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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 17

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EUROPEAN YOUTH MEETING : INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

JILL OUR ONLY STAR IN LENINGRAD

by LAURIE LANDRY

A really wonderful effort from Jill Shirley stood out in this extremely strong European meeting, the eleventh such tournament, held in the Yubileiny Palace of Sports which seats some 7,000 spectators, from August 12th-16th.

In the first round Jill beat Volkova, the Soviet No. 1, in a hard-fought set with Jill getting better and better, defending well and coming in with well taken hits. Polivko, another Russian,

suffered the same treatment in the next round and then came Jill's great win over Grofova.

Controlling the game and hitting brilliantly to win her points, Jill did not drop a game in beating the Czech holder of the English Junior Open girls' singles title. European title holder, Resler, beat our player with steady slow hitting.

I really do feel that had Jill won this one, she would have got the title.

Crisan of Rumania was a surprise winner of the girls' event winning a fantastic hit and counter-hit set with Gedraitite of the U.S.S.R. and beating Vostova in the final.

Karenza Smith and Judy Heaps were a little disappointing, losing to Russian non-team players Damanskaite and Pavluk.

The boys did not fare any better with Brian Mitchell and Tony Clayton being brushed aside by the Soviet's Laharyan and 13-years-old Fursor. Paul Judd was unfortunate in having his bat taken lost to Seerup who he had beaten in Sweden.

Trevor Taylor had a win over Lindmal of the U.S.S.R., somehow dropping the first game, winning the next two 11 and 4! He lost his next set, however, to penholder Ustinov who hit from both wings. Trevor had beaten Turai of Czechoslovakia in the team event. Turai went on to win the title!

Trevor and Paul made up for the singles a little by reaching the quarters of the boys doubles, going down to Jonyer and Timar of Hungary.

In the girls' doubles, Karenza and Jill were very disappointing in going down to the French pair Lecler and Moriceau. They lacked bite and just could not force the pace.

Paul Judd and Judy Heaps got through a couple of rounds in the mixed but eventually lost to the top Russian pair Eglitis and Gedraitite.

Full Results on inside pages.

"THE BONNY BRIDE"



KARENZA MATHEWS (nee Smith).

'Wedding Bells'

ON Saturday, May 18th at the South Norwood Methodist Church in South London, the marriage took place between Ken Mathews and Karenza Smith, the Middlesex international.

Matron of Honour was Mary Wright (her husband Brian was an usher) and Derek Mathews, brother of Ken, was best man.

The honeymoon was spent in the Lake District.

Could it be that when Karenza was away in Leningrad, Ken thought up his story of "Camel" which appears in this issue.



"GUESTS AT THE WEDDING"

Left to right—Mary Wright, Laurie Landry, Jill Shirley, Diane Simpson, Brian Wright, Judy Heaps, Pauline Piddock, Ron Crayden, Pat Baker, "Connie" Warren, Karenza and Ken Mathews.

BANNED

THE E.T.T.A. have suspended indefinitely Michael Symonds, the English international and Yorkshire county player, from membership of the Association as he accepted without permission a coaching and playing engagement with the South African Table Tennis Union which is not an affiliated member of the International Table Tennis Federation.

Warrington born, Symonds came to real prominence with the Bolton S.S.S. League and much of the success enjoyed by Bolton in the national Wilmott Cup competition and the Lancashire and Cheshire League was due to him.

A former Lancashire county player, Symonds transferred his affections to Yorkshire when he crossed the Pennines for a still uncompleted teachers' training course at Swinton, near Mexborough.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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

Fruitless Harvest

IN recent times, so much attention has been devoted to coaching that one could be forgiven in assuming that sooner or later a champion would emerge.

Each summer, Johnny Leach comes up with his "News of the World"-sponsored "Boy" and "Girl of the Year" from Butlin camps and more and more schools are becoming table tennis conscious.

School centres are flourishing, national school team championships are annually contested and there is more open competitive play for juniors in this country than ever before.

Yet, where are the fruits of all these labours?

In August, a select band of top ranking juniors took off for Leningrad bound for the European Youth Meeting attended by players from seventeen countries.

Included in our ranks were four players currently named in the senior seedings lists which have been issued, as a guide to Open Tournament organisers.

Here indeed was talent to put England well and truly on the European map but, alas, what a sorry showing we made!

In the team events, our boys took a 5-1 hammering from Czechoslovakia, West Germany and the second team of the U.S.S.R.

One can commiserate with our girls, however, whose one loss in the initial groupings was to the all-powerful Czechs, led by the senior European champion, Ilona Vostova, aged 14! And she failed to win the girls' singles title!

Individually our players slumped to mediocrity and therefore cast a cloud of doubt on our future prospects in European competition.

Well as Conrad Jaschke, the new E.T.T.A. Chairman, has begun his task on the administrative and allied fronts, he cannot be expected to produce the desired playing results in addition.

So here, indeed is a herculean undertaking for someone else, for it is in the realms of advanced and specialised coaching that another kingdom must emerge.

No one, sensibly, would decry the activities of the newly appointed Coaching and Schools sub-committee—sub-divided as it now is on a regional North and South basis—but, be it a Harangozo, a Tigerman or an Ogimura, such a specialist would appear to be a much needed man in this country.

The International Programme

by GEORGE YATES

PRIOR to giving up his appointment of International Secretary, the Association's new Chairman, Conrad Jaschke, has put together the most comprehensive international programme which the E.T.T.A. has embarked on in recent years. Successful negotiations with television authorities have ensured that—as last year—the programme is not only entirely self supporting, but indeed we can again look towards a substantial surplus to be contributed towards general E.T.T.A. operating costs.

Conrad will continue to be the Association's link and liaison with I.T.T.F., E.T.T.U., and with foreign Associations, but the important task of supervising the international programme at home has been delegated to the new Deputy Chairman, Walter Mitton, with Tom Blunn responsible for the financial arrangements. Derek Tremayne will be responsible to these two officers for the execution of the programme.

Albert Shipley will assist the Chairman by conducting most of the foreign correspondence and making arrangements for tours abroad. Charles Wyles has been appointed as a special assistant for home tours.

These new arrangements are designed to leave the new Chairman free to direct the far reaching general re-organisation of the Association which the new National Council have embarked upon, and which is designed to streamline the E.T.T.A. procedures to meet modern needs, and to enable the Association to give the best possible service to Counties, Leagues and individual members throughout the country.

Conrad Jaschke will re-start his popular International Round-up column next month, but meanwhile we are giving you an up-to-date list of international fixtures in which the E.T.T.A. are concerned, complete with names of organisers, referees and E.T.T.A. representatives where applicable. Senior fixtures are complete but for last minute alterations that can occur, but a number of junior fixtures are still to be added. It is expected that both the German and Swedish juniors will tour here this season.

CRASH VICTIM

NORTHERN Staff Coach, Peter Simpson, met with an unfortunate accident when motoring to fulfil a coaching engagement with the Manchester Banks and Insurances Offices League on September 2nd.

As the result of a crash, Peter sustained multiple injuries which will take some time to heal.

Arrangements have been put in hand to fulfil his coaching engagements during the period of his convalescence, meantime we wish Peter a speedy recovery to his buoyant self.

NOTABLE ABSENTEE

MISSING from the early season events will be Mary Wright who is expecting her first baby in November.

HOME INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

SEASON 1968-69

THE following list gives details of all home International events for the coming season, together with the names and addresses of Local Organisers and the names of Referees and E.T.T.A. Representatives. Any alterations in this programme or officials will be notified in "Table Tennis News".

- Oct. 21 **England v. Israel** - East Barnet, Herts.
Organiser: D. Zeital, Spec. Youth Club, Alderman House, 87, Brookside South, East Barnet, Herts.
Referee: J. Randall. E.T.T.A. Representative: L. Hoffman.
- .. 22 **England v. Israel** - Manchester.
Organiser: A. Goldstone, 7, Parkville Road, Prestwich, Manchester.
Referee: G. R. Yates. E.T.T.A. Representative: L. Cohen.
- .. 23 **England v. Israel** - Leeds.
Organiser: A. Taylor, 420, Street Lane, Leeds, 17.
Referee: G. T. Scruton. E.T.T.A. Representative: M. Shaffner.
- .. 24 **International Club v. Israel**.
Organiser: L. Landry, 53, Hillfield Road, London, N.W.6.
- .. 24 **England v. West Germany (EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCH)** - Bolton.
Organiser: G. R. Yates, 43, Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs.
Referee: A. Porter. E.T.T.A. Representative: A. E. Upton.
- Nov. 2 **England v. Wales (Junior)** - St. Luke's Youth Club, Canning Town, London, E.16.
Organiser: L. Landry, as above.
Referee: E.E.T.A. Representative: (to be appointed . . .)
- .. 8 **England v. Czechoslovakia** - Oxford. (B.B.C. T.V.).
Organiser: D. J. White, 94, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford.
Referee: A. J. H. Wickens. E.T.T.A. Representative: A. J. Hobday.
- .. 11 **England v. Czechoslovakia** - Ashford, Kent.
Organiser: G. Daniels, 89, Harvey Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent.
Referee: A. F. Horn. E.T.T.A. Representative: C. M. Wyles.
- Dec. 5 **England v. Sweden (EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCH)** - Norwich.
Organiser: H. E. Betts, 16, Branksome Close, Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk.
Referee: H. Spraggs. E.T.T.A. Representative: H. Walker.
- .. 13 **England v. Yugoslavia** - Crystal Palace (B.B.C. T.V.).
Organiser: D. R. Tremayne, E.T.T.A. Office.
Referee: C. M. Wyles. E.T.T.A. Representative: M. Greatrex.
- .. 16 **England v. Yugoslavia** - Newbury.
Organiser: C. E. Willis, 27, Salcombe Road, Newbury, Berks.
Referee: A. J. Hobday. E.T.T.A. Representative: L. Thompson.
- 1969
- Jan. 2/3/4 **ENGLISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS** - Crystal Palace.
Organiser: D. R. Tremayne, E.T.T.A. Office.
Referee: G. Owen.
- Feb. 7 **England v. Hungary** - Bracknell (B.B.C. T.V.).
Organiser: M. J. Smythe, 11, Nightingale Crescent, Bracknell, Berks.
Referee: S. Morton. E.T.T.A. Representative: A. G. Steggall.
- .. 21 **England v. Rumania (EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCH)** - Teesside.
Organiser: A. Ransome, 21a, Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Yorks.
Referee: W. Mitton. E.T.T.A. Representative: D. Robson.
- .. 24 **England v. Rumania** - Sheffield.
Organiser: Mrs. A. Coleman, 128, Station Road, Woodhouse, Sheffield, Yorks.
Referee: H. Flinton. E.T.T.A. Representative: F. Briggs.
- Feb. 27/28/
- Mar. 1 **ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS** - Brighton.
Organiser: D. R. Tremayne, E.T.T.A. Office.
Referee: J. Wright.
- May 3/4 **ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN** - Folkestone.
Organiser: C. M. Wyles, 48, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.
Referee: S. Dane.
- June (4 or 6) **England v. West Germany** - Sheffield.
Organiser: P. M. Turner, 51, Walkley Street, Sheffield, S6 3RF.
Referee: W. Mitton. E.T.T.A. Representative: To be appointed.

EUROPEAN RANKINGS

BASED on the results of the European Championships held in Lyons, France, last April, the following classification list will be used for seeding purposes in all open international championships held in Europe this season (previous position in brackets):—

MEN

1. Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia) (=10)
2. Janos Borzsei (Hungary) (16)
3. Hans Alser (Sweden) (=8)
4. Kjell Johansson (Sweden) (4)
5. Istvan Korpa (Yugoslavia) (=12)
6. Stanislav Gomozkov (U.S.S.R.) (=1)
7. Eberhard Scholer (W. Germany) (=1)
8. Matyas Beleznai (Hungary) (6)
9. Jaroslav Stanek (Czechoslovakia) (3)
10. Denis Neale (England) (7)
11. Dorin Giurgiuca (Rumania) (=12)
12. Anatoly Amelin (U.S.S.R.) (=10)
13. Stefan Kollarovits (Czechoslovakia) (=8)
14. Sarkis Sarkhojan (U.S.S.R.) (14)
15. Vlado Miko (Czechoslovakia) (5)
16. Istvan Jonyer (Hungary) (—)

WOMEN

1. Ilona Vostova (Czechoslovakia) (=15)
2. Zoya Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) (1)
3. Marta Luzova-Hejmova (Czechoslovakia) (5)
4. Svetlana Grinberg (U.S.S.R.) (=3)
5. Mary Wright (England) (=3)
6. Edit Buchholz (W. Germany) (=11)
7. Maria Alexandru (Rumania) (2)
8. Gabriele Geissler (E. Germany) (6)
9. Agnes Simon (W. Germany) (7)
10. Eleanora Mihalca (Rumania) (=11)
11. Mirjana Resler (Yugoslavia) (10)
12. Erzsébet Jurik (Hungary) (5)
13. Eva Koczian (Hungary) (3)
14. Doris Hovestadt (E. Germany) (=15)
15. Rita Pogoseva (U.S.S.R.) (—)
16. Marita Neidert (Sweden) (—)

Peter Rozsas (Hungary) is the only player missing from the previous men's list at No. 15 whereas two women, Jitka Karlikova (Czechoslovakia) (13) and Cirila Pirc (Yugoslavia) (14) lose their places in the women's list.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Due to the uncertainty of the Bolton College of Technology being ready in time, the European League match between England and West Germany, to be played on Thursday, October 24, has been switched to Smithills School.

It will now take place in the Assembly Hall/Gymnasium of the Secondary Modern School and arrangements are in hand to surround the whole of the playing area with tiered seating.

Organisation is in the hands of the Bolton S.S.S. League and the match will be covered by I.T.V. cameras with highlights of the play to be shown in "World of Sport" on Saturday, October 26.

Leading West Germany's current rankings are:—MEN: (1) Eberhard Scholer; (2) Bernt Jansen; (3) Ernst Gomolla; (4) Wilfried Lieck and (5) Martin Ness; WOMEN: (1) Edit Buchholz (2) Agnes Simon; (3) Jutta Krüger; (4) Wiebke Hendriksen and (5) Inge Harst.

Tickets for the match in Bolton can be had from the Editor and Organiser, Geo. R. Yates, Esq., 43, Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton. They are priced at £1, 15/., 12/6d. and 10/-. Postal applications to be accompanied by a s.a.e. and the appropriate remittance.

CALLING ALL ARMY T.T. ENTHUSIASTS

by Sgt. Instr. Stan Brown

MANY years ago an article appeared in the official journal of the E.T.T.A. entitled "Cinderella Sport in the Army". The article commented on the fact that Table Tennis was not recognised as a sport in the British Army, even though recognised by the Royal Air Force.

Well, this is no longer true, at least the Army Sports Control Board have granted the sport recognition but, no Association or governing body will be formed until the need for a controlling body is asked for by the Home Commands.

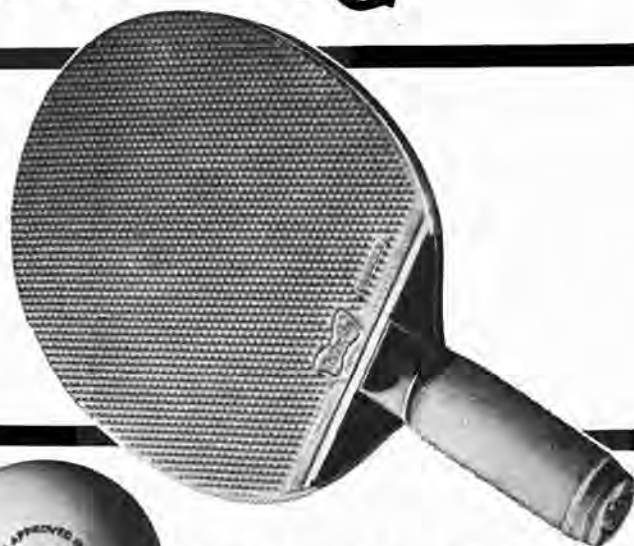
The lack of an Army Association means there can be no inter-unit, inter-command and inter-service competitions at Army level, and no individual events such as other sporting bodies organise.

The answer to this problem lies in the hands of all Table Tennis enthusiasts at home and abroad. You must ensure that the wishes of all table tennis players in the unit are known to your sports representative. YOU must ask for the formation of an Army Association with competitions at all levels and YOU must DO IT NOW; don't leave it for someone else to do!!!

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CAMEL - I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO PLAY AGAIN!

by KEN MATHEWS

I saw Camel again the other day. We didn't talk for long — just a minute or two. I was late and he seemed to be in a hurry. He had some bags and cases; I thought for a moment that he was going to play again.

Funny things people. I mean, how they are all different. Now if it had been me, well! But then Camel's not like most. Philosophical if you know what I mean. He always was like that, mind you, and I suppose it's good in a way. If things don't affect you too much it makes life's little ups and downs a bit easier to cope with.

This is the sort of thing I mean. He went on holiday once and they said that the weather was hot enough to crack paving stones. Well, one did crack right underneath Camel and he sprained his ankle. Didn't seem to bother him, though. Spent the week in bed playing patience someone said.

He's always been sport-minded. Dabbled in nearly everything. Very good at everything as well. Wonderful eye for the ball. But something always seemed to prevent him from really getting to the top. Silly things. But as soon as anything went wrong like that he'd simply lose interest and start something else.

It still seems incredible but even now it's only two years since he first picked up a table tennis bat. He just couldn't lose. From the very first day he seemed to take to it, just as if he'd never done anything else in his life. Well, English Open champion after twelve months!

He's one of those players who never seem to actually do very much, except win. Perhaps they underestimated him. I don't know. But in those twelve months he only ever lost two games and that was after he came back from that holiday I was telling you about.

Naturally they picked him for England and in fact he only had one international, Sweden I think it was, before the World Championships. The Swedes couldn't believe it. Not one of them got double figures. It wouldn't have been so bad if Camel looked an athlete. I mean, the Swedes all looked like Hercules with muscles like pumpkins, but the kindest thing you can say about Camel is that, well that he is sinewy. Anyway he ambled about and thrashed the lot of them and was picked for the World Championships the next month.

Although no-one managed to beat Camel they lost the team event. Trouble was that he had no support. At least no-one in his class and he couldn't win the matches by himself. Nobody seemed to bother too much about that. Perhaps they were all thinking about the singles.

I'm not saying that I had no faith in Camel. But you see I've known him a long time. It was just that somehow I had reservations about him actually winning the title in the end. Anyway he ploughed through the lot of them, even the penholders. They couldn't believe it either. They all went into huddles and trained

their cameras on him and made bundles of notes and things but it didn't make any difference.

He reached the final without dropping a game but even I knew he would be up against it then. This little Oriental fellow—I haven't any idea what his name was except that I read that, translated it meant something to do with the victory of some God over an earthquake or something — anyway he was very good and he hadn't dropped any games either.

By the time it got to deuce in the fifth the spectators were in a frenzy of excitement and they had to replace the umpire because he was so hot-up, he started to squeak. Two more umpires came and went before the score reached 48-all. And not once had the little Oriental bloke I spoke of just now, not once did he have an advantage point. Mind you, the little chap certainly did fight.

But I must tell you. For me the game had already finished. I think I was the calmest one in the place because by now I knew that it was going to be the same as ever and that Camel wasn't going to win. I must say though that I was curious because I couldn't think what would happen to make Camel lose.

At 54-all, the little Eastern chappie got an advantage for the first time. There was dead silence in the place. Camel served and after a couple of hits he had the little bloke plastered against the back boards. Camel hit one really hard and the little bloke sprang up and lobbed it right up into the ceiling. Down it came clear and bright and bounced on Camel's side about six feet in the air.

And that was when it happened. I'd known it was only a question of time. Camel took a mighty swing at the ball and the blade of his bat flew off like a discus. The hall was so quiet that you could hear it humming through the air. It hit the little chap straight between the eyes and it wasn't until two hours later that they could tell him that he'd won.

No-one knew what to say to Camel. Except me. I didn't actually say anything. I just went over and handed him a copy of the Tennis and Badminton monthly and within a minute he was completely absorbed in it.

He had tennis rackets in his bag when I saw him the other day and he was telling me that he was off to play in some zone or other, of the Davis Cup I think it was.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

THE new Deputy Chairman, Walter Mitton, has been appointed as co-ordinator of the home international programme, and any League or County wishing to stage international matches in the future should contact him at 16, The Whins, Newby, Scarborough, Yorks.

TOURNAMENT DIARIES

THE 1968-69 calendar of Tournaments has been incorporated in an attractive plastic-backed diary which runs from September 1968 to August 1969. These diaries are now on sale at 2/6d. each and are available from the E.T.T.A. Office.

Containing details of all Open and Restricted Tournaments, home European League matches and other internationals printed against the appropriate dates, the diaries will be of interest to every player.

SCORE PADS

AS a result of enquiries, a supply of individual match result sheets have been secured, made up in pads of 100 sheets, on sale at 2/6d. per pad. Each sheet has a place for the entry of Event, round, table, match number, two boxes for checking ticks, plus obvious space for anything up to a five-game set of doubles.

Invaluable to organisers of tournaments at all levels and considerably cheaper than anything available commercially, please send cash with order to Albert Shipley, Administrative Secretary, E.T.T.A. Office, 26-29 Park Crescent, Room 323, London W1N 4HA.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Oct. 19-20	33rd Sussex Open White Rock Pavilion, Hastings.	VS	D. N. Tyler, Prudential Chambers, 1, York Buildings, Hastings.
Oct. 25-26	Merseyside Open, Dunlop Rubber Co., Speke, Liverpool 24.	JBS, JGS, VS	B. A. Leeson, 16, Avolon Road, Liverpool 12. Closing date 12.10.68.
Oct. 26	Bristol Restricted Open Drill Hall, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, 8.	JBS, JGS, VS	Mrs. J. L. Watts, 148, Overdale Road, Downend, Bristol.
Oct. 26-27	North Herts ... Junior Open Taylor Instrument Co., Gunnelswood Road, Stevenage.	U-11 BS, GS U-13 BS, GS U-15 BS, GS BD, GD, XD U-17 BS, GS BD, GD, XD	J. Jermyn, 191, Baldock Road, Letchworth, Herts.
Oct. 27	Merton Restricted Open, Winton, Y.M.C.A., Bournemouth.	JS	Mrs. J. Coop, 96, Headswell Avenue, Bournemouth, Hants.
Nov. 2-3	Kent Junior Open Marine Pavilion, Folkestone.	U-11 BS, GS U-13 BS, GS, BD, GD U-15 BS, GS, BD, GD U-17 BS, GS, BD, GD, XD	C. M. Wyles, 48, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. Closing date 17.10.68 to G. Daniels, 89, Harvey Road, Willesborough, Ashford.
Nov. 3	Hull Open Y.P.I. Ferens Recreation Centre, Hull, Yorks.	JBS, JGS, VS	J. H. Popham, The Kennels, Hotham Park, York YO4 3UN.
Nov. 9-10	Woolwich Open Greenwich Baths, Woolwich.	JBS	M. R. Ellis, 300, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, Kent.
Nov. 10	Hastings Tiger Restricted Open Bexhill Youth Centre, Bexhill.		J. F. Wyles, 48a, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.
Nov. 17	Portsmouth Open Wimbledon Park Hall, Southsea.		P. Goldring, 52, Winter Road, Southsea, Hants.
Nov. 23	Cumberland Open, Moorclose School, Moorclose Estate, Workington.	JBS, JGS	R. Rigg, 4, Tower Hill, Whitehaven, Cumb. Closing date 12.11.68.
Nov. 23-24	Southend Open King Edward School, Rochford.	JBS, JGS	M. D. Watts, Church Green, Sycamore Way, Canewdon, Essex.
Nov. 23-24	The Woodfield Restricted Open Woodfield Club, Woodfield Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton, Staffs.	JBS, JGS, JD, VS	Woodfield Club, Woodfield Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton.

AROUND THE TOURNAMENTS

with Laurie Landry

RARE SCALPS FOR TAYLOR

WHAT a wonderful tournament was this season's North Middlesex, played at Alexandra Palace on September 14th-15th. Surprises too with Trevor Taylor moving about as never before in beating Malcolm Sugden and Chester Barnes!

Standing no such nonsense, however, Brian Wright put the young Herts. player in his place to win the title.

Karenza Mathews won the women's singles but not without being hard-pressed by Maureen Heppell after falling down badly in the first game.

Wright brought off a treble haul of titles but surprise men's doubles finalists were Barry Hill and Ron Penfold.

HELLABY'S TITLE

Added interest in the Essex Junior Open, played at Harlow on September 7th-8th, was provided by the entry of Jaroslav Suchopar, a 14-year-old Czech, but the main surprise was the victory of Robert Hellaby of Essex who played wonderfully well.

Simon Heaps (13) lost to Suchopar in the U-15 singles but gained revenge in the U-17 event and went on to give a great display against Hellaby in the semis.

Jill Shirley beat Sue Howard in the U-17 girls' event. After a really good first game, Jill could do nothing wrong in the second. Results:—

MIDDLESEX OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals: T. Taylor (Herts) bt M. Sugden (Scotland) 12, 11; C. Barnes (Essex) bt R. Stevens (Essex) 11, 14; B. Wright (Middx.) bt P. Williams (Sussex) 22, 15; A. Lindsay (Middx.) bt C. Warren (Surrey) 17, 16.

Semi-finals: TAYLOR bt Barnes 13, -13, 16; WRIGHT bt Lindsay 12, 14.

Final: WRIGHT bt Taylor 14, 14.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: K. MATHEWS (Middx.) bt J. Heaps (Ches.) 19, -17, 13; M. HEPPELL (Nthld.) bt L. Radford (Essex) 8, -9, 19.

Final: MATHEWS bt Heppell 8, -18, 23.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: STEVENS/WRIGHT bt E. Coster (Herts)/Sugden 15, -13, 15; B. HILL /R. PENFOLD (Surrey) bt S. Jacobson (Middx.)/Lindsay 14, 18.

Final: STEVENS/WRIGHT bt Hill /Penfold 15, -21, 23.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: HEAPS/MATHEWS bt Heppell/A. Taft (Middx.) 19, 15; RADFORD/D. SIMPSON (Essex) bt S. Hession (Essex)/J. Williams (Sussex) -13, 14, 17.

Final: HEAPS/MATHEWS bt Radford/Simpson 14, 15.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: WRIGHT/J. SHIRLEY (Bucks.) bt Sugden/Mathews 22, 20; BARNES/SIMPSON bt A. Clayton (Yorks)/Heaps 19, 21.

Final: WRIGHT/SHIRLEY bt Barnes/Simpson 15, 18.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals: TAYLOR bt M. Waldman (Middx.) 16, 19; H. THOMAS (Wales) bt M. Wald (Bucks.) 15, 18.

Final: TAYLOR bt Thomas 16, 6.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals: SHIRLEY bt L. Pacitto (Bucks) 5, 9; C. MANN (Middx.) bt S. Howard (Surrey) -17, 18, 24.

Final: SHIRLEY bt Mann 14, 20.

ESSEX JUNIOR OPEN

U-17 Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals: R. Hellaby (Essex) bt R. Clarke (Warwks.) 20, 15; A. Fletcher (Yorks) bt R. Tilling (Kent) 15, 19; M. Wald (Bucks.) bt C. Jones (Kent) 10, 12; S. Heaps (Ches.) bt J. Dabin (Kent) 20, 15.

Semi-finals: HELLABY bt Heaps -18, 20, 19; WALD bt Fletcher 18, 14.

Final: HELLABY bt Wald 16, -15, 14.

U-17 Girls' Singles: Semi-finals: J. SHIRLEY (Bucks.) bt C. Mann (Middx.) 10, 16; S. HOWARD (Surrey) bt S. Lee (Yorks) 18, 9.

Final: SHIRLEY bt Howard 16, 6.

U-17 Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals: B. GRIMWADE/TILLING (Kent) bt Dabin/S. Endersby (Kent) 14, -17, 12; FLETCHER/N. FULSTOW (Yorks) bt Heaps/P. Taylor (Herts) 16, 13.

Final: GRIMWADE/TILLING bt Fletcher/Fulstow 17, 16.

U-17 Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals: S. HOWARD/SHIRLEY bt S. Beckwith/H. Wesley (Essex) 17, 9; V. KING (Yorks)/LEE bt P. Brenchley (Kent)/Mann 15, 20.

Final: HOWARD/SHIRLEY bt King/Lee 16, 7.

U-17 Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: R. NAPPER (Bucks)/SHIRLEY bt Clarke/S. Hamilton (Middx.) 16, 14; J. SUCHOPAR (Czecho)/S. HOWARD bt Fletcher/Lee 16, 18.

Final: NAPPER/SHIRLEY bt Suchopar/Howard 20, -13, 14.

U-15 Boys' Singles: Semi-finals: P. TAYLOR bt Fulstow 20, -19, 18; SUCHOPAR bt Heaps 16, -13, 20.

Final: TAYLOR bt Suchopar 15, -17, 13.

U-15 Girls' Singles: Semi-finals: BECKWITH bt L. Pacitto (Bucks) 17, -18, 17; L. HOWARD (Surrey) bt Brenchley 25, 9.

Final: BECKWITH bt Howard 10, 18.

U-15 Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals: FULSTOW / SUCHOPAR bt P. Bishop/D. Fisher (Surrey) 19, 12; HEAPS/TAYLOR bt Endersby/M. Wright (Yorks) -17, 13, 16.

Final: FULSTOW/SUCHOPAR bt Heaps/Taylor -12, 18, 13.

U-15 Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals: BECKWITH/KING bt W. Slade (Berks)/E. Tarten (Essex) 14, 17; L. HOWARD/L. PACITTO bt Brenchley/B. McGrorty (Kent) 18, -14, 13.

Final: BECKWITH/KING bt Howard/Pacitto 17, -18, 16.

U-13 Boys' Singles: Semi-finals: HEAPS bt J. Norman (Kent) 2-0, P. GUTORMSEN (Kent) bt I. Cullip (Essex) 8, 9. **Final:** HEAPS bt Gutormsten 8, 17.

U-13 Girls' Singles: Semi-finals: L. HOWARD bt J. Hartwell (Herts.) 8, 7; G. LOCKE (Essex) bt C. Smith (Berks.) 10, 14.

Final: HOWARD bt Locke 16, 9.

U-11 Boys' Singles: Winner: T. EVERITT (Herts.) in final pool of 3.

E.T.T.A. NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME

by JACK CARRINGTON
(National Director of Coaching)

REVISION OF COACHING AWARDS

As from October 1st, the stages of progression for official Awards will be as follows:—

- Student
- Teaching Certificate
- Club Coach
- Diploma**
- E.T.T.A. Senior Diploma Coach***
E.T.T.A. Senior Trainer-Coach***

Awards will be by special nomination of the Committee, and will require high standards of service and skill in Coaching work or in the International field.

By this revision, our aim is to encourage the valuable work of the local Coaches and Teachers, while pushing the standards of the specialist Coaches still higher.

The new CLUB COACH is intended to be near the standards of the original Basic Diploma. Thus a number of Teaching Certificate holders, who were already on the verge of Basic Diploma, will qualify almost at once for the Club Coach grade.

The new DIPLOMA** is, however, of appreciably higher requirements than the Basic Diploma; assessment sessions for the two-star grade will not start until Spring 1969. Detailed syllabus and requirements will be sent shortly to all holders of the Basic Diploma.

All Coaches and Students will have a big part to play in the E.T.T.A. Junior Proficiency Award Scheme which will start this season, and details of which will be published shortly.



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by 'Penholder'

THE following officers and councillors will serve during the 1968-69 season:—

OFFICERS

Chairman: C. JASCHKE—145 votes (Elected). N. K. Reeve—108 votes.

Deputy Chairman: W. MITTON—136 votes (Elected). A. E. Upton—68 votes. M. E. Scott—42 votes.

Hon. Treasurer: T. BLUNN—193 votes (Elected). B. Hartley—41 votes.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Beds.: P. E. HARMER; Berks.: B. HARTLEY; Bucks.: L. Thompson; Cambs.: J. D. CORNWELL; Ches.: J. K. KENNERLEY; Cumb.: G. R. YATES; Derbys.: P. NORMAN; Devon: Mrs. F. JARVIS, *Durham: A. RANSOME; Essex: H. WALKER; Gloucs.: L. C. T. DAVIS; Hants.: M. S. GREATREX; Herts.: H. S. STEVENS; Kent: C. M. WYLES; Lancs.: A. E. UPTON; Leics.: P. REID; Lincs.: K. W. DEWAR; *Middx.: L. HOFFMAN; Norfolk: E. J. FAIRHEAD; Northants: K. J. MARCHANT; Northumb.: D. ROBSON; Notts.: E. TAYLOR; Oxon: A. J. HOBDAV; Somerset: D. POPE; Staffs.: M. E. SCOTT; Suffolk: D. J. BARRETT; Surrey: C. J. Clemett; Sussex: K. WATTS; Warwks.: M. GOLDSTEIN; Wilts.: MISS K. WATERS; Worcs.: I. CRICKMER; and Yorks.: F. BRIGGS.

*Ballots resulted:—

Durham: A. RANSOME—9 votes (Elected). E. Reay—8 votes. Maximum votes possible—18.

Middlesex: L. HOFFMAN—14 votes (Elected). Miss I. Moss—11 votes. Maximum votes possible—30.

Counties without an elected member are:—Cornwall, Dorset, Huntingdonshire and Shropshire.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At the first meeting of the National Council, held in London on July 20th, the election of the Management Committee resulted as follows:

G. R. YATES—24 votes (Elected). K. WATTS—21 votes (Elected). M. GOLDSTEIN—19 votes (Elected). M. E. SCOTT—10 votes (Elected). C. M. Wyles—9 votes (not elected). B. Hartley—8 votes (not elected). I. Crickmer—7 votes (not elected). A. E. Upton—6 votes (not elected).

NATIONAL COUNCIL

APPOINTMENTS

The Chairman explained that under the new arrangements for the Publicity Committee, Press Officers would be elected as members of that Committee. Under the proposed re-organisation, it was not proposed to appoint an Hon. International Secretary

(a) Editor of Table Tennis News—G. R. Yates.

(b) Assistant to Secretariat—The Chairman drew attention to the valu-

able work that had been done by Harry Walker in assisting the Secretariat on an honorary basis. Although Harry Walker was now a Councillor, Mr. Jaschke was satisfied that no unfair advantage would be gained by Mr. Walker if he continued to give assistance to the Secretariat as required by the Administrative Secretary.

SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) Archives and Library: I. Crickmer (Chairman and Secretary), Mrs. F. Jarvis and M. E. Scott.

(b) Coaching and Schools: G. Steggall (Chairman), M. E. Scott (Vice-Chairman), D. R. Tremayne (Secretary), J. H. Carrington (Director of Coaching and Staff Coach South), P. Simpson (Staff Coach North). Northern Panel: S. Frohlick, J. K. Kennerley, A. Ransome, P. Reid. Southern Panel: J. Cornwell, L. Gresswell, L. Thompson, J. Waterhouse.

(c) County Boundaries: D. Robson (Chairman), H. Walker (Secretary), K. W. Dewar, D. Pope, H. G. Stevens and J. M. Wright.

(d) Disciplinary: A. E. Upton (Chairman), L. Thompson (Vice-Chairman), L. C. T. Davis (Secretary), E. J. Fairhead, Mrs. F. Jarvis and M. E. Scott.

(e) *Equipment: I. C. Eyles (Chairman), D. R. Tremayne (Secretary), R. J. Crayden, C. Jaschke, H. Spraggs and A. J. Wickens. *The Chairman explained that previously this was a Panel but with the greater need for control of equipment it was proposed to make this a sub-committee. It was also decided to add Conrad Jaschke to the list of members to provide liaison with the Trade.

(f) Finance: It was agreed that the senior officer present at meetings of this committee should take the Chair. Members: T. Blunn (Hon. Treasurer), M. Greatrex, G. T. H. Fackrell, B. Hartley and K. Watts.

(g) Life Members and Vice-Presidents: C. Jaschke (Chairman), T. Blunn, I. C. Eyles, M. Goldstein and E. Reay.

(h) National Team Competitions: M. Goldstein (Chairman), L. C. T. Davis (Secretary), I. Crickmer and E. Taylor.

(i) Publicity: Conrad Jaschke explained that this was a new committee formed to intensify our efforts in a field which had been steadily declining. Composition: A. K. Vint, O.B.E. (Chairman), G. R. Yates (Vice-Chairman and P. O. North), A. W. Shipley (Secretary), F. Clay (P.R.O.), J. Woodford (P.O. South), Mrs. S. Kidd (formerly "Pinkie" Barnes), J. Leach, M.B.E., P. Mulcahy, E.G. White and C. M. Wyles.

(j) Rules: K. Watts (Chairman), A. E. Upton (Vice-Chairman), A.

J. H. Wickens (Secretary), M. Greatrex, B. Hartley and E. G. White. It was suggested that a panel, elected from members of the Rules sub-committee be set up to study and approve County Rules but it was agreed that responsibility rested with the full Rules Committee.

(k) Selection: T. Blunn (Chairman), R. J. Crayden (Vice-Chairman), A. W. Shipley (Secretary), J. Leach (Team Manager—Seniors), L. F. Landry (Team Manager—Juniors). L. Gresswell, B. Merrett, D. Schofield and P. Simpson. It was agreed that Team Managers would be the sole selectors of representative teams, after consultation, as required, with other members of the committee.

(l) Sponsorship: C. M. Wyles (Chairman), W. Mitton (Vice-Chairman), D. R. Tremayne (Secretary), L. Hoffman, G. Steggall and A. K. Vint, O.B.E.

(m) Tournaments: G. R. Yates (Chairman), J. K. Kennerley (Vice-Chairman), W. Mitton (Secretary) F. Briggs, L. F. Landry, A. Ransome, P. Reid, D. Robson and C. M. Wyles.

(n) Umpires and Referees: G. James (Chairman), A. J. Hobday (Vice-Chairman), C. J. Clemett (Secretary), Mrs. P. Archdale, W. G. Goldfinch, G. Owen, H. Spraggs and E. G. White.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES AND PANELS

English Open Organiser: D. R. Tremayne. Referee: J. M. Wright. Organiser to appoint other helpers.

English Closed Organiser: D. R. Tremayne. Referee: G. Owen. Organiser to appoint other helpers.

English Junior Open — Organiser: C. M. Wyles. Referee: S. Dane. Organiser to appoint other helpers.

Victor Barna Award: V. Barna, T. Blunn, I. C. Eyles, M. Goldstein and C. Jaschke.

Appeal Board: S. R. Hoddy, F. C. Newell, E. Reay, M. D. Shaffner, A. K. Vint, O.B.E., A. J. H. Wickens, R. M. White and J. M. Wright.

Fund Raising Organiser: Mrs. Betty Mitton.

Handbook Editor: A. W. Shipley reporting to W. Mitton.

C.T.T.C. Representative: W. Mitton. C.C.P.R. Representative: D. R. Tremayne.

English Schools T.T.A. Representatives: J. H. Carrington and D. R. Tremayne.

Trade Representative: C. Jaschke.

Table Tennis News: Editor—G. R. Yates; Advertisements—D. R. Tremayne; Circulation—Secretariat.

Nominations and Returning Officer—A. J. H. Wickens.

Scrutineers: F. E. Clay and P. Hyde.

ON looking through a copy of 'Table Tennis News' last year, I came across the National Coaching Scheme Diary which mentioned 'Holiday Training', July 13th-20th, 1968.

I decided to make further enquiries and discovered that this was the only residential course run by the English Table Tennis Association, and that it would be held at the much-publicised National Recreation Centre at Lilleshall, Nr. Newport, Shropshire.

After several weeks of anxious waiting, I eventually obtained permission from the Local Education Authority for the necessary leave of absence from my secondary school mathematics post.

I was highly suspicious of the wisdom of my move when I heard from the C.C.P.R. that Lilleshall Hall was two miles from the main gate — 'the golden gates', but on arrival all my fears were dispelled because here was a magnificently-equipped secluded sports centre.

Before very long, one soon discovered who the table tennis fanatics were — those who were up practising before breakfast, trying to polish up the finer points of their play before the morning and afternoon group coaching sessions got under way.

The accommodation consisted of excellently-appointed rooms, single or double, and the meals were refreshingly welcome after a hard day's work, as also was the newly-provided licensed bar.

The number of course members was 30. The Coaching staff were:

Jack Carrington (Director of Coaching) Organiser of the course and responsible for planning; special instruction to the Coaches group.

(There were two sections; for players and for coaches and potential coaches).

Alan Fisher (Kent) Resident Coach in charge, who was assisted by: Hans Soova (Yorkshire) and Barry Johnson (Lincolnshire).

All the above team are Diploma Holders, and another Diploma Coach, Mrs. Pat Wales, was a member of the Course who assisted with some of the other students.

Space does not allow a full report, but I would thoroughly recommend this annual table tennis 'think-in'. To say that all concerned talked, ate, drank and slept (and played!) table tennis is putting it mildly! The casual observer could have been excused for imagining that the course members had evaluated and solved the many organisational and administrative problems of the E.T.T.A.!

CALLING ALL SCHOOLS

by Bill Mackenzie

THE English Schools' Table Tennis Association was formed in May of this year when a Working Constitution was drawn up and Officers appointed for the year 1968/69. Aims are to promote, encourage and improve the playing of table tennis at all levels in schools through the formation of County and Area associations and organisation of courses and competitions.

The Association's first major responsibility is the organisation of the 1968-69 National Championships, which since their inception two years ago, have been directed by the Parent Body, the E.T.T.A.. It is, therefore, urgent and essential to draw together all playing interests and get in touch with all schools, existing associations and officials so that the coverage is as wide as possible.

It is essential too, that an enthusiast in each county is found, who will undertake the organisation of a tournament leading up to the national event. The E.T.T.A. will only be able to assume responsibility centrally at the quarter-final stage when ten counties will meet in each of four regions.

The Hon. General Secretary, Mr. Gerald N. Gurney, Guildhall Orchard, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex (Tel.: Ardleigh 330) has gone through the available files and has sent out notices and questionnaires to all known centres of interest.

Mr. Gurney would be greatly assisted if those colleagues who have received notices would be kind enough to get replies to him without delay. Anyone else, who might be interested in taking part in the Association's programme, should contact the Secretary immediately.

Full details and rules of play for the 1968-69 National Competition will be issued in due course, but readers may like to know at this stage that the Quarter-Finals will be played as follows:—

Midlands and North March 1
(nominations by Feb. 16).
South-East and South-West Mar. 8
(nominations by Feb. 23).

The Association's first Chairman is Mr. J. A. Maxwell, B.Sc. (Econ.) of Hartshill School, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Vice-Chairman and Treasurer is Ian Crickmer of Barbourne, the National Council Member for Worcestershire and Competition Secretary is John Wright of Bedford Park, London, the County Championships livewire Secretary.

REPORT ON THE FINALS OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL-TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 1968

by G. N. Gurney

THE second National Finals of the School-Team Championships were played at the Harry Mitchell Recreational Centre, Warley on 18 May, with no apparent ill-effects from the clash with the Cup Final! Some officials, however, found their loyalty split between the extended Inaugural Meeting of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association — held at the nearby Council Chambers — and the Finals.

With the addition of under-15 events, Jack Carrington, the National Organiser of the Championships, found it necessary to abandon the "Group" system used in 1967, and we therefore saw only two teams in each event—these having fought their way through some 125 local competitions.

Results were as follows:

Boys under-17 (Norman Cook Cup)

Hymer's College, Hull beat Malory School, London, S.E. 13, by 5-2. A. Clayton bt J. Dabin -21, 20, 16; bt R. Tilling -17, 18, 15. A. Fletcher bt Dabin -3, 13, 13; bt Tilling 14, -18, 20. A. Petrie lost to C. Jones -13, -13; bt S. Endersby 17, 14. C. Boothby lost to Endersby 16, -7, -9.

Girls under-17 (Claud Kichenside Cup)

Holly Lodge High School, Liverpool beat Sheppey Technical High School, Sheerness, by 5-1.

P. Fidler bt P. Brenchley 19, 19; bt S. Sandy -9, 16, 10. J. Mackenzie lost to Brenchley -18, -19; bt Sandy -20, 11, 16. C. Lavelle bt J. Jackson 7, -13, 17. J. Lancaster bt L. Hodges 7, 14.

Boys under-15 (Leach-Carrington Cup)

Burnley Wood County School beat Plaistow Grammar School, Newham, by 5-0.

K. Harrison bt M. Read 18, 18; bt M. Locke 18, 13. F. Roland bt M. Read -18, 17, 19. L. Roberts bt

J. Whipps 21, 16. B. Cooper bt P. Firbank 18, 18.

Girls under-15 ("Mick Betts Memorial" Cup)

Rectory Manor School, Newham, beat Nechells Secondary School, Birmingham, by 5-0.

S. Beckwith bt S. Bailey 15, 14; bt A. Florey 9, 9. H. Wesley bt S. Bailey 15, 17. S. Jones bt B. Pitterson 6, 17. P. Reynolds bt R. Ripley 10, 17.

Certificates and trophies—including those generously donated by Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington and by the Folkestone and District Table Tennis Association — were presented by Tom Blunn, Honorary Treasurer of the E.T.T.A.

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DIANE SIMPSON

by Philip Reid

IN June 1961, Mr. Simpson drove up to a Holiday Camp at Minehead and after unpacking, decided on a walk round the camp with his family during the course of which activities in the table tennis room took their interest.

Participation revealed that none of the family were taking the game seriously but one pair of shrewd eyes quickly spotted the potential of the youngest member — Diane. Although she had never played the game before it says oceans for the perception of Ian Barclay that he was able to see a future star in the making.

Ian was resident coach at the camp and he invited Diane along to the coaching sessions — an invitation which was eagerly accepted. A week's hard graft culminated in Diane being chosen "Girl of the Week" and few players can have reaped reward so quickly.

Diane's next piece of luck was that her father shared her enthusiasm and on returning home lost no time in looking for a suitable club within reach of their Chingford residence.

Little trouble was encountered in discovering the Albion Club—run by Jack and Elsie Carrington and Diane was duly enrolled.

As is often the case Diane made rapid progress initially but even she must have been surprised to find herself playing in the Second Division of the strong East London League by the time the new season began.

Her team-mates were Karenza Mathews, formerly Smith and Maria Know and the trio have played together, more or less, ever since.

At this time Diane was mainly a defensive player but, at the same time, was learning to attack. In this respect she was starting to develop a forehand but had virtually no backhand attacking strokes at all. All-in-all it was a very satisfactory start for the blond East Londoner.

ANOTHER AWARD

Hard practice in the summer and another "Girl of the Year" award was followed by an eminently satisfactory 1962-63 season. Still playing for Albion in the second division, Diane was starting to get better results. Ambitious father thought further coaching would benefit so it was arranged she should attend Becontree with Harry Venner and her game made further strides forward as a result.

1963-64 saw Diane on the tournament circuit and her results in this season were encouraging. 1964-65 brought her an England No. 7 ranking and a place in the Essex Junior team.

Several doubles titles came her way but without question the best was that obtained in the English Open when partnered by Karenza Smith in the junior event.

Season 1965-66 opened with Diane moving up the national junior rank-

ing list to No. 6 which was just reward for hard work.

Diane continued to pay frequent visits to Open tournaments and her adaptable game made her an eagerly-sought partner in doubles events.

One particular tournament, the Swansea Open, saw Diane reach the final of the women's singles, win the women's doubles (with Pauline Piddock) and lose the final of the girls' singles.

DUE REWARD

Performances such as this received their due reward when Diane was re-ranked No. 4 behind Maureen Heppell, Karenza Smith, and Pauline Hemmings as she was then.

Hard practice during the summer of 1966 and the likeable Chingford hitter was ready for her first season in the senior ranks.

Despite strong competition, Diane secured third position in the Essex senior list. Lesley Radford and Elsie Carrington were ranked above her but Beverley and Gloria Sayer, Shelagh Hession and Linda Henwood had been overhauled.

It proved to be a great season for Diane. She had wins over Pauline Piddock, Judy Williams, Lesley Proudlock, Jackie Billington and Maureen Heppell. Moreover, the first Open singles win—which had eluded her so long — came her way at Swansea when she had to beat Welsh internationals Elizabeth Gray and Margaret Phillips on the way.

TANGIBLE REWARD

Last season was one of tremendous effort but with some tangible reward. Diane won the Oxfordshire singles title and the runners-up prize at both the Midland and Cambridgeshire Opens.

At 19, Diane could be on the threshold of even greater things. No. 10 is her current seeding but it is by no means high enough for Diane's satisfaction.

Almost throughout her career, Diane has been an attacking player most eager to get in her vicious loop. Immediately the ball is put up she comes in with a tremendous kill, almost invariably forehand. To achieve this, calls for speedy and accurate footwork and these attributes Diane possesses.

Conscious of the image of table tennis Diane is always impeccably turned out being one of the smartest players in the game.

Mr. Simpson is still one of Diane's keenest supporters but also her quickest critic. There are few more dedicated players than Diane who still plays for her first-ever club, the Albion. Such loyalty is often a feature of table tennis players but it is still worthwhile recording.

This season will be a vital one for Diane. It could be a rewarding one. With her enthusiasm, dedication and ability it would only be just reward for her efforts.

Are you fit to play Table Tennis ?

Asks MARY WRIGHT

PHYSICAL training as distinct from actual practice has perhaps been rather scorned and ignored by many people in the World of table tennis. But, as told by Richard Bergman to our leading players recently, "Physical fitness makes up approximately 75% of a good player".

Many players are realising this, and under the expert guidance of Les Gresswell and Colin Henderson, both qualified P.E. instructors, a very successful training session has been in progress at Kingsdale School, Alveyn Park, London, S.E.21, every Monday night since January of this year.

Les Gresswell is a former Junior International, Middlesex County player and regular tournament attender. He is in charge of these Training Sessions and has commanded the undoubted respect of everyone who has ever seen him working there; so much so that England Team Manager, Johnny Leach has recently put him in charge of the Southern members of the International Squad. Together with Colin Henderson, Les has experimented with various forms of circuit training, weight training, shuttle running and pressure training on the table.

The circuit training consists of a group of approximately 8 or 9 exercises performed continuously for 40 secs. each, as one complete circuit and repeated three times. The 40 secs. is increased to 50 or 60 secs. on the last circuit.

The weight training is primarily designed to build up the various muscles necessary for our game in order to increase strength.

The shuttle running is used to build up stamina so that in a long tournament where sustained fitness is required, we will be better equipped to cope.

The pressure training on the table has definitely been helping the players' reactions on the table and making them realise how they move in a game and how they can improve.

Records of players' weight, height, pulse rate and other necessary information are kept and definite improvements have been shown by regular members of these sessions by comparing the records from time to time.

The training usually finishes with trampoline and games of five-a-side indoor football.

I think the most important factors which have contributed to the success of this training can be summed up as follows:—

1. All players have been affected by the tremendous enthusiasm shown by both Les and Colin and are keen to improve.
2. A team spirit has developed within the group, arising out of a great respect for Les and Colin and an appreciation of the job they are doing.

3. The training is freely discussed by the players and trainers, and criticisms and comments are encouraged and made.

Personally, I believe this training to be a great step forward for English table tennis and will soon show in results. If there is anyone who does not believe how hard the players and trainers are working, do come along and see for yourself.

THE SERVICE LAW

The ball shall be played on the palm of the free hand, which must be stationary. Service shall commence by the server projecting the ball by hand only, without imparting spin, near vertically upwards, so that the ball is visible at all times to the umpire and so that it visibly leaves the palm. As the ball is descending from the height of trajectory it shall be struck so that it touch first the server's court and then, passing directly over or around the net, touch the receiver's court.

In doubles, the ball shall touch first the server's right half-court or the centre line on his side of the net and then, passing directly over or around the net, touch the receiver's right half-court or the centre line on his side of the net. The free hand, while in contact with the ball in service, shall be above the level of the playing surface and shall be open, with the fingers together and the thumb free, the ball resting on the palm without being cupped or pinched in any way by the fingers. Strict observance of the prescribed method of service may be waived where the umpire is notified, before play begins, that compliance by the player in question is prevented by physical disability.

At the moment of the impact of the racket on the ball in service, the ball shall be behind the end line or an imaginary extension thereof.

THE EXPEDITE LAW

If a game be unfinished 15 minutes after it has begun, the rest of that game and the remaining games of the set shall proceed under the Expedite System. At the end of 15 minutes the umpire shall interrupt play by calling "let". If the interruption occurs during a rally the game shall be re-started by service from the player who served in the rally that was interrupted; if the interruption occurs between rallies the game shall be re-started by service from the player who received in the preceding rally. The return strokes of the receiving player or pair shall be counted out loud, from 1 to 13, by an official other than the umpire.

A player shall lose a point if, under the Expedite System, his service and the 12 following strokes of the serving player or pair be returned by good returns of the receiving player or pair.

If a game is being played under the Expedite System, each player shall deliver only one service in turn until the end of the game.

The player or pair who served first in a game shall receive first in the immediately subsequent game.

A NEW AFFILIATION

by 'Penholder'

THE English Table Tennis Association and Essex County Table Tennis Association have recently accepted the affiliation for this season of a new league — the Burnham-on-Crouch and District Table Tennis League.

The unique aspect of this addition to the increasing number of affiliated leagues is that the Burnham League is by no means newly-formed.

Their League Secretary, Dave Lomas, was recently thumbing through the fading files of the local newspaper — the 'Burnham Advertiser' — and discovered the following intriguing information:

"Table Tennis seems to be again becoming popular in Burnham and District. There are several clubs in existence and a suggestion was made at the annual meeting of the club connected with the Congregational Church that a local league should be formed. Competition in such a league would undoubtedly add to the interest of the game if there are sufficient clubs." This item was extracted from the issue of September 26th, 1936 where it was in the Editorial.

In the same issue, there appeared a report of the meeting referred to:— . . . "It was decided to make the Church Treasurer an advance payment for the use of the electric light. The committee decided to sell both small size tables and purchase another one of tournament size. A member asked if it were possible to form a local league, as there were now several clubs in Burnham. This suggestion was received with enthusiasm, and the committee asked the secretary to make enquiries as to whether other local clubs are interested enough."

The eventual outcome of these proposals was published in the same local paper a few months later:—"A table tennis league has been formed in Burnham. Six organisations have promised to enter teams in a competition for a handsome shield which has been purchased by subscription."

The League flourished for a few seasons but with the onset of war, failed to continue and it was not until 1964 that the league was re-founded. The number of teams, run in that year on an experimental basis, was six. In 1967, one of the original members of the league discovered the original shield in his attic, renovated it, and presented it to the winners of the league, which by now had expanded to 17 teams.

With an influx of new members from affiliated leagues in other parts of the country, the question of affiliation was raised after 30 years but turned down at the League's A.G.M.

The League Secretary invited the Organising Secretary of the E.T.T.A., Derek Tremayne to address league secretaries on the affiliation issue and this swung the balance in its favour and at the end of last season the Burnham League decided to affiliate.

This season the League has changed to a 3-a-side system and there are 22 teams competing in two divisions. One of the main reasons for the upsurge in interest in this sparsely-populated area of the Essex Marshes is the excellent coverage given to the game through the local press—the 'Burnham Advertiser' and 'The Maldon and Burnham Standard'. Last season, these papers printed not only league tables and results, but also a weekly photograph of a league

team. The coverage and space afforded the League has been so generous that other organisations have approached the Editors concerned asking for similar facilities!

The Burnham League looks forward to a long and happy association with the organising table tennis associations. The League have entered Division Three of the Essex Inter-League Competition and are looking forward to some coaching sessions which have already been arranged.

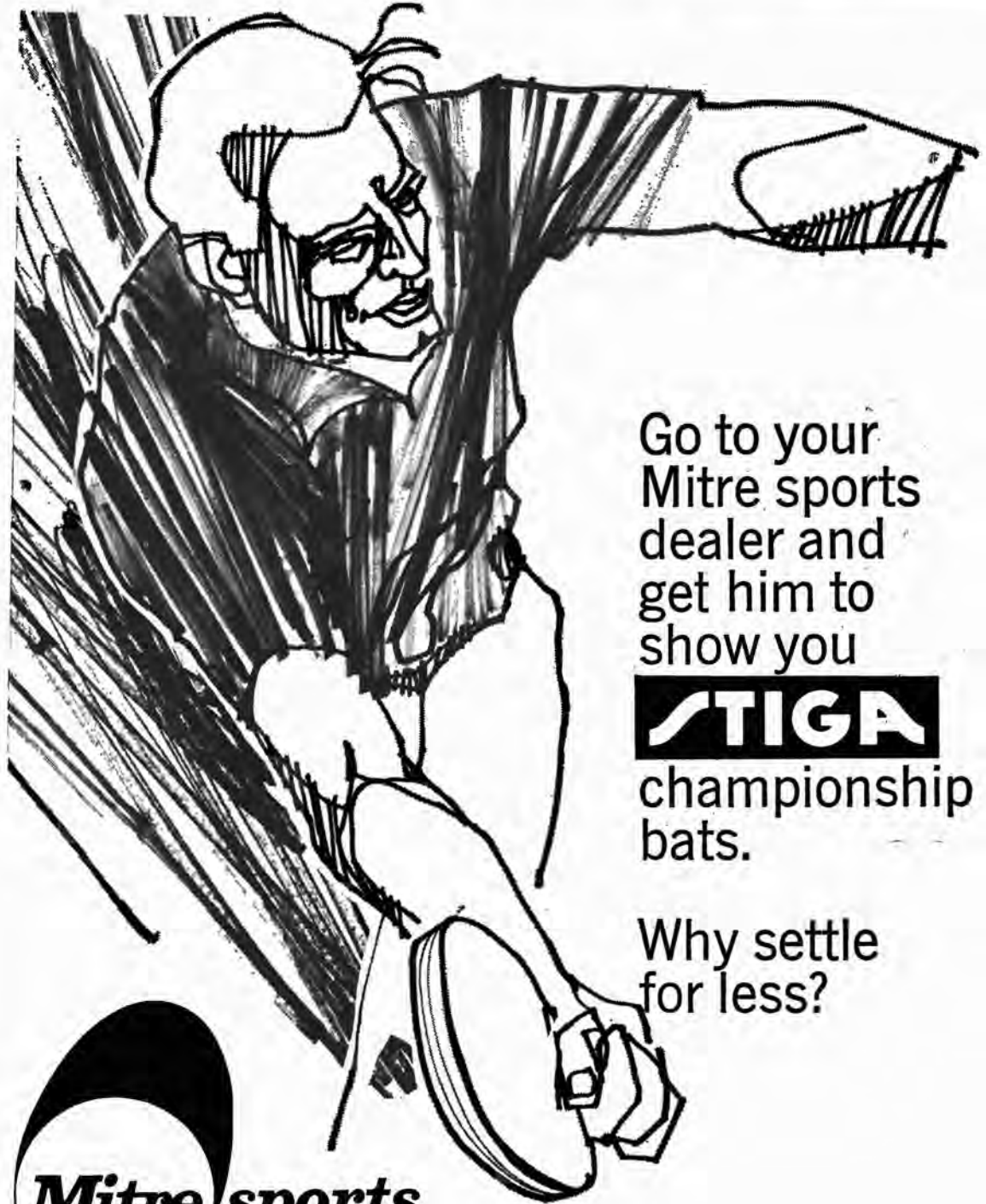
OBITUARY

Godfrey Decker

MEMBERS will be sad to learn of the death of Mr. Godfrey Decker on 19th July, 1968, at his home in Bourne-mouth, Hants.

Godfrey was one of the founder members of the Association, was Hon. Secretary during the 1932-33 season and an Hon. Life Member of the Association.

His presence will be sorely missed at many tournaments, for the sight of Godfrey Decker arranging lights and tables was very much a part of the tournament scene.



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GREAT NIGHT FOR THE IRISH

THE selection of self confident, highly talented 15-year-old Tony Langan, of Dublin, as "Boy of the Year" in the 14th annual Coaching Scheme at Butlin's Holiday Camps shows how often top table tennis talent can run in the same family. Last year's winner was Peter Taylor, whose brother Trevor held the same title in 1965.

Joint winner of the 1964 Scheme with Stuart Gibbs was Tony's eldest brother Jim Langan (aged 20) while Brian (18), his second eldest brother, partnered Tommy Caffrey to capture the 1967 "Coach and Pupil" Challenge Cup Competition.



Conrad Jaschke, chairman of the English Table Tennis Association with Lynda Chesson and Tony Langan, 'The Girl and Boy of the Year' 1968

Since Jim now ranks as Ireland's No. 1 player, it is not at all unlikely that Brian and Tony will soon be lining up with him to form the first International team ever chosen entirely from one family. And even if one of these Langans should fail to mature, I am told there is one still younger brother back home in Dublin, who might eventually reach top International standard.

Sharing top honour with Tony Langan, 15-year-old Lynda Chesson from Sittingbourne, Kent was crowned "Girl of the Year". A hearty hitter with a sound, athletic technique, Lynda looks ready and eager to take her place among England's brightest young hopes.

The selections were made after long deliberation by chief judges Denis Neale and Chester Barnes, the other "News of the World" coaches and myself, at Butlin's Bognor Regis camp on September 12 after we had studied the play of all twenty finalists. Points were awarded for every department of the game and it was by no means an easy decision, since the finalists were all of the highest quality, having emerged from a record entry this summer of 38,145.

Closest rivals to the winners according to our joint-scoring system were Jenny Cornock, a 16-year-old schoolgirl from Birmingham, and the tall slim Tony Boasman, from Flixton, Manchester. The latter gained consolation for his "near miss" by partnering Denis Neale to win a great victory in the "Coach and Pupil" Challenge Cup competition over Alan Hydes and Brian Johns by 24-22, 21-23, 21-17.

The trophies and awards were presented to the winners by Mr. Roger Hall, representing the "News of the World", on the stage of Butlin's Gaiety Theatre before an enthusiastic audience including leading English Table Tennis Association officials and over 2,000 holidaymakers.

Without doubt, our 1968 winners must rank in promise alongside such previous champions as Karenza Mathews (nee Smith) and Chester Barnes.

The twenty finalists comprised, other than the winners and runners-up:—

BOYS: Michael Foulkes (Blackpool), Keith James (Plymouth), Brian Johns (Northwich), David Younger (East Grinstead), Davis Bradley (Middlesbrough), David James (Plymouth), David Newton (Burnley) and Ian Horsham (Hornchurch).

GIRLS: Susan Lisle (Warrington), Linda Jones (Merthyr Tydfil), Lynda Sutton (Hull), Anne Painter (Enfield), Ruth Jaeger (Liverpool), Jacqueline Dyer (Manchester), Sadie Kiely (Dublin) and Rebecca Bryant (Chard).

The team of Coaches comprised:— Denis Neale—Skegness, Chester Barnes—Clacton, Lesley Proudlock—Filey, Joan Fitzsimons—Pwllheli, Judy Crafter—Minehead, Tommy Caffrey—Mosney, Alan Hydes—Bognor Regis, Ian Barclay—Barry and Eric Sutherland—Ayr.

Attending the finals and witnessing all the competitors being adjudicated were the following E.T.T.A. officials: Ron Crayden (Vice-Chairman Selection Committee), Laurie Landry (Junior Team Manager), Gordon Steggall (Chairman of the Schools and Coaching Committee), Leo Thompson (Member of Coaching, Schools and Selection Committees) and Albert Shipley (Administrative Secretary).

Conrad Jaschke (ETTA Chairman) and Derek Tremayne (Organising Secretary) attended the Presentation of Trophies to the winners.

Harry Walker, National Councillor for Essex, was Assistant Organiser of the Finals and Lesley Proudlock, Judy Crafter and Joan Fitzsimons assisted with administration.



General view of the stage during the presentation of awards

FIVE YEAR AGREEMENT WITH JAQUES

AT its meeting on July 20th, the National Council unanimously decided to sign a five-year Agreement with Messrs. John Jaques & Son for the exclusive adoption of the Jaques table for all major E.T.T.A. events in this country. The Agreement provided for John Jaques & Son to pay to the E.T.T.A. an annual cash sum, to loan permanently to the E.T.T.A. specified numbers of top grade tables, and to provide a wide range of equipment and services to the E.T.T.A. free of charge.

If all the terms of the Agreement were translated into cash equivalent, then this would be worth an estimated £10,000 to the E.T.T.A. over the five-year period.

The Agreement included uplift clauses, whereby the payments and other benefits are automatically increased in the later stages in direct proportion to any increase in Jaques' table tennis business turnover. Therefore members buying Jaques tables not only know that they are obtaining a table which is recognised as second to none in the world — an example of the very finest British workmanship — but at the same time they will be ensuring extra income to the E.T.T.A. under the uplift clauses. In fact, this Agreement means that a real partnership now exists between English table tennis and John Jaques and Son.

On the instructions of the National Council, Conrad Jaschke, who negotiated the Agreement with Messrs. Jaques, has also concluded an Agreement with manufacturers of balls.

The Jaques Agreement and others replace the income previously derived from a commission-type arrangement known as the Trade Fund. The new adoption policy embarked upon by the National Council not only increases the benefits derived by the E.T.T.A. but also overcomes serious disadvantages which were inherent in the Trade Fund scheme.

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT SERVICE

WE have heard from John Jaques & Son Ltd., that following the untimely death of Mr. Godfrey Decker of Bournemouth joint E.T.T.A. Equipment Adviser, after a short illness, they will be continuing this service with the assistance of Mr. John Waterhouse of 85, Archery Grove, Woolston, Southampton, Telephone No. Southampton 47595.

Mr. Waterhouse is probably well known to a number of people having for some time been an official E.T.T.A. Coach, and has recently been appointed to the Southern Panel of the National Coaching and Schools Committee.

ENGLISH CLOSED 1969-70

TEESSIDE Corporation has been granted an option to stage the English Closed Championships in 1970.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAM EVENTS

by Brian Mitchell

CZECHS DESERVE HIGHEST PRAISE

BOYS' EVENT

IT would seem little more than a poor excuse to blame the playing conditions for the disappointing performance by the English boys, but this, in fact, does appear to be the principal explanation for a common failure to reach anywhere near normal form.

England's chances at the outset were slim, for they were in a group containing West Germany, U.S.S.R. II. and the eventual winners, Czechoslovakia, whose performance in this event deserves the highest praise.

England v. Czechoslovakia. Lost 1-5.

Trevor Taylor was the only winner with an excellent victory over Turai. The Czech Dvoracek was very impressive with his spectacular play.

Results:—

Taylor lost to Orlovski 10, -19, -20.
Judd lost to Turai -12, -14.
Clayton lost to Dvoracek -17, -14.
Taylor bt. Turai 17, 16.
Clayton lost to Orlovski -17, -14.
Judd lost to Dvoracek -20, 18, -13.

England v. U.S.S.R. II. Lost 1-5.

This match gave evidence of the great depth of skill in the U.S.S.R. England were outplayed by the Soviet second string and our only success came from Tony Clayton. Results:

Clayton lost to Markin -12, -11.
Judd lost to Rubaskin -11, 12, -12.
Taylor lost to Volnyanskiy -20, 17, -14.
Clayton bt. Rubaskin 16, -16, 19.
Taylor lost to Markin -19, -13.
Judd lost to Volnyanskiy -18, -20.

England v. West Germany. Lost 1-5.

A bitter disappointment for the previous time these two teams met, England won 7-2. Taylor beat Hackenberg but nobody else looked like giving England another set.

Results:—

Clayton lost to Pfeufer -19, -13.
Judd lost to Schmittinger -17, -15.
Taylor bt. Hackenberg 18, 11.
Clayton lost to Schmittinger -9, -13.
Taylor lost to Pfeufer -23, -11.
Judd lost to Hackenberg -17, 15, -5.

England v. Norway. Won 5-0.

An easy win but little consolation for what had gone before. Norway did not even win a game in this group; the highest score made by a Norwegian in a game was only 17.

Results:—

Clayton bt. Meland 14, 17.
Judd bt. Hatlebakk 10, 8.
Taylor bt. Heggenlund 9, 16.
Clayton bt. Hatlebakk 9, 14.
Taylor bt. Meland 9, 3.

Individual results:—

Taylor won 4 lost 4
Judd won 1 lost 6
Clayton won 3 lost 5

CZECHS. WIN TITLE

In the semi-finals, U.S.S.R. I. beat Sweden 5-2 and Czechoslovakia beat Hungary 5-1, with Jonyer surprisingly losing two. The final was a superb match which produced the best junior play I have ever seen. The opening set between Pilosyan and Dvoracek reached unscaled heights. Each of these players later made unsuccessful encores, despite equally brilliant play. The turning point came at 3-all when Turai overcame Eglitis, and then Orlovski cruised home against Pilosyan.

Results:—

Dvoracek lost to Pilosyan 8, -13, -23.
Turai bt. Zlenko 17, 15.
Orlovski lost to Eglitis -16, -21.
Turai bt. Pilosyan 15, -10, 19.
Dvoracek lost to Eglitis -10, 19, -13
Orlovski bt. Zlenko 13, 18.
Turai bt. Eglitis -11, 19, 15.
Orlovski bt. Pilosyan 15, 14.

GIRLS' TEAM EVENT

The England girls were also unlucky to be in the same group as the eventual winners, Czechoslovakia, but any loss of form of our girls was not allowed to manifest itself to any extent because of the nature of the matches.

England v. Czechoslovakia. Lost 0-3.

Karenza Mathews was completely swamped by English Junior Open champion Grofova. Karenza actually led 4-1 in the second game but was not playing anywhere near her normal form and could not match the speed of the Czech girl's attack. Judy Heaps had a good lead over European Women's champion, Vostova, in the first game, but this slipped away, and these two sets were joined by the doubles to give Czechoslovakia a 3-0 win.

Results:—

K. Mathews lost to Grofova -13, -5.
J. Heaps lost to Vostova -21, -15.
Mathews/J. Shirley lost to Grofova/Vostova -17, 19, -18.

England v. France. Won 3-0.

An easy win for England, with only Jill Shirley mislaying a game against Lecler.

Results:—

K. Mathews bt. Moriceau 16, 6.
J. Shirley bt. Lecler 17, -16, 10.
Heaps/Shirley bt. Bergeret/Lecler 16, 12.

England v. Poland. Won 3-0.

England again had no great difficulty in taking the match.

Results:—

J. Shirley bt. Jalocho 9, 8.
J. Heaps bt. Pawelczyk 15, 14.
Heaps/Mathews bt. Jalocho/Pawelczyk 6, 15.

Individual results:—

Mathews won 1 lost 1
Heaps won 1 lost 1
Shirley won 2 lost 0

EASY WINNERS

Rumania almost upset Czechoslovakia in the first semi-final when both Crisan and Korodi beat Vostova. Luckily Grofova struck form and carried the match. However, in the other semi-final, no such lifeguard was available for Yugoslavia, where the girls' champion of last year, Resler, went down in both singles against the U.S.S.R. Amazingly, U.S.S.R. only managed to come through their group on points average after a triple tie for first place in matches, sets and even games, between U.S.S.R., Bulgaria and East Germany!

Czechoslovakia were easy winners in the final where Vostova showed her true form in crushing Gedraitite.

Results:—

Grofova bt. Volkova 18, 19.
Vostova bt. Gedraitite 10, 11.
Grofova/Vostova bt. Gedraitite/Volkova 20, -17, 14.

POSTSCRIPT

Together with poor organisation of the tournament, another unfortunate aspect was the strong partisanship of the crowd. The theme appeared to be "the singer not the song" and therefore much of the most lyrical play did not get the applause it deserved when performed by a non-Russian artiste.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

from Laurie Landry

AREA TRIALS 1968-69

THERE were 98 Boys and 49 Girls nominated for the five area trials from which 16 Boys and 13 Girls were asked to play in the final trials which were held at Ultra on Sept. 29.

The area trials were held at Crystal Palace, Weston-super-Mare, Stockton-on-Tees, East London and Nuneaton.

Due to contest the final trials were:—

BOYS—

Paul Bishop (Surrey)
Tony Boasman (Lancs.)
John Dabin (Kent)
Alan Fletcher (Yorks.)
Paul Freeman (Durham)
Neil Fulstow (Yorks.)
Robert Gibson (Middlesex)
Simon Heaps (Cheshire)
Robert Hellaby (Essex)
David James (Devon)
Robin Napper (Bucks.)
Michael Read (Essex)
Peter Taylor (Herts.)
Trevor Taylor (Herts.)
Michael Wald (Bucks.)
Melvin Waldman (Middx.)

GIRLS—

Linda Bashford (Yorks.)
Susan Beckwith (Essex.)
Paula Branchley (Kent)
Lynda Chesson (Kent)
Jennifer Cornock (Warwks.)
Linda Howard (Surrey)
Susan Howard (Surrey)
Sandra Lee (Yorks.)
Susan Lisle (Lancs.)
Christine Mann (Middx.)
Lesley Pacitto (Bucks.)
Carol Randall (Sussex)
Jill Shirley (Bucks.)

Before going to Leningrad for the European Junior meeting, the English Junior team together with Brian Mitchell and myself, went to a training camp at Nynashelm in Sweden and played an official international against Sweden (Boys and a Girls match) as well as friendlies against Norway and Denmark/Sweden.

Results:—

v. Sweden (Boys) lost 1-8.

T. Taylor lost to H. Persson -20, 19, -16; lost to R. Andersson 18, -10, -7; lost to U. Gustavsson -17, -12.

P. Judd lost to Persson -16, 14, -16; lost to Andersson -13, -18; lost to Gustavsson -16, -21.

A. Clayton bt. Persson 17, -20, 12; lost to Andersson -17, 16, -9; lost to Gustavsson 15, -16, -17.

v. Sweden (Girls) won 8-1

K. Mathews bt. G. Henriksson 9, -18, 14; bt. K. Skeppstedt -12, 8, 15; lost to L. Andersson -20, -19.

J. Heaps bt. Henriksson 12, 14; bt. Skeppstedt 11, 8; bt. Andersson -17, 16, 16.

J. Shirley bt. Henriksson 11, 8; bt. Skeppstedt 9, 16; bt. Andersson 15, -17, 20.

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Peter Bidwell

MEMBERS of the New Zealand world championship team that visited the U.K. on its way to Stockholm were right to the fore when the New Zealand table tennis championships were conducted in Christchurch for the fourth time in seven years during the last week in August.

The top seed, Brian Foster (Otago), who represented New Zealand at home against Denis Neale and Stuart Gibbs last year, beat fellow-international, Alan Tomlinson (Auckland) 18, 13, -9, 19 to win the men's singles title.

Tomlinson won the title in 1959 and 1964, but Foster regained the title he first won in 1966.

Two other tourists met in the final of the women's singles. Nettie Traill, the Maori girl from Northland who was seeded No. 1, equalled the record when she beat 17-year-old Yvonne Fogarty (Otago) to win the title for the seventh time. Mrs. Traill won 14, 14, -19, 18.

The other tourists did not have the same success but T. J. O'Carroll (Northland), in particular, showed great improvement.

Dawn Wade (Auckland), the reigning women's singles champion, failed to get past the second round and Mrs. C. E. Tadema (nee Johnson) (Hamilton) was eliminated by Miss Fogarty in the Semis.

The youthful O'Carroll raised his stature when he reached the semi-finals of the men's singles, being beaten by Tomlinson, and with his brother K. T. O'Carroll he was beaten by Tomlinson and Foster in the final of the men's doubles, 15, 13, 16.

The other youngster in the touring party, Harrison Waterhouse (Wellington) reached the last 16 in the men's singles. He has had a disappointing season but appeared to be coming into form when he beat Tomlinson in the inter-association matches prior to the individual events.

Mrs. Traill made a clean sweep of her events when she won the women's doubles with Miss C. M. O'Carroll (Northland), a sister of T. J. and K. T. O'Carroll, and the mixed doubles with the evergreen G. A. J. Frew (Northland), who represented New Zealand at the 1961 Peking world championships.

The remaining member of the party, Murray Dunn (Auckland), who won the men's singles on four occasions, has been forced into retirement because of the demands of his pharmacy business.

SOUTH AFRICAN T.T.B. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Men's Singles:

Henry Naidoo bt Pedro Meyer 18, 14, 14.

Women's Singles:

Iris Barry bt Louisa Holt 6, 15, 13.

Men's Doubles:

Dennis Groenewald/Meyer bt Graham Adams/Derek Carelse -18, -17, 16, 13, 14.

Women's Doubles:

Barry/Holt bt Yvette Petersen/Ursula Sampson 8, 16; -18, 18.

Mixed Doubles:

Graham Adams/Holt bt Derek Carelse/Barry 15, 19, -8, 16.

Junior Singles:

Michael Cornelius bt Y. G. H. Randeree -19, 13, 16.

Junior Doubles:

Randeree/P. Singh bt Cornelius/K. Manneveldt 14, 15.

South African Rankings 1968

Men: 1—H. Daidoo, 2—P. Meyer; 3—D. Naidoo; 4—D. Carelse, 5—J. Minnie, 6—D. M. Pillay; 7—S. Omarjee, 8—L. Sammy.

Women: 1—Iris Barry, 2—T. Ramsay, 3—L. Holt, 4—J. Bergstedt.

Juniors: 1—M. Cornelius, 2. Y. G. H. Randeree, 3—P. Singh, 4—P. Page.

MEMORABLE FOREIGN PLAYERS CHUANG TSE-TUNG

by Kiyotaro Hasegawa

SINCE China usurped the throne of world table tennis from Japan at the 1961 Peking World Championships, "Defeating China" has long been the slogan for Japan. But the day which will prove the Japanese effort seems postponed because of the "Cultural Revolution" in China which has given a blow to table tennis in that country and bad news (true or not) was brought to us. However, we cannot turn our eyes away from Chinese table tennis, which actually achieved the glorious days in world table tennis history.

In Japan, the attack-at-table practice and the instruction method are set up and carried on for defeating China. One thing to remember, however, is that it will be difficult to get ahead of China, as far as we make an effort to follow the Chinese technique.

At any rate, the effort to beat China and Chuang Tse-tung must absolutely be carried out, because his play is the most typical orthodox style and he is the strongest exponent of it. He stands close to the middle of the table from which position he attacks both backhand and forehand and always takes the initiative. He is certainly a wonderful player with few weak points.

Especially hard backhand hits, which is traditionally a weak point for Japanese players, can be produced from anywhere within reach, regardless of the height of the ball. This is the most important and strongest technique in obtaining the initiative. Only by wrist work and a little backswing, he attacks as hard as he intends, even against an opponent's long ball. In this technique, he is stronger than any other Chinese player.

On the other hand, his forehand is not a top spin style. Eventually his forehand does not make unexpectedly increased speed after the bounce on an opponent's court and the opponent does not have great difficulty with it. But his smash is speedy and is as strong as a Japanese player's. He pays strict attention to his opponent's movement when he attacks which he does violently as if careless of any chopped returns. He seldom used a blocking shot.

One of his few weaknesses is the block shot in defence when he concentrates on the chance to attack. Another is the straight backhand attack which is a little slower, compared with the perfect cross backhand attack. He is also somewhat weak against top spin.

Such weaknesses have actually been proved as witness his defeats by Kimura and Takahashi of Japan. The game between Kimura and Chuang Tse-tung used to be a competition of Chuang's backhand and Kimura forehand. Takahashi's backhand was as strong as Chuang's and he used to attack Chuang Tse-tung violently with his famous spin ball.

In conclusion to beat Chuang Tse-tung is to beat China. We must note the fact that he has never been on top of world table tennis for six years but admit his spiritual strength as well as the completely brushed-up technique. His manner, dignity and technique are well deserved as a world No. 1 player.

All the table tennis people of the world wish to have the day he returns and I sincerely expect our Japan's wishes of defeating China will come true very soon.

*Extracted from The Table Tennis Report published by the Tamasu Co.

FESTIVAL OF EXCITEMENT IN SINGAPORE

THE 1968 Joint Services and Far East Air Force Championships hold the promise of being the most exciting ever held.

R.A.F. Seletar, F.E.A.F. men's team champions since both Associations were founded 2½ years ago, will be making a strong bid for their third successive title. They also have a very good chance of retaining the Joint Services team title, although strong opposition is expected from the Army sides.

Seletar's ladies will be bidding for their first Joint Services team title,

and they should be making a strong challenge against the holders No. 4 C.O. W.R.A.C.

Over 100 competitors have entered for the individual events which started on October 8th with players coming from places as far apart as Hong Kong and Gan. All three services will be represented.

The promise of an exciting table tennis evening, on October 10th, will be added to by a display from the dynamic Singapore National Team—a side which is now one of the best in South-East Asia.

JUNIOR TOP TEN AND FIVE

SUBSEQUENT to the final trials at Ultra Electronics, Acton the top ten boys and top five girls have been ranked as follows:

BOYS

1. T. Taylor (Herts.)
2. M. Waldman (Middx.)
3. A. Boasman (Lancs.)
4. J. Dabin (Kent)
5. A. Fletcher (Yorks.)
6. M. Read (Essex)
7. P. Taylor (Herts.)
8. S. Heaps (Ches.)
9. R. Hellaby (Essex)
10. P. Freeman (Durham)

GIRLS

1. J. Shirley (Bucks.)
2. S. Howard (Surrey)
3. J. Cornock (Warwicks.)
4. L. Pacitto (Bucks.)
5. S. Lee (Yorks.)



THE above photograph shows Sol Schiff, one of the real great old-timers in the game in the United States, receiving the Barna award for the U.S.A. in 1968. Jimmy McClure, Ex-World Champion and the United Table Tennis Agent in the United States, is presenting the award.

Ombudsman

A letter received airing a grievance is one that we would like to pursue this month. It comes from one of the multitude attending the Open Tournament scene and asks if we would look into the financial aspects, the heartbreaks and rewards of Open Tournaments and concludes "Mother is it worth it?"

The research needed to answer this letter would take months so we intend to stick our necks out, give and take either way on the finance side, and try and see what makes an Open Tournament player tick.

Most tournaments take place over a week-end. This means an hotel or boarding house, food, fares plus cost of entry, average expense say £5. A player is asked to report at a certain time, and from then on, as long as he is not eliminated, he is stuck in that hall until the final stages are reached. There are, in most tournaments, gaps of hours between sets, but the tournament player grins and bears it, has few moans, collects his trophy, should he win, and also an envelope with the princely sum of maximum £5.

This then is where the real moaning starts for the player feels that the financial reward does not warrant the effort put in. Tournament organisers, who one must bear in mind are all voluntary workers, will quite rightly point out, that an Open Tournament barely covers expenses, and money prizes in excess of £5 is just not on. Also by rule, higher prize money cannot be given.

This matter, we learn, has been given a lot of thought to by an E.T.T.A. Sponsorship Committee so much so that we find that Kent County Association has recommended a figure of £100 maximum.

Should this proposal go through all the proper channels, then Open Tournaments would really be able to go to town, attract sponsorship, and give players something really worthwhile to fight for. This then, is purely the financial outlook in a nutshell but further . . .

One will find at all these Open Tournaments parents with their children. Coaxing, encouraging, playing and praying that they will do well. They have had even more expense to lay out and yet they do not even think of the £5 prize at the end. No they are out for the higher awards that an Open Tournament win can bring. Recognition by, first your County, and then your Country. It is only when you have become recognised that the prize money becomes important in your mind.

Every week-end, somewhere in England, an Open Tournament is taking place. To sum up, we would like to see £100 maximum per event plus gifts by sponsors and for more international awards for players on the fringe.

We find it would not come amiss for players to write and thank Tournament Organisers and their committees for all the hard work put in. Also at the end of a set, win or lose, to thank the umpire who again is a volunteer.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

An Appeal

THIS season, "Table Tennis News" is being printed by Messrs. Wallace (Printers) Ltd., of Bolton, Lancs., with circulation and despatch under the direct control of the E.T.T.A.

In order to maintain the present price of 1/- per copy, circulation will have to be increased. May an appeal be therefore made for a concerted effort by all Leagues and Counties to appoint a Magazine Secretary, to operate with the following incentives:

BULK SUBSCRIPTIONS:

If any League or individual can gather 12 or more subscriptions and send them in, en bloc, together with the remittance, then payment need only be made at the rate of 8/- per subscription. The magazine will be sent to each subscriber.

BULK ORDERS

If any League or individual can place an order for 24 or more copies of any one issue, these will be invoiced at the rate of 9d. per copy.

Individual subscriptions remain at 10/- for one year (8 issues, October to May) but all orders and subscriptions are to be sent to the; English Table Tennis Association, 26-29, Park Crescent, London, W1N 4HA.

Therefore, the future price, and possibly the future of the magazine itself, will be governed by our efforts to increase circulation.

BIRMINGHAM OPEN

HAVING overcome the effects of a serious road accident and subsequent ill health, Maurice Goldstein, that "Peer of Table Tennis" in the Midlands area, is now fully restored in the saddle and cracking the whip again in the "Warwickshire Stakes".

In addition to getting the national team championships off the ground—in the temporary absence from duty of Les Davis—with the first and second round draws, Maurice has also been occupying himself with the organisation of the Birmingham Open.

Venue for this season's tournament is the popular Harry Mitchell Recreation Centre at Warley and in addition to the normal events there will be boys' and girls' singles, junior doubles and veteran singles.

Entry forms can now be obtained from Maurice at 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12. Home telephone Calthorpe 2739.

TEAM VERSUS WALES

THE following Boys' team has been selected to compete against Wales in a Junior International at St. Luke's Youth Club, Canning Town, London, E16 on Saturday, Nov. 2:—Michael Waldman (Middx.), John Dabin (Kent), Alan Fletcher (Yorks) and Michael Read (Essex). Laurie Landry is the captain and relevant details can be obtained from him at 53, Hillfield Road, London, N.W.6. Home telephone 01-794-6753.

CHAMPIONS DOWN

STOCKPORT, Division 1 champions of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, fell at the first hurdle of this season's campaign when they lost 6-4 to the Bolton S.S.S. League.

John Clarke was Bolton's hero winning all his three sets and sharing a doubles success with Bryn Farnworth.

A home lead of 5-1 was whittled down to a single set advantage but Clarke denied the visitors a share of the spoils when he beat Derek Schofield in the third game of a tense decider.

Farnworth beat Don Berry and Bob Kelly got the better of Brian Kean for Bolton's other wins.

E.T.T.A. FUND-RAISING SCHEMES

Does your County and League take advantage of the schemes for Fund Raising run by the E.T.T.A.?

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Regions and Dates for National Championships 1968-1969

South-East — Bedfordshire; Cambridgeshire; Essex; Hertfordshire; Kent; Middlesex; Norfolk; Suffolk; Surrey; Sussex.

South-West — Berkshire; Buckinghamshire; Cornwall; Devon; Dorset; Gloucestershire; Hampshire; Somerset; Wiltshire.

Midland — Herefordshire; Huntingdonshire; Leicestershire; Oxfordshire; Northamptonshire; Rutlandshire; Shropshire; Staffordshire; Warwickshire; Worcestershire.

North — Cheshire; Cumberland; Derbyshire; Durham; Northumberland; Lancashire; Lincolnshire; Nottinghamshire; Westmorland; Yorkshire.

SEMI-FINALS:

Midland and North on 22nd February, 1969. Teams to be nominated by 9th February, 1969.

South-East and South-West on 8th March, 1969. Teams to be nominated by 23rd February, 1969.

FINALS:

Somewhere in the Midlands on Saturday, 29th March, 1969.

READERS will be interested to know that the Swedish Table Tennis Association includes a short English column in their official magazine and the column from their August issue is re-printed below with the kind permission of the Swedish T.T.A. It is very interesting to know of the great efforts the Swedish T.T.A. make in the summer to improve their young players and this is something which the E.T.T.A. progressively is trying to achieve as well.

English Column

Part of the summer has already gone and we have had our players in training for more than a month by now. At Falkenberg thirty youngsters up to 15 years have had a full month of hard training and it will be followed up by the older juniors and players close to the top.

Naturally our top players Alsér, Johansson, Bernhardt and Persson have also started and have a hard program for the basic stamina. Also our top juniors for Leningrad have some weeks extra work under the captaincy of Christer Johansson. Ella Constantinescu takes care of the girls.

It should be mentioned that the club at Falkenberg has rebuilt an old house used for horse-shows to have a perfect hall with ten tables for training as well as an extra hall for matches, seating 900 persons. You can still feel a faint whiff of horse every now and then and it happens that players start neighing when losing a point.

Last year the Swedish team did not participate in the European League but will do this year. We shall have Hungary, Soviet and Czechoslovakia at home and meet England, Germany West and Rumania in their countries. Finally we send our best greetings to all table tennis friends around the world.

AKE ELDH.

From the Editor's Postbag

SPORTSMANSHIP

I attended the Finals of the "News of the World" Coaching Scheme at Bognor Regis at which one small incident is worthy of mention.

It occurred at the exhibition after the presentation when the "Boy of the Year" plays one of the Coaches. Tony Langan was the winner and Tony Boasman and Ian Horsham were second and third respectively.

Just before the match was due to start young Boasman approached me and asked if he could be one of the "twillers" (visual scorers) and said that he and Ian would like to do this for me.

I agreed and they got a terrific lot of fun out of it but it did occur to me afterwards what a fine expression of sportsmanship this was.

Both these boys made light of their disappointment and came forward to pay their small tribute to the Irish winner.

Only a small point, I know, but I thought it was really great and I hope that this mention will serve as a small reward for their sportsmanship which was a credit to them. Both deserve to go far and I am pretty sure that they will.

HARRY WALKER.

118, Avon Road,
Cranham,
Upminster, Essex.

INFORMATION WANTED

THE Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled is undertaking a study of physical recreation for the disabled (but not, at present, the blind and deaf). A Panel formed to direct this project is representative of government departments, professional associations, and voluntary bodies concerned with youth and sport, including the British Sports Association for the Disabled, the Central Council of Physical Recreation and the Standing Conference of National Voluntary Youth Organisations.

As a first step, the Panel are desirous of collecting as much information as possible about the opportunities now available for the physically disabled to take part in sport and other forms of physical recreation.

I would, therefore, be most grateful and pleased to hear from anyone concerned with such provision. As well as receiving factual information, I would very much like to be given some indication of the extent to which the disabled, particularly young people, are taking advantage of the opportunities open to them.

I would also welcome constructive suggestions as to the action which

needs to be taken if the physically disabled are to be fully catered for in the field of physical recreation.

Yours sincerely,

K. E. Evans (Miss).

39, Victoria Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

EUROPEAN YOUTH MEETING — RESULTS

ENGLISH RESULTS:

Boys Singles:

B. Mitchell lost to Laharyan (U.S.S.R.) -20, -12
A. Clayton lost to Fursov (U.S.S.R.) 10, -10, -18
P. Judd lost to Seerup (Denmark) -17, -20
Taylor bye.
R2 **Taylor** bt Lindmal (U.S.S.R.) -24, 11, 4
R3 **Taylor** lost to Ustinov (U.S.S.R.) -10, -18.

Girls Singles:

K. Mathews lost to Damanskaite (U.S.S.R.) -16, -17
J. Heaps lost to Pavluk (U.S.S.R.) -18, -20
J. Shirley bt Volkova (U.S.S.R.) -21, 18, 3
R2 **Shirley** bt Poliivko (U.S.S.R.) -19, 3, 17
R3 **Shirley** bt Grofova (Czecho) 22, 16
QF **Shirley** lost to Resler (Yugoslavia) -19, -16.

Boys Doubles:

Clayton/Mitchell lost to Gustavsson/Persson (Sweden) -16, -16
Taylor/Judd R1 bye; R2 bt Suchopar/Jelinek (Czecho) -17, 7, 20;
R3 bt Radelis/Volnyanskiy (U.S.S.R.) 13, 19.
QF lost to Jonyer/Timar (Hungary) -19, 20, -15.

Girls Doubles:

Mathews/Shirley lost to Lecler/Moriceau (France) -16, 10, -15
Heaps/Kneip (W. Germany) lost to Iszo/Magos (Hungary) -16, 18, -6.

Mixed Doubles:

Taylor/Mathews lost to Suda/Smekal (Austria) -13, 11, -17
Taylor/Shirley R1 bt Zacharyan/Kasparova (U.S.S.R.) 14, 20
R2 lost to Barminov/Sbrodova (U.S.S.R.) 16, -16, -16
Judd/Heaps R1 bt Tovmasyan/Hanzratyan (U.S.S.R.) 22, 13;
R2 bt Mustafin/Alexanyan (U.S.S.R.) 20, 19;
R3 lost to Eglitis/Gedraitite (U.S.S.R.) -14, -16.

FINALS

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Eglitis (U.S.S.R.) bt Timar (Hungary) 18, 17; Klampar (Hungary) bt Andersson (Sweden) -11, 15, 12; Bengtsson (Sweden) bt Pilosyan (U.S.S.R.) -11, 11, 19; Turai (Czecho) bt Jonyer (Hungary) -20, 16, 12.
Semi-finals: **KLAMPAR** bt Eglitis -20, 17, 19; **TURAI** bt Bengtsson 12, 14.
Final: **TURAI** bt Klampar 11, 16.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:

Vostova (Czecho) bt Avetisjan (U.S.S.R.) 14, 12; Kasparova bt Lubinova (U.S.S.R.) -14, 13, 16; Crisan (Rumania) bt Gedraitite (U.S.S.R.) -15, 19, 23; Resler (Yugoslavia) bt Shirley (England) 19, 16.
Semi-finals: **VOSTOVA** bt Kasparova 16, 18; **CRISAN** bt Resler -13, 14, 19.
Final: **CRISAN** bt Vostovo 18, 18.

Boys Doubles: Semi-finals:

EGLITIS/ZLENKO (U.S.S.R.) bt Klampar/Chikan (Hungary) 2-0; **JONYER/TIMAR** (Hungary) bt Pilosyan/Ostrovsky (U.S.S.R.) 2-0.
Final: **EGLITIS/ZLENKO** bt Jonyer/Timar 17, 11.

Girls Doubles: Semi-finals:

STEPHAN/LOFFLER (E. Germany) bt Resler/Srbec (Yugoslavia) 2-1; **AVETISJAN/GEDRAITITE** (U.S.S.R.) bt Vostova/Grofova (Czecho) 2-1.
Final: **STEPHAN/LOFFLER** bt Avetisjan/Gedraitite 23, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

TURAI/VOSTOVA bt Schmittinger/Scharmacher (W. Germany) 2-1; **DRESCHER/STEPHAN** (E. Germany) bt Ustinov/Ustinova (U.S.S.R.) 2-1.
Final: **TURAI/VOSTOVA** bt Drescher/Stephan 13, 24.

BUCHAREST CUP

1. Czechoslovakia	40 points
2. U.S.S.R.	31 points
3. Hungary	14 points
4. West Germany	11 points
Rumania	11 points
6. Yugoslavia	8 points
7. Sweden	6 points
8. East Germany	2 points

OFFICIAL SENIOR LIST FOR SEEDING AND FOR GUIDANCE OF OPEN TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS

THE National Selection Committee has now issued a Seeding List for the guidance of Open Tournament Organisers which will operate until further notice for the 1968-69 season. It must be stressed that this is not a Ranking list for national selection, as representative teams will be selected only from the members of the International Squad.

The list (previous position in brackets) reads as follows:—

MEN

1. Denis Neale (Yorks) (1)
2. Ian Harrison (Gloucs.) (5)
3. Chester Barnes (Essex) (2)
4. Stuart Gibbs (Essex) (3)
5. "Connie" Warren (Surrey) (4)
6. Brian Wright (Middlesex) (6)
7. "Les" Haslam (Middlesex) (7)
8. Mike Johns (Ches.) (—)
9. Alan Hydes (Yorks) (10)
10. Trevor Taylor (Herts.) (—)
11. Peter Williams (Sussex) (—)
12. Ralph Gunnion (Warwicks.) (11)

Missing from the previous list are Tony Piddock (Kent) (8), Alan Lindsay (Middlesex) (9), and Roger Chandler (Sussex) (12).

WOMEN

1. Mary Wright (Surrey) (1)
2. Karenza Mathews (nee Smith) (Middx.) (2)
3. Maureen Heppell (Northl.) (3)
4. Pauline Piddock (Kent) (5)
5. Lesley Radford (Essex) (4)
6. Jill Shirley (Bucks.) (—)
7. Judy Heaps (Ches.) (7)
8. Judy Williams (Sussex) (6)
9. Jackie Billington (Essex) (10)
10. Diane Simpson (Essex) (11)
11. Pat Dainty (Yorks) (—)
12. Cynthia Duncombe (Yorks) (9)

Lesley Proudlock (Yorks) (8) and Alma Taft (Middx.) (12) are the two players to lose their places.

INTERNATIONAL SQUAD

THE following players have been invited to form the International Squad for the 1968-69 season. It is only from this Squad that all representative teams will be selected:—

MEN

- G. C. Barnes (Essex)
- S. R. Gibbs (Essex)
- I. O. Harrison (Glos.)
- A. Hydes (Yorks)
- M. Johns (Ches.)
- D. Neale (Yorks)
- T. Taylor (Herts)
- C. J. Warren (Surrey)
- P. Williams (Sussex)
- B. D. Wright (Middx.)

WOMEN

- Miss J. Heaps (Ches.)
- Miss M. Heppell (Northumb.)
- Mrs. K. Mathews (Middx)
- Mrs. P. Piddock (Kent)
- Miss J. Shirley (Bucks)
- Miss J. Williams (Sussex)
- Mrs. M. Wright (Surrey)

Peter Williams is the only newcomer to the Squad, and he is the brother of Judy Williams.

NETHERLANDS OPEN

THE following team was selected to represent England at the Netherlands Open in Haarlem on October 5th-6th.

MEN	WOMEN
C. G. Barnes	J. Heaps
A. Hydes	K. Mathews
D. Neale	J. Shirley
T. Taylor	

Chairman: J. A. Leach

Chester Barnes was the holder of the men's singles title.

SITUATION VACANT

We are urgently in need of Typing/Clerical assistance in the E.T.T.A. office on a permanent paid basis.

Ability to take shorthand would be desirable though not essential, and to someone already connected with table tennis it would be very interesting work.

Employment could be on the basis of full time, or part time of not less than 3 days per week, with hours by arrangement. Luncheon Vouchers will be given.

Please contact E.T.T.A. Secretariat, 26-29, Park Crescent, London, W.1. 'Phone 01-580-6312.


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NEW STAR ON HORIZON

by G. J. Brown

THE South-West Lancashire area centred on Warrington has not had much to cheer since the palmy days of Mike Symonds a few years back.

Now, however, they have a rising young lady star in whom they can feel very proud in teenage Susan Lisle, from Culcheth.

For the second successive season, Susan, ranked ninth junior girl in the country at the end of last season and a Lancashire 2nd and Lancashire Juniors representative, almost swept the board at the Warrington League's end of season championships.

Susan kept her name on the women's and junior singles and the mixed and junior doubles titles.

The big upset at Warrington was the triumph of a second division player, Peter McDonald, of the Winwick Hospital club, in the men's singles.

Peter did not maintain his form in the Newton-le-Willows League's invitation senior singles the following week when losing a quarter-final. This event was won by Alec Bryce, of the St. Helens League team, Park Road Methodists. Tony Wright, who helped St. Benedict's to promotion from the Warrington League's second division, won the Newton-le-Willows League's invitation junior singles.

E.T.T.A. APPROVED BALLS 1968-69

CONRAD JASCHKE, the E.T.T.A. Chairman has reached a satisfactory Agreement with the Dunlop Sports Co. Ltd. and Messrs. Halex, for ball adoptions. This Agreement is along similar lines to the Jaques Table adoption, except that it runs for three years.

The E.T.T.A. will use the Dunlop and Halex balls exclusively on a rota basis for all the international matches in England and for all Championships staged by the E.T.T.A. during this 3-year period.

As regards adoption for ordinary play in this country, the approved balls for the 1968-69 season are:—

"Dunlop Barna" 3-Crown and 2-Crown
"Halex" 3-Star and 2-Star
Schildkröt 3-Star Super Select and 2-Star Select.
"Spalding Villa" 2-Star and 3-Star

The above firms are making a substantial financial contribution to the E.T.T.A. in return for the adoptions mentioned.

It will be appreciated that only the above balls should be used for organised play at County, League and Club level and, of course, no other balls are eligible for use at Open Tournaments.

STOP PRESS SNIPPETS

MARRIED at Spilsby, Lincolnshire on October 2nd, Denis Neale of Middlesbrough, Yorks, and Pat Taylor, of Tamworth, Staffs.

WEST GERMAN TEAM for European League Match at Bolton on October 24th: E. Scholer, B. Jansen, M. Ness, E. Buchholz, and A. Simon.

ENGLAND TEAMS v. Israel: October 21st at East Barnet — C. Barnes, C. J. Warren and P. Williams.

October 22nd at Manchester—B. D. Wright, A. Hydes and M. Johns.
October 23rd at Leeds—D. Neale, S. R. Gibbs and T. Taylor.

JUNIOR TEAM v. Netherlands at Vught, October 19th: A. Boasman (Lancs.) P. Taylor (Herts.), S. Heaps (Ches.), Susan and Linda Howard (Surrey) and Lesley Pacitto (Bucks).

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Premier Division Results:
Essex 8, Cheshire 1.
Yorkshire 4, Kent 5.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by Geo. R. Yates

JUNIOR RANKINGS

LIVERPOOL League secretary, John McKim, was duly installed in the County's secretarial chair vacated by George Fackrell at the A.G.M.

The resultant vacancy on the panel of Elected Members was filled by David Wolstencroft of Bolton and Arthur Hainsworth of Warrington lost his place to S. M. Renshaw, Chairman of the Urmston League.

Membership of the Lancs. and Cheshire League remains, despite changes, at 95 teams, 71 from Lancashire and 24 from Cheshire. These have been allocated into the usual 7 men's, 2 ladies, 1 youth and 2 junior divisions.

Newcomers to the first division are Blackpool and Mid-Cheshire taking over from demoted Lytham and Urmston.

Junior county trials for boys have been held, the initial rankings being: 1. A. Boasman (Manchester), 2. David Newton (Burnley), 3. Alan Grimshaw (Blackburn), 4. Kingsley Harrison (Burnley), 5. Frank Roland (Burnley) and 6. Alan Whittle (Blackburn).

Warrington's Susan Lisle will be the No. 1 girl but two others, Jacqueline Dyer (Urmston) and Ruth Jaeger (Liverpool) could soon be knocking at the door. Both gave a good account of themselves at the 'News of the World' Coaching Scheme Finals at Butlin's Bognor camp last month.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

"ALL MANNER OF SHOCKS"

ALL seems set fair for a successful season. The County Junior team trials produced all manner of shocks. Previously unranked Dave Carter showed what long practice in the summer and almost unbelievable determination can do by beating all his opponents in two straight to take No. 2 spot. Andy Holdsworth's decision to give up table tennis left the No. 1 place vacant and this has been filled by County Junior Champion Tony Branson. He was also unbeaten in the trials but was much more extended than Carter. Well below his best form was the County's most consistent player over the past two years, Ivor Billson, and No. 3 spot in the team against Oxfordshire has gone to Chris Brewer a left-hander of immense promise from Loughborough. There was strong competition amongst the girls and the County appear stronger in this direction than for some time.

The ranking list is: 1. A. Branson; 2. D. Carter; 3. C. Brewer; 4. I. Billson; 5. T. Hall; 6. P. Randell; 7. N. Baxter; 8. T. Jeffcott; 9. J. Summers; GIRLS: 1. Susan Baxter; Joint 2. Sally Elsdon, Karen Rogers and Ann Stone. Mick Porter, who did such a great job last season, will again captain the side.

Senior Captain this season will be John Bryant and he has already had a pre-season practice. Another will be held before the team is finally chosen but already the players are showing plenty of enthusiasm in their determination to retain their place in the 2nd Division (Midland). Their opening encounter—at Coalville—is with Glamorgan and Leicestershire have already decided to definitely include 16-year-old Susan Baxter in their senior team — the youngest player ever to represent the County.

All the leagues within Leicestershire seem to be ready for an interesting season. The Leicester and District League will again have 16 divisions and Keith Lakin's enthusiasm at Coalville points to a boom season for table tennis in the mining town. Loughborough will again be very strong and look favourites to retain the Leicestershire Inter-Towns Shield. Melton Mowbray and Hinckley leagues will also be in operation.

There were no changes at the Leicestershire A.G.M. in committee personnel, Gwynne Thomas being re-elected President, John Grimley, Treasurer, Mr. C. A. Negus, Auditor and myself Chairman/Secretary. This seems to be the pattern throughout the county, the only major administrative change being at Coalville where Keith Lakin takes over from Mr. D. Connelly who has been an excellent secretary.

The Leicestershire Closed Championships have already been arranged for 22/23 February at Coalville.

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ESSEX NOTES

by Harry Walker

SERIOUS SITUATION AVERTED

QUITE a serious situation arose after the County A.G.M. when the Association found itself without a General Secretary and a Treasurer. Thanks are due to John Harris of the Dagenham Church League and Ted Pritchard of the Dagenham League who volunteered to accept appointments of these offices. I am sure they will be a success and all they need is full co-operation.

Acknowledgment should also be afforded Chairman, George Eagle, who had the responsibility of looking after the affairs of the Association, pending these appointments and this was a formidable task and rather hidden away during this difficult period, so I am certain that all would like me to say "Thank you" to him.

It is very pleasing to report a new affiliation in the Burnham-on-Crouch League and the General Secretary is David Lomas. This League was founded in 1936 and I am still wondering why it has taken them 32 years to decide to affiliate. Still that is not our worry but our gain.

The County will "field" four teams during the current season—Premier Division, 2nd (South), Bernard Crouch and Junior (East).

Mike Watts of the Southend League succeeds Vic Ralls as the Match Secretary for the Senior teams and Alan Shepherd continues as Junior Secretary.

Bill Dale of Cheshunt has accepted appointment as County Tournament Secretary and with his vast experience of tournaments we must feel ourselves very fortunate in having his help.

Brian Brumwell has taken over the difficult task of Team Manager for the Seniors. As most of you will know, our President, Johnny Leach, has been appointed Team Manager for England (Seniors) and has had to reluctantly give up the Essex post.

Gerald Gurney from Colchester who was Secretary of the Essex Schools' Association has had to relinquish this office following his appointment as Secretary of the newly-formed English Schools T.T.A. Dave Lomas is the Acting Secretary and he has already begun his task with the organising of coaching sessions at Chelmsford in liaison with Jack Carrington and Denis Arr.

Dick Frost, who has been looking after the juniors for many years has moved to Coventry, and Vic Ralls to Caister-on-Sea, near Great Yarmouth.

KENT NOTES

by Charles M. Wyles

NEW LEAGUE FOR WEALD

UNDOUBTEDLY the new season has great promise, particularly with the challenge offered to the top players in endeavouring to retain a more permanent place in the Premier division of the County Championships.

The Selectors are fortunate in retaining the services of the County's usual players, e.g., Tony Piddock, Derek Basden, Ken Baker and Henry Buist, together with the newly qualified Pauline Piddock. They further will no doubt be pressed to include some of the up-and-coming stars—Graham French, Ruth Wilson, etc., and not forgetting the experienced Joyce Ellis.

The Association welcomes the formation of the Headcorn and District League, adding yet another affiliation. The new League will cater for the villages principally in the Weald of Kent.

The Thanet representative, Cyril Burden, will be undertaking the formidable task of Kent League Secretary being responsible for the allocation of men's teams into three divisions without regional zoning. There will be two divisions for both ladies and juniors.

It will be interesting to see if the balance of power is altered with the removal of several well-known players into other areas. These in-

clude Mick and Joyce Ellis to Chatham and Dennis Whittaker to the Canterbury area.

The Kent Junior Open will again be taking on a Continental atmosphere with the promise of entries from the Netherlands, and other countries across the Channel expected to follow suit. The Championships are to be played in Folkestone on November 2-3 and forms are available from me at 48, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Trustees of the Mick Betts Memorial Fund are anxious to help recent and present juniors with grants to enable them to take part in as

much competitive play as possible. Undoubtedly, the County is aware that with invitations afforded John Dabin, Linda Chesson and Paula Brenchley to attend the Final Junior Trials, dividends will shortly be reaped.

With no less than 4 Inter-Association tournaments being held in the early part of the season at Tonbridge (Oct. 6), Ashford (Oct. 27), Canterbury (Nov. 10) and Deal (Dec. 1), the County Calendar leaves few gaps before Christmas. There are precious few after with numerous Closed Championships, the Kent Open (Jan. 25-26), Closed (Feb. 15-16) and Senior Closed (Apr. 19-20).



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SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

SECOND TEAM JETTISONED

THE Sussex administration sailed out of port for the 1968-69 season's cruise at the annual meeting at Bexhill in July and immediately ran into a Force 9 gale!

The county association found itself without a senior match secretary, short of eight venues for the county championships programme, three leagues including Crawley absent and an irate parent walking-out of the meeting because his son was apparently not to be included in the area junior trials. In addition, county stalwart Bert Fretwell opted out of the vice-chairman post for business reasons.

However, chairman Keith Watts, veteran of many storms kept a steady hand on the helm and steered Sussex into calmer waters after the second team had to be jettisoned in order to lighten the load.

Francis "Pop" Riley of Hastings was duly elected as vice-chairman and a few days later Robin Pierce was welcomed back aboard as senior match secretary with a lighter task of managing only the premier division team which it is hoped will once again remain unchanged as Roger Chandler, Sam Ogundipe, Peter and Judy Williams. Peter's first appearance on the National Seeding List at No. 11 is popular, even at the expense of Chandler, who as Sussex champion, is still rated No. 1 in the county with Williams No. 2.

Sussex juniors have a new n.p.c. in Ron Farnsworth, formerly of Cheshire. Five players will appear in the international trials at Crystal in August—Arthur Downer (Brighton), Graham Good (Hastings), Carol Randall (Uckfield), Susan Kavallierou (Littlehampton) and Pam Kemp (Eastbourne).

Carol Randall, the Derbyshire women's champion recently moved to Sussex. At 15, she is currently in the England Group "A" list of girls but was defeated two-straight by Susan Kavallierou in a preliminary trials game and will therefore have to fight hard to hold her expected No. 1 girl's rating in the county.

The Hastings T.T.A. have high hopes of getting back on top of the Sussex women's teams events, pending the expected return of their star Margaret Beaney from Australia and the news that Judy Williams will transfer her Rose Bowl interests from Eastbourne to London in the new season.

WESTERN LEAGUE BULLETIN

by Grove Motlow

SWINDON AND TAUNTON RETURN

AT the League's annual meeting held in Bristol the following entries were accepted:—

MEN: Bristol (2 teams), Cheltenham, Newport, Plymouth, Swindon, Taunton and Weston-super-Mare.

LADIES: Bristol, Exeter, Newport, Swindon and Weston.

It is pleasing to note the return of Swindon to the men's division and

the entry of Taunton for it is many years since the Somerset league last participated.

But, once again, we are sorry that after a short return of a season, the Bath League are unable to enter.

Fixtures in the Men's Section are home and away alternate seasons; home and away in the same season for the Ladies.

We are all sorry that Plymouth Ladies will not be competing this season and trust it will not be long before they are back. All matches are scheduled to start this month.

Bristol (Oct. 26) and Swindon (Dec. 14-15) are two member leagues staging Open Tournaments and it is hoped their efforts will receive due support.

League officials elected are:—
President: Mr. A. L. Ollis (Bath).
Vice-Presidents: Messrs. T. Anson, P. Crocker, L. Davies, I. Eyles, J. Ford, L. Gosling and R. Salway.

Chairman: Mr. R. Harris (Bristol).
Sec./Treasurer: Mr. Grove Motlow (Newport).

SURREY NOTES

by John Zenthon

BRING YOUR OWN SANDWICHES

SURREY has this season entered teams in the Second, Southern, and Junior Divisions in addition to the Bernard Crouch competition. Already the fates are against us. With the necessity of fielding the strongest team possible in an attempt to get back into the Premier division difficulties have arisen in connection with the lady players. With Mary expecting and not available until the new year at the earliest, Susan Light and Christine Oliver also not available, and Sandra Goldsmith studying it will mean that the brunt will fall upon Hilda Lambert, Susan and Linda Howard and presumably Jean Head who will all need wings to fill in for three matches all generally played on the same day.

It is expected that a number of the first team matches will be played at Crystal Palace and it is hoped that attendances will continue to be good. A first class centre as everyone acknowledges but . . . censored . . . bring your own sandwiches!

No changes in the Surrey Officials following the A.G.M., generally speaking this event is very poorly attended and one wonders if players think that this meeting is open only to a select few—it isn't of course. Tony Miller's proposal that the next Committee should consider a restriction on the length of time any person can occupy an office in the S.T.T.A. was defeated. It seems a great shame to me that his suggestion was turned down, only a handful voted the rest were Officials who as interested parties generally speaking abstained, it was not after all a proposal to actually limit terms of office but merely to consider the idea further. No one would deny the tremendous amount of work put in by the Officials and Tony's proposal was made in full recognition of this, the main difficulty seems to be how otherwise to introduce new blood and groom successors for the various posts.

Selection committees have been "rationalised" by reducing the number of members in each to three. I

would have preferred to see as many people interested and involved in selection as possible, provided these sub-committees are not unmanageable—and I don't think anyone thought they were, it makes it easier to make more people common to all committees which is essential if the seniors are to know what the juniors are doing, etc. and is not very complimentary to those who have been removed.

A successful season to one and all and please remember that all snippets of news will be very gratefully received.

NORTHUMBRIAN NOTES

by "Geordie"

ACQUISITIONS FROM YORKSHIRE

AFTER tasting victory for the first time in many years, in Div. 2 (North) of the County Championships last season, Northumberland's table tennis cream went sour when they failed to gain Premier Division status on sets average in the play-offs.

Fully recovered from this setback, the County look forward to the coming season with added determination, and have the fortunate acquisition of Cynthia Duncombe who is now living in Newcastle.

Victory in the division may prove a greater obstacle however, because of the strong Lancashire team which will have to be overcome. Unlike most years, this will be the last match of the season, and is sure to be a really close affair.

Special training sessions have been arranged during the season, and these will concentrate on stamina and speed building rather than stroke play. Thirteen senior men, six women and six juniors have been invited, and it is hoped that due to a qualified instructor being in charge, better performances will be produced next year.

The Northern Area junior trials proved unsuccessful for our players, the only good results coming from Ian Robertson who defeated Alan Fletcher of Yorkshire and from David Armstrong who had two victories in the initial groupings.

The Northumberland League championship could go to any of four clubs this season, instead of the usual berth of North Shields Y.M.C.A.

Strong contenders will be Newcastle Y.M.C.A. "A", Revac "A" and the Ministry of Social Security team which has two newcomers in Peter Duncombe and David Hogg, a Scottish international.

NORTHANTS NEWS

by Gwyn Powell

TREASURER BECOMES PRESIDENT

AT the A.G.M. of the County Association held in May, Chairman Don Perkins reported that during this first season in the County Championships many lessons had been learned which should help to provide a more hospitable atmosphere and good playing conditions for visiting teams. It was decided to re-enter both senior and junior teams and it is hoped possible to field the strongest team for every match.

One of the main changes in officials is the appointment of Mr. Cyril Spencer, of Kettering as President. For many years he has served as Treasurer and Secretary of the Umpires Committee and last season, the committee felt that he was the man to fill the vacancy. This was unanimously supported at the A.G.M. and John Harrison takes over as Treasurer.

Bryan Bond, who was a regular member of the senior team last year, has agreed to take over the duties of senior match secretary so that John Reed can concentrate on organising junior matches.

With the exception of David Hoddle, all the juniors are still available and could well improve on last year's showing when they won one match and drew another.

In the Northampton League, a record 106 teams will play in 10 divisions. Division 1 now joins the premier and ladies' sections in playing three-a-side, another step in the gradual conversion from four to three throughout the league.

The Daventry League, which was restarted only two years ago, is going from strength to strength and now has over a hundred players. Daventry officials are hoping to begin coaching sessions soon especially for beginners and younger players and no doubt in the future will be providing top class contenders for the county side.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

SEVERE TEST WITHOUT COBY

NORFOLK this season welcomes a new President, Mr. Charles Wharton, who resumes office after 18 seasons. His forceful personality should not take long to pick up the strings again. He made an excellent impression at the A.G.M.. In his playing days, he played for Norwich Mardlers and later at Great Yarmouth. He has been a County Vice-President for many years. Mr. Bob Perry, the retiring President, becomes Vice-President.

Norfolk will face a severe test in Div. II (South), to which they have been promoted, the more so since they will be without their leading player and captain, Alan Coby. But this added experience should leave them a better side, whatever their final position.

The spotlight will turn once again upon our Juniors, who before long will be needed to strengthen the senior team.

Norwich and District League are to stage the European League match between England and Sweden at Norwich Lads' Club on Thursday, December 5th. Tickets will be available in October.

Norwich Vice-Chairman R. W. Downton having left the city, Norfolk Secretary Eric Fairhead has been elected to replace him. That excellent umpire, Reg. Sandell, is back on the Committee. One interesting new team is H.M. Stationery Office, which recently moved to Norwich. It will be interesting to see how C.E.Y.M.S. progress without Alan Coby, but they must be favourites at present to retain their Premier Division title.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John M. Barnes

BOOST FOR MORALE

THE coming season promises to be an interesting one for Herts. particularly with the news of Trevor Taylor's National Ranking providing a beginning-of-the-season boost for morale. In the County generally, table-tennis is also on the upsurge, with increased entries in the Inter-league Competitions, especially in the Junior section.

Looking back on last season, at the Closed Championships, Terry Densham won the Men's Singles and Joan Williamson the Ladies' Singles, with Peter Taylor and Barbara Peters taking the Under-17 titles. The Inter-league went to Watford by a comfortable margin over North Herts. A sustained effort by Cheshunt took the first two places in the Second Division and first place in the Junior. Both teams in the Final of the Open Inter-Club Competition came from Stevenage, with British Aircraft Corporation finishing the victors over Bedwell-Le-Roi. Hertford T.T.C. beat Ravens Youth Club in the Intermediate Final, with Letchworth Settlement taking the Ladies' Title.

There are three major retirements from the County scene. Ken Sewell (President), David Game (Secretary and National Councillor) and Terry Densham (County Team Captain) have between them put in many years of work for the County T.T.A. and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their efforts.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by 'Moonraker'

AMBITIOUS BEGINNING

THE Wilts. Association commence their 16th season in ambitious style with their first-ever County Junior Closed arranged for November 24 at the Butler Youth Centre, Tidworth.

A 'new look' First Division of the County League embraces nine teams from all five affiliated leagues while a total of 21 teams from Devizes, Salisbury, Swindon, Warminster and West Wilts. make up the four divisions of the County League.

Wiltshire's leading ranked players (announced after the annual Top Ten Tournament held at Tidworth in September) are:—

MEN: (1) W. Moulding (Sal.); (2) A. Wolff (Jun.-Swdn.); (3) T. Vance (Sal.); (4) A. Ward (Sal.); WOMEN: (1) Miss P. Bonner (WW.); (2) Mrs. M. Alexander (Dev.); (3) Mrs. G. Hazell (Swdn.); (4) Mrs. J. Price (Swdn.).

Roy Hazell resigned as County Secretary after five years in office and was made an Hon. Life Member at the A.G.M. in recognition of his services. After an initial period as "caretaker" secretary Mr. Don Hillier volunteered to act until a more suitable candidate was forthcoming!

D.H.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Pike

PETER EATON BACK

NOW that Warwickshire have their first team back in the premier division, and we congratulate them on that, it is my guess that Staffordshire will be one of the teams taking part in the promotion play-off next April.

Several changes have come about, both in playing and administration, since last season. Into the first team for the opening match with Monmouthshire comes Peter Eaton, it is good to see him back, but missing from the line up will be his West Bromwich team mate Stan Ward. Finishing fourth in the county trials means a second team berth for him at present, but any slip by the "A" team and I am sure we shall see Stan back in the limelight again.

On the administration side, Mac Evans takes over from Don Pritchard as second team captain, while the juniors this season will be under the guidance of Colin Pearse.

The Proficiency Award Scheme which was run on a trial basis by Staffordshire last season is now "National", and at the time of writing details were awaited from Jack Carrington, as to how this scheme will operate throughout the country. On this scheme I feel a word of praise should go to Jim Hayward and his coaches.

With our neighbours Shropshire now having a team in the county championship, it means that Wellington and Shrewsbury have dropped out of our county league. Looking at the fixtures however, it is good to see Lichfield have entered a team for the first time in division 3. Things seem to be looking up at Stafford as well where a record entry could see four divisions for the first time. Included in their four town teams, is a new veterans side, playing in division 3.

Another record entry from Wolverhampton means that they will have 10 divisions operating this season. New teams joining local leagues are also reported from other parts of the county.

Finally some early season dates for your diary:

November 3rd — Staffordshire Restricted tournament at the Woodfield Club, Wolverhampton. Details from A. H. McIlreath.

November 8th - 10th — Coaching weekend at Lilleshall. Facts and figures from Jim Hayward.

November 23rd - 24th — The 28th Woodfield Open Charity tournament.

Secretary: John Smallman, "Newhaven", Bratch Lane, Wombourne, Wolverhampton.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

LEAGUE FOR THE LADIES

THE Cambs. Summer League involved three divisions this season

which were won, respectively, by **Soham**, Cambridge News and Haverhill. Soham annexed the "play-off" trophy, Brian Jones being their outstanding player. Geoff Waters played well for the "News" who came second.

Ninety-four teams have entered the Cambs. League for the current season which is easily a record as is the number of divisions—8. New teams are Pye Radio, L.P.A. Sawston, Cambridge Asphalt, Victoria Cong. Y.C., Manor Y.C. and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The new Ladies' League can boast nine teams and I feel that this could be a successful venture.

In the Eastern Division of the County Championships, the County will have the assistance of John Thurston and Alan Ponder again but there will be room for the up-and-coming brigade.

S.E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE

Henry Fox will again be controlling affairs in the South-East Midlands League as Hon. Secretary/Treasurer. Cambridge City have entered teams in all four divisions—Men's, Ladies', Junior and Veterans but will be hard pressed to preserve their hold on the men's title for which competition is expected to be intense.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Jim Beckley

SCHOFIELD—NATIONAL SELECTOR

ONE of Cheshire's most popular players for many years has been Stockport's Derek Schofield. Derek has been playing for his town team and county for a long time and it was a fitting tribute to his expertise and long experience when he was chosen to become a National Selector during the summer months. Derek will help his fellow selectors mould our national players into what we hope will be Europe's top team. He will continue to play in league and tournaments.

Cheshire's first taste of top class table tennis this season will be at the popular Bredbury Steelworks on Saturday, Nov. 16 when last season's Premier Division runners-up, Yorkshire, will be the visitors. It was at the steelworks last season that Cheshire went down to Essex after a terrific struggle. This season's game promises to be just as exciting.

CUMBERLAND COMMENT

by Ron Rigg

TABLE TENNIS BOOM

IT is a pleasure to report that table tennis is really booming in this North-West outpost and hopes of a very successful season are high. Two new Leagues have been formed at Workington and Millom, and there is a strong possibility that another new League will soon be in operation at Penrith.

The County Trials held in September saw Ron Batty and Maurice Bell

come out on top in the Senior and Junior sections, and these two will once again lead Cumberland's efforts to gain that elusive first-ever victory. Ian Jackson (Millom) and Raymond Robinson (Whitehaven) will be making their debuts for the County in the match against Northumberland on October 5th. A blow to the County is the retirement at the ripe old age of 20 of Alan Dixon, who has found it increasingly difficult to get off work for Saturday matches. It is hoped that circumstances will soon alter to enable Alan to return to the fold. One newcomer to the County is Miss Clarice Rose, who has recently moved into the Lake District from Surrey and will surely stake her claim for inclusion in the side.

This year's Cumberland Open Tournament has had another change of venue and will be held on Nov. 23 at Moorclose School, Workington. This appears to be an ideal venue as ten tables can be situated in the school sports hall, making the tournament much easier to organise.

At a meeting held on Sept. 15, the Cumberland Schools' Association was formed with ten schools in membership so far.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

LEO CELEBRATES HIS TWENTY-FIRST

ACTIVE throughout the summer with the senior players practising every weekend, Middlesex hope to be able to put up a better show this season. The juniors have been put through their paces by Leo Thompson and myself, Leo having now completed 21 years of such activity.

The Schools competitions, which have been running for 10 years have now reached really large proportions. There is a total of 72 Schools and 164 teams. Under the direction of John Wright the schools will, this season, be taking part in divisional play with play-offs for winners. There will be under-19 and under-17 sections, split into divisions.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by T. W. Grant

COACHING AT ANDOVER

HANTS T.T.A. opened the 1968-69 season with an all-day coaching rally at Andover County Girls' School on Aug. 10. Twenty pupils, mainly from the new youth wing of the school and from the surrounding village youth clubs, participated in a variety of activities.

John Waterhouse, assistant secretary of the Hants. Association of Youth Clubs and Southampton T.T. Coach organised the events, supported by the county's Coaching Officer, Teddy Grant, and county coaches Mike Greatrex (Southampton) and R. Wells (Basingstoke).

County team players Mr. and Mrs. P. Edwards gave exhibitions and assisted with the coaching as did student B. Bates from Eastleigh Youth Club.

Tables were kindly provided from clubs within the Andover League and refreshments were made available throughout the day by members of the Parents Committee of the Youth Wing.

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

SHROPSHIRE'S DEBUT

NOVEMBER 16th is a date to be looked forward to with pride for the County of Shropshire, for it is on that day that their first ever match in the County Championships takes place. At last the step has been taken, and Shropshire join Derbyshire II, Denbighshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire II and Lancashire II in the Midland Division. Runners-up in this division last season, Notts. are a hard team to overcome and the new boys will have no easy task in this match or their other four.

New Junior teams are welcomed from Bedfordshire, Derbyshire and Huntingdonshire, and the total teams now entered swells to 86. Sad, though, to see the disappearance of the second teams from Cheshire and Sussex.

The other main changes are the re-appearance of Kent and Warwickshire in the Premier Division, a very strong looking new Essex II in 2nd South (which includes promoted Norfolk), Hampshire moving over to 2nd West, and the sight of Surrey (one of only four Counties to have held the Premier Division title) fighting to return to the top flight.

A livelier than usual A.G.M. in June passed a number of amendments to rules, mostly minor. Four of the proposals before the meeting had to be put to a postal ballot where 20 votes in favour were needed for success. Two failed by one vote to get the required score: these were the Yorkshire proposal to add a women's doubles in the Premier Division and the Surrey proposal to score points 3-2-1 for a nine set Premier match. With only 31 of 39 Counties returning voting papers in time, both can be considered unlucky failures.

Composition of Divisions Season 1968-69

Premier Division
Cheshire
Essex
Gloucestershire
Kent
Middlesex
Sussex
Warwickshire
Yorkshire

2nd Division South
Buckinghamshire
Essex II
Hertfordshire
Kent II
Middlesex II
Norfolk
Surrey
Sussex II

2nd Division North
Cumberland
Durham
Lancashire
Lincolnshire
Northumberland
Yorkshire II.

2nd Division Midland
Derbyshire
Glamorgan
Leicestershire
Monmouthshire
Oxfordshire
Staffordshire
Warwickshire II

2nd Division West
Cornwall
Dorset
Devon
Hampshire
Somerset
Wiltshire
Worcestershire

Southern Division
Berkshire
Buckinghamshire II
Hampshire II
Oxfordshire II
Surrey II
Worcestershire II

Midland Division
Denbighshire
Derbyshire II
Lancashire II
Nottinghamshire
Shropshire
Staffordshire II

Eastern Division
Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Hertfordshire II
Huntingdonshire
Northamptonshire
Suffolk

Junior Division South
Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Hampshire
Kent
Middlesex
Surrey
Sussex

Junior Division North
Cheshire
Cumberland
Durham
Lancashire
Northumberland
Yorkshire

Junior Division Midland
Denbighshire
Derbyshire
Leicestershire
Nottinghamshire
Oxfordshire
Staffordshire
Warwickshire

Junior Division East
Bedfordshire
Essex
Hertfordshire
Huntingdonshire
Norfolk
Northamptonshire
Suffolk

Junior Division West
Glamorgan
Gloucestershire
Monmouthshire
Somerset
Wiltshire
Worcestershire

COUNTY T.T. CHAMPIONSHIPS Fixtures and Venues

DIVISION 2 (SOUTH)

Oct. 25 Middlesex II v. Bucks., East Finchley T.T. Centre, 142, High Road, East Finchley 7-30 p.m.

DIVISION 2 (WEST)

Nov. 2 Cornwall v. Worcestershire, The Village Hall, Goonhavern, Nr. Truro, 7-30 p.m.

EASTERN DIVISION

Oct. 26 Herts. II v. Hunts. Venue not to hand.

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Oct. 13 Leics. v. Oxon. Venue not to hand.

JUNIOR EAST

Oct. 12 Beds. v. Norfolk. Venue not to hand.

CHAMPION COUNTY v. THE REST

ESSEX LOSE 4-5

In a match where all six men beat one another, The Rest gained a winning lead at 5-1. Essex then won the last three singles, Barnes winning a good set with Neale.

Stevens played excellently to beat Harrison, the best set of the evening. Gibbs beat Sugden in the final encounter.

A rather late start and an unnecessarily long interval led to a very late finish.

Individual scores (Essex names first) were:—

C. Barnes bt D. Neale (Yorks) -12, 19, 19, lost to I. Harrison (Gloucs.) -13, 14, -20.

S. Gibbs lost to Neale -18, 19, -10; bt M. Sugden (Middx.) 24, -15, 10.

R. Stevens bt Harrison -23, 15, 16; lost to Sugden 11, -21, -17.

Mrs. L. Radford lost to Mrs. K. Mathews -12, -14.

Barnes/Stevens lost to Harrison/Neale -11, -21.

Gibbs/Mrs. Radford bt B. Wright (Middx.)/Mrs. Mathews 21, -14, 18.

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JILL NARROWLY PIPS MAUREEN FOR TITLE

by Charles E. Davies



A poll was conducted at the tournaments throughout last season to discover "The girl with the most sex appeal in English table tennis" and also "The most attractive man".

Players and supporters were asked to name their three choices in order of preference.

16-years-old Jill Shirley of Slough narrowly pipped Hexham's Maureen Heppell to win the girls' section, and Pat Baker of Kent finished third.

In another close finish Kent first team player Ken Baker just finished ahead of Chester Barnes. Ian Harrison was third.

Interest in the poll was widespread and surprisingly most people in table tennis—even the most unlikely candidates — received votes. But this of course is what makes the world go round.

The poll was conducted by myself and that intrepid hitchhiker Paul Beck of Westerham, and we covered a lot of tournaments. It was supposed to be confidential but we were both continuously badgered by players eager to discover who fancied them.

A report of the poll and the above picture of Jill Shirley (taken by Fleet Street man, Brian Dewey) appeared on the front page of the London Evening Standard and also in the London Evening News. This made the exercise that we endured much worthwhile.