of settling for less. Just like that!

As could be imagined, the Hexham League had no players of top class so Len decided to undertake the whole task of getting his sister up to the standard required.

Although, as he would be the first to admit, Len is far from being a top class player himself, he had priceless assets of enthusiasm and dedication and it is to his credit that by the mid-1950's his sister had become England's No. 1 Junior.

TIME WAS RIGHT

Whilst many people might sit back and consider their work done, Len was just waiting for the opportunity to coach his daughter Maureen. In 1962, when Maureen had just reached thirteen-years-of-age, Len decided the time was right.

Maureen recalled, "I had heard so much about what a good player my auntie was that I couldn't get to the table quick enough when dad decided it was time I took up the game."

She didn't have far to go when she wanted to play. The Fandango Night Club, where the Heppell family reside, also boasts a table tennis club so since the start Maureen has been blessed with unlimited practising facilities.

From the outset Len decided to enter Maureen in as many tournaments as possible and, even in the first season, Maureen was successful.

She won the Sussex Junior Open Under-13 girls' singles and travelled to Scotland where, partnered by Pam Mortimer, she won the women's doubles. The round trip to Hastings and back was 690 miles but it was to become typical of the distances Maureen was prepared to travel.

The summer of 1963 saw Maureen devoting many hours to building up her defence and the outcome was some excellent results the following season.

NO REAL HINT

Amongst them was the women's consolation singles at the N.E. of England—a good win this, for a 14-year-old—the girl's doubles at Sussex and the girl's singles at the South Yorks.

Playing for Northumberland in the Junior Division (North), Maureen started her County career by winning six of her eight sets. It was

altogether a satisfactory start but it gave no real hint of the successes which were to follow.

Maureen began the 1964-5 season as No. 3 Junior (behind Pauline Hemmings and Linda Henwood) and promptly proceeded to build up a big total of tournament successes.

The English Open always has a very strong entry but Maureen reached the final of the Junior singles before losing to Jutta Kruger of Federal Germany.

It was against Federal Germany that Maureen made her Junior International debut. "I was very nervous" Maureen told me, "But I was determined not to let it show if possible."

Certainly it was not reflected in her play and neither in singles or doubles was Maureen beaten even though England lost the match 5-4.

No. 1 JUNIOR

1965-6 saw Maureen starting as No. 2 Junior, behind Pauline Hemmings, but it was not long before she got under way on the tournament circuit again.

Hexham may be out of the way but it never prevented Maureen from going to a tournament. It did not prevent her from winning many either for in that fabulous season Maureen won no fewer than fourteen Junior Opens an all-time record and one not likely to be broken for some time.

Amongst her numerous junior titles was a senior one—the Newbury, in which Maureen beat England No. 5 Pauline Martin (as she was then) and Beverley Sayer.

England selectors not only moved her up the Junior Ranking List to No. 1 but also put her in the senior team for the European Championships, to be held that season at Wembley.

Len Heppell must have been a very proud man indeed when Maureen was given the No. 1 ranking. To coach first his sister and then his daughter to No. 1 Junior is no mean feat but Len never had any doubts he would achieve this ambition.

In the European Championships, Maureen reached the fourth round of the women's singles and also won her only set in the team event for England. So the long trips were paying off. I doubt if anyone travelled more than Maureen to play. London and back is 560 miles but it is a trip Maureen made regularly.

In the early stages, Maureen had been predominantly defensive, Len insisting that she must have a sound basic game on which to build. Her ability to slow the game down to her own speed has always been one of her characteristics but, by now, she was beginning to attack considerably more, incorporating a well-executed loop.

DISAPPOINTED

Maureen must have been disappointed to find herself in the No. 2 Junior spot at the start of the 1966-7 season but it was never reflected in her play.



She set about the tournament circuit with her usual enthusiasm and by February she had won six women's singles titles.

On the County scene, she was defeated only once—by Connie Moore of Lancashire. A trip to the World Championships was clearly there and Maureen showed up well in the individual events at Stockholm where she beat Denise Gavros (Australia) 3-0 before losing, over five games, to Agnes Simon.

Maureen's first disappointment had been to find herself relegated from No. 1 Junior. Her second concerned the team events in Stockholm where, after playing in the first two matches—against Luxembourg and Bulgaria, winning both her sets in straight games—she was never called upon again.

The season ended with a trip to Denmark for the European Youth Meeting in which Maureen distinguished herself by reaching the final of the girls' doubles (with Karenza Mathews) and the quarter-final of the girls' singles.

ALREADY ESTABLISHED

Maureen's first season out of the Junior ranks brought her more trophies but Maureen had already established herself as a senior whilst still a junior. "It didn't worry me" Maureen said, "I had already played in so many senior games that not having the junior ones simply meant I played less games."

Certainly few players had been more successful as a junior than Maureen. Playing for Northumberland, she emerged with a 100% record in Division 2 (North).

A trip to Lyons for the Europeans followed, where Maureen played well, winning two and losing two in the team events.

Maureen has never lost any of her initial zest for the game but she may well be asking herself, "Shall I get any better?" I think the answer is in the affirmative.

At one time I would have been inclined to fault her footwork, but this has been greatly improved with the special exercises worked out by her father, who now coaches some of the Newcastle United footballers in speeding up their movements.

Whilst still able to defend with the best, Maureen now seems to be on the attack very much more. To really break through into the top grade she will need to put one or two really big wins against foreign opposition behind her.

Her win against the Czech girl, Milena Polackova at Oxford was excellent but in her limited experience against overseas opponents Maureen has yet to penetrate any of the top players.

I feel, however, this is only a matter of time. Maureen is still only nineteen, yet has two European Championships and a World Championship behind her.

When her experience blends with her unquestioned ability, then I think we shall see some really good wins.

Even if Maureen gets no better—though I cannot see her having reached her peak yet, I think all the effort will still have been worthwhile. For she has shown what dedication, talent and opportunity can do for an aspiring player.

The opportunity has been provided by an enthusiastic father and an understanding mother. The dedication and talent, however, are Maureen's own.

Without them she would have got nowhere. This season and next are, to my mind, the most vital ones in Maureen's table tennis career. Many people will watch them with interest.

Heavy Onus cont. from page 9

- and to whom (difficult where there is a slow, defensive ladies' four).
6. Keep a look out for any stray balls or other interference.
 7. Call the score.

And to add to all this, the Umpire is expected to stand (thereby losing some concentration) just in order to check on "2" above.

In my opinion, it is absolutely impossible for an umpire to be certain of seeing all "net" services whilst standing upright. It is hard enough when seated. Surely the most difficult place to spot a net ball is from directly in line with and above the net. I would like to wager that there is not one active umpire in the country who has not, on at least one occasion, been called to task by the players for missing a net ball. It is not too bad when both sides agree, but when one side claims a let and the other side just shake their shoulders as if to say "you are the umpire—why ask us", it can get most embarrassing for the poor official.

I would like to see provision made in the rules for a service judge.

My first thought was to make such a judge concentrate only upon net balls, and he could well be one of the "tiddlers". As such, he could be used in both doubles and singles matches. Alternatively, the judge could be restricted to doubles, in which case, he could look after the question of where the ball lands on the service. The umpire could then remain seated, with the judge standing behind him.

It will be interesting to see if my suggestions gain any support from either other Umpires or from Official Circles.

A. L. Kayes.

216, East Lane, Wembley, Middx.

Champions at 'The Palace'



E.T.T.A. President, T. Austin Harrison, of Scarborough, is here seen presenting the award and replica to fellow Yorkshireman Denis Neale after his retention of the English Closed men's singles title.



Peter Madge also "catches" the smiles of the new women's singles champion, Judy Williams, of Eastbourne, and E.T.T.A. Chairman, Conrad Jaschke.

ENGLISH OPEN 1969

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date:

27th February (10-00 a.m.)—Team Competitions and Qualifying Rounds.

(7-15 p.m.)—FINALS of Team Competitions.

28th February (9-30 a.m.)—Individual Competition with selected events in the evening.

1st March (9-30 a.m.)—SEMI-FINALS of Individual events.

(2-15 p.m.)—FINALS.

Venue:

The Dome and Corn Exchange—Brighton.

Draw:

Shell Mex House, Strand, London, W.C.2.
Monday, 10th February, 1969.

Team Competition:

It is anticipated that teams from the following countries will participate—Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania, U.S.S.R., Federal Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands and the Home Counties.

Admission Charges:

27th February—all day—5/- (2/6d. children).

28th February—all day—5/- (2/6d. children).

1st March—morning only—5/- (2/6d. children).

Special Rover tickets allowing for admission at any time, except for the Saturday afternoon finals, will be available at a charge of 15/-.

Tickets for the INDIVIDUAL FINALS (numbered and reserved) will be available from the Box Office at The Dome, Brighton, or the E.T.T.A. Office, at £1 and 10/- (no half-price tickets for children).

Publicity:

Crown Posters, Car Stickers and Hand-bills are available on request from the E.T.T.A. OFFICE.

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AROUND THE COUNTIES

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

by Grove Motlow

GRIEVOUS LOSS

OUR League suffered a grievous loss on January 3 when our genial President, Mr. Len Ollis of Bath, passed away. He had been ill for some time but fought on bravely. Regretfully, he died at Winsley Chest Hospital, near Bath.

Len, as he was affectionately known, was one of our founder members in 1935 and was a great stalwart since its inception. He was appointed President 7 years ago and the game of Table Tennis has lost a great servant.

His genial nature endeared him to all, and every member of our League join in tendering sincere condolences to his wife, son and daughter.

Cheltenham were beaten in their home match against Swindon by the narrow margin of 5-4. Tony Wolff (Senior) whose tactics of slowing the game down, and in consequence lording his opponents to make mistakes, completely "foxed" D. Harvey and A. Kirby of Cheltenham and it was left to Martin White to beat him.

A. Wolff (Junior) played well for the visitors winning two including a good win over White whilst G. Turnbull beat Kirby. Harvey and White each had two wins for Cheltenham.

Taunton were beaten 6-3 in their home match with Exeter. They started off well with a 2-0 lead when R. Pendleton and J. Philpott beat P. Stone and M. Putland but they lost the next 6 sets. Once again Exeter's star M. Rattue, secured a maximum whilst Stone won two and Putland one. For Taunton, R. Pendleton won 2 and Philpott 1.

Plymouth were surprisingly beaten at home by Weston 6-3. For Weston, Tony Kinsey was in brilliant form winning all his three whilst J. Hartry won 2 and Ray Philpott 1.

For Plymouth, A. Wright won 2 and R. Parkins 1. Rather surprisingly David James failed to record a win although each set he played went to three.

Bristol "B" were beaten 6-3 by Newport who were strengthened by the inclusion of the old Welsh international, George Evans who, on debut, won his three despite having to fight against Brian Reeves.

In the Ladies' Section, Swindon at home to Weston, won 6-3 after being 2-3 down. Both teams were without their No. 1 players, Gwen Hazell and Doreen Henderson respectively.

Mrs. Bull, making a welcome return to Weston, did well to win 2 whilst Mrs. Sare beat Mrs. J. Price. For Swindon, Doreen Onslow won all 3, Beryl Moody 2 and Janet Price 1.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

THURSTON GIVES THE CLUE

NEW Chesterton Institute, at the half-way stage in the Cambs. League, have a clear lead in Division I and appear to be well set to retain their title.

Vying for second place are Y.M.C.A., Guildhall and Cambridge University. Soham III and Impington VC I are the leaders in Division 2 both being strong promotion candidates.

John Thurston heads the first division averages with a 100% record giving the obvious clue as to why the Institute team are on top of the division. J. Corral (University) has an average of 89% and is in second place followed by Tony Littlechild (Press) and Thurston's teammate Stephen Andrews.

In the Wilmott Cup, Cambridge City beat Ely in the Zone Final by a comfortable 7-2 margin. In this match, however, Eddie Sharpe gave Alan Ponder a great fight and a marathon set which went 22-20, 24-26, 22-20 to Ponder.

Both Ely and Cambridge City have had a good season so far in the S.E. Midlands League (Men's Section) and Ely have also given a good account of themselves in the Junior and Women's Sections.

Bad luck on Barry Wilson of Wisbech who has had to cry off from two County matches, against Beds. and Herts. through domestic difficulties.

In the Cambs. v. Beds. match, Cambs. fell away after a promising start being handicapped by the inexperience of their two female players.

Cambs. were held to a draw by a versatile Herts. team and only in the last set did Cambs. save the day when Andrews beat "Gus" Albon in a three-game thriller.

Late News

Cambridge City gave their chances a big boost when they defeated North Herts. 9-1 in the S.E.M. League, John Thurston beating Peter Taylor convincingly 10 and 11.

S.E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE

At this stage it seems that Cambs. City and Northampton are going to fight it out for the championship of the men's section with Cambridge the slight favourites.

In the Junior Section, Dunstable, North Herts. and Northampton are all going strong, Bedford would appear to have the championship of the Ladies' Section within their grasp.

Northampton are the only team with a 100% record in the Veteran Section.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Walter Reeves

PLAY OR ELSE

AT a recent County Meeting, Chesterfield were told, play at least one of your leading three men players in County League matches, or else they will not be considered for the County team.

The present County team are virtually all Chesterfield, being Colin

Deaton, Tony Hunt, John Wallhead and Miss Sandra Pegg, but up to the time of writing none of the men have played for Chesterfield in the County League.

This means that the present team representing Derbyshire, are being selected on past performances within their own county and, of course, on their record in the County Championships. Our record at present is not good with two matches played and two defeats, although in fairness to the team both matches have been against strong opposition provided by Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

In the absence of the Chesterfield players, Derby's representatives are leading the averages in the County League with Doug Foulds undefeated in Division 1. Foulds is having a good season being unbeaten in both the Derby and Midland Leagues and playing regularly for Derbyshire II.

The County Championships are returning to Matlock after an absence of 17 years and will be played off in one day on Saturday, March 29.

Matlock were the leaders of the County's revival after the war and the championships were staged in the town every year until 1952. Since then, Chesterfield and Derby have administered them with Derby changing the event from a week of evening play to the present one-day tournament style.

Leading positions in the Derbyshire County League are:

	DIVISION 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby I	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Burton I	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Chesterfield I	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
DIVISION 2							
Chesterfield II	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Derby III	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Matlock II	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
JUNIORS							
Chesterfield	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
N.E. Derby	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Derby	4	1	0	3	11	29	2

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Pike

BOTTLES AT THE READY

YOU could almost hear those champagne corks popping after Staffordshire had extended their unbeaten run with two more wins last month. The first team still have to conquer Glamorgan and Warwickshire before they can sample the bubbly, but for my money, the second string have already won the Midland division. With respect to Shropshire and Denbighshire, I cannot see either of these sides stopping Staffs from taking the title.

With the tough fixtures behind them, we may even see the juniors getting their first win soon. I hope so for Colin Pearse's sake, for he has worked hard with these youngsters in his first season as captain.

West Bromwich players, who have been the backbone of the county side for so long now, are again heading the first division of the County League. If the first half of the season is anything to go by, Walsall "A" could well be the new runners-up come next month. It is a different story however for their "B" team, who went through last season in the second division unbeaten. After three matches in the top division, they are still looking for their first point. Their youngsters are having a good season in the third division, so too are Stone "B" and Wolverhampton juniors.

Writing of Wolverhampton, there is still no definite news about a venue for their closed championships. There is some definite news however about the Robot machine they were interested in last season. Their chairman, A. H. McIlreath told me recently, that until the association have got their own headquarters, no further action would be taken. Going to Stoke before Christmas with the A.T.V. cameras, I was very impressed with the officials in the north of the county, for the way they staged the match between England and the International Club.

SURREY NOTES

by John Zenthon

UMPIRES WANTED

I apologise for not being able to offer a free holiday, green shield stamps or even sixpence off, but the person who can introduce only one potential umpire will have our heartfelt thanks. Why don't you give it a try?

No connection with the T.T. hierarchy is required. If you are an ordinary common or garden type player, or simply interested in table tennis and are prepared to put something back into the sport, then Syd Morton, Umpires Secretary, will be more than happy to start you on the road.

Contact him at 27, Westway, SW. 20 or telephone 01-243 3443. Whilst on the subject of umpiring, congratulations to Syd on his appointment as one of the four umpires who will be representing the E.T.T.A. at the World Championships. Les Dewing has been appointed as a reserve.

With Mary Wright not entering the Surrey Closed, Susan Howard should be favourite for the women's singles. Susan, although disappointing in the English Closed, was outstanding for Guildford in their Rose Bowl match against Slough when she defeated Jill Shirley. Ruth Miles was also in great form beating Jean Williams and Brenda Camps.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Ron Cox

"SAME AGAIN LANDLORD"

IN the County Championships, the Bedfordshire team did much better in their second match, by defeating Cambridgeshire 7-3. The team was Colin Crowe, Bill Asbury, Alan Nicoll, Anita James and Barbara Hammond and this team has again been selected for the match with Herts. II.

In the J.M. Rose Bowl, Bedford Ladies (Anita James, Barbara Hammond and Doreen Underwood) had a good 7-2 win over Oxford in the Zone final.

Recently, ETTA Director of Coaching Jack Carrington paid a visit to Bedford, to conduct a coaching session for coaches. In addition to local players, representatives from other leagues attended.

All players in Bedfordshire will note with interest the ranking of Trevor Taylor to No. 3. Trevor of course, lives in the County, at Stotfold and together with his younger brother Peter, is a registered member of the Bedford League, playing for the Stotfold Liberal Club.

HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH NOTES

by David Obee

TWO POINTS AWAY

THE county team came within two points of recording its first ever championship win in its match with Cambridgeshire at Soham on January 11th. In the final rubber of the evening Alan Albon faced home No. 2 Stephen Andrews and after a series of changing fortunes the score stood at 19-19 in the deciding game. The county were just two points from their first outright win, but Stephen,

displaying ice-cool nerve, pulled out two superb kills to save a point for Cambridgeshire. In the opening match of the evening the same player had come from 8-13 down in the decider against the county No. 1 David Obee to put his side 1-0 up.

Outstanding in this exciting match were Alan Ponder for the home side and for Hunts, once again the Maxfield twins. Diane gained her third consecutive win in championship matches this season and with her twin sister Mary pulled off the ladies doubles. Mary teamed up with Alan Albon for their third win in the mixed doubles.

In their county championship fix-

ture, the juniors went down 6-4 to Suffolk in a nail-biting encounter. 13-years-old Paul McArthur impressed the visitors with one singles win and a narrow defeat in his other game. With continued improvement he clearly has a fine future in table tennis.

Peterborough, after a run of 6-4 defeats pulled off a surprise 6-4 win against Northampton in the South-East Midlands League (Men's Section). Taking full advantage of John Goodall's absence they might easily have won by a wider margin. This win partly avenged the 7-2 defeat suffered at the hands of Northampton in the Wilmott Cup a month earlier.

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WILTSHIRE NOTES

by "Moonraker"

CONGRATULATIONS TO TONY, Snr.

LAST month it was 12-year-old Margaret Wolff (Swindon) who featured in my opening comment, now the spotlight switches to her father Tony (sen.) for its congratulations to Tony on his successful return to the inter-county scene with two singles victories for Wilts who were notching their first Division 2 (West) success of the season by 6-4 away to Cornwall.

Ironically Tony (sen.)—who first made his debut for Wilts, against Cornwall on October 16/59—got his "come-back" chance through the unavailability of his son Tony (jnr.).

Wilts' teenage skipper Bill Moulding (Salisbury) continued his 100% run of singles successes with two straight wins over Cornwall's Parkins and Bassett.

Though the Juniors were beaten 8-2 by Glamorgan, at Swindon, West Wilts' junior champion Richard Arney put up a great display when beating visiting No. 1 J. Grey 10, -12, 18.

Wilts' CU's secretary Arthur Catchpole has asked me to correct my remark in the December issue that Eric Scotson's departure reduced the Wilts' CU's ranks to an all-time low. Arthur states that there were only two CU's when he took over the Secretaryship while present registered CU's are: A. Ward, T. Vance, N. George, A. Catchpole (Salisbury), J. V. Ford, J. Smith, G. Broome (West Wilts.), F. Jennings, A. King (Swindon) besides National Umpire Kathleen Waters (Salisbury). Glad to put the record straight!

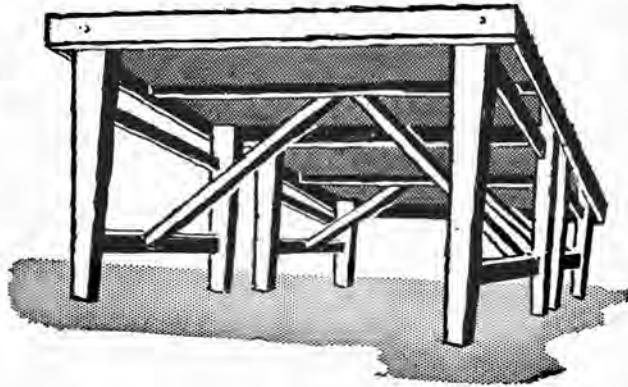
There was a unique 'inter chairman' clash when Devizes "A" drew 5-5 with West Wilts. "A" in a County League (Div. One) match. Devizes' Mick Alexander beat his West Wilts. counterpart Chick Chandler 9 and 17.

Leading Teams (as on 24th Jan., 1969)—

		Division One					
		P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Salisbury "A"	.....	6	5	0	1	46	14 10
Swindon "A"	.....	5	5	0	0	44	6 10
Devizes "A"	.....	6	4	1	1	44	16 9
Warminster	.....	7	4	0	3	44	26 8
		Women's Division					
Devizes	.....	2	2	0	0	17	3 4
Swindon	.....	2	1	0	1	7	13 2
Salisbury	.....	2	0	0	2	6	14 0
		Mixed Division					
Swindon "A"	.....	4	4	0	0	33	7 8
Devizes	.....	5	2	1	2	24	26 5
Swindon "B"	.....	4	2	0	2	15	25 4
		Junior Division					
West Wilts.	4	4	0	0	38	2 8
Swindon	3	2	0	1	21	9 4
Salisbury	3	1	0	2	7	23 2

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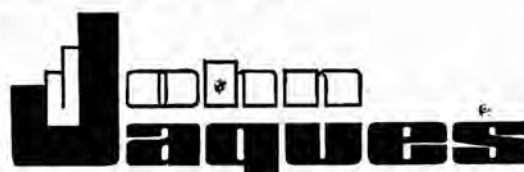
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LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

FIRST WIN FOR JANET

LEICESTERSHIRE Senior side took a heavy defeat—9-1—from Staffordshire, who looked good enough to top Division 2 (Midlands) on this form. The only Leicestershire success came in the mixed doubles, an event in which we had not taken a set since October, 1966.

Better news, however, from the juniors, where an 8-2 win over Derbyshire was recorded. Tony Branson and Chris Brewer were both unbeaten in singles and David Carter played well. Janet Hamer won her first singles and looks a very promising player. With four wins out of four, the juniors are continuing their fine spell which started in March, 1967 since when they have won nine of their ten county matches. It is perhaps not a coincidence that Branson made his debut in that first match and has played in every subsequent one. His technique and ability are beyond question. Only his temperament, when under pressure, is suspect.

Leicester are out of both the Carter Cup and Bromfield Trophy. In the Carter Cup they crashed 7-2 to Birmingham which scarcely enhances their chances of beating Warwickshire. Paul Randell and David Carter both won one. In the Bromfield Trophy, the team travelled to Sittingbourne where they also lost 7-2. Susan Baxter was the star for Leicester here, with two good wins.

In the Midland League, Leicester men's teams are having rather a lean time but in other directions the teams are doing well. The veterans are having a particularly good time, all five matches played so far have resulted in either 9-1 or 10-0 wins. The juniors, too, are progressing well. The current Leicester junior team has none of the county side in but it is, none-the-less, proving one of the strongest in the Midlands.

In the Rose Johnson Bowl third round, there were a number of "cliff-hanger" finishes, with ten of the fourteen games being decided on the final (16th) game. Best finish was at Northwood where, with 110 points start, the last game commenced with Keith Hutchinson needing 17 points to give his team victory against Wadkins. He collected exactly that number and the team won by 329 points to 328.

In the Leicester & District League, there is every indication of a number of close finishes. Peter Harrison is playing some great stuff for King Richard's Road W.M.C. who look likely champions. of 2A. Electricity have a good team this season (Norman Powell, ex Birmingham, Jimmy Mee and Phil Overend) and could be returning to the first division after a long spell out of it. Loughborough look likely to top 3A but with players of the calibre of Roger Morley, Terry Hall and Ivor Billson to call upon, this is hardly surprising. Wigston Fields are setting a hot pace in 3B whilst 6B is led by Leicester Banks.

The battle of the giants in Division 1 of the Loughborough & District Table Tennis League brought forth a 7-3 win for Loughborough 'A' over

Shepshed 'A'. It was a fine match but by the end of it no 100% records (individual) remained. Mike Meredith played well for Shepshed to beat both Billson and Brewer and Dennis Hull also beat Brewer. Nobody however made any impression on Terry Hall who emerged with three wins. Loughborough are now one of only two teams in the three divisions with 100% record. The other team is Monitor, who are having a very successful first season.

The Leicestershire Towns League is still producing some good matches. Richard Hassall (Loughborough 'B') had a sparkling debut against Coalville and won both his sets.

Coalville, previously pointless and Loughborough "A" previously 100% played an exciting match which resulted in a draw. Terry Parry and Brian Hagger both had maximums for the home side whilst the pick of the Loughborough side was Terry Hall, still undefeated in this league this season.

Good news is that Hinckley League is again operating thanks to good work by Tony Almey and some willing helpers.

Arrangements are now in hand for the 'Leicestershire Closed' — this season being held at Coalville—which will be played on February 22-23.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

STILL UNBEATEN

A SLIGHT revival in Middlesex this season with the County sides all unbeaten to the end of January, the first time for a number of years.

Melvin Waldman and Christine Mann both played for England Juniors against Federal Germany. Both were very nervous and did not win any, but the experience will doubtless do them a lot of good. Melvin is unbeaten at the moment in three junior matches and two matches in the Bernard Crouch Trophy, a competition in which Middlesex are top.

In the Inter-League competition, Willesden managed to beat Acton but had already lost to Uxbridge when they had been unable to put out their stars.

Both Acton and Willesden are still in the Wilmott Cup however, Willesden are the present holders. North Middlesex are also still going strong in the Rose Bowl and Carter Cup.

"BERNARD CROUCH TROPHY"

This competition in memory of the former England and Middx. international Bernard Crouch, who was killed in the Barnes train disaster in November 1955, is now in its thirteenth season and the original three counties are still taking part. Essex, Middlesex and Surrey all use this competition to give experience to younger players as this would have been Bernard's wish. Results so far:—

Surrey	3	Middlesex	6				
Essex	5	Surrey	4				
Middlesex	5	Essex	4				
		P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	...	2	2	0	11	7	4
Essex	.....	2	1	0	9	9	2
Surrey	.....	2	0	2	7	11	0

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John M. Barnes

TIME FOR REFLECTION

NOW that the season has progressed into the second half it is possible to assess the results and performances so far, and consider what must be done by the County and the individual leagues, clubs and players to maintain or improve on their respective positions and standards.

At the Inter-County level the position is perhaps at first sight a little discouraging but with better prospects for the future. Whilst heartened by Trevor Taylor's rapid progress in the national rankings the Senior Inter-county First Team seems unable to match his performances. In complete contrast, the Second Team remains undefeated as too are the County Junior Team. Following recent County Trials some ranking lists have been produced covering the Senior Men, and the Junior Boys and Girls.

SENIOR MEN

1. T. Taylor, North Herts.
2. E. Coster, Watford
3. B. Barr, Watford
4. (Equal)
- D. Gilbert, Watford
- D. Seaholme, Watford
- B. White, Cheshunt.
7. (Equal)—
- F. Nash, Cheshunt
- S. Seaholme, Watford
9. A. Hammond, Cheshunt
10. R. Brown, Cheshunt
11. J. Garland, Watford
12. A. Thomas, Watford

JUNIOR BOYS (TOP FIVE)

1. T. Taylor, North Herts.
2. P. Taylor, North Herts.
3. D. Rawlinson, North Herts.
4. M. Harper, North Herts.
5. M. Harris, Borehamwood

JUNIOR GIRLS

1. M. Carter, St. Albans
2. J. Hartwell, Cheshunt
3. (Equal)—
- L. Williams, Cheshunt
- S. Harding, North Herts.
5. (Equal)—
- S. Hartwell, Cheshunt
- J. Vaughan, North Herts.

The First Division of the Inter-league seems very open at the moment, with North Herts. top, Cheshunt First Team in second place with equal points, and Watford First Team, last season's championship winners, strongly challenging both and with the advantage of matches in hand. The lead in Division Two is held by Watford Seconds, with Welwyn's First and Second Teams in close second and third place, whilst Hemel Hempsted and Bishops Stortford cannot be discounted. The Junior Division is being closely contested between North Herts. First Team, Cheshunt First Team, North Herts. Second Team, and Borehamwood, all with equal points. North Herts. and Cheshunt must be favourites since they both have two matches in hand, and both have very good sets averages.

In the Watford League the Premier Division is led by Y.M.C.A. 'B' from Oxey Hall 'A'. Dave Gilbert, with a perfect record, and Brian Barr for Oxhey head the individual averages, but Y.M.C.A. hold the all round strength of the three Seaholme

brothers, David, Stuart and Geoff, beating Oxhey 6-4 and having conceded a total of only 11 sets so far.

In the Cheshunt League, with Barry White having only one defeat, and supported by two other County-ranked players, Fred Nash and Tony Hammond, and with further playing strength, East Herts. Colledge lead the First Division. Challenging strongly with matches in hand, are unbeaten Enfield Highway led by the County-ranked Roger Brown, who have already notched up victory against the Colledge. But with each set counting it will be a close finish.

The Hertfordshire Inter-league and League competitions promise to provide some interesting close finishes. Only time will provide the results.

KENT NOTES

by Charles M. Wyles

YOUNGEST EVER

COUNTY administration seems destined for a major upheaval at the next A.G.M. with three of the present officers having intimated their intention of not standing for the offices they now hold. As always, however, there is little doubt that these posts will be filled and by competent persons willing to contribute to the continuation of successful table tennis throughout the county.

County selectors hit the "jack-pot" when they chose the youngest-ever team to play in a senior County Championships fixture. Barry Meisel was the only experienced senior in the side being supported by Clive Morris, John Dabin and the Sittingbourne duo of Lynda Chesson and Paula Brenchley. They beat Norfolk 8-2 in Division 2 (South).

Due to circumstances beyond their control, the Woolwich T.T. Association who are organising this season's Kent Closed Junior Championships, have had to postpone the event until the week-end of March 8-9.

The Championships which drew a large entry will still be played at the same venue—Grove Park—and further entries will now be accepted.

"ANY MORE FOR THE SKYLARK"

Charles Wyles of 48, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex ('Phone: Hastings 391) is organising a party to visit the World Championships in Munich.

The journey will be made by Mini-bus, seating 12 persons departing London on Friday evening, April 17, and travelling via the night ferry (Dover/Ostend), arriving in Munich on Sunday afternoon.

Total cost of travel would not exceed £15 per person but members would have to make their own accommodation arrangements. Staying on the outskirts of Munich is suggested and using the Mini-bus for travel as required.

Departure for home would be after the Finals on Sunday, April 27th, with arrival in London in the early morning of Tuesday, April 29.

Further information, in leaflet form, can be had from the Organiser or the E.T.T.A. office.

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LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

BRYN SCORES "A BULL"

KEVIN Forshaw made one of his rare appearances for Manchester in Division 1 of the Lancs. and Ches. League on Jan. 29 but failed, in the company of Roy Crusham and Laurence Chapman, to halt Bolton's gallop.

Forshaw, who figured in that epic encounter with "Les" Haslam in the Lancs. Open, lost his opening set to Bryn Farnworth—a defeat from which the Mancunians never really recovered.

7-3 was the final verdict in favour of the "Trotters" with Forshaw beating John Clarke and Bob Kelly and being successful with Crusham in the doubles. Leading positions:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Bolton	6	6	0	0	48	12	12
Burnley	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Manchester	5	3	0	2	23	27	6
Stockport	4	2	0	2	25	15	4
Hyde	4	2	0	2	19	21	4

Again in Division 2 (North), Bolton have an unblemished record with their "A" team out in front. Lead positions are:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Bolton "A"	5	5	0	0	45	5	10
Liverpool "A"	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Lytham	4	2	1	1	21	19	5

Chester have a clean sheet in 2 (South) and their meeting with Stockport "A" on Mar. 27 could be all-important.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Stockport "A"	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Chester	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Urmston	5	3	0	2	31	19	6

Manchester, whose leading light Tony Boasman is currently on holiday with his parents in the Canary Islands, have the best record in the Junior Div. 1. Leaders:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Stockport	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Blackburn	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Manchester	3	3	0	0	21	9	6

Blackpool are the "dark horses" in the Ladies Div. 1 with County players Connie Moore and Pat Gleeson to rely on. Only one result has been forthcoming from the seashores to date whereas Stockport, the current champions, and Manchester have each played three and shared the spoils in their meeting.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Stockport	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Manchester	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Liverpool	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Blackpool	1	1	0	0	8	2	2

Mid-Cheshire and Wirral are the pace setters in the Youth Division both with a 100% record as follows:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Mid-Ches.	5	5	0	0	44	6	10
Wirral	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Blackburn	6	4	0	2	38	22	8

In the national cup competitions, Bolton are Lancashire's sole survivors in the Wilmott Cup and next play Chesterfield at home on Saturday, Feb. 15 (3 p.m.).

In the Zone finals, Bolton beat Liverpool 6-1 and Burnley were ousted by Stockport 6-3.

Beating Liverpool 6-3 in the Zone finals of the Rose Bowl, Manchester are called upon to travel to Northumberland and in the Carter Cup, Manchester's juniors also take to the road against Birmingham.

In the men's singles of the Manchester Closed Championships played at Manchester University's McDougall Centre on Jan. 8-10 holder Brian Kean was beaten 16, -17, 20 by John Hilton who lost to Kevin Forshaw in the final.

Benny Casofsky won the veterans' title for the 10th successive year.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:
K. Forshaw bt J. Clarke -17, 17, 17;
J. Hilton bt V. Hankey 18, 16.

Final: Forshaw bt Hilton 8, 11.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:
M. Leigh bt J. Armitage 6, 15; S. Lisle bt J. Nield 12, 14.

Final: Leigh bt Lisle 15, 7.

Men's Doubles:
D. Berry/Forshaw bt F. Eaton/Hilton 9, 11.

Women's Doubles:
Leigh/Nield bt M. Dolby/Lisle 10, -19, 14.

Mixed Doubles:
Forshaw/Nield bt Clarke/Leigh 15, 18.

Junior Singles:

A. Boasman bt K. Twitney 9, 11.

Veteran Singles:
B. Casofsky bt T. Donlon 16, -18, 11.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ralph Gunnion

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

HIGHLIGHTS of last month included our first Premier Division win, the continued success of the second team, Kath Perry dropping out of the County side and Pat Glynn's fine win over Mike Johns in the Lancashire Open.

By beating a weakened Gloucestershire side 8-1 at Nuneaton, we still have a chance of staying in the Premier Division if we can win a couple more matches.

The 2nd team's 7-3 win over Derbyshire's first was a fine all-round performance and if they continue to play so well, winning their division could be a real possibility.

It was heartening to see quite a few Birmingham players in the Lancs. Open. Glynn played exceptionally well and his success is just reward for all the hard work he has put in to improve his game.

Bob Brown also played well and with his awkward style will continue to trouble many of the better players.

The Birmingham management committee have decided to sponsor certain juniors in Open tournaments in the hope that we will get some of them into the England junior ranking list next season.

It is to be hoped that all juniors will take advantage of this opportunity, because in the near future, there could be some marvellous opportunities for good players.

Furthermore, it is also hoped that some coaching and practise sessions can be held for juniors during the summer. With the different coaching schemes being organised, we should have some good young players coming on to make Warwickshire one of the strongest counties in England.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Gwyn Powell

A SAD LOSS

IT is with deep regret that we record the death last month of Mr. C. A. Spencer of Kettering. Cyril was dedicated to the sport of table tennis and was responsible for the formation of the Kettering League just after the war. Since then he had held all the official positions in his local league and at the time of his death he was also President of the Northants County Association.

He had played a big part in the formation of the first County Association in 1950-51 and acted as its chairman until it was disbanded. When it was restarted in 1966 he was once again in the thick of things and acted as treasurer until being unanimously elected as its President in 1968. He was very interested in umpiring, being a County Umpire since 1952, and officiated at the first international to be held at Peterborough. He was also very keen on promoting younger players and arranged an Exhibition at the Central Hall, Kettering in 1953 when Johnny Leach (then World Champion), the Rowe twins and Jack Carrington appeared.

We, as a County Association, have lost a devoted worker and a very good friend and our deepest sympathy goes to his family in this sad loss.

In January, our Senior County team travelled to Lowestoft in the fog, a journey which took five and a half hours, and fought a well earned 5-5 draw. Northants' successes came from the men who won five of their six singles, two each from John Goodall and George Tsow and one from Roger Steward. The juniors entertained Essex at Northampton and the whole team played well against their high-ranked opponents. Roderick Marchant had a very good win over young Ian Horsham to claim the only home victory but the other members of the team showed that they have improved since last season when they were no match for players of the calibre that Essex can produce.

Northampton had been doing very well in South-East Midlands League matches but hit a bad patch in January when they lost to Peterborough, for the first time ever, and then drew with Wisbech. Nevertheless, some of the younger players have been blooded and show great promise for the future. Steve Lyon and Mick Collier, both of the Y.M.C.A., are probably two of the most improved players in the Northampton league this season and a lot more will be seen of them in the near future. Northampton Veterans are still unbeaten and with the continued good form of Dick Ingle, Norman Blinow and Maurice Harradine have an excellent chance of taking the championship for the first time. Both the men and ladies were thoroughly beaten by strong Birmingham teams in the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches but the men were far from disgraced. John Goodall had an excellent set with Derek Munt which he narrowly lost 23-21 in the third.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by "Geordie"

STILL AN OUTSIDER

STUART Lennie (North Shields Y.M.C.A.) has been ranked No. 2 in Scotland yet is still unable to acquire a place in the team against England at Motherwell on February 15. Quite obviously a case of the anti Anglo-Scots here.

Stuart, for some particular reason, did not arrive at North Shields Y.M.C.A. from Carlisle to play league leaders M.O.S.S. "A". But the journey would have been unnecessary

because the opposition conceded their first points of the season 5-7.

The M.O.S.S. foursome of Peter Duncombe, Ron Kettlewell, Dave Hogg and Roland Earl are still my tip for the title, yet the knock-out cup should go to North Shields Y.M.C.A., providing they can continue to select a team from Brian Burn, Stuart Lennie, Arnold Warents, Ian Robertson, Joe McLeod and Harry Dignan.

South Shields Y.M.C.A. (Division 3A) and North Shields Y.M.C.A. (Division 4A) are the only teams with a 100% record in the Northumberland League and it will be a big upset if they are beaten this

season.

The county senior team still occupy the top position in Division 2 (North) of the County Championships after a 10-0 win over Durham. If they want to beat main challengers Lancashire, however, they will have to greatly improve upon this performance as the urgency and fitness of some players was obviously lacking.

The junior team are improving with every match and it is to be hoped that David Armstrong and Chris Shepherd will break through into prominence next season like Ian Robertson has this. Congratulations Ian on a brilliant debut against Federal Germany at Bury.



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County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR SALOP

A new County usually has to wait some time for its first win in the Championships, but Shropshire have succeeded at the third attempt. Following crushing defeats by Notts. and Lancs. II they visited Denbighs. on January 11th who in 3½ seasons have just two drawn matches to their credit. Ken Morris, Shropshire No. 1, got a maximum of 2 singles and MD with Bert Beale and Mrs. Gee also scored maximum with a tight WS win and WD with Mrs. Shaw 5-2 up became 5-4, but despite a sticky patch in the second Beale eventually came through to win for the newcomers.

Premier Division

Cheshire 4 Kent 5.

M. Johns bt A. Piddock 18, 19; bt D. Basden 14, 16.
B. Kean bt Piddock 18, -9, 20; lost to H. Buist -13, -14.
R. Hampson lost to Basden 9, -13, -13; bt Buist 12, -9, 18.
Hampson and Johns lost to Buist and Piddock -17, 14, -17.
Miss P. Cain lost to Mrs. P. Piddock -14, -8.
Kean and Cain lost to Basden and Piddock -12, -9.

Despite Tony Piddock's magnificent 3rd game recovery from 11-19 to 20-all, Brian Kean gave Cheshire the lead, and they looked set for victory when Mike Johns and Roger Hampson also won. But Kent took XD, MD, WS to level at 3-all; a second defeat for Piddock was followed by Derek Basden's win over Hampson. The occasion too much at 4-all for Kean who collapsed against Henry Buist—but how Cheshire missed Judy Heaps!

Essex 7 Sussex 2

C. Barnes bt P. Williams -20, 4, 12; bt R. Chandler 18, 17.
D. Brown lost to Williams -5, -19; bt S. Ogundipe 17, 6.
S. Gibbs bt Chandler 21, 14; bt Ogundipe 14, -18, 17.
Barnes and R. Stevens bt Chandler and Williams 14, 17.
Mrs. L. Radford lost to Miss J. Williams -18, 10, -20.
Stevens and Radford bt Ogundipe and Williams 14, 19.

A great start for Sussex with Peter Williams playing superbly to crush new international David Brown, but the only other success for the visitors came from sister Judy, dogged as ever, who beat Lesley Radford from 16-20 in 3rd. The experiment of using Bobby Stevens in both doubles paid off and demoted Stuart Gibbs showed better form and may be over his recent bad patch.

Warwickshire 8 Gloucestershire 1
D. Munt bt R. Morley 18, 19; bt M. White 18, -16, 15.
R. Gunnion bt Morley 17, 13; bt D. Harvey 8, 15.
M. Billington bt White 13, 19; bt Harvey 11, 20.
Billington and Munt lost to Morley and White 15, -11, -13.
Miss J. Cornock bt Mrs. P. Rowe 14, 20.
Gunnion/Cornock bt Harvey/Rowe 9, 7.

The first Premier points for Warwicks. over depleted Gloucs. (Holland and Charles both 'flu victims). A convincing win by Jenny Cornock in her first match for the 1st team, and a good win by Derek Munt over Roy Morley.

Second Division South

Buckinghamshire 4 Essex II 6

With Bucks. missing Jill Shirley, Di Simpson's task in WS much easier and Essex took WD, XD as well. Two from Peter Radford and Dennis Johnson's win over out-of-touch Alec Watson gave the visitors both points. Paul Shirley the Bucks. star beating Johnson from 10-17 in 2nd, Mike Watts from 15-19 in 3rd and combining with Stan Hahn to take MD. And what an asset Hahn is proving for Bucks.

Kent II 8 Norfolk 2

Four new players (three of them juniors) in this Kent side and a blank debut for Lynda Chesson. But Betty Cassell not the easiest of opponents to meet in your first senior County match, especially when you are 15½.

Surrey 10 Hertfordshire 0

Clearly missing Trevor Taylor, Herts. went down heavily although Brian Barr made both Connie Warren (25, -19, 15) and Barry Hill (-19, 22, 19) struggle. Poor Carol Haldin who met Mary Wright on her return to the big match scene. Surrey bent on a quick return to the Premier and now almost certain to qualify for the Challenge.

Second Division North

Durham 0 Northumberland 10

Lancashire 10 Cumberland 0

Even without their top 2 men this was easy for Lancs. Cumberland also below strength (a brave move by a weak County to discipline two leading players) and the main resistance to Lancs. came from Carl Farrer, on this form the visitors' No. 1.

Lincolnshire 4 Yorkshire II 6

How many players at 12-all in 3rd would end one of the best rallies of the set with a brilliant forehand, then tell the umpire that the free hand had touched the table? No justice for honest Tony Clayton as this proved the turning point with Brian Hill winning 15, -12, 14. Lincs. had done well to recover from 1-3 to 4-all but Alan Fletcher and Peter Hirst (both unbeaten in singles) saw Yorks. to season's first win.

Second Division Midland

Monmouthshire 3 Glamorgan 7

Haydn Thomas excepted, Monmouths. seemed demoralised by late withdrawals from John Spencer and Betty Gray. But all credit to Glamorgan, who have not been this high in the table for six years.

Staffordshire 9 Leicestershire 1

Warwickshire II 7 Derbyshire 3

Warwicks. 2-0 up then 2-3 down in an excellent match. Graham Binney and Pat Glynn both outstanding, and a good WS win for Doreen Griffiths 19, 10 over Sandra Pegg.

Second Division West

Cornwall 4 Wiltshire 6

A triumph for "old man" Tony Wolff who replaced his son at No. 2 and won both singles with excellent short and long defence on a slightly slippery floor. For Cornwall, Sheila Rapsey hit through Gwen Hazell 11, 12 and splendid recovery by John Bassett and Mrs. P. Chinn to take XD -6, 20, 14 after trailing 13-19 in 2nd.

Devon 4 Somerset 6

Hampshire 6 Worcestershire 4

Despite two singles wins for Ray Lush, the re-shaped Hants. side won convincingly. Replacing sister Pauline in the WS, Christine Davies justified the move and the new XD partnership (Pete Smith and Pauline Edwards) was also successful.

Southern Division

Oxfordshire II 2 Surrey II 8

Buckinghamshire II 5
Worcestershire II 5

Midland Division

Denbighshire 4 Shropshire 6

(See comment at head of article)

Derbyshire II 3 Lancashire II 7

A welcome return to form by Doug Foulds with two exciting singles wins. Lancashire seem as well-off for promising young players as ever.

Nottinghamshire 4 Staffordshire II 6

Notts. never really recovered from the surprise of losing WD. Fine MD win for Alf Saunders and Brian Mayfield but Derek Baddeley the best player on view. Useful debut for junior Alan Croome who kept the match alive by beating Mac Evans -16, 19, 18.

Eastern Division

Cambridgeshire 5 Huntingdonshire 5

Suffolk 5 Northamptonshire 5

Hertfordshire II 6 Bedfordshire 4

Although everything was "two straight", an even match with "verts. just the better side.

Junior South

Kent 10 Berkshire 0

Not an unexpected result, with half the 20 games in single figures. When one adds the absent-on-senior-duty John Dabin and Lynda Chesson one gets a very useful side.

Sussex 8 Surrey 2

But this was a surprise! An unchanged side is paying dividends for Sussex with a point from Bucks. and now two from Surrey. Nice win, 19, 20, by Arthur Donner over Paul Bishop.

Middlesex 9 Hampshire 1

Except for BD defeat and Bob Gibson's struggle with P. Crane (who was on debut) Middlesex were generally on top.

Junior Division North

Cheshire 0 Yorkshire 10

Lancashire 8 Cumberland 2

Latecomer Alan Grimshaw replaced by Clive Taylor, who had two wins on debut. Maurice Bell best for Cumberland, beating David Newton and narrowly taking XD with Sandra Mossop over Newton and debutant Janet Runjahn.

Durham 2 Northumberland 8

Junior Division Midland

Leicestershire 8 Derbyshire 2

At 2-all it seemed anybody's match and the final score-line harsh on Derbys. Leicesters. Chris Brewer turned in a fine display and was the only unbeaten player: for Derbys. Kevin Twitney the pick and unlucky to lose to Tony Branson.

Nottinghamshire 8 Denbighshire 2

Denbighs. Yvonne Jones much improved since last year and did well to beat Janet Campbell (who showed great fight) 5, -17, 18. Notts. right on top in BS and BD with only one set needing a deciding game.

Staffordshire 0 Warwickshire 10

Michael Stephenson and Helen Blower had a chance to spoil Warwicks. 100% record when they led Finbar Gunning and Susan Clarke 18-17 in the 3rd. But this was the closest they could come, going down -9, 15, -19.

Junior Division East

Huntingdonshire 4 Suffolk 6

Northamptonshire 1 Essex 9

Roderick Marchant, by beating Ian Horsham, took the first set off Essex this season. Partnered by Susan Gordon he lost his unbeaten XD record narrowly by 19, -13, 19.

Late Result:

Bedfordshire 2 Hertfordshire 8

Junior Division West

Wiltshire 2 Glamorgan 8

Richard Arney and Ken Harrison, both juniors next year, each took a set with the former beating Jim Grey in a fine battle and Harrison getting the better of the far more experienced P. Parker.

Monmouthshire 7 Somerset 3

G. Sell, on debut, won both singles for Monmouths. and young Kim Allen narrowly went down to Susan Beazer who also won both XD for the visitors.

Worcestershire 6; Gloucestershire 4.

Worcestershire's first win since moving to the West Division in 1967. Three singles wins, one by each Worcestershire boy—so that Bromsgrove's Lewis Colley had a victory on his debut—were augmented by all three doubles. The home side's 13-year-olds, Daryl Rushbrooke and Wendy Salter, thus also had their first taste of Championship success.