

ENGLISH CLOSED

by **John Woodford**

A Double Triple for Denis

ROLL OF HONOUR

MEN'S SINGLES

Denis Neale
(Yorkshire)

MEN'S DOUBLES

Denis Neale
and
Alan Hydes
(Yorkshire)

MIXED DOUBLES

Denis Neale
and
Karenza Mathews
(Middlesex)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Judy Williams
(Sussex)

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Judy Heaps
(Cheshire)
and
Pauline Piddock
(Kent)

YORKSHIRE'S Denis Neale, the England No. 1 swept the board at the English Closed Championships at Crys'al Palace when he won all three titles and the men's singles for the third time. Neale re-emphasised his superiority as England's leader by almost crushing all opposition—the only player to take a set from him in singles during the championships was Trevor Taylor in the semi-finals and that was 22-20 with Taylor gaining fewer and fewer points in the last three sets. Taylor (17) and Jill Shirley (17) proved they are England's best hopes for the future with fine displays in the singles events.

Judy Williams gained her ticket for the Munich World's Championships when she won a 52-minute women's singles final over Jill Shirley (Bucks.) 14, 9, 9, 12, 15. The Sussex girl's experience was the deciding factor in the fifth set when she was 8-12 in arrears. A short burst of hitting by Miss Williams levelled the score and Miss Shirley's errors increased with the tension which remained with the 400 crowd until the last point.

Denis Neale won the men's championship of England with a confident and controlled display against Chester Barnes, 16, 16, 18. In the second Chester went 7-4 ahead but the holder raced into a 17-13 lead with the aid of two edges. In the last set Barnes again took an early lead but the Yorkshireman's luck was again with him when Barnes led 16-11 but fell back to 17-

all. Three more errors by Chester and Denis Neale retained his title for another year.

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Photo by John O'Sullivan

Unsuccessful in his previous bids, with Brian Burn of Northumberland, ALAN HYDES, paired with his Yorkshire teammate, Neale, won the men's doubles title from the Essex combination of Barnes (four times a winner previously with Gloucestershire's Ian Harrison) and David Brown.



Photo by Cliff Darley.

DENIS NEALE (Yorkshire) who took only 18 minutes to keep his men's singles title in opposition to former champion Chester Barnes (Essex).

CZECHS FOR TEESSIDE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA has joined Rumania, Australia, Scotland and England to make the Teesside Open Championships a five-nation affair, at Eston, on February 22-23.

The Czechs will participate in the international team event, on the Saturday, and in the individual tournament on the following day.

Their attendance has been secured through the medium of E.T.T.A. chairman, Conrad Jaschke, who has only recently finalised details of the visit.

Players have yet to be nominated, of course, but the inclusion of the Czechs is yet another "plum" for Tournament Organiser, Alan Ransome.

Preceded, on the Friday, by the European League encounter between England and Rumania, all roads should lead to Eston.

Directions and all relevant details can be had from Alan Ransome at 21a, Church Lane, Ormesby (Home telephone: Middlesbrough 34214).

YUGOSLAVIA BOUND

A squad comprising Denis Neale, Trevor Taylor, Judy Heaps and Jill Shirley, with Les Gresswell as leader, left for Subotica in Yugoslavia on January 5 to participate in an intensive training session until January 17 to be followed by a tournament on January 18-19.

In addition to the leading Yugoslav players, the Rumanians will also take part in the training sessions. The Yugoslavs specified that one of our top players be a member of the English party, and the other members have been chosen with a view to the future by giving younger players much needed experience against the Continental opposition.

The Rumanians are expected to include Dorin Giurgiuca, Maria Alexandru and Eleanora Mihalca in their squad.

Next season, the Yugoslavs will come to England to take part in a similar training session and to play matches in this country.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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HOSPITALITY

Most organisations have their own particular brand of "locusts"—those who crash the supper barrier, or whatever it might be, to join players and officials at the conclusion of an event.

As by some divine right they appear alongside the teapot, mugs at the ready and an all-consuming gaze as to "what gives with the eats."

Camp followers they could be so defined but when it comes to pitching the tent or, more particularly, when chores are the order of the day, the venue becomes as deserted as a NAFPI used to do on pay night.

Nor do these phenomenons restrict their activities to the purely local affair. No sir!

The grander the occasion and the bigger the reception, the better the chance of replenishing the plate. Get in there mate, the grub's lovely!

What these people overlook is that there would be a ready welcome for them if, on occasions, they were to take their jackets off, roll up their sleeves and give a helping hand.

There would then be no need for furtiveness or the making of animated conversation with a chance acquaintance whilst at the same time ploughing into the bill of fare with a mechanism reminiscent of a combined harvester.

One does not need to be a member of a committee to swing into action and help put a venue to rights.

No one is paid for these tasks, least of all those individuals whose names appear in a handbook and who, whilst not carrying out the mundane administrative duties, are nonetheless worth their weight in gold.

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

SWEDEN AND ENGLAND TOP EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLE

SWEDEN have put themselves in a strong position for the European League premier division title by their narrow 4-3 win over England at Norwich, but despite this set-back England's chances should not be entirely written off. Such a lot will depend on whether Mary Wright is able to return to the side for the remaining matches against Czechoslovakia, Rumania and U.S.S.R.—with Mary in the team we would surely have beaten the Swedes at Norwich. Premier division results to date are:

England 4	Federal Germany 3
U.S.S.R. 7	Rumania 0
Federal Germany 4	Hungary 3
Hungary 2	England 5
Sweden 4	Czechoslovakia 3
England 3	Sweden 4

Premier Division

	P	W	L	F	A	P	S
Sweden	2	2	0	8	6	4	
England	3	2	1	12	9	4	
U.S.S.R.	1	1	0	7	0	2	
Fed. Germany	2	1	1	7	7	2	
Czechoslovakia	1	0	1	3	4	0	
Hungary	2	0	2	5	9	0	
Rumania	1	0	1	0	7	0	

DENMARK AND FRANCE HEAD SECOND DIVISION

Two matches have been played in the second division of the European League additional to the ones printed in last month's column, Belgium beating Luxembourg 6-1 at home, and Netherlands winning 5-2 in Luxembourg.

Second Division

	P	W	L	F	A	P	S
Denmark	2	2	0	12	2	4	
France	2	2	0	10	4	4	
Belgium	2	1	1	8	6	2	
Netherlands	3	1	2	10	11	2	
Switzerland	2	1	1	5	9	2	
Austria	1	0	1	1	6	0	
Luxembourg	2	0	2	3	11	0	

IRELAND'S PROMOTION CHANCE

Ireland won the western regional division of the European League in great style when they defeated Scotland 5-2, Wales 7-0 and Guernsey 7-0 in the play-off at Cardiff last month. Scotland finished second with a 6-1 win over Wales and 7-0 over Guernsey, and Wales finished third with a 7-0 win over Guernsey. Ireland should prove too strong for Greece, winners of the mediterranean regional division, and if they win the promotion play-off they will gain a place in the second division next season.

In the mediterranean play-off at Malta last month, Greece defeated both Italy and Malta by 6-1, and Italy took second place with a 4-3 win over Malta.

Thanks to the expert coaching of ex-Hungarian Laszlo Foldi, the Greeks have improved greatly, and their young team of Emmanuel Diakakis (19), Iliia Angelikas (17) and Maria Louka (18) could become a force to be reckoned with in a few years time. In a tournament following the European League play-off, the Greek players won all the titles, and



Diakakis scored a personal triumph when he defeated Foldi in the men's singles final—Foldi, of course, is still a player of considerable strength as he showed when he defeated Ivan Andreadis in the final of the Jubilee Cup at Stockholm in 1967.

I understand from E.T.T.U. secretary Nancy Evans, who attended the event, that the organisation was up to very high standards, and it seems that if the E.T.T.U. are able to implement the policy of its committee to arrange coaching and other help in areas where playing standards are still comparatively low, then European table tennis could reap a rich reward in years to come by an upsurge of interest in table tennis in the mediterranean countries.

The E.T.T.A. itself played its part in stimulating interest in Malta when we arranged for Harry Venner to coach there a few years ago.

SPALDING TO SPONSOR ENGLISH OPEN

A. G. Spalding & Bros. Ltd., the Putney (London) manufacturers of sports equipment, have agreed to sponsor the English Open Championships at Brighton in February/March 1970, following detailed negotiations which I carried out with their marketing director recently.

At their meeting on December 1 the National Council approved the arrangements, and it is safe to say that this season's Open will be the last one without commercial sponsorship. Despite generous help from Brighton Corporation (which will of course continue) the E.T.T.A. have annually faced a loss on this event, inherent in its popularity which has caused so many teams from abroad to apply for entry, leaving the E.T.T.A. with an annual hospitality bill which could never be met out of revenue. This year's Open is a case in point, for each one of the eight strongest countries in Europe are competing, plus many weaker ones, and we shall not be able to make the event pay this time. Fortunately we are able to meet this deficit out of our increased income from trade and television sources, and the £500 which Spalding will pay to the E.T.T.A. as sponsors in 1970

should enable the next Open to stand on its own feet—a happy event we have sought to bring about for many years.

Spaldings, who are the manufacturers of the Villa ball and the Ian Harrison bat, will have exclusive rights to exhibit sports equipment at the venue in 1970, and will be prominently mentioned as sponsors on all circulars and advertising literature concerned with the Open. Additional important facilities are being put at their disposal by the E.T.T.A. in appreciation of this substantial financial help. The arrangement with Spalding does not affect the equipment rotas previously agreed with Jaques, Dunlop and Halex.

TOURS OF HOME COUNTRIES

By arrangement with the E.T.T.A., foreign teams visiting the U.K. for the English Open will also tour the home countries. Czechoslovakia will visit Scotland, U.S.S.R. and one other team will go to Wales, and negotiations with Ireland are in progress.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 30th World Table Tennis Championships in Munich next April will be the largest indoor sports event in the world.

Munich is the capital of Bavaria, has 1.3 million inhabitants and is one of the most important cities in Europe. Munich is known as an important cultural centre, and the magnificent Renaissance and Baroque buildings, emanating from the period of the Bavarian kings, will be of particular interest to visitors. Although the city lies at the foot of the Alps, the climate during April is normally quite mild.

These will be the third world championships organised by the D.T.T.B. who previously ran the 1930 championships in Berlin, and the 1959 event in Dortmund. The Federal Germans are known for the high standard of their organisation, and table tennis enthusiasts can look forward to an efficiently run event, coupled with enjoyable sightseeing and entertainment in the proverbially gay city of Munich.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

LEADING up to the English Open Championships, to be played in the Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton (February 27-Mar. 1), England have scheduled, during the month of February, three home international engagements including a European League match.

The European League encounter is against Rumania to be played on Teeside, in the Eston Sports Centre, on Friday, February 21 (7-30 p.m.) Match Organiser is Mr. Alan Ransome, 21a, Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Yorks. (Phone 0642 34214).

A second match against Rumania will take place on Monday, February 24 at the City Hall, Sheffield when Mrs. A. Coleman, 128, Station Road, Woodhouse, Sheffield S13 7RB (Phone: Woodhouse 4296) will be the Organising Secretary.

Firstly, however, on Friday, Feb 7, England will take on Hungary at Bracknell in a match to be televised by the BBC for subsequent showing on the Saturday.

ITV, under contract, will cover the European match from Teeside and that too will be subsequently shown on the following day.

Organising Secretary for the Bracknell match is Mr. M. J. Smythe, 11a Nightingale Crescent, Bracknell, Berks.

"DOUBLE DUTCH" FOR ENGLAND

WELLINGBOROUGH set the scene for the first-ever international to be played in Northants when, before a capacity crowd at Weatherby's Sports Centre, on Dec. 9, England's women routed a youthful Netherlands team 9-0.

The match was excellently staged with the organisers thinking of every detail even to the extent of having a band play in the two teams.

Individual results:—
Pauline Piddock bt Mieke ten Broek 12, 13; bt Veronique van der Laan 14, 14; bt Mary van Ruiten 8, 17.
Lesley Radford bt van Ruiten 8, 15; bt ten Broek 10, 15; bt van der Laan 11, 13.

Judy Williams bt van der Laan 11, 11; bt van Ruiten 18, 19; bt ten Broek 12, 21.

On the following night, at the Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre, an entirely different England team accorded our visitors the same 9-0 treatment with the exception of Judy Heaps affording Mieke ten Broek the luxury of a middle game success. Scores:—

Maureen Heppell bt ten Broek 12, 12; bt van der Laan 18, 3; bt van Ruiten 14, 8.

Jill Shirley bt van Ruiten 15, 8; bt ten Broek 2, 14; bt van der Laan 7, 8.

Judy Heaps bt van der Laan 18, 14; bt van Ruiten 9, 13; bt ten Broek 12, -17, 11.



THE LEGEND OF TRUDI PRITZI

a Tribute
by **AUBREY HILL**

SO at an unseemly early age Miss Trudi Pritzi has left us. The marathon champion of table tennis who, for over 20 years was ranked in the World's first ten and, off the table bubbled with personality and was one of the finest sportswomen in the world.

The Austrian was not a truly great player although she dominated the international scene just prior to and after the war winning many titles. But, without hesitation, Barna said she was a great champion—a player difficult to beat, full of fight, who always gave her best regardless of whether it was a World Tournament or just a club game.

Her game was fully defensive, she had a very good chop from both backhand and forehand, long range defence coupled with perfect footwork and abundant stamina which allowed her to play for hours and even for days with surprising concentration.

Her weakness was that she found it impossible to hit a ball (not always realised or appreciated by English crowds and players).

Many times Barna saw her, in practice, try an attacking stroke but, strangely, could not do it. It was amazing that a player should have so much talent for a defensive game that she could become World Champion yet no talent at all to make the simplest aggressive strokes.

She deserved a lot of sympathy because her game was not attractive to the public and yet she tried so much to please. Unfortunately, all she knew was defence and that was the way she tried to win. No one can question her dedication and success.

BOWED TO THE INEVITABLE
In the World Championships of 1937 at Baden, she met Ruth Aarons of America in the women's singles final, the American having beaten twice-World Champion Kettnerova on the way. Ruth Aarons, unable to penetrate Pritzi's solid defence bowed

to the inevitable and rather than hit indiscriminately and get nowhere in a hurry did a bit of stonewalling herself.

At one game-all, with the score 19-16 in Pritzi's favour, the umpire looked at his watch, saw that over 2 hours had elapsed since the start of the match, and decided to invoke the new time limit rule. The game was stopped by a jury's vote and both players disqualified.

The title remained vacant that year and Ruth Aarons never played again in World Championships as the decision upset her so much.

The following year, 1938, in London, she won the World's crown in a very dull final beating the Czech Depetrisova to whom she lost her title the following year in Cairo. In this match, Pritzi attempted to hit at 19-18, put it in the stalls, and unnerved herself so much that she lost the game and the title.

After the war, at the World's in London in 1948, she reached the quarter-finals losing to Vera Thomas. The following year, at Stockholm, she met Gizi Farkas losing to the eventual champion after being 2 games up with the scores stopped at 8-1, 4-3 and 3-0, in each 20-minute session subsequently.

In 1950, at Budapest, she beat Kettnerova in the quarters but lost to Rozeanu in the semis 17-14, 14-13, 5-4.

In the Corbillon Cup final versus Rumania in 1951 at Vienna, she lost to Rozeanu 7 and 2, her worst defeat. Previously she had beaten a Yugoslavian girl Miss Temunovic where the first three points took 18 minutes. After 20 minutes the score was 3-all and five minutes were allowed for the next point which Pritzi won.

I well remember seeing her win the English Open at Wembley in 1951 beating Helen Elliott in the final 18, 16, 9. In the second round, "Pinkie" Barnes of Surrey gave her a shock.

The Surrey girl was 2 games up and led 11-6 in the third and, refusing to push for a time limit decision, hit and lost the next three games.

At Bombay in 1952, she lost in the quarter-finals to our Ros Rowe. In the English Open Peggy Franks beat her, the last two games being on time limit at 9-8 and 5-2.

In her last English Open, in 1953, Kathy Best beat her 13, 12, 13 in a classic quarter hitting through her great defence.

Trudi Pritzi was certainly a legend, and proved, as the great Richard Bergmann did so many times, that only results really count.

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Tournament Survey

by Laurie Landry

BIG surprise in the Southend Open (November 23/24) was the brilliant play of Jill Shirley. Hitting and following her hits she completely out-classed Judy Williams after having got through by picking her hits against Karenza Mathews.

David Brown shone in beating Stuart Gibbs but thereafter succumbed to "Connie" Warren.

Judy Williams recovered her form in the Newbury Open (November 30/December 1) when she proved too steady for Jill Shirley and went on to win a good final against Pauline Piddock.

Brian Wright won his first tournament as a father but not before he had saved two match points against Tony Piddock in the final.

Main surprise in the Middlesex Open (December 7/8) was another defeat for Karenza Mathews, this time at the hands of Judy Williams. Judy Heaps then showed how to do it but herself lost to Pauline Piddock in the final. Pauline was really in form and hit too hard for Maureen Heppell in the semi.

Mike Johns showed his best form this season, moving with purpose in winning the men's singles without dropping a game. "Les" Haslam also played well beating Brian Wright and also David Brown after gradually slowing him down. Haslam found Johns too good however.

Results:

SOUTHEND OPEN

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

C. BARNES (Essex) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 16, 18; **C. WARREN** (Surrey) bt D. Brown (Essex) 14, 12.

Final: BARNES bt Warren -18, 11, 14.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

J. SHIRLEY (Bucks.) bt K. Mathews (Middx.) -15, 19, 23; **J. WILLIAMS** (Surrey) bt L. Radford (Essex) 7, 18.

Final: SHIRLEY bt Williams 13, 8.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

BARNES/S. GIBBS (Essex) bt Brown/D. Johnson (Essex) -19, 13, 17; **L. HASLAM** (Middx./Warren) bt L. Gresswell (Middx.)/S. White (Leics.) 16, 18.

Final: BARNES/GIBBS bt Haslam/Warren 14, 12.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

J. BILLINGTON/E. CARRINGTON (Essex) bt Shirley/M. Walker (Middx.) 11, 21; **RADFORD/D. SIMPSON** (Essex) bt S. Hession (Essex)/Williams 19, 15.

Final: BILLINGTON/CARRINGTON bt Radford/Simpson 14, -19, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

BARNES/MATHEWS bt S. Ogundipe (Sussex)/Williams 18, 8; **GIBBS/RADFORD** bt Brown/Shirley 20, -18, 14.

Final: BARNES/MATHEWS bt Gibbs/Radford 19, 16.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

SHIRLEY bt L. Howard (Surrey) 11, 12; **L. CHESSON** (Kent) bt H. Wesley (Essex) 14, 13.

Final: SHIRLEY bt Chesson 8, 8.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

M. WALDMAN (Middx.) bt P. Taylor (Herts.) 17, 17; **R. HELLABY** (Essex) bt M. Read (Essex) -11, 22, 15.

Final: WALDMAN bt Hellaby 17, 16.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

S. NORTON (Essex) bt V. Painter (Middx.) 15, -20, 19; **L. HOFFMAN** (Middx.) bt D. Mackinven (Essex) 15, 19.

Final: NORTON bt Hoffman 14, -18, 12.

NEWBURY OPEN

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

B. WRIGHT (Middx.) bt R. Gunnion (Warwks.) 10, 8; **A. PIDDOCK** (Kent) bt S. Ogundipe (Sussex) 12, 14.

Final: WRIGHT bt Piddock -16, 22, 16.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

J. WILLIAMS (Sussex) bt J. Shirley (Bucks.) 15, 14; **P. PIDDOCK** (Kent) bt J. Billington (Essex) 13, 14.

Final: WILLIAMS bt Piddock 16, 20.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

GUNNION/WRIGHT bt J. Charles (Gloucs.)/L. Landry (Middx.) 11, 9; **H. BUIST** (Kent)/PIDDOCK bt P. Beck (Surrey)/A. Lindsay (Middx.) 10, 13.

Final: GUNNION/WRIGHT bt Buist/Piddock -8, 14, 12.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

S. HESSION (Essex)/WILLIAMS bt Billington/A. Taft (Middx.) 13, -18, 16; **PIDDOCK/D. SIMPSON** (Essex) bt C. Davies/P. Edwards (Hants.) 17, 16.

Final: HESSION/WILLIAMS bt Piddock/Simpson 18, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

OGUNDIPE/WILLIAMS bt Wright/Shirley 18, -14, 18; **E. COSTER** (Herts.)/SIMPSON bt Piddock/Piddock -14, 23, 18.

Final: OGUNDIPE/WILLIAMS bt Coster/Simpson 17, 19.

MIDDLESEX OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

M. JOHNS (Ches.) bt S. Smith (Essex) 13, 18; **C. WARREN** (Surrey) bt M. Creamer (Surrey) 18, 17; **L. HASLAM** (Middx.) bt B. Wright (Middx.) 18, 16; **D. BROWN** (Essex) bt T. Taylor (Herts.) 17, -19, 11.

Semi-finals:

JOHNS bt Warren 14, 14; **HASLAM** bt Brown -8, 16, 18.

Final: JOHNS bt Haslam 19, 19.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

P. PIDDOCK (Kent) bt J. Shirley (Bucks.) 19, 17; **M. HEPPELL** (Nthld.) bt S. Hession (Essex) 19, 6; **J. HEAPS** (Ches.) bt L. Radford (Essex) 19, -22, 17; **J. WILLIAMS** (Sussex) bt K. Mathews (Middx.) 15, 17.

Semi-finals:

PIDDOCK bt Heppell 19, 10; **HEAPS** bt Williams -19, 15, 12.

Final: PIDDOCK bt Heaps 14, 18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

S. GIBBS (Essex)/TAYLOR bt Haslam/A. Piddock (Kent) -14, 18, 18; **R. STEVENS** (Essex)/WRIGHT bt R. Gunnion (Warwks.)/Warren 15, 12.

Final: GIBBS/TAYLOR bt Stevens/Wright -17, 13, 13.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

RADFORD/D. SIMPSON (Essex) bt Hession/Williams 19, 17; **HEPELL/MATHEWS** bt Heaps/Piddock 13, 6.

Final: RADFORD/SIMPSON bt Heppell/Mathews -16, 15, 15.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

HASLAM/HEPELL bt P. Williams (Sussex)/M. Walker (Middx.) 8, 13; **E. COSTER** (Herts.)/MATHEWS bt Warren/J. Fitzsimons (Ireland) 18, 14.

Final: HASLAM/HEPELL bt Coster/Mathews 11, -22, 13.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

N. JARVIS (Yorks.) bt M. Read (Essex) 16, 11; **S. HEAPS** (Ches.) bt P. Bishop (Surrey) 15, -21, 15.

Final: JARVIS bt Heaps 14, 10.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

SHIRLEY bt C. Mann (Middx.) 10, 12; **S. HOWARD** (Surrey) bt L. Pacitto (Bucks.) 11, 8.

Final: SHIRLEY bt Howard 13, 13.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

G. TSOW (Northants) bt V. Painter (Middx.) 14, 13; **Z. SCHRAMM** (Surrey) bt T. Donlon (Ches.) 2, 18.

Final: TSOW bt Schramm 17, -16, 18.

"SURREY COMET" TOURNAMENT

BIGGER THAN EVER

THE culmination of three days play which was needed for this season's "Surrey Comet" tournament, held at Kingston Grammar School, by kind permission of the headmaster, Mr. P. R. Rundle, was on Saturday, December 21 when the field of 286 entrants reached more manageable proportions.

On that date the semi-finals and finals of the various events were contested by children in schools in the Greater London Kingston-on-Thames area.

Prizes were presented by Mr. Gilbert Jenkins, the Managing Editor of the SURREY COMET, whose paper has done much to increase the interest in Table Tennis in Kingston.

Principal results were:—

Boys' U-14:
A. Jeans (Kingston) bt D. Bishop (Tiffin) 13, 17.

Girls' U-14:
Angela Crisp (Coombe) bt Jane Burton (Coombe) 10, 6.

Boys' U-16:
P. Bishop, Holder (Kingston) bt D. Browne (Kingston) 11, 6.

Girls' U-16:
Gillian Hancox (Tolworth) bt Anne Morris (Coombe) 13, 15.

Boys' U-19:
P. Bishop, Holder (Kingston) bt G. Strangeway (Tiffin) 6, 3.

Girls' U-19:
Gail McCulloch, Holder (Tiffin Girls) bt Lynne Coates (Tolworth) 14, 12.

SWINDON OPEN

by G. G. S. Turnbull

YUGOSLAVS SWEEP THE BOARD

PLAYED at Pinehurst Sports Hall on December 15, the first-ever Swindon Open was completely dominated by the visitors from Yugoslavia who won four titles outright and had a half share in the fifth.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the tournament was the men's singles final between Dragutin Surbek, the European champion, and his young compatriot Anton Stipanovic.

A large crowd really appreciated the excellent display of modern table tennis served up.

Lesley Radford put up a splendid performance in the final of the women's singles but the more aggressive play of Mirjana Resler finally proved to be the telling factor.

Previously, in the semis, Jill Shirley was unlucky when, at 20-all in the third, the Yugoslav just clipped the edge of the table to take the lead and capitalised on her good fortune to win the next point for victory.

Results:

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

A Stipanovic (Yugo.) bt R. Penfold (Surrey) 10, 16;

B. Meisel (Kent) bt D. Cutcliffe (Warwks.) 9, 10;

D. Surbek (Yugo.) bt P. Shirley (Bucks.) 11, 10;

D. Brown (Essex) bt E. Coster (Herts.) 19, 15.

Semi-finals:

STIPANCIC bt Meisel 7, 16;

SURBEK bt Brown 13, 11.

Final:

SURBEK bt Stipanovic -18, 19, 16.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

M. RESLER (Yugo.) bt J. Shirley (Bucks.) -12, 15, 20;

L. RADFORD (Essex) bt S. Howard (Surrey) 17, -17, 10.

Final:

RESLER bt Radford -21, 18, 16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

STIPANCIC/SURBEK bt Coster/B. Hill (Surrey) 9, 13;

D. BOWLES/P. RADFORD (Essex) bt J. Bender/B. Petch (Middx.) 18, 8.

Final:

STIPANCIC/SURBEK bt Bowles/Radford 13, 14.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

RADFORD/RESLER bt C. Davies/P. Edwards (Hants.) 11, -19, 18;

SHIRLEY/M. WALKER (Middx.) bt S. Howard/A. Mills (Hants.) 15, -11, 12.

Final:

RADFORD/RESLER bt Shirley/Walker 11, -18, 19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

RADFORD/RADFORD bt Surbek/J. Hudson (Hants.) 14, 16;

STIPANCIC/RESLER bt Shirley/Shirley 16, -21, 13.

Final:

STIPANCIC/RESLER bt Radford/Radford 12, 18.

BANGOR MAID OPEN

by Peter Simpson

MORALE BOOSTER BY LANGAN

SUBSEQUENT to the friendly international against Ireland on

BANGOR OPEN (cont)

Thursday, November 28, England's players participated in the Bangor Maid Open which began in the early evening of the following day.

It was not until 3-30 a.m., however, on the Saturday morning that our players, after a solid hour of doubles play, took to their beds.

Play was resumed at 6-15 p.m. on the same day by which time yawns were being stifled by the English party whose play seemed to suffer as a consequence.

In the semis of the men's singles, it was generally felt that "Connie" Warren should have beaten Jim Langan, the eventual winner, but the Surrey man lacked the concentration he had displayed in the earlier rounds. Despite leading 20-17 in the first, and 19-17 in the second "Connie" lost both games on "deuce".

Again, in the final, "Les" Haslam appeared very tired and as a result his game was considerably slowed down. All credit to Langan, however, on his morale boosting win for the host country. Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

M. Sugden (Scotland) bt C. McBride (Ireland) 19, 19;
O. B. Haslam (Middx.) bt T. Caffrey (Ireland) 17, 12;
C. J. Warren (Surrey) bt C. Thompson (Ireland) 14, 10;

J. Langan (Ireland) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 18, 13.

Semi-finals:

HASLAM bt Sugden 10, -19, 17;
LANGAN bt Warren 20, 20.

Final:

LANGAN bt Haslam -15, 10, 16.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

J. HEAPS (Ches.) bt B. Warwick (Ireland) 15, 9;

L. RADFORD (Essex) bt J. Fitzsimons (Ireland) 9, 9.

Final:

HEAPS bt Radford -19, 14, 18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HASLAM/JOHNS bt Thompson/A. Wright (Ireland) 4, 11;

SUGDEN/WARREN bt Caffrey/Langan -14, 16, 18.

Final:

SUGDEN/WARREN bt Haslam/Johns 18, -17, 25.

Women's Doubles: Final:

HEAPS/RADFORD bt Fitzsimons/M. Wright (Ireland) -21, 7, 12.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

HASLAM/RADFORD bt Johns/Heaps -17, 12, 11.

WESSEX RESTRICTED OPEN

By Simon Churchill

INVASION OF HOUNDSTONE

AN exceptional entry of one hundred and fifty players from

fourteen counties in Southern England and South Wales greeted the arrival on the table tennis scene of the Wessex Restricted Open Tournament, held for the first time on Sunday, December 8, at Houndstone Camp (by kind permission of the C.O.), near Yeovil.

There was a slight disappointment when it was known that Bob Bishop, the Welsh international, and No. 1 seed for the Men's Singles would be unable to take part. However, the remainder of the entry soon made amends, and it was the almost-local boy, Eric Hall of Weston-Super-Mare, the new Somerset No. 1, who came through from the 116 competitors to win the title in a very close final from the unseeded Pat Glynn of Birmingham.

The Men's Doubles was won by George Evans and Graham Gear, which met with general approval, as these two had been consistent supporters of events run by the Yeovil Association. We were sorry to learn that Graham Gear would not be able to come to future events as his career was taking him to Canada, but naturally wish him every success.

The Ladies' Singles went very much according to form with the top seeds, Worcestershire County players, Joyce Lloyd and Janet Allen reaching the final. After their usual close encounter Mrs. Lloyd emerged victorious.

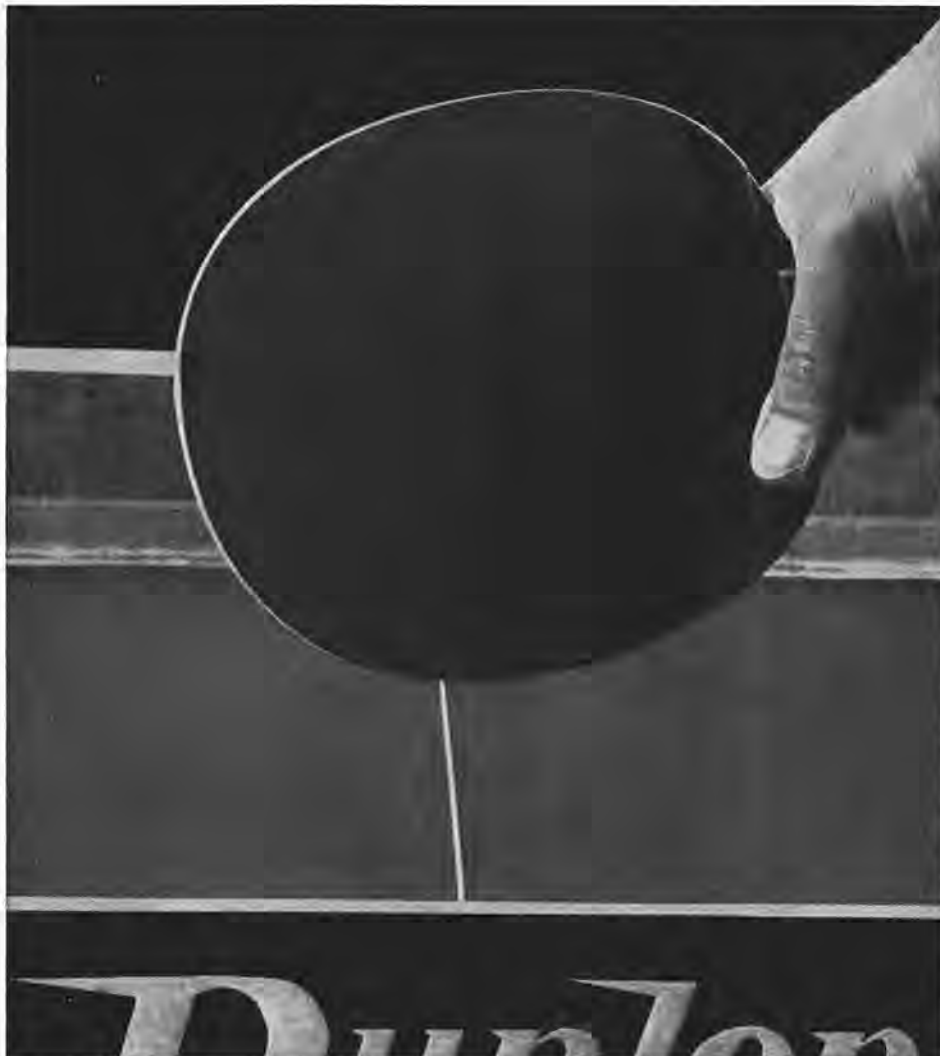
An encouraging feature was the entry in the Junior events, with four of the top thirty boys in England present, as well as several of the leading Welsh boys. Alan Griffiths, and Roger Clarke really held their audience for the final, with the Welsh junior coming with a late burst to take in two-straight, after trailing in the second.

Counties represented in the entry were Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Glamorgan, Gloucester, Hampshire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Oxford, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, and Worcester.

All the finals and several of the early rounds were umpired by a group of National and County Umpires present, under the organisation of the Honorary Referee, Mrs. Pat Archdale of Bristol. The Tournament was organised for the Yeovil and District Table Tennis Association, by its Tournament Sub-Committee, headed by the Tournament Secretary Ken Palmer. The next event will be the popular American Open on February 23, 1969.

For the later stages, and finals of the Wessex Restricted event the tournament was pleased to welcome Derek Tremayne, the Organising Secretary of the E.T.T.A., who at the conclusion presented the prizes as follows:

MEN'S SINGLES. Semi-finals: P. Glynn (Birmingham) bt P. Brown



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WESSEX OPEN cont.

(Eastleigh); E. Hall (Weston) bt G. Evans (Cardiff). Final: Hall bt Glynn 13, -15, 16.

LADIES' SINGLES: Semi-finals: J. Lloyd (Worcester) bt L. Whittams (Taunton); J. Allen (Birmingham) bt J. Crosby (Exeter). Final: Lloyd bt Allen 12, -16, 19.

MEN'S DOUBLES. Semi-finals: Evans/G. Gear (Weston) bt Glynn/R. Clarke (Birmingham); Hall/T. Lehmann (London) bt W. Moulding (Salisbury)/A. Wolff (Swindon). Final: Evans/Gear bt Hall/Lehmann 22, 19.

LADIES' DOUBLES. Semi-finals: Allen/Lloyd bt P. Beazer/S. Beazer (Chard.); Crosby/V. Addicott (Exeter) bt J. Hudson (Bournemouth)/J. Smith (Poole). Final: Allen/Lloyd bt Crosby/Addicott -18, 20, 14.

MIXED DOUBLES. Semi-finals: Gear/Lloyd bt K. Poole (Taunton)/Whittams; C. Hollywood/N. Hollywood (Plymouth) bt P. Stone (Chard)/P. Beazer. Final: Gear/Lloyd bt Hollywood/Hollywood 18, 17.

BOYS' SINGLES. Semi-finals: R. Clarke (Birmingham) bt D. James (Plymouth); A. Griffiths (Pontypridd) bt S. Tannahill (Southampton). Final: Griffiths bt Clarke 17, 19.

GIRLS' SINGLES. Semi-finals: P. Beazer (Chard.) bt R. Bryant (Chard); J. Daniels (Southampton) bt M. Storr (Newbury). Final: Beazer bt Daniels 20, 15.

BOYS' DOUBLES. Semi-finals: Griffiths/J. Neale (Swansea) bt P. Rose (Chard)/R. Taysum (Clevedon); Tannahill/K. Summerfield (Southampton) bt J. Andrews/N. Palmer (Taunton). Final: Griffiths/Neale bt Summerfield/Tannahill -14, 18, 15.

GIRLS' DOUBLES. Semi-finals: J. Daniels (Southampton)/C. Hutchings (Bournemouth) bt Beazer/Beazer; Bryant/J. Hudson (Bournemouth) bt Storr/C. Smith (Newbury). Final: Daniels/Hutchings bt Bryant/Hudson 15, 16.

JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES. Semi-finals: Tannahill/Hudson bt Summerfield/Daniels; James/Hutchings bt Andrews/Bryant. Final: Tannahill/Hudson bt James/Hutchings 15, 15.

VETERAN SINGLES: Semi-finals: J. Dale (Weymouth) bt L. Suter (Exeter); R. Philpott (Weston) bt C. Bush (Bournemouth). Final: Philpott bt Dale 16, 15.

WORCESTERSHIRE CLOSED

Malvern, Nov. 30 - Dec. 1

Men's Singles:
J. HEATHCOTE bt J. Bell 18, -10, 13.

Women's Singles:
MISS J. W. ALLEN bt Mrs. J. Lloyd -15, 12, 17.

Veteran Singles:
E. W. EDWARDS bt D. Reynolds 15, 15.

Boys' Singles:
D. R. ASTON bt C. J. Kendall 15, 18.

Girls' Singles:
MISS D. E. RUSHBROOKE bt Miss W. Salter 10, -20, 20.

Men's Doubles:
R. BUTTERTON/HEATHCOTE bt B. J. Belcher/Edwards 16, 18.

Women's Doubles:
LLOYD/MRS. D. TURBERFIELD bt Mrs. S. Randle/Mrs. B. Shammon 8, 19.

Mixed Doubles:
M. LLOYD/ALLEN bt M. Hawkins/Lloyd 12, -11, 16.

Junior Doubles:
ASTON/KENDALL bt T. A. Gatfield/I. A. Schofield -18, 7, 19.

YORKSHIRE CLOSED

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:
D. NEALE bt M. Corking 9, 9; P. DUNCOMBE bt J. A. Yeats 10, 17. Final: NEALE bt Duncombe 17, 12.

Women's Singles:
Final: Miss L. BASHFORD bt Mrs. P. Bassano (nee Dainty) 16, -9, 19.

Men's Doubles:
Final: A. CLAYTON/R. HINCHLIFFE bt P. Hirst/P. Moss 16, 12.

Women's Doubles: Final:
BASHFORD/Miss H. REVERCHON bt Bassano/Miss L. Forkes 13, 16.

Mixed Doubles: Final:
NEALE/FORKES bt Clayton/Miss V. King 13, 16.

Boys' Singles: Final:
A. FLETCHER bt D. Rayner 16, 14.

Girls' Singles: Final:
BASHFORD bt Miss A. Waters 16, 10.

Veteran Singles: Final:
R. Hinchliffe bt L. Browning 20, 18.

Linda Bashford was 18-19 down in the decider of the women's singles to holder Pat Bassano when two kills and a spin serve gave her the title.

YORKSHIRE OPEN

VENUE for this season's Yorkshire Open Championships will be Ferens Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull and not, as in previous years, the York Railway Institute.

Contrary to the entry in the Tournament Diaries (of which sales are now exhausted) the tournament will be on Sunday, February 16, and not Saturday, the 15th.

Entries close on Monday, February 3, and forms can be obtained from Frank Briggs, 10 Merton Gardens, Farsley, Pudsey, Yorks. (Home telephone: Pudsey 4152).

THE "BEER CRATE" INTERNATIONAL

THE presentation of the European League match between England and Sweden at Norwich was outstanding (writes E.T.T.A. Deputy Chairman, Walter Mitton).

Harold Betts and his excellent team are to be congratulated on a very fine effort. Several match organisers present were amazed at the successful use of empty beer crates as staging for tiered seating.

The working team brought in 1,000 crates from Watney Mann's Brewery and arranged them round the arena with wood panits on top providing seating for 800 people, the largest attendance at an International match this season.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

by Laurie Landry

THE two teams chosen to play Federal Germany, at Bury and Barnsley, gave six different Boys and four different Girls the opportunity to test themselves against foreign opposition.

New caps were Ian Robertson, Nicky Jarvis, Linda Bashford, Jenny Cornock and Christine Mann. Robertson had brilliantly won the Hull, Birmingham and Cumberland Junior Boys' titles whilst Jarvis took the really strong Middlesex Boys' award.

Linda Bashford has been notching many senior scalps and won the Hull Women's title. Jenny Cornock has earned her selection with consistent improvement whilst Christine Mann has steadily fought her way to international recognition.

In the new Junior Boys' Ranking list Ian Robertson deservedly shoots up to No. 4 from Group "B" with Nicky Jarvis one place behind from Group "A". This has meant that the others have had to drop.

Only newcomer to the list is Colin Jones of Kent who comes in to Group "B" with Ian Horsham of Essex earning an upgrading to Group "A".

The Girls have also shown some changes with Linda Bashford coming in at No. 3 from Group "A" and Lynda Chesson of Kent at No. 6 from Group "B". The other Group "A" girls have spread themselves out with Lesley Pacitto and Sandra Lee taking a tumble from 4 to 9 and from 5 to 11 respectively.

Newcomers into the new larger Group "A" are Anne Painter, Susan Pacitto and Alison Water.

REVISED JUNIOR RANKINGS (previous ranking shown in brackets) BOYS:

1. Trevor Taylor (Herts.) (1)
 2. John Dabin (Kent) (4)
 3. Melvin Waldman (Middx.) (2)
 4. Ian Robertson (Northumb.) (Group "B")
 5. Nicky Jarvis (Yorks.) (Group "A")
 6. Tony Boasman (Lancs.) (7)
 7. Simon Heaps (Ches.) (8)
 8. Alan Fletcher (Yorks.) (5)
 9. Peter Taylor (Herts.) (7)
 10. Robert Hellaby (Essex) (9)
 11. Michael Read (Essex) (6)
 12. Paul Freeman (Durham) (10)
- GROUP "A"**
Peter Abell (Yorks.)
Paul Bishop (Surrey)
Roger Clarke (Warwicks.)
Neil Fulstow (Yorks.)
Robert Gibson (Middx.)
Ian Horsham (Essex) (Group "B")

- David James (Devon)
Robin Napper (Bucks.)
David Newton (Lancs.)
David Rayner (Yorks.)
Raymond Tilling (Kent)
Michael Wald (Bucks.)

- GROUP "B"**
Barry Grimwade (Kent)
Marcus Hall (Warwicks.)
Kingsley Harrison (Lancs.)
Ian Johns (Ches.)
*Colin Jones (Kent)
Michael Locke (Essex)
Roderick Marchant (Northants.)
Phillip Mayman (Ches.)

Derek Smith (Surrey)
Paul Stone (Devon)
Stuart Tannahill (Hants.)
* New.

GIRLS:

1. Jill Shirley (Bucks.) (1)
2. Susan Howard (Surrey) (2)
3. Linda Bashford (Yorks.) (Group "A")
4. Jennifer Cornock (Warwicks.) (3)
5. Christine Mann (Middx.) (Group "A")
6. Lynda Chesson (Kent) (Group "B")
7. Susan Beckwith (Essex) (Group "A")
8. Linda Howard (Surrey) (Group "A")
9. Lesley Pacitto (Bucks.) (4)
10. Carol Randall (Sussex) (Group "A")
11. Sandra Lee (Yorks.) (5)
12. Susan Lisle (Lancs.) (Group "A")

GROUP "A"

- Paula Brenchley (Kent) ("B")
Suzan Kavallierou (Sussex) ("B")
Shiela Hamilton (Middx.) ("B")
Janet Hellaby (Essex) ("B")
Valerie King (Yorks.) ("B")
Janet List (Suffolk) ("B")
Bernadette McGrorty (Kent) ("B")

- *Anne Painter (Middx.)
*Susan Pacitto (Bucks.)
Linda Sutton (Yorks.) ("B")
*Alison Waters (Yorks.)
* New.

TEAM SELECTIONS

Chosen to represent England against Federal Germany were:—

at Bury (Jan. 4, 1969):
I. Robertson, A. Boasman, S. Heaps, J. Cornock and C. Mann.
at Barnsley (Jan. 6, 1969):
J. Dabin, M. Waldman, N. Jarvis, S. Howard and L. Bashford.

Trevor Taylor and Jill Shirley were not picked because of being in Yugoslavia (Jan. 5-18) for intensive training.

ADDITIONAL STAFF COACH

THE E.T.T.A. have appointed Les Gresswell as an additional Staff Coach whose initial operating territory will be parts of the Midlands and the South.

Les, who took up his appointment on January 1, is well known in table tennis circles as a former Junior International and as a Middlesex county player both as a junior and a senior.

His experience as a student and teacher of physical education will be invaluable to the Coaching Scheme as has already been proved by his work with the International Squad.

He has had teaching experience in both Primary and Comprehensive Schools and is a holder of an F.A. Coaching Award and Mountain Leadership Certificate.

It is intended that there will be closer integration of the Coaching Scheme with the activities of the Selection Committee with regard to team training and coaching. This appointment will enable the Association to make even greater progress towards this aim.

ENGLISH CLOSED (cont.)

DUAL ACT

Surrey's Ron Penfold captured the headlines of the London Friday evening papers with his dual giant-killing act in Rounds 1 and 2 of the men's singles. Not content with axeing Ralph Gunnion in four games he went on to create the biggest shock of the morning session by stopping the seeded and uncertain Stuart Gibbs (Essex) at 18 in the fourth.

In Round 3 however, the Surrey dock-worker was quickly stopped by England No. 1 junior Trevor Taylor 15, 16, 10. Hopes of a great future for Trevor continue to mount—as his three-straight win over Brian Wright illustrated.

Taylor then lined up for his semi-final battle with Neale. Watching Taylor win the first 22-20, a spectator's comment, "They're all afraid of his (Taylor's) forehand" summed up the situation as Neale looked a very worried No. 1 seed; but Denis has weathered too many storms against world-class opposition to be robbed at this point. The Yorkshireman piled on the pressure, the pace and the counter-hitting and that was the end of Trevor—for the moment—13, 11, 9.

The other semi-final produced a fine all-out attacking battle between two defence-scoring stalwarts of the English table tennis scene, Barnes and Warren. Connie took a national newspaper headline when the umpire objected to his bouncing the ball on his bat prior to serving but Chester saved the situation by indicating it was not disturbing his concentration. Hitting and counter-hitting galore between Barnes and Warren who were both in fine form, saw two deuce games, one either way, but Chester clinched his place in the final with a victory at 10 in the fourth.

HOUR-LONG STRUGGLE

THE fastest quarter-final saw Pauline Fiddock eliminate Jackie Billington three-straight. The third to finish was a great win by Jill Shirley, in four, over an off-colour Karenza Mathews. Earlier Diane Simpson brought out her finest strokes to beat the sad-looking Judy Heaps, who this time had something to be sad about, 9-21, 21-14, 26-24, 21-17. The England No. 3 Maureen Heppell and Judy Williams fought out a bitter hour-long struggle which eventually arrived at the expedite point at 11-7 in the fifth.

The Sussex girl won the first and then got deep into trouble by losing the next two. With the game slowing down all the time Miss Williams won the next at 12. In the middle of the fifth Miss Heppell decided to try for expedite with a point that lasted five minutes. Miss Heppell then levelled the score to 12-12, but the Sussex champion came back with some smart hitting which surprised the Northumberland girl who lost her place in the semi-final.

Karenza's defeat as the No. 1 seed was, on paper, the shock of the day.

ANOTHER VICTORY

It was another victory for Yorkshire in the final round of the men's doubles when Alan Hydes and Denis Neale survived two tight games in the middle of the struggle to beat Barnes and David Brown (Essex) -13, 22, -20, 9, 11. It was cut and thrust all the way until the two final

games when Neale's class carried the day.

One of the features of the English Closed this year was that many important games were won with the players facing away from the crowd on the raised seating block. This occurred again in the women's final when Judy Heaps and Pauline Piddock became the new champions beating Lesley Radford and Diane Simpson 17, -15, 10, -18, 13.

The last final of the championships was the mixed doubles and it was the one which gave Denis Neale his triple crown, partnered by Karenza Mathews, 17, 16, -16, 13, over Alan Hydes and Maureen Heppell.

RESULTS

Men's Singles,

Round 3: Barnes bt Hill 10, 8, 10; Haslam bt Williams -15, 11, 17, 17; Johns bt Hill 13, 13, 22; Warren bt Warwick 9, 8, 14; Taylor bt Penfold 15, 16, 10; Wright bt Lindsay 14, 14, 6; Hydes bt Landry 13, 14, -22, 14; Neale bt Radford 18, 18, 17.

Quarter-finals: Barnes bt Haslam -18, 7, 22, 15; Warren bt Johns 14, 14, -16, 17; Taylor bt Wright 15, 19, 18; Neale bt Hydes 19, 16, 16.

Semi-finals: Barnes bt Warren 21, 16, -20, 10; Neale bt Taylor -20, 13, 11, 9.

Final: NEALE bt BARNES 16, 16, 18.

Women's singles:

Quarter-finals: Williams bt Heppell 16, -13, -16, 12, 14; Piddock bt Billington 11, 10, 15; Simpson bt Heaps -9, 14, 26, 17; Shirley bt Mathews 19, 16, -18, 7.

Semi-finals: Williams bt Piddock 15, -12, 14, -9, 18; Shirley bt Simpson 9, 17, 17.

Final: WILLIAMS bt SHIRLEY -14, 9, -9, 12, 15.

Consolation Results:

Men: B. Burn (Northumberland) bt. S. Ogundipe (Sussex) 17, -21, 12.

Women's: Miss Jean Williams (Bucks.) bt Miss Linda Howard (Surrey) 21-11, 21-13.



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TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Jan. 25	Pontefract Restricted Open, JBS, JGS The Assembly Rooms, Market Place and Pontefract Girls' Secondary School, Back Northgate, Pontefract.	VS	G. L. Johnson, 17, Rhodes Crescent, Pontefract, Yorks. Closing date: 13.1.69.
Jan. 25/26	Kent Open, Marine Pavilion, Folkestone.	YBS, YGS VS	C. M. Wyles, 48, Eversfield Place, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex.
Feb. 1	South Yorkshire Open, Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield.	JBS, JGS	A. W. Guite, 11, Bartle Avenue, Sheffield, 12. Closing Date: 18.1.69.
Feb. 1/2	Bucks. Open, Community Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.		L. Thompson, "Auchmead", 39, The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx.
Feb. 2	Burford (Oxon) Junior Open, The Grammar School, Burford, Oxon.	U-13 BS, GS U-15 BS, GS BD, GD	M. J. Chalk, The Grammar School, Burford, Oxon.
Feb. 2	Hythe Restricted Open.		R. J. Weaver, Hunters Moon, 9, St. Hildas Road, Hythe, Kent.
Feb. 2	North Bournemouth Rest. Open, Winton Y.M.C.A., Bournemouth.	JS	C. B. Cashell, 16, Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth, Hants.
Feb. 8	Midland Counties Open, Harry Mitchell Rec. Centre, JD & VS Warley, Worcs.	JBS, JGS	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
Feb. 16	Portsmouth Junior Open, Wimbledon Park Hall, Southsea, Hants.	U-14 BG, BD GS, GD U-12 BS, GS	P. Goldring, 52, Winter Road, Southsea, Hants.
Feb. 16	Yorkshire Open, Ferens Recreation Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull.	VS	F. Briggs, 10, Merton Gardens, Farsley, Pudsey, Yorks. Closing Date: 3.2.69.

OFFICIAL NEWS

NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME

AT a meeting of the National Coaching and Schools Committee, held on December 8, a number of suggestions were put forward and decisions reached which are of particular interest to our members.

UNDER-13 COMPETITION

IT was agreed that a competition for this age group (date limit as for all ETTA events) should be organised for the current season. It was felt that the Leagues should provide their champions to play in one of four Regional Finals on May 31, with the National Final to be played on June 21/69.

The Regional Finals would be played on a group basis whilst the National Final would be on a knock-out basis.

Further details will be distributed to Leagues shortly.

FREE COACHING SESSIONS

THE response to the questionnaire sent to Leagues had been quite encouraging and of the 68 replies so far received, fourteen Leagues have stated that they DO NOT require free sessions. Reasons given are that they are already adequately catered for with their own coaching set-up, lack of suitable facilities or it would be impracticable for their type of League.

Free sessions have already been arranged for most Leagues who require them and details are set out below.

North

Oct. 31	Sheffield.
Nov. 17	Barnsley.
" 19	Hull.
" 25	Louth.
" 26	Spalding.
Dec. 15	Cumberland.
Jan. 8	Dukeries.
" 16	Stockton.
" 17	Warrington.
" 22	Rochdale.
" 24	Nuneaton.
" 26	Stone.
" 30	Derby.
" 31	Wellingborough.

South

Nov. 4	South Devon.
Dec. 6	Cheltenham.
" 14	Wembley/Harrow.
" 19	Didcot.
" 22	Bedford.
" 29	Stroud.
Jan. 5	Billericay.
" 13	Bracknell/Maid'head.
" 17	Weymouth.
" 18	Isle of Wight.
" 23	Burnham.
" 24	Southend.
Feb. 7	Beccles.
" 8	Yarmouth/Norwich. Tunbridge Wells/ Tonbridge.

Details are under discussion for the following Leagues: Basingstoke, Dagenham, Guildford, Lowestoft, Newbury, Salisbury and Swindon.

COUNTY COACHING

A similar form was sent to Counties and, once again, the response and interest shown has been quite good and although 21 Counties replied, details are still awaited from the following:—

Bedfordshire, Derbyshire, Devon, Durham, Essex, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire.

EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

A questionnaire and covering letter have also been sent to Education Authorities. Sixty-eight replies have been received from the 180 despatched and there is obviously a general interest in discovering more about the workings of the Coaching Scheme.

COMMENT

IT is fair to say that, with the points aforementioned and further development with the revision of Coaching Awards and introduction of the Junior Proficiency Award Scheme, the Coaching and Schools Committee have embarked on a most ambitious programme. Full development in the scheme can be achieved with the co-operation of administrators, coaches and players and the Committee will welcome any constructive criticism in this field.

Leagues and Counties who have not yet completed their questionnaire are invited to do so in order to reap the full benefit of present development.

From the Editor's Postbag

MASTER POINTS—DEAD DUCK!

THE nearest thing I have ever heard to flogging a dead horse is that the Master Points Scheme should be tied in with a Grading Scheme and presented to the National Council.

When the M.P.S. started I was one of its keenest supporters and my league continued its support until the end of last season when it was discovered that less than 4% of the players were genuinely collecting their points!

I concede that the M.P.S. has over some five years collected a fair sum of money for the E.T.T.A., hence the Hon. Treasurer's interest in its survival, but I am quite sure that it has now finished its useful life. Vast numbers of players should by now be wearing the various badges—where are they?—I have seen only three in five years.

At tournaments the lack of interest is even greater. I have yet to see a player give a damn whether or not he gets his M.P. certificate. One factor is that once a league is in the scheme it is not easy to get out, unless enquiries prove that only a small minority are showing interest.

Tom Blunn says the M.P.S. "has not been given the publicity it deserves." I would respectfully suggest that there is now nothing to give publicity about! It is being supported by a small minority only and I challenge anyone to prove otherwise. A lot of officials should wake up to the fact that it is a dead duck as far as majority support is concerned. It is not a "booster" it needs but a lethal shot!

For heaven's sake, let's get our heads out of the sand, wind up the scheme and use the energy being wasted on something else!

JOHN WOODFORD.

56, Kings Drive, Eastbourne, Sussex.

ONE LAW FOR THE RICH?

AS a County Umpire present at the England versus Sweden match at Norwich, I was surprised that Hans Alser was not faulted once for his obvious infringement of the service rule. Does this rule apply for International matches?

LESLIE CONSTABLE.

8, Benet Close, Milton, Cambs.

MATERIAL WANTED

The Royal Air Force Table Tennis Association is hoping to compile an album covering R.A.F. Table Tennis.

Very little material would appear to be readily available and it is thought that former Royal Air Force personnel might be able to assist.

Reports, Press cuttings and photographs covering R.A.F. matches, Inter-Command and Individual Championships would be welcome and should be sent to:—

The Secretary
(for Press and Publicity Officer)
Royal Air Force Table Tennis
Association,
Ministry of Defence (E31C)
(R.A.F.).

Old War Office Building,
Whitehall, LONDON, S.W.1.
All items will be returned to the sender.



PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS Cheshire county player Roger Hampson (22) and Pamela Radford (21) at St. Saviour's Church, Southampton, where they were recently married.

Both are at present attending Southampton University. Roger lives in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, while Pam's home is in the Channel Islands.

The 8th Maccabiah Games, Israel

HELD every four years, the 8th Maccabiah Games are due to take place in Israel between July 28 and August 7, 1969.

DOUBLE FOR YUGOSLAVIA BUT SURBEK TWICE BEATEN

by Johnny Leach

England 3 Yugoslavia 4

AT the Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre, on December 13, Yugoslavia were just too good for England having the match won before we could get off the mark.

In the opening set, Chester Barnes led Dragutin Surbek, the reigning European champion, 9-5 in the third. Denis Neale had commanding leads in both games that Anton Stipanovic won, 15-9 in the first, and 8-3 and 15-12 in the second.

As it turned out a victory in either of these sets could have given us the edge because when trailing 0-4, we made a splendid recovery to win the last three.

Sparked off with a great mixed doubles win by Barnes and Karenza Mathews, Neale then played brilliant table tennis to become the first player this season to beat Surbek.

Denis trailed 18-20 in the second game and 16-20 in the decider. Subsequently Chester had patches of brilliance to beat Stipanovic.

Judy Heaps disappointed never being in with a chance against Mirjana Resler. Individual results (in match order) were:—

Barnes lost to Surbek 18, -13, -18.
Neale lost to Stipanovic -15, -20.
Judy Heaps lost to Resler -12, -16.
Barnes/Neale lost to Surbek/Stipanovic 16, -12, -12.

Barnes/Karenza Mathews bt Stipanovic/Resler 8, -18, 13.

Neale bt Surbek -13, 23, 20.
Barnes bt Stipanovic 21, 13.

England 2 Yugoslavia 6

At Newbury, on December 16, Yugoslavia got off the ground as though powered by retro rockets, speeding to a 6-0 lead before Trevor Taylor stopped the rot with a good win over Stipanovic.

Brian Wright wound up the proceedings with a glorious win over Surbek, recovering from a losing position in the second game and retrieving three set points in the decider. Match order scores were:

Taylor lost to Surbek -12, -11.

Wright lost to Stipanovic -16, -16.

Jill Shirley lost to Resler -20, -12.

Taylor/Wright lost to Surbek/Stipanovic -18, -14.

Wright/Shirley lost to Stipanovic/Resler 20, -16, -10.

Judy Williams lost to Resler -19, -13.
Taylor bt Stipanovic 16, -17, 15.

Wright bt Surbek -20, 19, 20.



Wheelchair Champion

"reproduced from the Yorkshire Post"

Photo by courtesy of Press Agency (Yorkshire) Ltd.

LADY Susan Masham, a Yorkshire County T.T.A. Vice-President, and Neil Macdonald were two of Britain's hopefuls at the recent Paraplegic Olympic Games in Israel. They are here seen practising with the help of Hattee, a player who never tires.

Hattee, real name High-powered Automatic Table Tennis Electronic Ejector is a robot which has been installed at Lady Masham's home at Masham in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

Lady Masham, who won a gold medal at the last wheelchair Olympics in Tokyo says: "The robot certainly speeds up training and we think it is a wonderful invention".

The robot can be pre-set to deliver between 30 and 90 balls a minute. It also oscillates to angle shots, and can put top, side or backspin on the balls.

Mr. Macdonald, a former Army cook comes from Lochgair in Argyllshire.



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SCORE LINE FLATTERED

by Peter Simpson

ALTHOUGH England beat Ireland 9-1, at Bangor, Co. Down on November 28, the score does not reflect a true picture as we were made to fight extremely hard to beat Jim Langan and Tommy Caffrey.

Our girls had an easy time of it, Judy Heaps hitting very hard in both her sets and Betty Warwick had no answer to Lesley Radford's top spin loop.

"Les" Haslam was very nervous in his first match against Caffrey but, against Langan, after a shaky start, he settled down and played confidently, winning both his singles. But, "Connie" Warren, I thought, was our match winner.

In both his sets, he played some brilliant table tennis as well as conducting himself in an exemplary manner.

Mike Johns did not play at all well. Although he beat Cliff Thompson, he was never at ease and, against Caffrey, he was never in the game.

Individual results:—

M. Johns bt C. Thompson 16, -19, 10; O. Haslam bt T. Caffrey -19, 18, 16; C. Warren bt J. Langan -18, 14, 18; L. Radford bt B. Warwick 14, 16; Haslam/Johns bt Caffrey/Langan 15, -16, 20; J. Heaps/Radford bt J. Fitzsimons/Warwick 13, 13; Warren bt Thompson 13, 15; Heaps bt Fitzsimons 15, 10; Johns lost to Caffrey -14, -15; Haslam bt Langan -15, 5, 18.

NOT AN INTERNATIONAL

NEW Zealander, Peter Thompson points out that contrary to the International status "conferred" on him in the article "New Club with International Flavour" (Table Tennis News, December, 1968) he is **not** a former member of the New Zealand National Team.

Peter was, in fact, a playing member of the Auckland men's representative team which won the Inter-Provincial Team Championship of New Zealand in the years 1958, 1959 and 1960.

Letter to the Editor

PEN-PAL WANTED

AS a German boy, aged 22, with a keen interest in table tennis and wanting to improve my English, it would be appreciated if a pen-friendship could be acquired (either sex) through the medium of your magazine.

Arnold Kotthoff.

Baumhofstrable 3,
5779 EVERSBERG,
Germany.

IAN HARRISON

Master Craftsman



an appreciation by Peter Mudge

THE trouble with appreciations is that they sound like obituaries; obituaries are easier to write because you can be reasonably certain that the subject is not going to object to anything you write about him, but Ian Harrison is alive and well and living in London. He is not, however, playing any more international table tennis and this seems a good time to remind ourselves, and tell the new generation, of how Ian towered over the game in England for so many years.

He was born in Tunbridge Wells, on June 28th, 1939. Two months later Adolf Hitler declared war on Great Britain. There was no apparent connection between the two events but nevertheless the Harrison family moved to Cheltenham just before Christmas of the same year.

Twelve years later, just before Christmas 1951, a capped and blazered Ian was hauling a sledge through the snow-covered streets of Cheltenham and stopped in front of a sports shop window to decide on a Christmas present. The sports shop was a natural choice since he was already attracting attention as an all-round sportsman at Leckhampton School; he was a first choice for the school's junior football, cricket, athletics and swimming teams. His gaze fell on a table tennis set, it reminded him that only that week he had played table tennis for the very first time and been soundly beaten. This unhappy event had taken place in the school games room on a snowy afternoon when football had been cancelled. Losing at anything was a far from enjoyable experience for the small Ian, and so the die was cast—the table tennis set was what he wanted.

I've even forgotten his name now, but I know I didn't like him, and when he beat me at table tennis I saw red. All I wanted the table tennis set for was to practice at home and get my own back.

The set duly appeared on the Christmas tree and practise he did, with a little help from his friends. There is no fairy-tale ending to the story, he never played his rival again. What did happen was that the game took Ian's fancy so much that a month later when the Cheltenham Spa T.T.C. advertised for members in the local paper he went along and joined. The club was in the pavilion of Montpelier Park, only ten minutes away from home. This was a wise move, because one look at the keen players there made him realise that there were better ways to play than his own "lawn mower" grip and half-volley on the backhand only.

He launched himself into table tennis orbit with Apollo-like speed. Having joined the Montpelier Club in February, 1952, at the age of 12, he learnt enough to get himself into the Cheltenham junior team at the start of the 1952/53 season, and at the end of that season won the league junior singles. His second season saw him in the Cheltenham senior team alongside Bob Griffin and Peter Cruse. The third season brought his England junior cap. The fourth season was the big one, with an England senior cap and the English Open junior singles title some going for a 15-year old.

You couldn't call my first senior match for England a dramatic success. It was against France and my team mates were Johnny Leach and Brian Kennedy. We won the match 6-3 but one of our players lost all three of his games if you see what I mean.

His fifth season, 1956/57, saw him selected for the Swaythling Cup team at the World Championships in Stockholm. He stayed in the team for the next twelve years, playing in six World and six European Championships—a fantastic record. Had he not retired there is little doubt that he would have played in his seventh World Championships at Munich this year. That season also brought his first senior county match for Gloucestershire, he had received a senior International cap long before being selected by his county. Surprising, but in his first two seasons he had not made the best possible impression on local and county officials and in any case it was not the easiest county team to get into since they had Aubrey Simons and Bryan Merrett available.

As a 13 and 14-year old I was a bad loser. I took winning for granted and had a good sulk or a cry when I lost. I was small for my age and quick-tempered, and had a very fierce competitive spirit. It all blew away when I began to win more often than I lost. But around the Cheltenham league you could always tell a table I'd played on because it had chips out of the surface where I had banged my bat on it in a tiny rage!

There was a story connected with that first county match. The week before it was played the E.T.T.A. had announced the Swaythling Cup team as Leach, Bergmann, Kennedy, Rhodes and Harrison. There was an outcry at the omission of Micky Thornhill and Derek Burrige, both Middlesex internationals. The county match was against Middlesex and Ian defeated both of them!

At the start of the 1956/57 season Ian had been at No. 6 in the Ranking List, by the end of the season he was equal No. 1 with Merrett and Thornhill. The next season he had the No. 1 spot to himself and kept it for close on seven years. It would take many columns to detail his complete domination of the game in England during that period. Suffice it to say that he won over one hundred Open titles and played 178 times for England. The title that pleased him most was the English Open in 1960. It was the first time for 36 years that an English-born player had been English Open champion.

Admittedly the entry wasn't exactly up to European standards, but that doesn't go down in the records does it? There was a sense of occasion about playing the final in the mighty Albert Hall. I didn't give a damn about the entry—I had won and my name was going on that cup in company with players like Ogimura, Sido, Bergmann, Vana, Barna and Szabados. I was happy and proud and wild horses wouldn't have dragged the cup out of my hands once I'd been presented with it.

At the height of his career Ian had beaten every top player in Europe and, best of all, had wins over World Champions Ogimura and Chuang-Tse-Tung. Table tennis had taken him all over Europe and to Russia and China as well. On a summer exhibition tour with the Harlem Globetrotters he added labels to his suitcases in Greece, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Cyprus.

A little-realised fact is that Ian came unscathed through the greatest upheaval of technique in the history of the game, namely the transition from rubber through sponge to sandwich rubber as a bat covering. He started playing with ordinary rubber and for the first seven years of his playing career employed a totally defensive game, his extraordinary retrieving ability leaving a trail of broken-hearted attacking players in his wake. He was far from a negative "chiseller" however, he often gave the impression of actually giving attackers the chance to use their best shots. A very revealing quote was made to this writer only last season by a current Swaythling Cup player, just after he had lost to Ian in an Open tournament, he said: "You always play well against Ian but then you suddenly realise you aren't getting any points!"

At tournament finals it got to the stage when a cheer would go up if I actually hit the ball. The people cheering were usually players who had been knocked out in the early rounds, probably through attacking badly.

Around 1959 he changed to sandwich rubber, never having tried the thick sponge which was in vogue for a while. This called for a change of game; sandwich gave the advantage to attackers and totally defensive players were doomed. Ian added a quick hit to his armoury but remained basically defensive; this unsettled the attackers and his results were as good as ever, and noticeably quicker. Two or three seasons later the loop arrived and defence had to be virtually abandoned. He changed to reverse sandwich, but more than a change of bat was needed.

I couldn't beat them, so I had to join them. It cost me hundreds of hours of practice and lost me quite a few matches, but I switched almost completely to attack. It wasn't learning the strokes that was difficult, it was changing my mental approach. I had to develop an attacking personality to go with the strokes. I didn't entirely succeed, you can't really change your basic character, but I kept my place at the top of the Ranking List. The truth is that table tennis from then on became hard work for me. As a defensive player I had been a 'natural', and I can't honestly say I enjoyed playing as much.

In some ways it was perhaps Ian Harrison's greatest triumph that he survived the upheaval without losing his place. All around him famous names were retiring from the scene, unable to meet the new challenge. Such a complete reversal of style and approach must be unique in the annals of any sport. It is easy to understand why Richard Bergmann once described Ian as the greatest English player he had ever seen, in terms of sheer mastery of technique. Ian brought credit to the English game wherever he played—in his play, in his manner and in his appearance. He was the last of the great all-round players, the last master craftsman. We shall not see his like again.

Perhaps I could have stayed in the 'top few' for a while longer if I'd had the time to practice seriously. But with a career, a wife, a small son and a thirsty sports car to think of, life got too crowded. So I decided to quit early, before I started to slip. After all, 'Why did you retire'? is a much nicer question than 'Why don't you retire'?

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

A match against England for the International Club was the reward for "Les" Haslam and Trevor Taylor after their early season wins over Denis Neale and Chester Barnes respectively.

It was against the same two players that "Les" and Trevor played in a Television match at Stoke-on-Trent on December 20. Captain for the International Club was Chairman, Geoff Harrower whilst Secretary, Laurie Landry was Captain of the England side.

Club members are reminded that fees were due on January 1st, 1969 and the Treasurer is Brian Wright, 50, Wide Way, Mitcham, Surrey.

Neale falls to Taylor

ENGLAND'S 4-1 win over the International Club at Stoke-on-Trent, on December 20, was highlighted by the set they lost, for it concerned Denis Neale.

The Yorkshireman was tumbled by 16-years-old Trevor Taylor, England's top junior, who almost completed a double, losing to Chester Barnes by the narrowest of margins.

G. C. Barnes (Essex) bt O. B. Haslam (Middx.) 16, 16;
D. Neale (Yorks.) lost to T. Taylor (Herts.) 12, -16, -18;
Barnes/Neale bt Haslam/Taylor 16, 16;
Barnes bt Taylor 11, -18, 21; Neale bt Haslam 4, 16.

DEREK SCHOFIELD

by Philip Reid

IT is perhaps as well that Tiviot Dale Sunday School had a table tennis club. Otherwise one of the greatest team-men the game has ever known might never have discovered table tennis.

Derek Schofield discovered the club and was invited to pick up a bat and try his hand. It took him little time to decide this was the game for him and he has never taken any other sport seriously, ever since.

Indeed, he has never had time. The Stockport champion, Herbert Airey, was a member of the Tiviot Dale Club and the young Schofield set his sights on perhaps one day being as good as that. He could hardly have imagined he would only be fractionally short of International standard before he had finished.

One season at Tiviot Dale and the ambitious Derek was off to the St. Andrew's Club where he joined Eric Johnson and immediately secured a first division place. The team in those days, besides Eric and Derek, comprised Jack Higham, now treasurer of the Stockport League, Peter Brindley and Alan Gibson.

The team finished well up the division but the next two seasons they finished top.

RECOGNISED

Derek was playing so well he was bound to be recognised by the town selectors and so, early in season 1947-8, he was chosen to play against Bolton.

He lost both his sets, and his place in the town team, but not his enthusiasm for 1948-9 brought him the Stockport Closed singles followed by a hasty recall to the representative team against Chester.

In the third division of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, in which Stockport were then operating, each player contested three sets and, against Chester, Derek won his three.

Stockport moved out of the third division in season 1949-50. With a team consisting of Derek, Eric Johnson, Geoff Lomas and Vince Hankey this was hardly surprising.

It was about this time that Derek heard about Open Tournaments and immediately the prospect of them appealed to him. The challenge of them, meeting so many people, the atmosphere and congeniality were ingredients Derek found irresistible.

1952 was another landmark for Derek. He was chosen for his County, Cheshire, against old adversaries Lancashire. Derek lost to both Ron Allcock and Ronnie Baker. The selectors, however, had no intention of judging him on one match and they were right. In the next match against Northumberland he emerged unbeaten.

In 1953-4, Cheshire brought off their best County performance, up until then, when they gained promotion to the Premier Division, Derek having gone through the season undefeated. His team-mates were Eric

Johnson, Vince Hankey and Arnold Shepherd.

His first Open tournament men's singles title also came Derek's way at the Flintshire Open. In the Premier Division, Derek met the redoubtable Harry Venner in the first match. He lost two and was dropped.

"YO-YO" TEAM

That season, Cheshire returned to Division 2 and in fact set a remarkable pattern which led to them being called the "Yo-Yo" team. Just look at this:—1954—Promoted, 1955—Relegated, 1956—Promoted, 1957—Relegated, 1958—Promoted, 1959—Relegated, 1960—Promoted, 1961—Relegated, 1962—Promoted, 1963—Relegated, 1965—Promoted.

Derek played through all this and it sharpened his game as a result. The reason is not hard to find. Every match, every set was vital, either in the bid to stay in the Premier Division or the fight to top the second division.

His successes in tournaments continued and in one season he reached no fewer than 19 finals!

It was truly a terrific performance for a player without an International badge and speaks volumes for his consistency, ability and fitness.

Towards the end of some of the tournaments, Derek was on non-stop and many a lesser man would have wanted a rest before continuing. Not Derek. A quick wipe with the towel and he was ready to continue battle.

Having reached 19 finals in one season (but only winning 4) he won six titles the following season, but reached nothing like the same number of finals. This was his peak period of tournament successes, the mid-1950's.

Having a wife who is table tennis-minded (and a more than useful player too) has made Derek's life in table tennis a world easier. Doreen played at the same club as Derek and she tells me "He sometimes condescended to acknowledge our presence but rarely would he lower himself to play us". This I would find hard to believe!!

BROKE HIS LEG

Meeting Doreen was not his only "break"—the same season he broke his leg but Derek was so keen to play he entered the Stockport Closed with his leg in plaster. He wasn't mobile enough to win the singles but some fine manoeuvring with Vince Hankey brought him the men's doubles title.

Derek pinpoints the turning point in Cheshire's fortunes to the end of the 1963-4 season when the County with no chance of promotion, and well clear of relegation, brought in two young players—Roger Hampson and Mike Johns. It proved to be a master stroke.

The following season, the team won promotion to the Premier Division, following a cliff-hanger of a play-off with Warwickshire. Cheshire have

been in the Premier Division ever since.

The trio have proved the most successful team Cheshire have ever had. Mike Johns, who can be brilliant on his day and at times almost unplayable. Roger Hampson, the elegant, flowing stylist with a preference for attack. And, of course, Derek. The defensive (in the main), consistent, ever-reliable.

Their 1965-6 season in the Premier was the first time Cheshire had ever avoided relegation. In the course of it they had three victories but the greatest was over old foes Lancashire.

It was the first time they had ever beaten them and Derek's contribution was a sparkling win over Mike Symonds. Derek said of the match "I could cheerfully have retired on the spot".

He did nothing of the sort though, as victories over Jimmy Moore and Peter Williams showed. There was a play-off that season for extra places in the European Championships at Wembley.

Only the top players were allowed to enter the competition and Derek astounded many people (but not those who knew him well) by coming second, losing to Ralph Gunnion in the final.

All sets were best of five and Derek showed he had lasting powers apart from other assets. He beat Alan Ransome, Roger Hampson, Tony Piddock and Kevin Forshaw—each of them a worthy win.

PREMATURE

In the "European", he promptly justified his inclusion by beating Osario (Portugal) three-straight and narrowly losing a five-gamer to the Austrian, Duschanek.

In the past two seasons in the Premier Division he has had wins over Keith Lawrence, Brian Barr, Terry Densham, Michael Creamer, Ron Penfold, "Les" Haslam, Bryan Merrett, John Clarke, Bryn Farnworth and David Brown—so any suggestion about him being "past his best" would be premature.

This season, for the first time, the National Selection Committee have a Players' Representative amongst their number. Derek was appointed to the task and there could not have been a better choice.

As he has attended over 150 tournaments, it goes without saying, he is one of the best-known players on the tournament circuit, and also one of the most popular.

He has made over 100 appearances for Cheshire and a far greater number for Stockport. Eddie Brown is one man, perhaps more than any other, who helped Derek in his earlier days and it is something Derek has never forgotten.

Since his early days, Derek has always been primarily a defensive player but woe betide any player who under-estimates him.

I have seen juniors, seeing Derek play for the first time, wonder how a player who was apparently so limited could have so many good wins under his belt.

PROBLEM UNSOLVED

One said to me at Skegness, three years ago, just before Derek went on to play Stuart Gibbs, who on his day can be the most brilliant of players, "I can't figure out how he can beat any good player".

Twenty minutes later a burst of applause echoed all round the room as Gibbs walked round to shake hands with the victorious Schofield and the junior in question still had his problem unsolved.

The answer lies in his brilliant variance of chop, his ability to probe his opponent's weaknesses. And, at all times, his tight, careful game.

Some players play like philanthropists, giving points away on services, careless returns, etc. Not Schofield. He plays like a miser and gives nothing away. For him to serve off would be (to him) a cardinal sin.

Points against are earned, not given. Unless he is sure he won't miss Derek is unlikely to allow himself the luxury of an outright kill.

It is this nagging accuracy which is the downfall of so many players. Only Ian Harrison has proved beyond him.

Of the juniors he has played only Trevor Taylor has beaten him the first time they met and Derek rates him an outstandingly talented and intelligent player. Derek should know.

These same attributes could well apply to him. A player who started perhaps two years too late to have a chance of making International teams, but whose name will be remembered long after we have forgotten many Internationals.

Indeed, Derek should be playing in top class for some years yet. There is nothing in his game to suggest otherwise. And thank goodness for that. We can do with all the Derek Schofields we can get.



Essentially a team man, Derek is here seen, arms folded, with his Cheshire County team-mates who from l. to r. are Roger Hampson, Mike Johns and Brian Kean.

Photograph by courtesy of The Stockport Express Ltd.



Selflessness

by The Editor

WARWICKSHIRE County Umpire, Norman Fennell, is 32 and one of a family of nine originating from Kent.

Norman was born disabled in both arms and legs and spent his early life in hospitals and residential schools for disabled boys.

During this period he took an active part in the Boy Scouts movement and was introduced to Table Tennis at the tender age of 8—to strengthen movement in his arms and legs.

The family moved to the Midlands in 1956, and during a few years of uncertainty had various jobs but, during this period, Norman formed the Local Youth Service, took a Youth Leadership course and travelled to Europe and Scandinavia on various projects connected with youth parties.

In 1961, he joined Cadbury's at Bournville, as a clerk, and soon became Secretary of the thriving Bournville Athletic Club, which runs six teams.

As a regular player himself, nothing gives Norman more pleasure than beating an able-bodied opponent. A County Umpire now, he hopes to take the National Umpires Test this year.

During the summer months he umpires at cricket in the Birmingham and District League (a semi-professional competition) as well as at club level and, last April, passed the Midland Counties cricket Umpire's Certificate with distinction.

In addition to his involvement in Table Tennis and Cricket, Norman also finds time, on Saturday afternoons in winter, to umpire at Hockey.

When asked about his disability, he replies "I never allow it to worry me, and always remember there is someone worse off than me".

A familiar figure now, at all Warwickshire matches and at Open Tournaments in the Midlands, Norman Fennell is an outstanding example of the meaning of the word "selflessness".

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

By J. S. Penny

ENGLAND 3, SWEDEN 4.
AT NORWICH
DECEMBER 5th, 1968

AFTER a splendid match, in which interest was sustained until the last game, England, at one time leading 3-2, were forced to surrender their unbeaten record to the undefeated Swedes.

Sweden's team included two ex-European champions, namely Hans Alser, ranged Europe's No. 3, and Kjell Johansson, ranked No. 4, and also Mrs. Marita Neidert, No. 16 in the Ladies' list.

Against them, England had Denis Neale, European No. 10, plus Chester

Barnes and Karenza Mathews, both unranked in Europe. But the English team had played so well against both West Germany and Hungary, that a tense struggle was confidently expected

Neale set the ball rolling with a win over Johansson in two straight, then Barnes took the first game at 7 against Alser. But this was too good to last, and Alser ran out at 15 and 18. The crucial Women's Singles saw England once again in the lead after the first game but Marita Neidert gained a progressive ascendancy over Karenza Mathews to put Sweden ahead. The next match, the Men's Doubles, was the highlight of the evening. Neale and Barnes could scrape only 12 in the first game

against Johansson's forehand, but took the next at 19. The decider produced some really sparkling play. Neale appeared to falter by netting two consecutive serves, but England rallied to level the match at 22-20. Chester Barnes and Karenza Mathews then defeated Johansson and Marita Neidert to put England 3-2 up, with only one more win needed for victory. It was not surprising that the next singles between Neale and Alser was a dour affair, with Alser making some magnificent retrieves. Neale lost the first, then took the second game at 10. Then he tired; Alser won 21-13 to level the match at 3-3. It now rested with Chester Barnes. But this time Johansson's big hitting carried the day. Chester was vanquished at 10 and 8

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Ombudsman

OMBUDSMAN has been asked to shed a little light on Tournament Regulation 17b. A letter received, with excellent sketches and statistics which proves the writer has been doing his homework, with a complaint about the lack of uniformity in the height of the lights, plus insufficient background lighting, cajoling us into doing a little checking of our own.

We found at one Open Tournament using two halls, the one the players preferred to play in had less light than the other. At another Open Tournament, using two halls with twelve tables, seven of the tables measured for light, at different times of the day, all fell well below the required 40ft. candles over the table, 20ft. candles up to just behind the player and 5ft. candles at the edge of the playing area.

The best reading we had was 14, 6 and 2. General comment from players when asked about lighting was "Could be a little better when going back to defend". When a tournament referee was asked to comment on the above findings, the reply was "We pay to have the tables and lighting installed as per the regulations and have never had cause to complain".

The person who installed the tables and lighting was confronted with the readings, his answer was "I've only been doing this a short while. I've been using all the sketches and measurements from my predecessor who had been doing this for twenty years or more. No one, to my knowledge, has ever complained".

But we do have a complaint and must sum up. Lighting should be included in the laws of the game, in the most simple form i.e. five 150 watt lamps each in 20in. shades, one dead centre over table and the others 5ft. 6in. apart. This could be increased for tournament play and/or Open Championships if necessary. We feel that candle reading should be done away with as nobody in the past has ever carried a meter about with them. We also suggest that as the loop shot and lob returns are with us, the height of the lights should be increased from the present 9ft. 9in. from the floor. Always bearing in mind the higher you go the more powerful wattage lamp is needed.

We feel that league handbooks should include in their playing regulations a paragraph on lighting requirements. From a number of handbooks we examined one mentions "Reasonable lighting required". Another "Reasonable conditions required". A third states "Two 150 watt lamps at a height of not more than 12ft. from the floor". One had nothing at all about lighting. The perfect example of what should be used was found in the County Table Tennis Championships Handbook (Appendix A.6.).

The National Council has an Equipment Committee which could quite easily come up with a perfect solution for requirements at all levels.

New appointment for E.T.T.A Chairman

E.T.T.A. chairman, Conrad Jaschke, who has for some years held the position of export manager of the Linguaphone group of companies, has been promoted to be their General Overseas Manager.

Kenneth Daniel, Conrad's right-hand man at Linguaphone for the past seven years, has been promoted from assistant export manager to export manager. Mr. Daniel is also deeply involved in table tennis, being a player of Kent League standard, hon. secretary of the N.W. Kent T.T.A. and a member of the Kent executive committee.

Linguaphone are the international market leaders in the field of teaching languages by means of gramophone records and tapes, used in conjunction with specially prepared books. They have published Courses in 34 languages, and have subsidiary companies or franchise/agency arrangements in over 50 countries all over the world.

His new appointment is not likely to have any adverse effect on the amount of time the E.T.T.A. chairman is able to devote to his table tennis commitments.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

SURREY NOTES

"DASH OF BITTERS" FOR GORDON

WELL, Surrey now go into the second half of the season from a more satisfactory position than has been the case in recent years. The seniors, with their 7-3 win over Essex II, now have maximum points from their three matches—as have the juniors. The second team, not knowing quite what to expect down in the Southern Division, are also holding on and, provided they can continue to turn out the same team, should do well.

A tense, exciting match when Surrey 11 played Worcs. 11 at Kingston Grammar School, produced six sets that went the limit but, nonetheless, Surrey deserved their 7-3 win.

What a change it was to see the team backing each other to the limit and fighting for every point. A typical example of this "will to win" was provided by Gordon Chapman who, having beaten Heathcote 18 in the first, was then 20-10 up in the second. Notwithstanding his lead,

he made a tremendous run across the room to pick-up the ball from next to the umpires' table and make a good return only to see it put away, wide on his backhand.

To dispel those rumours, it was not a circle of snow around Don Amor's neck but a white polo-neck jumper and the player lying on the floor had simply slipped and had not passed out with the cold. Many thanks to John Wright for organising the match and refreshments and, surely, he deserved a medal for walking around in his shirt sleeves.

The boys of Kingston Grammar School took the laurels in the Boys' events of the Surrey Schools' two-a-side competition. In the Open event, Nicholas Pendrey and Peter Herman beat Paul Harfitt and Tony Munroe of Tiffins, 3-2, and in the U-15 event, Duncan Browne and Richard Cheetham beat Martin Daniels and David Bishop, again of Tiffins, 4-1.

Anne Morris and Ann Stalk of Coombe beat Jean Nicholson and Christine Ward of Rosebery, 3-2, in the Open and Nonsuch won the U-15 title.

ARTHUR WILLIAMS ROSE BOWL

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Guildford	2	2	0	16	2	4
Byfleet	2	2	0	10	8	4
Leatherhead	2	0	2	6	12	0
Thames Valley	2	0	2	4	14	0

PERCY JOHNSON COMPETITION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GROUP A							
Wandsworth II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Thames Valley I	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
South London	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Sutton II	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Byfleet	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Croydon Business							
Houses	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GROUP B							
Guildford	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Croydon	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Thames Valley II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Leatherhead	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Wandsworth I	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Dulwich	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Sutton I	2	0	0	2	8	12	0

IN the Sutton Trophy for Juniors, Byfleet remain unbeaten.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ralph Gunnion

STILL FIRING ON FOUR CYLINDERS

BIRMINGHAM are still in all the National Cup competitions and hopeful of further progress. The men beat Leamington Spa 9-0, but it was a good match, with Roy French nearly winning one for the visitors.

The ladies had an 8-1 win over Leicesters and now, in both senior competitions, Northampton provide the opposition.

In the Carter Cup, the boys had a 5-0 win over Boston, the girls beat Liverpool 6-3 in the counterpart Bromfield Trophy.

Jenny Cornock's selection to play for England Juniors against Federal Germany calls for celebration and on behalf of the players in Warwickshire congratulations herewith.

Birmingham officials are hoping, after the successful visit of the Czechoslovakians to the Birmingham Open, that they will be able to get the Hungarian team to play in the Midland Open in February.

If they can it will be a great boost for the tournament and should encourage some of the top England players to enter.

When the youngsters see the good players in action, it encourages them to play better, and at the present time the Midlands could certainly do with some good youngsters.

In the Midland League, Birmingham men lost narrowly to Gloucester 6-4. This was a good performance by a young Birmingham team and it is to be hoped that they will improve enough to win the league in the near future. Gloucester have won it for long enough!

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

GREAT OCCASION

THE great event in Norfolk during the past month was, of course, the European League match between England and Sweden at the Lads' Club, King Street, Norwich, on Thursday, 5th December.

It was probably the most sparkling Table Tennis occasion in Norfolk since the last war. All the leading E.T.T.A. officials from the Chairman downwards seemed to be present, and the arrangements organised by the Norwich and District League seemed admirable.

It was most encouraging to see a capacity audience of about 750, twice the number who attended the last international match in 1962, also against Sweden. They were treated to the usual preliminaries—the presentation of the teams to the Lord Mayor of Norwich and to the President of Norwich League, Mr. R. Q. Gurney, by Conrad Jaschke, the E.T.T.A. Chairman; the National anthems; the very brief speech of welcome by the Norwich President; the exchange of pennants by the rival captains as the teams were lined up in the arena. All this ceremony helped to set the seal on a great occasion. The television cameras and lights also added to the atmosphere, and Anglia television are to be congratulated on the film they produced.

As we all know, Sweden, after being 2-3 down, won the last two singles to remain unbeaten, but it was a splendid match, and both teams gave of their best. The match itself will be reported elsewhere.

After the International match, the Division 2 (South) County match between Norfolk and Buckinghamshire, which Norfolk lost 10-0, brought us back to earth with a bump. Norfolk had a chance of seeing Jill Shirley, who has been doing so well lately. She beat Betty Cassell 13 and 18. David Tasker made his debut for Norfolk, and Mrs. Edna Allen had a new Mixed Doubles partner in Paul Gilbertson. We were very pleased to welcome the ex-Norfolk contingent of Tony and Robin Wickens and Maurice Ewles on this occasion.

WESTERN LEAGUE BULLETIN

by Grove Motlow

IMPRESSIVE DEBUT

BRISTOL Ladies had a clear-cut victory in their home encounter with Swindon winning 9-0. Marilyn Jones certainly made a very successful first appearance winning all her three sets, including a 2-1 win over Swindon's No. 1 Gwen Hazell.

Newport Ladies, now strengthened by the return of Elizabeth Gray, had their revenge over Swindon who beat them 8-1 earlier in the season. This time Newport won 7-2 thanks due to Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Stella Jones each winning three.

Bristol secured another good victory when, at home, they beat Weston 8-1. Once again Marilyn Jones was in good form, winning three, as did Jean Golding. Barbara Dickenson did well for Weston beating Joan Collier.

Newport were heavily trounced by Bristol, losing 9-0 at home. Barbara Roden nearly sprang a surprise when she narrowly lost to Jean Golding but Joan Collier and Marilyn Jones figured in no such close encounters.

In the Men's section, Bristol had a very comfortable victory in their home game with Swindon winning 8-1. David McGarry losing to Tony Wolff in the opening set. Both E. Hall and C. Feltham secured maximum returns.

Cheltenham were beaten, at home, 7-2 by Plymouth. A feature of this match was the strong attacking play of the three Plymouth players, Wright, Parkin and James.

Martin White celebrated the birth of his first child (a daughter) by securing Cheltenham's two wins.

Bristol 2nds had a close home match with Taunton winning 5-4. All depended on the last set between G. Douglas and R. Whitmore with the Bristol player, Douglas, winning in straight games. For Taunton, J. Wise was unbeaten.

Weston had a good win when they played Bristol 2nds away. In a 7-2 success, Joe Garland was in top form winning three, as did Tony Kinsey. For Bristol B. Reeves and D. Darrell both beat Ray Philpott.

Bristol, last year's winners, suffered their first defeat for some considerable time when, at Plymouth, the home side triumphed 5-4. With the score at 4-all, David James beat Feltham 22-20, 21-15 to clinch victory.

James and A. Wright each won two with R. Parkins contributing a solo. Bristol's star was E. Hall who won all his sets.

Newport were beaten 5-4 in the home match with Bristol after being 4-2 up. With score at 4-all C. Feltham beat John Bloomer to secure Bristol's win. Tables:—

MEN'S DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P	S
Plymouth	3	3	0	18	9	6	
Exeter	2	2	0	12	6	4	
Bristol	3	2	1	17	10	4	
Weston	3	2	1	17	10	4	
Swindon	3	2	1	15	11	4	
Newport	4	1	3	16	20	2	
Bristol 2nds	4	1	3	14	22	2	
Cheltenham	3	0	3	9	18	0	

LADIES' DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P	S
Bristol	4	4	0	32	4	8	
Newport	4	2	2	14	22	4	
Exeter	2	1	1	8	10	2	
Swindon	3	1	2	10	17	2	
Weston	3	0	3	8	19	0	

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by "Geordie"

CHILVERS FOR THE HIGH JUMP?

CONGRATULATIONS to Ian Robertson of North Shields YMCA on his selection for the England Junior team that was opposed to Federal Germany, at Bury, on Jan. 4. Ian is the third junior from Northumberland to be selected for England in the last four years and with the rapid advancement of David Armstrong and Chris Shepherd, both of Newcastle YMCA, a fourth representative, next season, is a distinct possibility.

Despite defeating Lincolnshire 8-2, Northumberland still have Lancashire in contention for the Division 2 (North) title and sets average could be vital when we clash with them in March.

The victory over Lincolnshire was highly satisfactory considering that three of our four top players, Stuart Lennie, Alan Ransome and Arthur Chilvers, were unavailable. It will be interesting to receive an explanation from Chilvers, who played in the Swindon Open, yet was not considered for County selection on the same day because of influenza! Always-available, Peter Hoyles and Ram Bhalla deputised well, the latter's hard flat-hitting proving difficult to counteract.

The Northumberland League made a quick exit from the Wilmott Cup when they went down to a shock defeat against Huddersfield.

Biggest sensation in the Northumberland knock-out cup competition was Hexham's 5-4 defeat of MOSS "A". Frank Mitchinson and Maureen Heppell won five sets between them and both registered victories over Peter Duncombe and Ron Kettlewell, the County No. 8.

To ensure peak fitness for the possible County candidates, weekly training sessions have been arranged in January and February at the Lightfoot Sports Stadium, Newcastle.

Brian Burn, Stuart Lennie and Alan Ransome have been invited by the Norwegian Association to play in Bergen between January 24-30 inclusive and it is hoped that both contingents will benefit from their matches.

ESSEX NOTES

by Harry Walker

ARRANGEMENTS FOR "OPEN" IN HAND

ALL arrangements are now in hand for the Essex Open to be played at Harlow Sports Centre during the weekend of February 22/23. It is unfortunate that two International

matches have been arranged in the North about this time, and that the Teesside Open has reached such proportions, but it is felt that there will still be quite a number of top players in the South who will not be involved. This season there will be two Youth Singles events (under 21 years) also a Veteran's event. Women's entries will be accepted for the latter and if sufficient are forthcoming a separate event will be run.

Regarding the Closed Championships, it is hoped to stage the Seniors at Loughton on April 19 and the Junior at Leyton on April 26 but no definite announcement can be made until the venues have been confirmed.

The County Team Knock-out competition has now reached the Semi-final stage, teams involved being:—

Section "A":

Gidea Park (1) v. Gidea Park (2)
Royal Oak v. Brady Y.C.

Section "B":

Rosebery (1) v. Scorpions
St. Mary's v. Bardswell (1)

In the National Team Competition ROMFORD are the only survivors to the third round of the Willmot Cup. In the ROSE BOWL, three leagues have come through—Harlow, Southend and Romford. It is unfortunate that the latter two leagues have to play one another, but at least one will come through to the next round. Looking at the Juniors, BARKING boys have had a good run in the CARTER CUP and are the only Essex league through to the third round. Their Girls' team are also in the last eight of the BROMFIELD TROPHY.

The Essex Schools Association are holding their Team Championships at the Great Baddow Comprehensive School, Chelmsford on SUNDAY, February 16 running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The events will be for under-15, under-17 and under-19 Boys and Girls. The organisation is in the hands of David Lomas the Hon. Secretary of the Association and the Hon. Secretary of the Burnham-on-Crouch League.

Several Leagues are holding their Championship Finals during February beginning with Romford's at the Red Triangle Club, Main Road, on February 1. On the same day Southend also hold theirs. The Chelmsford League stage their FINALS on February 7 at the Marconi Club, Beehive Lane.

Jack Carrington is organising the Y.M.C.A. European T.T. Tournament which takes place at the Red Triangle Club, Romford, April 10-12 with nine countries competing.

The revised National Junior Ranking List shows some interesting changes and makes one wonder at the wisdom of holding Trials before the season starts when players, in some cases, have had insufficient practice to reflect their true form. The new List proves this quite clearly. In the Boys, Robert Hellaby moves down one place whilst Mike Read goes down five places to No. 11. The play of Susan Beckwith has at last been recognised and she jumps from Group "A" to No. 7. Ian Horsham is in Group "A" and Mickie Locke in Group "B". Janet Hellaby is in the Girls' Group "A".

Essex joined with Kent and Middlesex in taking a coach of about thirty players to the Yorkshire Junior

Open. The Essex Committee have made a grant to assist their Juniors in financing the trip, in co-operation with parents, and Alan Shepherd, the Junior Secretary, is to be complimented on the venture. The County Junior team have won all three matches played with a sets average of 30.0.

Keith Lawrence is now taking a four-year course in Computer Science at the Hatfield College of Technology in St. Albans.

Last, but by no means least, it was gratifying to Essex that DAVID BROWN has at last been noticed by the National Selection Committee and invited to join the International Squad. In Essex we feel that his claim has been outstanding too long and his consistent successes should have been recognised earlier in the season so that full advantage could have been taken of the experience to be gained by being a member of the Squad. Still, it has happened at last and I will conclude this month's notes with — CONGRATULATIONS, DAVID and GOOD LUCK FOR THE FUTURE".

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

By Ron Cox

ANITA STOPS THE ROT

BEDFORDSHIRE started their County Championships programme with a 4-6 defeat to Northamptonshire. They got away to a disastrous start, dropping the first 4 sets, but Bedford's Anita James then stopped the rot by taking the women's singles.

The Bedford League Restricted Open is on Sunday, March 9 at the Badminton Hall, Bradgate Road, Bedford. Play commences at 9-30 a.m., but players having a long distance to travel may, upon application, be granted exemption until 11 a.m.

Entries must be sent to the Tournament Secretary, Mrs. E. W. Pacey, 17, Brook Street, Bedford by February 19.

Last season's tournament attracted a big entry, singles winners being: Women—Penelope Bonner (Wiltshire) and Men—Les Gresswell (Middlesex).

Thanks to the enthusiasm of the Club Leader Jeff Silver, the Pioneer Boys' Club, Dunstable, has done a great deal to encourage Junior players and recently put on a Table Tennis exhibition by England-ranked players Stuart Gibbs and Trevor Taylor.

Incidentally, Trevor and his young brother Peter are playing in the Bedford and District League this season, for Stotfold Liberal Club.

Bedford League are out of 3 National Inter-League competitions, only the Ladies surviving in the Rose Bowl with a 5-4 win over Reading.

The Men lost their Wilmott Cup match to Luton 5-2, the sets being closely contested, but the Junior boys (v. North Herts.) lost 9-0 and the girls 8-1 to Leicester.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

By D. A. Cosway

SIGHTS ON PLAY-OFF

WITH Hampshire's first team's sights set on a play-off for a Premier Division place for the first time, the drawn match at Plymouth was a disappointment after a good win against Cornwall. Pete Smith, however justified his promotion from the second team with a vital win in the last set.

After winning the Southern Division for two seasons, Hampshire seconds are building for the future, with a much younger team. Even the experienced Phil Brown and Angeline Mills are still in their early twenties. Last season's junior No. 1 Chris Shelter steps up to senior county status and Julie Hudson is gaining useful experience and success in the doubles events for this team. Hampshire ranking list for the season is:—

MEN

Derek Holman (Bournemouth)
Chris Edwards (Southampton)
Pete Smith (Southampton)
David Davies (Southampton)
Phil Brown (Southampton)
Brian Pickard (Bournemouth)
Chris Shelter (Southampton)
Chris Pickard (Bournemouth)

WOMEN

Pauline Edwards (Southampton)
Christine Davies (Southampton)
Angeline Mills (Southampton)
Julie Hudson (Bournemouth)

JUNIORS

Stewart Tannahill (Southampton)
Keith Summerfield (Southampton)
Nicky Chulk (Southampton)
Philip Crane (Bournemouth)
Julie Hudson (Bournemouth)
Julie Daniels (Southampton)

These rankings show the dominance of Southampton and Bournemouth over the rest of the county. Southampton, inter-town champions for four seasons still lead, but with the rapid progress of the Pickard Brothers, and the return to form of Trevor Smith, the gap between them and Bournemouth has closed considerably. This is shown by the narrow 7/5 win for Southampton in what is virtually the decider for the championship of the mixed division. Four men's singles wins out of six swayed the match Southampton's way, with Chris Edwards and Phil Brown unbeaten. Interesting to see Derek Holman the county No. 1, on holiday from Sussex University for this season's first representative appearance for Bournemouth, and playing only men's doubles. His in-

clusion in the singles could have turned the match Bournemouth's way, but would it have been fair on one of the ever-present Pickards to have been dropped, or on Southampton, who were without Pete Smith? Two unexpected successes for Bournemouth were Joyce Coop's two-straight win over Pauline Edwards, and Trevor Smith and Joyce Coop's mixed doubles win over David and Christine Davies.

In the junior division, Bournemouth beat Southampton, who have been champions for the past three seasons, by 6/4 and a repeat in the return would give them the championship. Unbeaten in this division, Philip Crane of Bournemouth is only 15 and his progress this season should soon bring him the reward of his county debut. Southampton are, however, looking to the future and are playing the Counties top two juniors in the senior men's division, with considerable success.

Congratulations to Stuart Tannahill on being the first Hampshire boy to be ranked for many years. But surely he should be ranked higher than Group 'B', with wins over 'A' juniors to his credit, and a semi-final place in the strong Newbury junior Open? Hampshire No. 2 Keith Summerfield must also consider himself unlucky not to be graded. Keith missed the area trials due to holidays, and it would appear this is the only

event considered by the selectors, for he had good results last season.

Southampton's strong Premier Division is once again headed by Jukes 'A'. Unbeaten last season, Jukes suffered their first defeat in 18 months,—to their 'B' team! Their team of Chris Edwards, Pete Smith and Tony Ward could again go a long way in the national club competition, and perhaps improve on last season's semi-final exit.

The attitude of Education Authorities to table tennis in the County could have a marked bearing on the future of the game. In the past the dominance of Southampton has been aided by the help to large Clubs and the S.T.T.A. with the provision of school halls at economic rents. This season the rents have been raised to astronomical levels, and the future of several clubs has truly been put in jeopardy. On the other hand, Bournemouth Corporation has placed premises rent-free at the disposal of the local association several nights a week. This has already meant a switch of County match venues from Southampton to Bournemouth. Portsmouth have provided a fine sports centre, and a second is under way with facilities for table-tennis. Southampton, so progressive in other ways are lagging behind on this score, and its dominance of Hampshire table-tennis in the future is in doubt for this season.

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

NO HOLDING THE INSTITUTE

IN the Cambs. League, New Chesterton Institute, last season's champions of Division 1, are rousing ahead being so far unbeaten.

Other contenders are Guildhall, YMCA I and University Press but the N.C.I. team of John Thurston, Stephen Andrew and Vic Tiplady look like holding their title.

Guildhall have done surprisingly well this season and their team of Gerald Atkinson, Albert Jackson and Charlie McCartney have been most effective.

Cambridge University have had a mixed season so far with Corral their outstanding player. They are finding the first division a much tougher proposition.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE LEAGUE

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
N.C.I.	8	8	0	0	60	20	16
Guildhall	10	8	0	2	63	37	16
Cambs. Univ.	10	7	0	3	54	46	14
Y.M.C.A. I	9	6	0	3	62	28	12
Press	8	5	0	3	41	39	10

In the county match against Suffolk at Ipswich, Cambs. played pluckily without the help of their leading players, Thurston and Carol Chapman, and only lost 4-6.

Sandra Granger played magnificently against Diane Youngs and lost by the skin of her teeth in the last set when seemingly set for victory. Tony Littlechild and Alan Ponder were responsible for the Cambs singles successes.

The City had another memorable match against Norwich in the Wilmott Cup when they got home 5-4 in the last set. In this cliffhanger, Ponder beat Tony Hipperson in a three-game thriller which had the spectators on their toes to the last point.

Last season, Norwich won in like fashion and in past matches the result has always been close. Andrews had a great victory over Hipperson but Littlechild was off form and drew a blank.

Coaching for ladies has been held at the Cambridge Corn Exchange and it is hoped that in the near future we shall see some new stars arise.

Two coachloads of City fans (80 people in all) went to Norwich to see the England v. Sweden match which is a clear indication that interest in table tennis is on the up grade.

SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE

Cambridge head the Men's Section with a handsome nine points margin and look like repeating last season's success. Thurston and Andrews have played well with good support from Littlechild, Trevor Waller and Ken Muhr.

Ely and District have started off well and have been well served by Brian Jones, John Ashman and Eddie Sharpe.

Albon has been in form for St. Neots and Anita James and Barbara Hammond for Bedford Ladies.

Brian Cullis is serving Hunts Central well and Rodney Marchant "in form" for Wellingborough. So too has been Barry Wilson of Wisbech and recently obtained his first "cap" for Cambs.

Gerald Cokeman has a 100% record for Cambridge City Juniors.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by "Moonraker"

JUNIORS TAKE A BOW!

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Margaret Wolff (Swindon)—whose father Tony (Sen.), brothers Tony (Jun.) and Michael have all played for the County—became the fourth member of the family (can any other county beat this?) to make a big impression on the county scene when she appeared in four finals—winning two titles—when the first-ever Wilts. Junior 'Closed' was held at Tidworth.

Under 17: Boys—**R. Arney** bt P. Davies 12, -19, 19; Girls—**H. Rusby** bt M. Wolff 17, 11; Boys' Doubles—**R. Arney/B. Gronski** bt K. Harrison/P. Davies 12, 16; Girls'—**M. Wolff/H. Rusby** bt D. May/N. Hazell -11, 12, 15; Mixed—**P. Davies/H. Rusby** bt K. Harrison/M. Wolff -11, 19, 14.

Under 15: Boys—**K. Bushel** bt L. Bushel 14, 14; Girls—**M. Wolff** bt C. Sherman 6, 6.

It was nice to see such a smartly dressed turn-out by the youngsters and in addition to Margaret Wolff, the daughters of county players Gwen Hazell and Ivy Sherman following in their parent's footsteps.

Devizes Finals Night proved a real family affair with the husband and wife combination of Mick and Margaret Alexander featuring in 5 finals while John Revell—who some 20 years ago featured on the same 'line-up' as then World Champion Johnny Leach—and wife Ann appeared in 4 finals.

Results:
Men's—**J. Revell** bt M. Alexander 19, 8; Women's—**Mrs. M. Alexander** (H) bt Miss A. Boyce 8, 16; Boys'—**V. Nipress** (H) bt P. Bruce 12, 8; Girls'—**H. Rusby** bt Miss B. House 18, 9; Veterans—**J. Revell** bt B. Hussey (H) 13, 13; Men's Doubles—**M. Alexander/K. Welsh** bt J. Revell/K. Oliver 20, 17; Women's Doubles—**Mrs. M. Alexander/Miss B. House** (H) bt Mrs. P. Hawkins/Mrs. A. Revell -18, 18, 20; Mixed—**Mr. and Mrs. M. Alexander** (H) bt Mrs. P. Hawkins/D. Rigby -16, 15, 19.

Popping in at the Swindon 'Open'—reported elsewhere in this issue—I was pleased to meet Tommy Sears—an England player of almost 40 years ago—who, although he has only recently taken up the position of W. H. Smith & Son's, local new Warehouse Manager, is Swindon's newest Vice-President.

Tommy's valuable experience as a past member of the National Selection Committee and also as non-playing skipper of both Junior and Women's touring teams will, no doubt, provide a most useful acquisition both at league and county level.

Too often the backroom boys (and girls) are taken for granted but I

would like to second the appreciation voiced by my friend Grove Motlow when Monmouthshire beat Wilts 8-2 in some excellent junior match conditions at Trowbridge.

West Wilts' League Secretary, John Cleveland, and County Umpire John Ford's so capable team (which on this occasion included John's mum and dad) of organisers are not only a credit to their league but also do credit at County level.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

"WELL REWARDED"

LEICESTERSHIRE were well rewarded from two long journeys to Newport and Wrexham when they returned victorious from both. **The Seniors** had Charlie Jacques back in the side and he won both his sets in great style. Never in trouble was John Iliffe who has made a most encouraging start to his County career. Steven White won a singles and partnered Iliffe to take the doubles. The hunting county's other set was secured by Rita Beith who had an excellent win over Elizabeth Gray. No praise can be too high for Rita, who in two seasons has played some magnificent games for Leicestershire.

The Juniors won five of the six Boys' Singles with Dave Carter and Tony Branson, unbeaten in singles, also winning the doubles. Chris Brewer won the all-important final set. Janet Hamer made her debut in this match and although she did not appear on the winning side, showed considerable promise.

Although the Men and Ladies have been eliminated from the **National Cup competitions**, the Boys' and Girls' teams are still riding high. Leicester defeated Loughborough in the first round and went on to an 8-1 win over Worcester (Branson 3, Carter 3, Randall 2). The girls, making their first-ever entry in the Bromfield Trophy won 8-1 against Bedford (Miss Baxter 3, Miss Hamer 3, Miss Elsdon 2). Both have tough next round matches—the boys play Birmingham and the girls visit Sittingbourne.

The Rose Johnson Bowl continues to provide close finishes. The second round produced a tie between East Cheam and Parmeko, the latter receiving a start of 69 points. In the replay Parmeko won by 7 points, thanks to some great play by Vic Clayton. For East Cheam Dave Wimperis was the star.

In **Midland League** fixtures, Leicester Veteran's 'B' team continue to do well and look likely winners of their division. The Men's Second team suffered two defeats in succession—to Hinckley and Coventry—and appear to have lost any chance of promotion. The Intermediates continue to do well and in their

9-1 win against Leamington both John O'Connor and Bob Phillips recorded maximums.

The **Leicester and District League** now have their own newsletter, 'Topspin' and it is issued, without charge, monthly to every club secretary. John Bowness has worked hard to bring this idea to fruition and with three issues already out, the newsletter can said to be well and truly launched. In the Saracen Cup the favourites, Wigston Fields suffered a first round defeat by Goons (who subsequently lost to Lutterworth Boys Club). King Richards Rd. W.M.C. had a fine 7-3 win over Jones and Shipman and are now undisputed leaders of 2A. Nick Smith had a maximum for the winners, with Fred Day winning the only two singles sets for the losers. After a lean start, Newbridge have got going in 4A where John Lenton's first maximum coincided with the side's first win of the season. In Division 5B Roy Waddington, of Goodwin Barsby, leads the individual averages but his team are bottom of the league.

In the **Loughborough League** Knightthorpe lost 7-3 to Shepshead 'A' which leaves the latter well up with the leaders. In this match Mick Meredith was extended by Richard Hassall to the tune of 17-21, 21-14, 23-21 but he managed to get home to keep his 100% record intact.

In the second division 1st Loughborough B.B. won their first match of the season when they defeated Holy Trinity 7-3.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Jim Beckley

CONGRATULATIONS ROGER

IT was good to hear that support existed in 'away' territory when Cheshire recently travelled down to Sussex and Middlesex. All those extra cheers help a great deal. Thanks a lot.

After not hearing of Roger Hampson for some months and having to leave him out of the opening county match against Yorkshire, it was relieving to hear that he was in circulation. Especially so when we learned of his marriage to Pam Radford. Congratulations from us all, Roger.

I suppose that having a player of Judy Heap's calibre in one's team, means that occasionally one must give way to international call-up. But surely, isn't it possible to arrange county and international events on different dates.

Stockport men's team have recently had some good results. In the Carter Cup they beat Crewe 9-1 while in the L. & C. League they easily accounted for Chester by the same score. Not so their ladies who went down to neighbours Manchester in the Rose Bowl competition and only just managed to hang on to a 5-all draw in the league.

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YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Cliff Darley

WELL DONE, LINDA AND NICKY

WITH three Yorkshire Closed titles under her belt, Middlesbrough's Linda Bashford made her Premier Division debut against Warwickshire on December 14.

After poor results at the English Junior trials, when she only made Group "B", last month's re-ranking gave her the No. 3 spot which is a splendid reward for her recent efforts.

So too was her selection for England against Federal Germany in the Junior International at Barnsley on January 6 and that of Nicky Jarvis, also of Middlesbrough, and of Group "A", chosen to make his International debut in the same match.

Travelling expenses for a Premier Division home match are proving somewhat costly with three of the squad now living outside the County. Denis Neale (Manchester), John Kedge (Kent) and Peter Duncombe (Newcastle) have all substantial journeys to make, and with Alan Hydes (Barnsley) and Linda Bashford, an all-round mileage of some 880 miles has to be accounted for.

As a result of Barnsley's 6-4 win over Huddersfield, in Division 1 of the Yorkshire League, Hull II and

Middlesbrough and North Yorks. are neck-and-neck at the top of the table. Sheffield and District W.S.A. lead Div. 2, Halifax Div. 3, Northallerton Div. 4 and Bradford the Women's Division.

Shiela South (Barnsley North End) made her debut for Barnsley's female team against Middlesbrough and figured in two wins which helped them to a draw, though the North End women lost 8-1 to Hull Y.P.I. in the Yorkshire Club competition.

Bradford No. 1, Jim Yeats, with victories over former county players Mike Dainty and John Keys, helped to give the league team their first Yorkshire League Div. 1 win with a 6-4 triumph over Doncaster. Jim also reached the semis of the Yorks. Closed beating David Hirst, Malcolm Mear, Roy Hinchcliffe and Tony Clayton before losing to Peter Duncombe.

Hull's 1st team received a shock defeat at the hands of their 2nd team; Tony Clayton and Alan Fletcher finding good form they also beat Bradford 6-4.

In the national team competitions, only the girls remain. Misses King, Sutton and Nordis had no trouble in beating Sheffield 5-1 and now entertain Birmingham. Hull, last season's Carter Cup finalists, went down 5-3 to the powerful North Yorks. team.

In this latter encounter, Yorkshire juniors Nicky Jarvis and Peter Abell

won two each with Durham's Paul Freeman chipping in with the other.

Scarborough are unfortunately reduced to two divisions this season, a lack of young players being given as the cause. League Chairman, R. Waterworth has, however, started a schools centre at Malton where, with the aid of Northern Staff Coach, Peter Simpson, he is coaching the youngsters.

Entry forms for the Pontefract Restricted Open were sent out before Christmas, the closing date being January 13. Forms are available from G. L. Johnson, 17, Rhodes Crescent, Pontefract, Yorks.

HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH NOTES

By David Obee

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

ALTHOUGH the County team suffered its second defeat of the current season, officials are optimistic that better things are on the way in the very near future.

Following the 6-4 defeat by Herts., the side went down at home to Suffolk by the same score. Things could so easily have been different however, as Alan Albon failed gallantly to pull off a win against Brian Buckle from 15-20 down in the deciding game.

He took 6 points running to lead 21-20, only to see the visitors' No. 2 snatch a 23-21 win in a great tussle.

Earlier the main cause for the county officials' optimism had been evident, as the Maxfield twins, Diane and Mary brought the score to 5 wins and 1 defeat in their personal tallies for this season.

Diane won her second singles, against D. Youngs, and Mary, celebrating the award of her county badge, teamed up with Albon to record a fine mixed doubles win against Colin Tucker and J. Youngs (whose first defeat this was for over 2 seasons).

This followed on their success against Herts. Add to this the ladies' doubles against Herts. and this represents a fine achievement by the twins, in their first season out of the junior ranks.

The junior county side has started with crushing defeats at the hands of the mighty Herts. and Essex teams, but with the 2 toughest matches behind them the remaining matches should yield some points.

Although losing both his singles against Essex, young Paul Charlton did well enough to show that not only will he be a tough nut for the remaining teams to crack but also that soon he will be bidding strongly for a place in the senior side.



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NORTHANTS NEWS

by Gwyn Powell

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

THE highlight of the past month was undoubtedly the International match staged successfully at Weatherby's Sports Centre, Wellingborough. Despite the domination of the English girls it was good to see table tennis of this class in the county. Many people were disappointed by the shortage of tickets and it seems that two or three times the number could have been sold without much trouble. Several local firms and organisations acted as sponsors by donating money to cover the expenses of the match. This and the success of the evening was due to the hard work put in mainly by the Organising Secretary Mr. Ken Marchant and his local committee. We now look forward to further matches of this nature which the E.T.T.A. may allocate to this area in the near future.

George Tsow, who made such a good start for the county in the match against Bedfordshire, was unable to make his home debut against Hertfordshire seconds as he was suffering from a virus infection and had to withdraw at the last minute, much to everyone's disappointment. His place was taken by Bryan Bond, the senior match secretary. The home team were mostly on the receiving end despite some very close and exciting matches and only managed to salvage one victory when John Goodall beat D. Seaholme 13-21 21-17 21-14. Goodall also had a keen struggle with B. Barr but just lost 19-21 in the third game.

The juniors had their second success of the season when they beat Bedfordshire by 7-3 at Leighton Buzzard. Northants shot into a 4-0 lead with all the team members playing well but then lost two on the run with Margaret McInnes being out-hit by Bedford's Pat King and Haycock and Kingston dropping the boy's doubles. With the match in an interesting situation Roderick Marchant beat B. Hutchinson fairly comfortably despite losing the second game. In the mixed doubles, Susan Gordon played well with Marchant and eventually managed to return Hutchinson's tricky serves to help win 21-16 26-24 to give Northants a winning lead. In the remaining matches Haycock easily defeated Norton in two games but Kingston narrowly lost 17-21 in the third to his 'old' rival from Dunstable G. Major.

The Northampton League are organising this year's county tournament which will be held on March 22nd at the Northampton College of Technology's new Sports Hall. Entry forms will soon be available and a good response is hoped for. Northampton's own tournament will also be held at the Sports Hall on February 8th with all the finals being played, as last year, at a special Final's Night on February 21st.

KENT NOTES

by Charles M. Wyles

DABIN, ENGLAND NO. 2 JUNIOR

TO the delight of the County enthusiasts, the National Selectors have acknowledged the recent

successes of both John Dabin and Lynda Chesson in the junior field. John is now in the challenging position of English Junior No. 2 and Lynda with a spectacular "leap" from Group "A" to No. 6 in the corresponding girls' rankings.

John, now with two International appearances behind him, has started the ball rolling and it cannot be long before a similar honour is conferred on a Kent junior girl.

At the same time, the Selectors have added the name of Tony Piddock to the International Squad. This is a well deserved invitation after some fine victories over other Squad members.

The Finals of the Annual Kent Schools' Team Championships will be played at the ETTA School Centre,

Ashford, on Saturday, February 8. Eliminating rounds are being held on a zone basis at Bromley, Ashford and Sittingbourne during January.

Holders of both the Men's and Women's sections of the Kent League, North West Kent, are again out in front at the half way stage of the season. In the Men's Div. 1, Canterbury "A" are the challengers but in the Ladies' section, North West Kent have already dropped a match and it would appear that the challenge has been taken up by Bromley "A" and Maidstone for the coveted title.

Needless to state, there seems no stopping Bromley's juniors from retaining their title.

There will be 13 titles at stake in the Kent Junior Closed to be held at

Napier House, Grove Park on Feb. 15-16. The tournament is being organised on behalf of the County by the Woolwich Association, the event's catering for both boys and girls from the under-11 age group to the five major events. Entry forms should be returned without delay to the Organiser, Mr. G. Glover, 29, Weyman Road, Blackheath, S.E.3.

Preparations are going ahead by two Kent Leagues to celebrate anniversaries next season. North West Kent with 25 years behind them have in hand a suitable International fixture and a celebration dinner.

Maids' one, who are in the unique position of having a half century to their name since their formation, are formulating plans to acknowledge the occasion.



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SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

JINX VENUE

THE Sussex premier division side suffered an appalling 8-1 defeat at the hands of a fighting Cheshire team at the home team's jinx venue of Lewes Boys Club on December 14th. Sussex have never won a match in four years at Lewes and true to form against their bogey team Cheshire they were well and truly sunk with all hands.

Roger Chandler shows tempting flashes of his true form, for example when he took the first set from Mike Johns, but the tigerish approach of the Cheshire international in the remaining two games left Roger standing.

Then followed two diabolical nightmares for Sussex. In the men's doubles which will be a long-cherished rosy memory for years to come in Cheshire, Chandler and Williams led 20-16 and then incredibly 20-13 in the second and lost both 23-21, 23-21 after some inspired play by Schofield and Hampson. In the mixed doubles, the Newbury Open champions, Sam Ogundipe and Judy Williams, were slaughtered by Johns and Judy Heaps. All credit to Cheshire for a fine victory, but successful defensive play has yet to be seen at Lewes.

Sussex juniors started the season with what was, and still is, considered to be a very useful side of Arthur Downer (Brighton), Graham Good (Hastings), Stephen Marley (Bognor), Carol Randall (Hailsham) and Suzanne Kavelleirou (Littlehampton). After two defeats by powerful Kent and Surrey teams, they at last struck oil at Slough, holding to a draw another strong side containing ranked juniors, Buckinghamshire.

Anchor man at Slough was Graham Good who was unbeaten in singles including a win over Robin Napper.

In the Eastbourne league, Carol Randall has been causing some red faces amongst the men in Division 1. Her recent victims have included the strong Brighton player Adrian Mendelson, a former Sussex junior. Another big "scalp" was the Eastbourne town player Chris Kirkwood.

Eastbourne and Hastings have as usual, reached the final of the Sussex women's inter-league championship, which will be played on March 23rd. The same two sides met recently in the Rose Bowl and without Carol Randall they only scraped through 5-4. Worthing and Eastbourne will contest the zone final on January 12th. In the Wilmott cup, with the absence of Brighton, Worthing have dashed into the inter-zone final, probably against Southampton. The successful Worthing side is Derek Holman, Robin Stace, Robin Pierce and Pat Metters.

By now, all leagues and county associations in the areas of the eight B.B.C. local Radio Stations at Brighton, Leicester, Sheffield, Merseyside, Nottingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Leeds and Durham, should be hearing regular table tennis news over the air. At Brighton, arrangements have been to broadcast regular news at least once a month, usually prior to big matches or tournaments and special twin broadcasts are planned to cover the English Open at Brighton Corn Exchange on February 28th and March 1st.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Pike

SENIORS SUPREME

WITH the two senior sides both beating Derbyshire in December, the Staffordshire success story continues. It now means the county have played five matches, and have yet to taste defeat. Unfortunately it is a different story with the juniors . . . they have yet to win a match. Their standard should improve however now that the county are sending two or three youngsters to compete in open tournaments.

To enable Ron Harvey to keep a close check on up-and-coming juniors, I understand he is starting a register, would all local leagues furnish him with the names and addresses of junior players in their area.

At the time of writing these notes, both West Bromwich and Walsall are unbeaten in the first division of the county league. Springfield won their first eight matches 10-0 to head the Wolverhampton League, while

Victory and Lloyds are having a rare old tussle in the top division of the Dudley League.

Working at A.T.V. I was naturally very pleased when I knew our cameras were covering the England match with the International Club at Hanley. It is this same venue, the Northwood Sports Centre, that the county will use for their closed championships in March. If Wolverhampton fail to get Hobsons for their tournament, it is likely to go on as a two day event at the Woodfield Club.

Talking of the Woodfield, I would like to touch on two things from their charity tournament in November. The club is to be congratulated on passing on something like £30 to the Wolverhampton Spastics. The other incident however is not so praiseworthy. It happened in the final of the women's singles when certain players watching, went out of their way to upset one of the girls, with their remarks. I hope some action will be taken over this for the tournament will be better next year without this type of so called sportsmanship.

COUNTY DIARY

FIXTURES AND VENUES LIST FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1969

PREMIER DIVISION

- Feb. 8 Yorkshire v. Gloucestershire, Messrs. Fields & Co., Colour Printers, 7-15 p.m.
Clayton Road, Bradford.
Feb. 9 Essex v. Warwickshire, Tilbury Community Centre, 2-30 p.m.
Kent v. Sussex, E.T.T.A. Schools Centre, Duncan Bowen School, 3-30 p.m.
Woodchurch Turning, Ashford.
*Feb. 15 Yorkshire v. Middlesex, Messrs. Fields & Co., Colour Printers, 7-00 p.m.
Clayton Road, Bradford.

* Re-arranged from January 11.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

- Feb. 9 Hertfordshire v. Buckinghamshire, Oxhey Hall C.A., Eastbury Road, 7-00 p.m.
Watford.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

- Feb. 9 Durham v. Yorkshire II
Lancashire v. Lincolnshire, Ministry of Social Security, Norcross, 3-00 p.m.
Blackpool.

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

- Feb. 9 Derbyshire v. Oxfordshire, The Police Station, New Beetwell Street, 7-15 p.m.
Chesterfield.
Leicestershire v. Warwickshire II, Loughborough T.T.C., Sports Centre, Granby Street, Loughborough, 7-15 p.m.
Staffordshire v. Glamorgan, Woodfield Sports & Social Club, Penn Road, Wolverhampton, 3-00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

- Feb. 8 Somerset v. Wiltshire, Y.M.C.A., Broad Street, Bath, 7-15 p.m.
Feb. 9 Dorset v. Hampshire, Youth Centre, Colliton Street, Dorchester, 7-15 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

- Jan. 18 Buckinghamshire II v. Worcestershire II, Slough Community Centre, 7-00 p.m.
Farnham Road, Slough.
Feb. 9 Buckinghamshire II v. Berkshire, Slough Community Centre, Farnham Road, Slough, 3-00 p.m.
Oxfordshire II v. Worcestershire II, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford, 6-30 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

- Feb. 9 Denbighshire v. Lancashire II, Queens Park Sports Centre, Wrexham, 3-00 p.m.
Nottinghamshire v. Derbyshire II.
Shropshire v. Staffordshire II.

EASTERN DIVISION

- Jan. 18 Hertfordshire II v. Bedfordshire
Bedfordshire v. Huntingdonshire
Northamptonshire v. Cambridgeshire

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

- Jan. 31 Middlesex v. Buckinghamshire, Johnsons of Hendon Ltd., Hendon Way, London, N.W.4, 7-15 p.m.
Feb. 8 Berkshire v. Hampshire, 4-00 p.m.
Feb. 9 Surrey v. Kent, B.C.U.R.A., Randalls Road, Leatherhead.

JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH

- Feb. 9 Cheshire v. Lancashire, Y.M.C.A., Church Road, Gatley, 6-30 p.m.
Durham v. Yorkshire.

JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLAND

- Feb. 9 Derbyshire v. Denbighshire.
Leicestershire v. Nottinghamshire, Knighton Park T.T.C., Avenue Road Extension, Leicester, 3-00 p.m.
Staffordshire v. Oxfordshire, Raleigh Hall, Swinerton, Stone, 4-00 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION EAST

- Jan. 25 Bedfordshire v. Hertfordshire, 3-00 p.m.
Feb. 1 Suffolk v. Hertfordshire, New Village Hall, Mutford, Nr. Lowestoft, 3-00 p.m.
Feb. 8 Essex v. Bedfordshire, Brentwood Youth Centre, Brentwood Secondary School, Sawley Hall Lane, Brentwood, 2-30 p.m.
Feb. 9 Norfolk v. Huntingdonshire, Wymondham Laundry Canteen, 2-30 p.m.
Suffolk v. Northamptonshire, Chantry Modern School, Mallard Way, Ipswich, 4-00 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION WEST

- Jan. 26 Worcestershire v. Gloucestershire, Cripplegate Bowling Pavilion, Tybridge Street, Worcester, 3-00 p.m.
Feb. 8 Somerset v. Wiltshire, Oriol Hall, Swainswick, Bath, 3-00 p.m.
Feb. 9 Monmouthshire v. Gloucestershire, Alcan Welfare Hall, Rogerstone, 3-30 p.m.

COUNTY TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

DIVISIONAL TABLES TO 21st DECEMBER, 1968

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	30	6	8
Essex	3	3	0	0	21	6	6
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	18	6	4
Sussex	2	2	0	1	14	13	4
Kent	3	1	0	2	10	17	2
Cheshire	4	1	0	3	13	23	2
Gloucesters	3	0	0	3	8	19	0
Warwicks.	3	0	0	3	3	24	0

2nd SOUTH

Surrey	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Middlesex II	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Bucks.	3	1	1	1	19	11	3
Kent II	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Essex II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Hertfords.	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Norfolk	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

2nd NORTH

Northumberland	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Lancashire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Lincolnshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Durham	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Yorkshire II	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Cumberland	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

2nd MIDLAND

Staffs.	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Glamorgan	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Warwicks. II	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Leicesters.	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Monmouths.	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Derbys.	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Oxfords.	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

2nd WEST

Worcesters.	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Somerset	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Devon	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Hampshire	2	1	0	1	14	6	3
Wiltshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Dorset	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Cornwall	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

SOUTHERN

Bucks. II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Hants. II	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Surrey II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Worce. II	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Berkshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Oxfords. II	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

MIDLAND

Notts.	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Staffs. II	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Lancs. II	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Denbighs	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Derbys II	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Shropshire	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

EASTERN

Hertfordshire II	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Suffolk	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Bedfords.	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Northants.	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Huntingdons.	2	0	0	2	8	12	0
Cambridges.	2	0	0	2	7	13	0

JUNIOR SOUTH

Middlesex	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Kent	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Surrey	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Buckingham.	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Hampshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Sussex	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Berkshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

JUNIOR NORTH

Northumberland	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Yorkshire	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Lancashire	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Cheshire	2	1	0	1	14	6	2
Durham	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Cumberland	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Warwickshire	3	3	0	0	30	0	6
Nottinghamshire	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Leicestershire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Staffordshire	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Denbighshire	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Derbyshire	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Oxfordshire	3	0	0	3	0	30	0

JUNIOR EAST

Essex	3	3	0	0	30	0	6
Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Northamptonshire	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Bedfordshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Suffolk	2	0	1	1	5	15	1
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	7	33	0
Huntingdons	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

JUNIOR WEST

Glamorgan	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Monmouths.	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Somerset	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Gloucestershire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Worcestershire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

27 UNBEATEN TEAMS

INTERESTING that at the time of writing these notes no fewer than 27 teams have 100% records, and of these Warwicks, Juniors and Essex Juniors have yet to drop a set. Competition in a number of divisions is again very keen but it seems that in the Premier Division Gloucestershire (who have been on the brink of the big drop for the past three seasons) are likely to fall this time. The loss of Ian Harrison, the mainstay of this side for many seasons, will probably prove too severe a blow to ride.

PREMIER DIVISION

Gloucestershire 2 Essex 7

R. Morley lost to S. Gibbs -15, -16; bt R. Stevens 18, 15.
J. Charles lost to Gibbs -19, 17, -9; lost to D. Brown -5, -10.
S. Griffin lost to Stevens -25, 18, -13; lost to Brown -11, -16.
Morley/Charles bt Gibbs/Brown 17, -16, 18.
Mrs. K. Stuart lost to Mrs. L. Radford -4, -7.
Griffin/Mrs. Stuart lost to Stevens/Mrs. Radford -17, -13.

Both teams below strength, but the teenage replacements all making their mark. Best was David Brown with two fairly comfortable singles wins although he suffered a reverse with Stuart Gibbs in men's doubles.

Kent 2 Middlesex 7

A. Piddock lost to B. Wright 13, -15, -21; beat O. Haslam 15, 13.
D. Basden lost to Wright -8, -15; lost to A. Lindsay -19, -18.
K. Baker lost to Haslam 23, -19, -13; lost to Lindsay -18, -19.
Piddock/H. Buist lost to Haslam/Lindsay -18, 16, -16.
Mrs. P. Piddock beat Mrs. K. Mathews -16, 17, 19.
Basden/Mrs. Piddock lost to Wright/Mrs. Mathews -18, -12.

Tony Piddock opened Kent's account, convincingly beating a disappointing Les Haslam and later Pauline Piddock kept faint hopes of a win alive with a narrow win over Karenza Mathews in an excellent W.S. Brian Wright then recovered from 2-11 in the 3rd to give Middlesex a 5-2 lead, although Piddock saved four set points.

Sussex 1 Cheshire 8

P. Williams lost to M. Johns -17, -19; beat D. Schofield 17, 13.
R. Chandler lost to Johns 15, -10, -8; lost to R. Hampson -14, 15, -11.
S. Ogundipe lost to Schofield -16, -10; lost to Hampson -10, -12.
Chandler/Williams lost to Hampson/Schofield -23, -23.
Miss J. Williams lost to Miss J. Heaps -17, -20.
Ogundipe/Miss Williams lost to Johns/Miss Heaps -10, -12.

Cheshire could not have expected such an easy victory, but in Mike Johns they had a real winner. Sam Ogundipe twice flattened and Judy Heaps a little fortunate to get an edge ball at 20-all in second after Judy Williams had recovered from 15-20. Sussex threw away M.D. after leading 20-15 in first and 20-13 in second. On this showing they could do with some of Cheshire's team spirit!

Yorkshire 8 Warwickshire 1
D. Neale beat D. Munt 9, 8; beat R. Gunnion 17, 18.

A. Hydes beat Munt 14, 10; beat M. Billington 11, 14.
J. Kedge lost to Gunnion -19, -17; beat Billington 15, 16.
Hydes/Neale beat Billington/Munt -17, 19, 10.
Miss L. Bashford beat Miss K. Perry 13, -19, 18.
Kedge/Miss Bashford beat Gunnion/Miss Perry 18, 12.

Only Ralph Gunnion offered real resistance to Yorkshire, the others seeming overawed. 16-year-old Linda Bashford, making Premier debut, fully lived up to the good name she has earned on the tournament circuit and teamed well with John Kedge to score a resounding success over Gunnion and Kath. Perry.

Middlesex 8 Cheshire 1

B. Wright beat M. Johns -19, 13, 13; beat D. Schofield 14, 15.
O. Haslam lost to Johns -16, -8; beat R. Hampson 20, -18, 19.
A. Lindsay beat Schofield 14, 12; beat Hampson -17, 22, 6.
Haslam/Lindsay beat Hampson/Schofield 20, 17.
Mrs. K. Mathews beat Miss J. Heaps -17, 15, 13.
Wright/Mrs. Mathews beat Johns/Miss Heaps 10, 12.

Inspired shots from Mike Johns left Les Haslam floundering and gave Cheshire an early lead which was their only success. A typical Alan Lindsay nail biter v. Roger Hampson with an edge ball brilliantly retrieved at 20-all in 2nd (first game to Hampson). A good singles win by Karenza Mathews and clever play by Brian Wright to prevent Johns winning his fourth singles in two days. But Lindsay did get four in two days, and two doubles with Haslam to record 6 out of 6. How about that for an "unfit" player?

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Essex II 3 Surrey 7

Mike Watts and David Bowles made debut's in this depleted Essex team which gave a good account of itself although the more experienced Surrey side triumphed in the end.

Middlesex II 7 Kent II 3

Norfolk 0 Buckinghamshire 10
Norfolk failed to tighten their game and Bucks. always had extra in reserve. Sadly will the home County miss Alan Coley, now in Bermuda, who had the real fighting spirit.

Norfolk 2 Essex II 8

A determined effort by Paul Gilbertson v. Mike Watts and a thrilling W.D. with Edna Allen and Betty Cassell through by -10, 13, 18 levelled the score at 2-all. But, despite Betty's great battle later with Di Simpson, Norfolk could do no more against a side for whom Dennis Johnson and Peter Radford were unbeaten.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Durham 9 Cumberland 1

An entertaining match in a relaxed atmosphere. The strong defensive play of Wilf Barker and the attack of E. Taylor provided good contrasts with both proving too good for Cumberland's best player Ron Batty.

Yorkshire II 4 Lancashire 6

Lancashire have played better than this, and will need to regain Premier status. Credit, though, to Yorkshire and in particular to Tony Clayton with wins over Kevin Forshaw and John Clarke. A better match for Peter Hirst; Alan Fletcher (as on previous occasions) failed at a crucial time v. Clarke; and Lindon Forkes fell away after desperately close first game with D. Johnson to lose -29, -12.

Northumberland 8 Lincolnshire 2

Peter Hoyles led Brian Hill 16-9 in the first before the Lincs. player really got going; with some wonderful retrieving he allowed Hoyles one more point in this game and took the second for Lincs. only singles win. With Brian Burn back to peak form and the home team clearly stronger in the women's events Lincs. were not disgraced.

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

Derbyshire 2 Staffordshire 8

Glamorgan 10 Oxfordshire 0

Monmouthshire 3 Leicestershire 7

Charlie Jacques brilliant for the visitors with defence at times impenetrable. A fast counter-hitting battle between Haydn Thomas and Stephen White resulted in a -17, 19, 20 win for Thomas and Monmouths also shaded W.D. 20 in 3rd. Three other sets went to 3 in an excellent match.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

Dorset 3 Devon 7

Somerset 9 Cornwall 1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Berkshire 5 Hampshire 5

Oxfordshire II 3

Buckinghamshire II 7

Surrey II 7 Worcestershire II 3

Surrey clearly too strong in the women's events but made to fight very hard in the men's where 6 needed a 3rd game. Gordon Chapman saved what looked to be a losing position v. Mike Prosser to win -16, 12, 19 and Trevor Campbell had a match to remember with a defeat -16, 22, -18 to John Heathcote and a win 11, -20, 22 over Brian Belcher. Worcs. led three times in the match.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Lancashire II 9 Shropshire 1

Susan Lisle and Barbara Yates showed lack of harmony and too much "after you" spirit to lose W.D. when a game and 20-15 up. Otherwise very much one-way traffic with Shropshire on the receiving end.

Nottinghamshire 9 Denbighshire 1

A second really easy win for Notts., although the late arrival of the visitors (without even a cuppa since leaving home) meant that the match was half over before they settled down.

Staffordshire II 9 Derbyshire II 1

EASTERN DIVISION

Cambridgeshire 3 Bedfordshire 7

Huntingdonshire 4 Suffolk 6

Northamptonshire 1

Hertfordshire II 9

Brian Barr made to work hard to beat John Goodall (-22, 19, 19) and Roger Steward (-19, 16, 18) and Goodall recovered well to beat David Seaholme. A surprise result, but the margin rather flattering to Herts.

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

Berkshire 0 Middlesex 10

Hampshire 2 Kent 8

A very competent performance by a Kent side strong in all departments.

Buckinghamshire 5 Sussex 5

JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH

Durham 7 Cumberland 3

Paul Freeman again outstanding, and a promising debut by D. Taylor. The form of the Durham girls, Cynthia Waite and Doreen Codling, continues to improve.

Northumberland 6 Cheshire 4

Joan Newham had the edge over Marian Lloyd which gave the home County G.S. and both X.D. Ian Robertson and Chris Shepherd both a bit disappointing but a fine debut by David Armstrong with two singles wins. For Cheshire, Philip Mayman impressive and Brian Johns very promising.

JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLAND

Denbighshire 4 Leicestershire 6

With G.S. and two X.D. wins, Yvonne Jones the mainstay of this Denbighs. team which came close to snatching a shock draw. But Leicester's boys Tony Branson, David Carter, and Chris Brewer thought differently and ensured full points for Leics.

Oxfordshire 0 Nottinghamshire 10

Warwickshire 10 Derbyshire 0

The absence of the visiting No. 1 did not help this very inexperienced team against the division champions.

JUNIOR DIVISION EAST

Hertfordshire 9 Norfolk 1

Even without Trevor Taylor, and with M. Baines, M. Harper, and Miss S. Hartwell all on debut, Herts. proved too strong. 9-1 a little flattering as Herts. came often from behind—notably D. Rawlinson who saved seven game points against P. Vertigan.

Bedfordshire 3 Northamptonshire 7

A big disappointment for Beds., whose boys seem to have lost their winning spark. First three sets to Northants, at 19 in 3rd, 22 in 3rd, 19 in 3rd and much credit must go to the visitors for their consistent workmanship.

Essex 10 Huntingdonshire 0

Another steamroller win for Essex (their 3rd 10-0) but two magnificent efforts by P. Charlton who went down to Robert Hellaby 17, -12, -18 and to John Holton -20, 21, -18. Susan Beckwith, 15 this day, untroubled in two doubles wins and Father Goose entertained both teams after the match to a pre-Christmas party.

JUNIOR DIVISION WEST

Glamorgan 10 Gloucestershire 0

Wiltshire 2 Monmouthshire 8

Another useful match for young Kim Allen, and the Wiltshire boys (particularly Ken Harrison) unlucky not to have taken at least a game in the singles.

Worcestershire 2 Somerset 8

After losing the first two sets narrowly, both from winning positions, Worcs. fell badly away and a lack of fight by the home boys saw the visitors repeat last season's result.