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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

Edited by George Yates

No. 31

APRIL 1970

Price 1/6

TRAINING CAMPS FOR JUNIOR TRIALISTS

by Brian and Mary Wright

A NEW system of Junior Trials will come into force this summer, the basic idea being to arrange five area training camps, during July and August, at which it is hoped to accommodate 50 juniors at each camp.

The camps and provisional dates will be as follows:—

West	Bristol	23-26 July
Midlands	Birmingham	13-16 Aug.
North	Teesside	23-26 July
East	Norwich	13-16 Aug.
South	Crystal Pal.	23-26 July

May we emphasise that these dates and places are **provisional** and will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Each camp will be under the sole direction of one of the Association's Staff Coaches with the assistance of leading Internationals. Twelve tables will be used at each camp. Details of how to enter will follow in next month's magazine. The cost of the course will be met by the individual and we hope that this will mean that only the keenest youngsters will apply. The Staff Coach will select the most promising players from each camp and these players will be invited to an "elite" camp.

Our top six boys and top four girls from the previous season, who are still juniors, will automatically be invited to this "elite" camp thus providing a further 30 to 40 places from the area camps. The provisional date of this "elite" camp is 27th to 30th August, 1970, at the National Recreation Centre, Crystal Palace, and will be under the direction of a Staff Coach. From this "elite" camp there will be selected 8 to 12 boys, and 6 to 10 girls who will be invited to the final trials. These trials will probably be held at Crystal Palace in the middle of September. The matches will be run on an all-play-all system with the players playing for their ranking positions.

The benefits of this system are many, the more obvious ones being that we would have a chance to see in action, over four days, the best

talent in the country. The camps will be run on similar lines to those organised for our leading Juniors and Seniors and will give us the opportunity of providing, in addition to playing ability, an insight into each player's character, and whether the players are prepared to work to improve their techniques and physical fitness.

It would give the juniors ideas to think about and work on, and by making them aware of the necessary qualifications to become International players, we would hope to advance their progress. For the final trialists, most players will have been involved in two or three training camps (including the final trials), a total of 8 to 12 days of organised table tennis. This must be of immediate benefit to the players concerned.

Details of these training camps will be publicised widely, in this magazine and to the leagues and Counties. Any queries will be dealt with by the E.T.T.A. office.

JUNIOR EVENTS

IT can now be confirmed that the first **English Junior Closed Championships** will be held at the P.E. Centre, Loughborough College of Education, Loughborough, Leics., on Saturday/Sunday, May 16/17, 1970.

Appointed Referee is Stuart Dane and entry forms can be had on application to the E.T.T.A., 26/29 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4HA (Tel: 01-580 6312). Closing date for entries is **Saturday, April 25**.

The programme will also include the Finals of the Carter Cup and Bromfield Trophy National Junior Team Competitions on Teesside in August, it has been decided **not** to hold an **English Junior Open Championships**, originally scheduled for May 2/3, 1970.

In view of the administrative work involved in organising the English Junior Open and the European Youth Championships on Teesside in August, it has been decided **not** to hold an **English Junior Open Championships**, originally scheduled for May 2/3, 1970.

Death of a President



From one Tyke to another, Austin Harrison is here seen presenting the Victor Barna Award Trophy to Denis Neale in his native Yorkshire. Current holder of the Trophy is Alan Hydes, yet another Yorkshireman.

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Thomas Austin Harrison, aged 79, on Sunday, March 8th, 1970.

Until very recently, Austin had been the President of the English Table Tennis Association and had held that position for almost three years.

He was only the fourth person to serve the Association in such a capacity during its forty-three years in existence. The period of service for a President is now limited to a maximum of three years and Austin was the first to accept the position under this new "short term" basis.

Austin was never a well known player and his efforts in administration were limited to local league level. But he represented the backbone of English Table Tennis—the ordinary club player.

He played the game regularly for over sixty years and only gave up on medical advice a few years ago. He had a table in his hotel in Scarborough and the room is full of memories of famous players from all over the world who have accepted his kind hospitality.

He was probably known more for his world wide travels than his performance as a player. He attended most World Championships since the

war, including the last one in Munich in 1969. He also attended some in the early days, and it is difficult to remember an English Open without him being there and meeting old friends from all over the world.

He was a man who had worked hard all his life and valued what he managed to earn. On the other hand hospitality was overwhelming. He particularly enjoyed the social side and made sure everyone else did whilst they were in his company.

Starting work at the age of ten years, selling fish in the streets of Bridlington, he admitted to having gone through two fortunes in his lifetime but had learned how to keep hold of the third.

He liked nothing better than to cruise around Yorkshire in his Rolls and it was on his favourite run, back from Whitby, that he was suddenly taken ill.

Austin gave the E.T.T.A. the idea of the "100 Club" and was one of the first and most enthusiastic members

To Mrs. Harrison, his daughter Mrs. Thornton, and his family in Scarborough we send our deepest sympathy in their loss. We do so in the knowledge that Austin enjoyed life and enjoyed table tennis.

Though only one of 100,000 club members, he will never be forgotten.

This month's Star Feature

THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS

by JACK RANDALL

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Live and Let Live

HAVING threatened his native county selectors to offer his services elsewhere next season, as a result of being refused permission to play in the Scottish Open, when required by Yorkshire to play against Sussex, it remains to be seen whether or not Denis Neale will do just that.

Now living in the vicinity of Chesterfield, the England No. 1 has bona fide residential qualifications to play for Derbyshire in the Second Division (Midland) should he so elect.

On the other hand, Rule 21 (b) in the County Championships handbook states: "A player who has played on six or more occasions for one County retains a qualification for that County until notice of cancellation of qualification is given and registration of the new qualification is made."

One can well appreciate the reported desire of Trevor Taylor wanting to throw in his lot with Essex in preference to his county of domicile, Hertfordshire.

But, why then should a player, of world class ability, wish to transfer his affections from a team in the Premier Division to one in the lower strata?

The answer quite simply is money. And to a Yorkshireman, as well as to anyone else, money matters.

More particularly does it matter to Neale, who, having no other job, is an out-and-out professional and rightly enjoying the benefits in this new era of cash rewards.

Life at the top, in any sport, is limited, and to deny Neale a crack at the £100 sponsored prize for the men's singles event in Edinburgh was like waving a red flag to a bull.

Rightly has he thundered his threats, but the same situation could arise with another county who might be even more dependent on his services than Yorkshire with their vast array of talent.

Lessons are there for all to learn. Try and avoid re-arranging a county match on the same day as a major open, especially one in which prize money is on offer. If we are to have players devoting their lives to the game, then some measure of encouragement must be offered them.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by George R. Yates

COMPETITORS from 23 countries—98 men and 68 women—will be engaged in the European Championships being held in Moscow from April 1-8.

As 1968 champions, Sweden occupy a place in Group 1 of the men's team championships, likewise Federal Germany in the women's team event.

Groups:—
MEN

Group 1: Sweden, Poland, France and Turkey.

Group 2: U.S.S.R., Belgium, Austria and Bulgaria.

Group 3: Yugoslavia, Denmark, Netherlands and Greece.

Group 4: Hungary, Federal Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

Group 5: England, Czechoslovakia, Finland and Scotland.

WOMEN

Group 1: Federal Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

Group 2: U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia, France and Bulgaria.

Group 3: Czechoslovakia, Poland, Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Group 4: Hungary, Rumania, Austria and Greece.

Group 5: England, East Germany, Belgium and Finland.

Teams finishing in the first two positions in each group will continue to compete for the gold medals. They will be re-grouped into two semi-final pools. The first pool will consist of winning teams from the 1st, 4th and 5th groups, and the teams finishing second in groups 2 and 3.

The other semi-final pool will consist of the winning teams from the 2nd and 3rd groups, and the runners-up in the 1st, 4th and 5th groups. Teams finishing top in each semi-final pool will play off for the gold medals and the teams finishing second will contest the bronze awards. Places

beginning from the 11th will be determined in the same way.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Dragutin Surbek, the current European men's singles champion, has been drawn into the bottom position in the lower half of the draw wherein Denis Neale will make his bid in the company of Gomozkov, Borzsei, Alser, Klampar, Sarkhoyan and English Open champion, Koliarovits.

Ebby Schöler occupies first position in the top half of the draw and has in opposition, Chester Barnes, Amelin, Korpa, Stipancic, Jonyer, Secretin and Johansson.

A second layer of seeded players in the top half comprises Beleznai (Hungary), Bert v.d. Helm (Netherlands), Persson (Sweden), Turai (Czech), Jansen (Fed Germany), Woznica (Poland) and Eglitis (USSR).

Similarly, in the lower half, are to be found Ness (Fed Germany), Miko (Czech), Krakasevic (Yugoslavia), Sugden (Scotland), Alan Hydes, Ramberg (Denmark), Bengtsson (Sweden) and Lieck (Fed Germany).

Maria Alexandru occupies top position in the women's singles draw which half also contains Neidert, Papp, Simon, Grinberg, Hovestadt, Jill Shirley and the 1968 European champion Iona Vostova.

The second half includes Di Schöler, Kishazi, Resler, Pogoso, Mary Wright, Crisan, Buchholz and Rudnova!

Seeds in the top half of the women's doubles event are Rudnova/Grinberg and Alexandru/Crisan and in the lower half, Vostova/Karlikova and Schöler/Simon.

In the men's doubles Alser/Johansson, Turai/Miko, Sarkhoyan/Vardanyan and Klampar/Jonyer are in the top half, and Surbek/Stipancic, Neale/Barnes, Schöler/Borzsei and

Amelin/Gomozkov are in the lower half.

In the mixed doubles, European champions Gomozkov/Rudnova have been placed in the top half with Jonyer/Papp, Stanek/Karlikova and Neale/Mary Wright.

The following are in the lower half:—Sarkhoyan/Pogoso, Miko/Vostova, Amelin/Grinberg and Schöler/Schöler.

England's playing strength will be increased in the individual events when, joining Mary Wright, Jill Shirley and Karenza Mathews, will be Judy Williams of Sussex and Shelagh Hession of Essex.

Trevor Taylor is England's other representative not previously mentioned.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Russia maintained their unbeaten record in the Premier Division of the European League when, in Wuppertal on February 24, they beat Federal Germany 4-3.

The visitors got off to a tremendous start when Anatoliy Amelin beat Ebby Schöler 10, 10!

England's 4-3 win over Czechoslovakia at Felixstowe on March 3rd completed their fixtures and means that we finish in third position.

Results:

Federal Germany 3 U.S.S.R. 4

E Schöler lost to A. Amelin -10, -10. W. Lieck lost to S. Gomozkov -15, -20, -12.

A. Simon lost to Z. Rudnova -18, -16. Lieck/M. Ness bt Amelin/Gomozkov 14, 10.

Schöler/D. Schöler lost to Gomozkov/Rudnova -12, -18.

Schöler bt Gomozkov 16, 14. Lieck bt Amelin -18, 17, 16.

Moscow Skyline



A panoramic view of the complete sports complex with the Palace of Sports on the left wherein the European Championships will be staged from April 1-8.

—Photograph by courtesy of Novosti Press Agency (A.P.N.)

International Front

Continued

England 4 Czechoslovakia 3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
U.S.S.R.	5	5	0	22	13	5
Sweden	4	4	0	22	6	4
England	6	4	2	22	20	4
Hungary	4	2	2	15	13	2
Czechoslovakia	5	2	3	17	18	2
Fed. Germany	5	0	5	12	23	0
France	5	0	5	9	26	0

In the **Second Division**, Austria made sure of promotion when, following up their 7-0 win over the Netherlands, they finished their programme with a like result against Luxembourg.

Results:—

Denmark	5	Belgium	2
Austria	7	Luxembourg	0
Luxembourg	2	Switzerland	5
Ireland	3	Luxembourg	4

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	6	0	35	7	6
Denmark	5	4	1	27	8	4
Belgium	5	2	3	16	19	2
Netherlands	5	2	3	15	20	2
Switzerland	5	2	3	14	21	2
Ireland	6	2	4	15	27	2
Luxembourg	6	1	5	11	31	1

EUROPEAN RANKING LISTS

In the latest European ranking lists, issued by the ETTU on March 3rd, Denis Neale, England's No. 1 moves up two places to occupy the No. 7 spot. Chester Barnes, by virtue of some good performances in the European League this season, comes in at No. 13.

Mary Wright, previously ranked No. 7, goes down one place mainly due to the meteoric rise of the Russian girl, Rita Pogosova who moves up from No. 16 in the previous list.

Another star on the ascent is Hungarian Tibor Klampar — winner of this season's Scandinavian Open—who moves up from No. 13 to No. 5 in the men's list.

Revised lists (previous positions in brackets):

Men

1. E. Scholer (Fed. Germany) (1)
 2. D. Surbek (Yugoslavia) (2)
 3. K. Johansson (Sweden) (4)
 4. S. Gomozkov (USSR) (3)
 5. T. Klampar (Hungary) (13)
 6. I. Korpa (Yugoslavia) (5)
 7. **D. Neale (England)** (9)
 8. A. Stipancic (Yugoslavia) (6)
 9. H. Alser (Sweden) (7)
 10. A. Amelin (USSR) (15)
 11. S. Sarkhoyan (USSR) (12)
 12. I. Jonyer (Hungary) (—)
 13. **C. Barnes (England)** (—)
 14. J. Borzsei (Hungary) (11)
 15. J. Secretin (France) (14)
 16. J. Turai (Czecho.) (—)
- S. Kollarovits (Czecho.) (16)

Women

1. M. Alexandru (Rumania) (1)
2. Z. Rudnova (USSR) (6)
3. E. Scholer (Fed. Ger.) (5)
4. I. Vostova (Czecho.) (4)
5. A. Simon (Fed. Ger.) (—)
6. S. Grinberg (USSR) (3)
7. R. Pogosova (USSR) (16)
8. **M. Wright (England)** (7)
9. C. Crisan (Rumania) (9)
10. D. Hovestadt (D.D.R.) (12)
11. M. Resler (Yugoslavia) (11)
12. A. Papp (Hungary) (13)



KLAMPAR
(Hungary)

Missing from the previous men's list are the two Czechs, Vlado Miko and Jaroslav Stanek. The five women no longer ranked are: G. Geissler (DDR) (2), E. Buchholz (Fed. Ger.) (8), E. Mihalca (Rumania) (10), M. Neidert (Sweden) (14) and D. Szmit-Calinska (Poland) (15).

EUROPE CLUB CUP

Mariastads Bois of Sweden, the conquerors of English Club Championships, Ormesby, will be opposed by the VSKG Club from the Czechoslovak city of Ostrava in the semi-finals of the Europe Club Cup competition.

In Moscow, on March 10, VSKG defeated the Russian Club Champions, Trud, when the Muscovites were represented by national champion Anatoliy Amelin, Gennady Averin and David Brodsky — two former champions.

Ostrava's former European Youth champion, Jiri Turai led the Czech trio otherwise comprising Jan Hmelek and Stanislav Benda. Scores (Trud's names first) were:

Brodsky lost to Hmelek -13, -19; Amelin bt Benda 20, 17; Averin lost to Turai -21, -20; Amelin bt Hmelek 16, 15; Brodsky lost to Turai -16, -13; Averin lost to Benda 16, -17, -10; Amelin bt Turai 19, 15; Averin bt Hmelek -15, 9, 18; Brodsky lost to Benda -16, 12, -13.

In the other semi-final the Federal German team, VfL Osnabruck, will meet Spartacus SC of Budapest.

EUROPEAN FAIRS TOWNS CUP

Open to the runners-up in both the men's and women's national Club Championships, this season's European Fairs Towns competitions have now reached an advanced stage. Quarter-final draw for the men's competition resulted:

Boo KFUM Stockholm-Klinton v Meidericher TTC.47.

Nedlloyd Amsterdam v Vasutas SC. Budapest.

Akademic Sofia v GSTK Zagreb.

AS. Messine Paris v SMEC Metz.

Women's semi-finals:

Lokomotiva Bratislava-Raca v Ferencvarosi TC. Budapest.

31. Eptok SC. Budapest v PSV Vienna.

NETHERLANDS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bert Schoofs (24) defeated his brother Frans to win the Dutch Closed men's singles title played in Utrecht on February 21-22. Ellen Klatt won the counterpart women's event with a final victory over the former Mieke ten Broek, now Mrs. Jenisch.

Results:

M.S.: B. Schoofs bt F. Schoofs 22, 14, 16.

W.S.: E. Klatt bt M. Jenisch 15, 12, 21.

M.D.: G. Bakker/B. v. d. Helm bt B. Schoofs/N. v. Slobbe -18, 16, 19, 17.

W.D.: V. v. d. Laan/A. Wynia bt Klatt/M. v. Ruiten 20, -9, 21, -21, 18.

X.D.: B. v. d. Helm/Wynia bt B. Schoofs/V. v. d. Laan 24, 13, 17.



BERT SCHOOFS

ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

In Tokyo, Nobuhiko Hasegawa beat Shigeo Itoh 13, 7, 21 to win the men's singles title for the third time in his career. In the semis, Hasegawa had a 20, -10, 19, 13 victory over Mitsuru Kohno, and Itoh triumphed -11, 16, -17, 19, 9 over Shiro Inoue.

Continued on page 5

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International Front continued

Toshiko Kowada, for the second time, won the women's singles title with a final victory over Yasuka Konno.

When questioned on his win, Hasegawa said: "Since I entered Tamasu Company in June, 1969, I have reviewed the reasons for my defeats in Munich and the 1968-69 All-Japan Championships, and I have devoted myself to strengthening my body so I could play all the games without any feeling of fatigue." (Hasegawa advanced to the finals in three events.)

"Besides I took care with food, and took more than nine hours a day for sleeping for ten days before the championships. Those may be the reasons for my victory of this time."

IRISH NEWS

After their fine victory over Switzerland, Ireland were fully expected to beat lowly Luxembourg in their final European League encounter at Crossgar, Co. Down (writes **Kevin Drum**). But, despite a fine display by Joan Fitzsimons, they lost 3-4. Miss Fitzsimons, with a straight games win over Nicole Reinart, became the first Irish girl to record a singles victory in this season's competition.

Ireland had high hopes when Tommy Caffrey defeated Luxembourg's No. 1 Gaston Krecke 16, 17. This, together with Joan's win and victory in the men's doubles by Caffrey and Cliff Thompson, put the home country 3-1 in the lead, Thompson having lost to Fernand Boden.

The mixed, however, went to the visitors and then came the turning point of the match when Boden just got the better of Caffrey leaving Krecke to clinch matters with a final victory over Thompson.

In the Leinster Junior Championships, John Dalton of Laois, scored a well-merited victory, having been runner-up on three previous occasions, and Cynthia Wann emulated the performance of her sister, last year, in winning the girls' title.

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

by Les Davis

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FRAME

WE embark, in this round, to find the finalists who will be fighting for the Cups and Trophies in April. Will there be any repetitions of last season's results?

Already known is that Willesden, the current holders of the **Wilmott Cup**, are out having been defeated by East London who included the irrepressible Chester Barnes. In fact, all last season's semi-finalists have been eliminated leaving us a completely different frame.

Neither Oxford, North Yorkshire nor Staines have reached this stage for at least six years.

In the **Rose Bowl**, the picture is slightly different because both

Northumberland and Central London won their semi-finals last season. Central London have the stars but I understand there will be some difficulty assembling the best side due to the intervening European Championships.

Guildford were beaten 8-1 by Central London last year, but Lowestoft are positively newcomers to this stage of the proceedings.

Not surprisingly only one of the eight junior teams were in the 1968-69 semi-finals. For the third year in succession, Sittingbourne have been **Bromfield Trophy** semi-finalists. Will this be their year?

Quarter-final results:—**WILMOTT CUP**

Central League (London) 3, East London 6—Chester Barnes, not surprisingly, won his three sets for the winners. Peter Williams forced him to 22-20 in his second game. East London were without Bobby Stevens but reserve Steve Smith played well to beat both Alan Lindsay and Firoze Nilam.

Staines 5, Brighton 2—G. Davis won all his three sets to put Staines ahead. D. Welshman and L. Gresswell shared the other two. Roger Chandler replied with two for the losers.

Manchester 1, North Yorkshire 5—A fairly easy victory for Nth Yorks who with Denis Neale could hardly lose! Neale was ably assisted by Nicky Jarvis and Alan Ransome. Kevin Forshaw was Manchester's lone winner beating Ransome.

Oxford 5, West Bromwich 1—Stan Hahn and Arthur Chilvers won two each for Oxford while Derek Baddeley scored forlornly for West Brom.

ROSE BOWL

Romford 0, Central London 6—Central's stars fairly easily disposed of Romford. Mrs. Hewitt took a game from Mrs. Cathcart.

Blackpool 4, Northumberland 5—An even contest up to the seventh set. In the eighth and ninth, two one-sided sets provided the climax. Here Florence Kauffman (Northumberland) was beaten 21-2, 21-9 by Connie Moore leaving Philomena Clark to win the match for the Geordies by defeating A. Jackson 11 and 3!

Guildford 5, Southampton 2—Sue Howard took the major role in this quarter-final. She beat each of her opponents in straight games. Mrs. Pauline Edwards won the two for the losers.

Oxford 0, Lowestoft 5—Although this appeared to be the official score, the match proceeded to a nine set conclusion. This resulted in an 8-1 win. The only Oxford winner was Mrs. M. Davies. Miss L. Woodcock won all her sets in straight games.

CARTER CUP

Wellingborough 1, Leicester 8—After A. Holdsworth had lost 2-0 in the third to J. Moloney, Leicester went right through the card! A very good maximum for Leicester's Alan Philpott who had lost two sets to the same opposition in a county match. Paul Randell was the more convincing winner taking much less effort to win his three.

Manchester 5, North Yorkshire 4—Another contest won in the ninth set. Here Tony Boasman took very little time to dispose of North Yorkshire's David Bradley, having previously tacked to his belt the scalps of Jimmy Walker and top-ranked Nicky Jarvis!

Bristol 5, Basingstoke 4—About time Bristol became semi-finalists in, at least, one of the competitions. This mighty league seems to have been out of the limelight since Aubrey Simons' many triumphs. The match was evenly poised until the eighth set when R. Taysum (Bristol) faced Skip Iacona. Taysum won this, nervously. 27-25 in the second game. C. Sargeant of Basingstoke was easily the best player in evidence and the only one to win his three.

Willesden 0, Bromley 9—Not exactly a walk-over as four sets went to three. No. 2 ranked John Dabin proved his superiority by winning in straight games. J. Colin looked the best for the losers.

BROMFIELD TROPHY

Willesden 5, Leicester 4—Described to me as both "extremely exciting" and "extremely interesting" this match was won 21-17 in the third by Miss C. Deem over Miss J. Hamer. Apparently Leicester did not have the answer to Christine Mann who is England's No. 5. She won her maximum in straight games. The match proved, once again, that Leicester have a very promising junior in 12-year-old Karen Rogers who won two for the losers.

Newbury 5, Taunton 4—4-all and all breaths held until Jacqueline Smith won the match for Newbury by narrowly defeating Pat Beazer 23-21 in the third! Miss Smith was Newbury's star, for apart from pulling up from 16-20 in the deciding game, she won her other two sets convincingly. As Mr. G. Franks (Newbury) put it "really nail-biting stuff." Sue Beazer played extremely well for the losers.

Sittingbourne 7, Barking 1—Sittingbourne's Paula Brenchley, Lynda Chesson and E. Mannerling played well to beat this very good Barking side so easily. A. Beckwith was Barking's only winner.

Manchester 5, North Yorkshire 0—Sorry North Yorkshire but I can only describe this as a complete white-wash! Of the five sets played only four games scraped into double figures. Are Manchester that good? (Doubtless Susan Lisle, Jackie Dyer and Janice Green have their opinion. Ed.)

Semi-finals (to be played by April 5):—

Wilmott Cup

North Yorkshire v Oxford
East London v Staines

Rose Bowl

Northumberland v Lowestoft
Central London v Guildford

Carter Cup

Manchester v Leicester
Bromley v Bristol

Bromfield Trophy

Manchester v Willesden
Sittingbourne v Newbury

Midland League

by Philip Reid

WITH the season drawing to its close, it looks certain that most divisions will be settled with only a point or even sets average separating them. In the Men's First Division, West Bromwich brought off a fine win at the expense of Birmingham to take over the leadership. A maximum by Glenn Warwick was the main feature of the match. The relegation issue is wide open with Gloucester (1 point), Leicester (2) and Potteries (2) in the relegation zone.

The Oxford-Hinckley match will provide the key to Division 2 (Men's) with Coventry, who have completed their fixtures, interested on-lookers. A draw would give Oxford the championship but Hinckley will need an outright win to gain promotion.

Nottingham 'B's 6-4 win over Darlaston has virtually assured them of runner-up spot in the Men's 3rd Division with R. Corbett, J. Ellis and J. Felstead all showing consistent form.

The only unbeaten player in the Intermediate 1st Division is Cheltenham's D. Harvey but he has been fighting a lone battle and his team look certain to be relegated.

The last 100% record in the Veterans 1st Division went when Coventry's Bill Bevins, making his first appearance of the season for the veterans, beat Ron Bolton (Notts.). Coventry and Darlaston are easily the two weakest teams in this division and will clearly have much closer games in division two. Gloucester have already won the 2nd Division (Veterans) and Walsall's unchanged trio of Brian Griffiths, Harry Dixon and R. Blower are the side who will accompany them into the first division.

The anticipated battle between the two leading teams in the Junior 1st Division—Birmingham 'A' and Nottingham—failed to materialise, mainly because the Notts. number one, Terry Bull was not in the team. Without him Notts could only muster two sets, although David Fairholm came close to collecting a maximum. Loughborough's inclusion of Clive Stretton has brought about an improvement in their results although they look certain of relegation. But Stretton, Peter Angrave and Billy Erskine are players who could easily bring them back again next season.

The 'big two'—Birmingham and West Bromwich—have dominated the Women's Division as usual but finishing third are the much-improved Nuneaton side who have won their other four matches. Last season they lost every one and finished bottom, so if there was a prize for the most-improved team there is little doubt they would get it—well played Mrs. Higgs, Barbara Dicks and Marian Stewart!

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Open Tournament Survey

as reported by
George Fackrell,
Alan Morpeth,
Leslie Constable,
Ron Cox & Geo. R. Yates

STRIKING form at just the right time, Alan Ransome struck it rich at the Teesside Open, played at the Eston Sports Centre on Feb. 21/22, when he brought off the "triple crown" winning the men's singles, men's doubles, in partnership with his singles' victim Mike John, and the mixed with Linda Bashford.

But these championships were not the "bonanza" affair of 12 months ago when continentals dotted the draw like jewels, whereas this year, it was very much a case of homespun talent.

Prior to beating Johns in the final, Ransome had been taken close by Ian Robertson in the quarters whilst Johns himself did not have matters all his own way when opposed by Peter Hoyles.

In the Youth Singles, Jimmy Walker won his first open title beating the 12-year-old Teessider David Alderson, considered to be the brightest prospect the Ormesby club has yet produced.

Northern Coaching Panel chairman, Harry Dignan won the veterans' title defeating the holder Benny Casofsky, the former international from Manchester.

Further up the coast, on March 7 at Newcastle-on-Tyne, cash prizes totalling £51 were at stake in the Northumberland Open in addition to which Messrs. W. D. & H. O. Wills donated very handsome prizes to the winners of the four main singles events.

The finals reached a very high standard with Lancashire's Susan Lisle winning the women's singles event in exciting fashion to become a popular winner.

Alan Ransome was again "in form" and made Brian Burn struggle all the way and young Jimmy Walker also maintained his Teesside form by beating Nicky Jarvis in the boys' final! Miss Lisle had little trouble in winning her eighth junior girls' title of the season.

On the same day, at the Isle of Ely College, Alan Hydes beat Trevor Taylor in a men's singles final which had everything and provided a fitting finish to a well run Wisbech Restricted Open.

To reach the final, Hydes easily disposed of the opposition and Michael Harper offered little resistance in the semi. Taylor too had an easy passage and beat Peter Radford comfortably in his penultimate set.

Local player Eddie Sharpe beat Peter Taylor in the men's singles and in the junior singles, 11-year-old Paul Day, of Soham, reached Round 3 and John Willis of Cambridge lost to Taylor in Round 4.

The absence of Chester Barnes and Mike Johns upset the seedings, but despite this setback, the tournament

proceeded most smoothly and congratulations must be extended to the Wisbech officials, prominent being the Tournament Secretary, Rex Archer.

All credit too in respect of Liverpool's Susan Manning who also beat Miss Walker to win the U-13 girls' singles.



Taking refreshment at the Wisbech Restricted, are (l. to r.) Barry Wilson, John Sell, Peter and Trevor Taylor.

—Photo by courtesy of the Wisbech Advertiser and Pictorial

Trevor Taylor had not long to wait to avenge his defeat at Wisbech, when, on the very next day, he turned the tables on Hydes in the final of the men's singles in the Bedford Restricted.

Played in the Badminton Hall, this tournament also attracted a class entry with Lesley Radford also moving over from the Saturday venue, at Wisbech, to take her second women's title of the weekend. Lesley became a triple winner when she annexed the women's doubles, with Doreen Griffiths, and the mixed with husband Peter.

Local entrant, Anita James also did very well. Anita, who is undefeated in the S.E.M. League reached the final of the women's singles with two good wins over Mrs. Griffiths and Tina Dale (Essex). She also partnered Barbara Hammond to reach the finals of the women's doubles.

Up in Bolton on March 22, the 2nd Lancashire Junior Open attracted such an entry that even with 15 tables going practically non-stop throughout the day, the mixed U-17's event had to be cancelled.

Team-mates to be in the junior international against Wales on April 4, Alan Fletcher and Robert Hellaby fought out the boys' U-17 final but the player to take the eye was young Dean Dino-Smith who figured in an absorbing final with David Alderson of Teesside in the U-13 boys' singles.

Susan Lisle brought off her ninth junior singles title of the season but the spotlight in the U-17 girls' singles also took in Jacqueline Dyer, the young Cheshire girl, who had a good win over Sheffield's Judith Walker in the semis.

Lancashire Junior Open

UNDER-17 EVENTS

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:

M. Harper (Herts) bt M. Read (Essex) -8, 19, 12.

R. Hellaby (Essex) bt D. Dino-Smith (Kent) 14, 19.

A. Boasman (Lancs) bt S. Heaps (Ches) 18, -19, 14.

A. Fletcher (Yorks) bt I. Horsham (Essex) 14, 12.

Semi-finals:

HELLABY bt Harper -14, 21-19, 21-8.

FLETCHER bt Boasman 13, 12.

Final:

FLETCHER bt Hellaby 16, 16.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

J. DYER (Ches) bt J. Hellaby (Essex) 20, 14.

S. LISLE (Lancs) bt J. Walker (Yorks) 9, 11.

Final:

LISLE bt Dyer 19, 11.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

BOASMAN / FLETCHER bt Horsham/Read 16, 19.

HARPER / HELLABY bt Heaps/B. Johns (Ches) 15, 21.

Final:

BOASMAN/FLETCHER bt Harper/Hellaby 15, -19, 16.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

HELLABY/S. READ (Essex) bt V. King/L. Sutton (Yorks) -15, 22, 14.

LISLE/WALKER bt S. Manning/B. Williams (Lancs) 14, 13.

Final:

LISLE / WALKER bt Hellaby / Read 13, -19, 17.

UNDER-15 EVENTS

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

HEAPS bt D. Parker (Lancs) 14, -15, 16.

P. GUTTORMSEN (Kent) bt R. Broadmore (Warwks) 18, -16, 19.

Final:

HEAPS bt Guttormsen 16, -12, 15.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

E. TARTEN (Essex) bt J. Mortimer (Gloucs) 13, 9.

HELLABY bt J. Green (Ches) 11, 16.

Final:

HELLABY bt Tarten 12, 12.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:

GUTTORMSEN / HEAPS bt Broadmore/Horsham -14, 15, 20.

JOHNS/PARKER bt P. Fennon/A. Martin (Yorks) 12, 14.

Final:

GUTTORMSEN / HEAPS bt Johns / Parker 15, 18.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:

G. LOCKE (Essex) / TARTEN bt. Hellaby/Read 11, 17.

S. ELSDON (Leics) / GREEN bt V. Russell/D. St. Ledger 14, 18.

Final:

LOCKE/TARTEN bt Elsdon/Green 20, -15, 16.

UNDER-13 EVENTS

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

D. ALDERSON (Yorks) bt J. Evans (Ches) 10, 11.

DINO-SMITH bt P. Pendergast (Lancs) 11, 9.

Final:

DINO-SMITH bt Alderson -18, 22, 12.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

MANNING bt Russell 22, 18.

WALKER bt J. Rutter (Yorks) 5, 12.

Final:

MANNING bt Walker 17, 19.

Northumberland Open

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

B. BURN (Northld) bt D. Hirst (Yorks.) -21, 7, 19.

A. RANSOME (Northld) bt N. Jarvis (Yorks) 11, 11.

Final:

BURN bt Ransome -12, 19, 14.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

S. LISLE (Lancs) bt M. Robson (Northld) 15, 19.

L. BASHFORD (Yorks) bt L. Sutton (Yorks) -16, 18, 17.

Final:

LISLE bt Bashford 10, 19, 23.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

P. DUNCOMBE / P. HOYLES (Northld) bt Jarvis/Ransome 12, 18.

BURN/I. ROBERTSON (Northld) bt A. Clayton (Yorks) / S. Lennie (Northld) -11, 15, 14.

Final:

DUNCOMBE/HOYLES bt Burn / Robertson 18, 19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

BASHFORD/ROBSON bt J. Turnbull/D. Ward (Northld) 6, 5.

N. FERGUSON / P. JACKSON (Northld) bt Y. Dobson/ J. Weldon (Yorks) 7, 6.

Final:

BASHFORD/ROBSON bt Ferguson/ Jackson 16, 13.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

CLAYTON/SUTTON bt A. Chilvers (Northld)/Lisle -21, 12, 15.

NORTHUMBERLAND OPEN

RANSOME / BASHFORD bt A. Warents/P. Clark (Northld) 18, 16.

Final:
RANSOME/BASHFORD bt Clayton/Sutton 16, 20.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
J. WALKER (Yorks) bt D. Armstrong (Northld) 20, 20.

JARVIS bt P. Abell (Yorks) -17, 17, 11.

Final:
WALKER bt Jarvis -19, 14, 16.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
LISLE bt A. McReddie (Yorks) 13, 11.

SUTTON bt J. Priestley (Northld) 21, 16.

Final:
LISLE bt Sutton -18, 17, 15.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
L. BROWNING (Yorks) bt H. Lawson (Northld) 17, 15.

H. DIGNAN (Northld) bt T. Donlon (Ches) 16, 13.

Final:
BROWNING bt Dignan 11, 20.

W.S.: Semi-finals:
M. ROBSON (Nthld) bt P. Lister (Yorks) 9, 8; L. BASHFORD (Yorks) bt J. Dyer (Ches) 17, 20.

Final:
ROBSON bt Bashford 10, 12.

M.D.: Semi-finals:
JOHNS/RANSOME bt D. Hogg/T. McMichael (Scotland) 16, 16; P. DUNCOMBE (Nthld)/HOYLES bt V. Doran (Yorks)/B. Robson (Nthld) 11, -17, 16.

Final:
JOHNS/RANSOME bt Duncombe/Hoyles 13, 14.

W.D.: Semi-finals:
M. CUMMINGS (Yorks)/LISTER bt B. Lilly/J. Sanderson (Yorks) 5, 13; BASHFORD/ROBSON bt Dyer/J. Green (Ches) -20, 10, 16.

Final:
BASHFORD/ROBSON bt Cummings/Lister 11, 11.

M.D.: Semi-finals:
RANSOME/BASHFORD bt Hart/N. Ferguson (Nthld) 11, 11; ROBERTSON/GREEN bt I. McRae (Yorks)/Cummings -23, 11, 19.

Final:
WALKER bt Alderson 15, 12.

Final:
RANSOME/BASHFORD bt Robertson/Green 13, 18.

V.S.: Semi-finals:
B. CASOFSKY (Lancs) bt L. Heppell (Nthld) 19, -13, 16; DIGNAN bt T. Donlon (Ches) 13, 14.

Final:
DIGNAN bt Casofsky 17, 14.

Y.S.: Semi-finals:
J. WALKER (Yorks) bt Robertson 12, 11; D. ALDERSON (Yorks) bt Miss Bashford 17, 15.

Final:
WALKER bt Alderson 15, 12.

Wisbech Restricted Open

M.S.: Semi-finals:
T. TAYLOR (Herts) bt P. Radford (Essex) 6, -15, 11; A. HYDES (Yorks) bt M. Harper (Herts) 10, 10.

Final:
HYDES bt Taylor 18, 16.

W.S.: Semi-finals:
L. WOODCOCK (Suffolk) bt M. Burgess (Lincs) 18, 11; L. RADFORD (Essex) bt C. Chapman (Cambs) 23, 8.

Final:
RADFORD bt Woodcock 14, 7.

M.D.: Semi-finals:
HYDES/TAYLOR bt M. East/G. King (Lincs.) 12, 18; D. BOWLES (Essex)/RADFORD bt M. Baynes (Herts)/Harper 21, 12.

Final:
HYDES/TAYLOR bt Bowles/Radford 13, 18.

M.D.: Semi-finals:
D. ARMSTRONG/J. WHITE (Lincs) bt C. Heath/L. Warren (Essex) 8, 10; D. HELLABY/J. HELLABY (Essex) bt Radford/Radford 18, 14.

Final:
HELLABY/HELLABY bt Armstrong/White 13, 18.

B.S.: Semi-finals:
P. TAYLOR (Beds) bt Hellaby 17, -20, 14; A. FLETCHER (Yorks) bt Harper 9, 13.

Final:
FLETCHER bt Taylor -15, 11, 23.

G.S.: Semi-finals:
HELLABY bt Warren 7, 18; P. HAMMOND bt C. Mann (Middx) 14, 15.

Final:
HELLABY bt Hammond -17, 10, 13.

Teesside Open

M.S.: Quarter-finals:
A. Ransome (Nthld) bt I. Robertson (Nthld) -22, 17, 21; T. Hart (Nthld) bt H. Dignan (Nthld) 5, 9; P. Hoyles (Nthld) bt D. Hirst (Yorks) -19, 14, 9; M. Johns (Ches) bt M. Corking (Yorks) 14, 17.

Semi-finals:
RANSOME bt Hart 12, 13; JOHNS bt Hoyles 8, 17.

Final:
RANSOME bt Johns 18, 19.

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Bedford Restricted Open

M.S.: Semi-finals:

A. HYDES (Yorks) bt B. Petch (Middx) 11, 11; T. TAYLOR (Herts) bt B. Hill (Lincs) 16, 8.

Final:

TAYLOR bt Hydes 18, 22.

W.S.: Semi-finals:

L. RADFORD (Essex) bt A. Jones (Warwks) 6, 17; A. JAMES (Beds) bt T. Dale (Essex) 16, 18.

Final:

RADFORD bt James 12, 9.

M.D.: Semi-finals:

J. BEAUMONT (Lincs)/HYDES bt M. Harper (Herts)/P. Taylor (Beds) 13, -12, 12; I. HORSHAM/D. JOHNSON (Essex) bt L. Landry (Middx)/T. Taylor 13, -12, 12.

Final:

BEAUMONT/HYDES bt Horsham/Johnson -27, 12, 13.

W.D.: Semi-finals:

D. GRIFFITHS (Warwks)/RADFORD bt Dale/D. Underwood (Beds) 9, 19; B. HAMMOND (Beds)/JAMES bt C. Mann (Middx)/A. Robinson (Beds) 15, 11.

Final:

GRIFFITHS/RADFORD bt Hammond/James 13, 7.

M.D.: Semi-finals:

T. TAYLOR/JONES bt Landry/Mann 22, -14, 15; P. RADFORD (Essex)/RADFORD bt P. Taylor/Griffiths 15, 12.

Final:

RADFORD/RADFORD bt Taylor/Jones 15, 9.

Advanced Coaching Programmes

Peter Simpson

- Apr. 1—Proficiency Day, Lea Green.
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 „ 4—Northern Coaching Weekend (10-30—9 p.m.)
 „ 5—(10-30 to 5 p.m.) at Carnegie College, Leeds.
 „ 7—Cleckheaton Youth Club.
 „ 9—Schoolchildren Coaching, Bingham (10-30 to 4-30 p.m.)
 „ 10—Coaching Assessment, North Shields.
 „ 12—All-Levels Coaching, Bradford.
 „ 14—Lincolnshire Teachers' Course, Monks Dyke School, Louth.
 „ 15—Coaching Course, Grimsby.
 „ 16—Coaching Course, York.
 „ 19—All-Levels Coaching, Wallsend.
 „ 21—Lincolnshire Teachers' Course, Louth.
 „ 22—Introductory Course for Teachers (9 to 4).
 Evening Coaching Course, Grimsby.
 „ 23—Coaching of Schoolchildren, Accrington.
 Evening—Coaching Students, Edge Hill, College, Ormskirk.
 „ 24/26—Advanced Coaching for players, (Residential) Lea Green.
 „ 26—All-Levels, Stockton.
 „ 29—Introductory Course for Teachers.
 Evening Coaching Course, Grimsby.
 „ 30—Coaching Course, York.
 All enquiries to Peter Simpson,
 30 Vesper Gate Mount, Leeds, 5.

Les Gresswell

- Apr. 1—International Squad, Juniors, Waterloo House.
 „ 6—International Squad, Kingsdale School.
 „ 7/10—Loughborough College of Further Education.
 „ 11—Northampton Regional Centre, YMCA.
 „ 12—Regional Centre, Crystal Palace.
 „ 13—International Squad, Kingsdale School.
 „ 15—International Squad, Waterloo House.
 „ 17—Pulford School, Leighton Buzzard.
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 „ 27—International Squad.
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COACHING and SCHOOLS

by Phil Reid

FREE VISIT

ALL League secretaries should now have received their invitation to have a free visit from one of the E.T.T.A. Staff Coaches. If you are a league secretary and haven't received yours, please contact Jack Carrington at 24 Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex. Those leagues who have not previously had a free visit will naturally receive priority and summer dates are preferable, the coaches having more free time in this period.

Congratulations to eight new "Gold" winners in the E.T.T.A. Proficiency Awards Scheme. Here are the names:- **Derbyshire:** Janet Cooper and Lynne Nolan. **Cambs:** Peter Wakerley and Paul Day. **Northants:** Steven Crawley, Peter Crawley, Andrew Wallis and John Willis.

Due apologies to Poppy Squires and Clive Alcock of Oxon who obtained their "Gold" Awards at Burford on Jan. 3 and whose names have not previously been mentioned.

A list has been compiled of coaches, falling into three categories, as follows: a) Active Qualified, b) Active Students and c) Reserve. The North of England boasts some 303, the East 269 and the Midlands and South-West 241 making a grand total of 813! Top county is Yorkshire with 85.

Regional centres in the north are going very well. Peter Duncombe is doing some great work at Wallsend and the Bingham Centre (Nottingham) has been a sell-out every time. Alan Ransome's own particular interest is at Stockton with exceptional attendances.

All three Staff Coaches were down at Crystal Palace for the English Open and Bryan Merrett seems to be settling down very well. "I'm really enjoying the work" he told me. "I see him occasionally" his wife Shirley said.

"Take part in Sport in 1970" is the title of a booklet recently published by the C.C.P.R. Amongst a variety of courses are three for Table Tennis, only one of which still has vacancies. It is course No. L.208 from June 1-5 at Lilleshall, under the direction of E.T.T.A. Enquiries should be made immediately to 26 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4HA.

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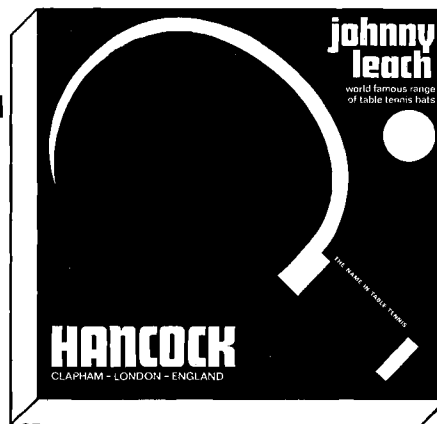
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A Question of Evaluation

by Mary Wright

IN the past few weeks a lot of criticism has been levelled against a person who has done more to help English table tennis players in the past two years than anyone else I know. That person is Les Gresswell, one of our Staff Coaches. He has been criticised over a number of things, some of which I agree with, many of which I disagree. Nobody seems to have bothered to evaluate what good he has done for English table tennis.

He first came on to the training side by starting a Monday night training session at Sydenham in S.E. London. These sessions were a great success right from the very beginning, largely due to the enthusiasm of Les and the players concerned and also due to the respect commanded by Les from everyone. Later on in the year, Les was brought in to help train England's top players and eventually became employed by the Association as Staff Coach for the Eastern Region.

Obviously he has a lot to learn about top class table tennis but this he is trying to do, and, in my opinion is succeeding very well. He is eager to watch top class play as often as possible and will be going to Japan to study the Japanese training methods. His ability to supervise both junior and senior training camps is unquestionable, and no one can criticise him without seeing him in action. He has helped to create an entirely new image for table tennis in this country. No longer is it a back room parlour game but a serious sport treated as such by players, officials and the public. People no longer laugh at us doing our exercises and training, but watch and respect us as professional sportsmen and women.

Maybe he has tried to do too many things too quickly, but there is no doubt that Les has sparked off a shake up in English table tennis which was badly needed. I am sure I speak for all the top players in England when I say "Good luck in Japan, Les, and come back to England soon."

THE COCA-COLA AWARD

INCLUSIVE of all tournaments held before March 9, with the exception of the Winton and Hythe Restricted Opens and the Northumberland Open, current positions are as under.

For the top players, the European Championships will provide opportunities to win further points but Chester Barnes will now need to win the men's singles title in Moscow to be sure of overtaking Denis Neale.

Men		Women	
Denis Neale (Yorks)	2740	"Connie" Warren (Surrey)	60
Chester Barnes (Essex)	2380	Derek Schofield (Ches)	55
Alan Hydes (Yorks)	1310	Mary Wright (Surrey)	1215
Trevor Taylor (Herts)	1260	Jill Shirley (Bucks)	1185
Ron Penfold (Surrey)	315	Karenza Mathews (Middx)	725
Mike Johns (Ches)	305	Pauline Piddock (Kent)	610
Brian Burn (Northld)	170	Judy Williams (Sussex)	415
"Les" Haslam (Middx)	155	Shelagh Hession (Essex)	365
Tony Piddock (Kent)	125	Linda Bashford (Yorks)	330
Nicky Jarvis (Yorks)	120	Lesley Radford (Essex)	230
Peter Taylor (Beds)	120	Susan Howard (Surrey)	145
Alan Ransome (Northld)	115	Maureen Robson (Northld)	145
Ralph Gunnion (Warwks)	110	Linda Howard (Surrey)	135
Neil Fulstow (Yorks)	90	Diane Simpson (Essex)	100
Brian Petch (Middx)	70	Susan Beckwith (Essex)	95
Derek Basden (Kent)	60	Jennifer Cornock (Warwks)	90
Eric Coster (Herts)	60	Diane Johnson (Lancs)	65
Chris Pickard (Hants)	60	Kath Perry (Staffs)	55

Middlesex Schools' Table Tennis Association

THE Middlesex Schools' T.T.A. played four friendly matches against the Surrey Schools' T.T.A. on Saturday, 21st March. These may be the first full-scale inter-County Schools' T.T. matches and it is hoped to continue the series next season.

Results

Boys U-15: Middlesex 5, Surrey 5.
Girls U-15: Middlesex 9, Surrey 1.
Boys U-13: Middlesex 6, Surrey 4.
Girls U-13: Middlesex 4, Surrey 6.
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—Photo by Karola Kieklich

FEDERAL GERMAN OPEN

HEARTBREAK DEFEAT FOR NEALE

by Bryan Merrett

ENGLAND'S elite group became more of a complete unit and played admirably in the Federal German Open at Oberhausen, on Feb. 22/23.

In the men's singles, Denis Neale got through his first two rounds against German opposition in Forster and Steinbeck, then lost a titanic struggle with his old enemy Janos Börzsei, the Hungarian defender. Neale was actually losing 7-16 in the fifth game but fought back to lead 20-17 before losing 21-23. Heart-breaking.

The tournament proved a good one for Alan Hydes who initially struggled against the German, Leiths, but then came good in beating Stanislav Gomozkov, Russia's world-ranked No. 6 with scores of 17, -20, -21, 8, 17. This actually could have been four games, as Hydes led 20-17 in the third. Melevoy Karakasevic, the Yugoslav pen-holder (who also beat Alser) beat the Yorkshire left-hander over five games, being a little bit too strong in the end.

Beginning with a win over Dutchman van der Zee, Trevor Taylor then ran up against Ebby Schöler, the eventual winner and lost -17, 17, -15, -14 the last three games being on expedite. Although losing to Schöler for the second time in a week (first at Eastbourne), this result although easier for the ace German defender, was a better effort from Taylor. To play Schöler on slow German tables, in front of his own crowd is, to say the least, very difficult.

Schöler's three-straight victim in the final was the new Russian champion Anatolij Amelin.

In the women's singles event, Mary Wright had an unlucky draw, having to play Zoya Rudnova of the U.S.S.R. Looking at all the quarter-finalists, six of the seven Mary would have beaten easily, whereas she was drawn against the most difficult one for her. She is, however, still a class above the rest of our girls. Mary lost 19, -17, -12, -15.

After beating the French girl Claud Bergeret, although 15-20 down in the 2nd and 17-20 down in the third, Jill Shirley fell to Diane Schöler. But it was a better performance from Jill who worked for every point although losing -14, 18, -17, -19.

Karenza Mathews turned in the best performance I have ever seen from her and there was no disgrace whatsoever in her going down to the European champion Ilona Vostova -19, 17, 19, -18, -15.

Because she does not allow herself to win, Pauline Piddock lost to Alicia Grofova over 5 games when she should have won 3-1. Pauline led 18-4 in the third game, only to lose it and then won the fourth! She was beaten -19, 18, -19, 15, -15.

Event winner was Rudnova who beat her compatriot, Svetlana Grinberg in straight games.

In partnership in the men's doubles Neale and Hydes lost to the world champions Alser/Johansson -11, 19, -14, -17. Neale had just finished his tremendous singles with Börzsei and had to go straight on again. Obviously he was mentally, as well as physically tired, although I do not think they could have beaten the Swedes who accounted for Schöler/Börzsei 3-1 in the final.

Mary and Karenza lost in the semi-finals of the women's doubles to Grinberg/Rudnova who went on to

win the title in straight games over Di Schöler and Agnes Simon. Our other pair, Jill and Pauline lost, over 5 scrappy games, to the Czechs, Vostova/Grofova.

After two comfortable wins in the mixed doubles, Denis and Mary were not in the game against the Russians Amelin/Grinberg who won 13, 10, 18 in the quarters but lost, by a similar margin, to Gomozkov/Rudnova in the final.

In attendance at the tournament was a delegation from the Coca-Cola Co., chaperoned by A. K. "Bill" Vint. Purpose behind the visit was to afford an insight into the organisation and presentation of a major continental tournament to the various managers of the Bottling Companies. It proved a visit that was most enjoyable to all concerned.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES

HYDES BEAT SECRETIN AND BARNES TAKES ENGLAND INTO THIRD PLACE

FRANCE 2, ENGLAND 5
Paris 17.2.70

RECOVERING from a scrappy start against French champion Jacques Secretin, after losing the first game 15-21 and being 17-20 down in the second, Alan Hydes showed typical Yorkshire grit in fighting back to win the opening set of the European League match against France in the Stade de Coubertin, Paris, on February 17th.

Trevor Taylor also fought and played well against the French ace having the misfortune to suffer a couple of "edge" balls against him when leading 19-18 and at deuce. Trevor is fast becoming a first-class player and looked very promising despite the need of having a few spin services in his repertoire.

Jill Shirley proved far too efficient for Yveline Lecler and won her singles encounter very comfortably.

Individual scores (in match order) were:—

A. Hydes bt J. Secretin -15, 23, 17.
T. Taylor bt V. Pukart 18, -21, 9.
Miss J. Shirley bt Miss Y. Lecler 14, 13.
Hydes/Taylor bt D. Dhondt/Secretin 17, 17.
Hydes/Shirley lost to Secretin/Miss Lecler 18, -12, -17.
Taylor lost to Secretin 20, -15, -20.
Hydes bt Pukart 20, 16.

ENGLAND 4

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3

Felixstowe 3.3.70

Twice in arrears, England came back to beat Czechoslovakia 4-3 at Felixstowe on March 3—a win that assured England of third place in the Premier Division of the European League.

Before a capacity crowd in the Pier Pavilion, England's fortunes turned after they had secured a narrow win in the men's doubles to equate the match score at 2-all.

After winning the first game 19, Chester Barnes and Denis Neale figured in a second game "spectacular" losing seven points in a row after taking an 8-5 lead.

They came back to re-establish themselves, 15-12 and 19-16 in front, only for Vlado Miko and Jiri Turai to take four points and then lose!

After an uneasy mixed success, Neale fell to Stefan Kollarovits and it then fell to Barnes to take the vital seventh set against Turai for the match.

Individual scores (in match order) were:—

C. Barnes lost to S. Kollarovits -19, 20, -16.
D. Neale bt J. Turai 17, 15.
Mrs. M. Wright lost to Miss I. Vostova -18, -15.
Barnes/Neale bt V. Miko/Turai 19, 20.
Neale / Mrs. Wright bt Miko / Miss Vostova 12, -22, 16.
Neale lost to Kollarovits 9, -14, -16.
Barnes bt Turai 18, 13.



JACQUES SECRETIN

Photo by Sport & General

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

FRANCE 2, ENGLAND 5

Boulogne 18.2.70

The further efficiency of a repeat 5-2 win over France in the European League proved the Paris victory was no fluke and, in recognition of winning the most sets in the two matches, Alan Hydes was the recipient of a special award in the shape of a plaque.

Again, in Boulogne, Taylor fought like a tiger against Secretin, who was in world-class form, as did the 15-year-old Claud Bergeret against Jill Shirley but without reward.

Scores:—
Taylor bt Pukart 16, 9.
Hydes lost to Secretin -16, -19.
Miss Shirley bt Miss C. Bergeret 16, 15.
Hydes/Taylor bt Dhondt/Secretin -14, 14, 17.
Hydes/Miss Shirley bt Secretin/Miss Bergeret 17, 9.
Taylor lost to Secretin -16, 9, -19.
Hydes bt Pukart 15, 19.

ENGLAND 3

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 4

Sheffield 24.2.70

Fighting back from a 0-3 deficit to level at 3-all, England went down when, in the final set, Neale unex-

pectedly lost to the young Czech, Turai who emulated his earlier play in beating Hydes.

England got back in the game when, after Neale and Hydes had won their doubles, Neale partnered Mary Wright in the mixed. The English pair were trailing 1-6 in the decider when Neale came racing in for a drop shot, from way behind the table, to hit a "screamer" which he followed to the far end of the table with the impetus of his shot.

From that point on the set was won, to be followed by a first-ever win by Hydes over Kollarovits. Tuari's first ever win over Neale, in

the deciding set, was a sad anticlimax.

Scores:—

A. Hydes lost to J. Turai -15, -19.
D. Neale lost to S. Kollarovits -18, -15.
Mrs. M. Wright lost to Miss I. Vostova -17, -15.
Neale/Hydes bt Miko/Turai 9, -15, 8.
Neale/Mrs. Wright bt Miko/Miss Vostova 13, -20, 18.
Hydes bt Kollarovits 18, -17, 23.
Neale lost to Turai 10, -18, -13.

ENGLAND 5

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 2

Stoke Mandeville 4.3.70

Resting English Open champion, Kollarovits, and European champion Ilona Vostova, Czechoslovakia, after losing the first four sets, were eventually beaten 5-2.

Chester Barnes was the best player on view and was never extended by either Czech. Trevor Taylor played well against Miko but was never in the game against Turai. The narrowness of Jill Shirley's victory over Alicia Grofova was largely due to herself and not to Miss Grofova's play. This was the first time in the last four meetings of these two players that Jill has won. Another "name" to be added to the list of first-class opponents beaten over the last month.

Scores:—

C. Barnes bt J. Turai 9, 15.
T. Taylor bt V. Miko 19, 15.
Miss J. Shirley bt Miss A. Grofova 15, -18, 20.
Barnes/Taylor bt Miko/Turai 12, -11, 18.
Barnes/Miss Shirley lost to Turai/Miss Grofova -16, -13.
Barnes bt Miko 17, 18.
Taylor lost to Turai -11, -15.

CIVIL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRINCIPAL features of this season's championships were that Henry Buist regained the men's title, after an 8-year lapse, and the successful first foray into the women's events of Mrs. Daphne Gray of Portsmouth.

Results:

M.S. Semi-final:
A. Piddock bt R. Kettlewell 11, 14.
H. Buist bt B. K. Petch 19, -11, 19.
Final:
Buist bt Piddock 18, 19.
W.S.:
D. Gray bt M. H. Cherry 8, 13.
M.D.:
Petch/Piddock bt Buist/B. W. Cook -5, 12, 13.
W.D.:
B. Butler/D. Garside bt M. Coe/S. V. Johnson 16, 7.
X.D.:
Piddock/M. Know bt R. Lush/Gray 16, -17, 19.
I.B.S.:
J. Dabin bt P. Forker 6, 17.
I.S.S.:
P. Boulton bt P. Wheeler 21, 18.
J.B.S.:
Dabin bt I. Robertson 20, 20.
J.G.S.:
I. Ingarfield (group winner).
V.S.:
M. Close bt K. Peck 13, 15.

ENGLISH OPEN MIXED-DOUBLES CHAMPIONS MARY WRIGHT & DENIS NEALE



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The Laws of Table Tennis

by Jack Randall, N.U.



Secretary, National Umpires and Referees Committee

WE could discuss the psychological aspect of 'Games': the socially acceptable outlet for the aggressive instinct—but we won't. We might consider a 'Game' as life in miniature; where an artificial stress situation is set up to be solved according to a fixed set of rules. But what I really want to talk about is the set of rules themselves, in particular those of immediate interest—the Laws of Table Tennis. What makes a good set of Laws?

Firstly, they must be easy to understand and apply. It's obviously no good if the wording is too intricate to follow, or decisions as to whether a penalty has been incurred are too difficult to take.

Secondly, they must be framed so that the skills to be exercised are adequately catered for; for example

agility, control, stamina and cunning. Luck should be very much subordinate to skill—that's why, in cards, bridge is generally considered to be a "better" game than pontoon. It was for this reason that the thick sponge covering to the raquet was banned, since nobody was able to judge the spins on a ball struck with such a raquet, least of all the player who had just hit the ball. Also, no one skill should dominate all others. To try and get an even balance between attacking and defensive skills, the net has been altered in height, finally settling at the currently defined height of 15.25 c.m. (6 inches), at which it will probably remain.

The service should not be an over-ridingly-deciding factor in winning the game, so the current T.T. style of service was devised, rather than the old tennis method of smashing the ball straight down on to the opponent's court. When people invented methods of serving with untakeable knuckle and finger spins, the Law was adjusted to prohibit this approach. Only the older players, having seen it, can appreciate what a cruelly distorted ball can do when it quiveringly tries to regain its round shape as it strikes the opponent's side of the table.

Thirdly, the Laws must be consistent and reasonable, although there were bound to be some situations which will have to be arbitrarily decided. For example, it was decided that a ball striking the edge of the table was "good", and a service ball bouncing exactly on the centre line at doubles was in—but it could just as reasonably have been the reverse.

SERVICE LAW

Fourthly, all foreseeable situations must be catered for. Life being what it is, the "what happens if" questions are not all immediately answerable.

If we take a look at a most troubled Law, the service Law number 6, under the headings detailed, it will be possible to see how it grew up. The various provisions say the ball must be visible to the umpire—

if he can't see what's going on, he can't apply the Law. The ball must be dropping when it is struck in service—if as in the Continentally-invented service the ball was thrown fractionally up straight at the bat, it was impossible for the umpire to judge whether it was a clean hit or squeezed out between the palm and bat. And so on to the flat hand; throwing up at an angle within 45° from the vertical; not going below the surface of the table, and the ball resting on the palm of the hand—all of these were intended to prevent undue advantage being taken by the server or make judgement under the Law possible to the hard-pressed umpire. The job of the Law-makers is to ensure that things don't get unnecessarily complicated. Thus a simplification, deleting the requirement for the ball to be struck from within imaginary extensions of the side lines, was introduced. Scrapping the centre line at doubles however did not seem to get much support.

Take a case were the players decline to co-operate in observing the provisions of the Law. Is the umpire spoiling the game by insisting on upholding the letter of the law, or is the player marring the proceedings by not bothering? A player, who so often shows uncanny ability to do what he likes with the ball in play is, plainly well able, taking his time when serving, to follow the actions demanded in the Law. The umpire, who has the job of deciding according to the written word, has very little choice. The orderly thing would be to agitate for a change of Laws if, in your opinion, things are inconsistent or unreasonable or too complicated. But, in the meantime, it's obvious that standards should be consistent at all levels and places of play.

What is your opinion on how the service Law should be administered or altered? There was a letter from John Morris bearing on one aspect in the January issue, which the National Umpires and Referees Committee considered with interest—any more?

WHY THEY CAN'T BEAT ETHEL JACKS

(Reproduced from GHANSAPORTA, published by the Sports Council of Ghana).

HER 'kingdom' covers the entire continent of Africa. In official language, she is Queen of Ghana, of West Africa and of the whole continent. She has held all these titles almost exclusively since she entered table tennis, except for a brief period when it was 'wrenched' from her hands.

And if you want to know what makes Ethel Jacks queen of table tennis, come to the Sports Hall to see her dance around the oblong table.

Ethel started playing while she was

in school. Her interest was the kind we all had in our school days—only passing fancy—until something happens.

Her father had bought a table tennis set for the school at Gomoa Tarkwa where he was headmaster and to avoid the stampede during recreation periods for the only two bats, says Ethel "My younger sister and I hid the bats under our tables."

Crowns

She and her mother left Gomoa for Accra city where she attended the Wesley Grammar School. Her first encounter with what she describes 'real table tennis was at the Young Men's Christian Association (training ground for our top players) where she had accompanied her father, an official of the Y.M.C.A. committee, to a festival.

"I watched starry-eyed while D. G. Hathiramani played a demonstration game with one of the players," recalls Ethel. "I was enchanted and I asked my father to allow me to join the club, he refused." Her father had decided that if she was allowed to play, she would forget about school.

But there was an accident which would get her into active playing and to the crowns. Her mother sold her wares at the Makola Market near the Blue Pillars stores where DG was at the time. Her mother asked DG and he agreed to coach the girl.

Ethel recalls with ecstasy the moment she first attended practice. The Akuette sisters together with Mukha Zel were then the great names in Ghana table tennis.

"I never got a chance to play any of these at first. I was just placed before a wall with a bat and a ball and told to play—against the wall." She was billed to play in her first national championship at Cape Coast when she was put down with fever.

Her luck came in 1961 when Mukha Zel refused to go to China for the World Championship Games unless her mother chaperoned her. Back from China and the championship, she met Mukha Zel in a national meeting and beat her to become the new national champion.

"She cried like a baby, but I was determined before the game to prove that I could play," Ethel recollected. The crowds in China had applauded their appreciation of the way she played and made her recognise herself as a potential star.

Ethel has been deprived of that championship only once—in 1963 when Teresa Akuetteh beat her. But she regained the crown the following year and has held it ever since.

Ethel believes the reason Ghanaian teams do not make any impact on the world is the speed of play at championships. "Their speed of play is fantastic. Our way of playing is old-fashioned and too slow. I believe we can only show improvement at world championships if we will be taught a faster way of play."

She believes that the best way to acquire this knowledge is to employ a Japanese or Chinese coach. The Japs and the Chinese are the fastest she has come across.

"I am sure our best chance lies in bringing in some of the better players from Japan or China where they understand the game," she says.



Dennis Offer captures a shot of the writer, with Kent Umpire Freddy Groom in action at the World Championships in Munich.

SWAYTHLING CLUB MEET AT CRYSTAL PALACE

by MICKY THIRNHILL



SUSAN BARNA and I arrived at Crystal Palace together and just after entering the hall she said "I think that is Stan Proffitt". I had never met Stan so I could not confirm her thoughts. Shortly afterwards there was Ernie Bublely talking to Ron Crayden and then Ivor Montagu appeared on the scene and thus something special was going on at the English Open. Yes, it was the first Swaythling Club meeting in the U.K.

The Swaythling Club was founded at the World Championships in Stockholm in 1967 when a number of ex-players from many different countries met together and decided that it was time the past champions and people who have represented their country in World Championships should have some sort of official body.

The Club is by invitation and its aims are to help ex-champions and players who may not be in such good circumstances as others and to organise social events throughout the various countries as and when possible. It is not a Club which you expect to take something "out of", quite the reverse, it is something which you would wish to "put into".

Officially, the meeting was due to start at 9 o'clock but all the afternoon we could see groups of ex-



JEAN MERCIER
(France)

players talking together, some of them making their appearance at the English Open for the first time in many many years. We would have got off to a prompt start but there was Ernie Bublely at the bar generously buying a drink for all his "old friends". If you remember Ernie in his playing days, he certainly gave nothing away on the table!

The Swaythling Club were indeed most fortunate to have such wonderful facilities provided by Mr. and Mrs. Emyln Jones at Crystal Palace, and their staff certainly could not have made us feel more at home and undoubtedly the success of the evening was in no small way due to them.

Champagne flowed freely; it is certainly the greatest lubricator of the tongue that has so far been invented! Just a few snatches of conversations I overheard—Ivor Montagu retreats to the Orkney Isles for the summer where he has a small cottage and was explaining how he has just started to play golf again, although on some occasions it means clearing cattle from the course before he can start!

Ken Stanley has certainly been in the news lately but despite being Manager of Georgie Best and Dennis Law, and doing a great deal for the English World Cup football team, he remains as modest as ever. Then there was Peggy Franks and her husband, Ronny, explaining that the only sport they had not really tried was badminton; how fit they looked. Another of our great ex-champions, Vera Dace still playing a lot of lawn tennis, I wonder how good she would have been with a sandwich bat; I never saw her chop a ball! Among the overseas guests were two of the greatest players Europe has seen, Ivan Andreadis and Ella Constantinescu (nee Zeller).

After a short while, a welcome from the Swaythling Club President, Victor Barna, who was introduced by Johnny Leach, the Club's representative for England and later on, on a much sadder note, we had a few words from Ivor Montagu who had been to see Richard Bergmann in the afternoon.

Apart from world champions and great players, there were the great administrators such as Roy Evans and Nancy, "Bill" Vint, Jean Mercier etc., etc., all getting together and really enjoying themselves.

Two hours passed much too quickly and as we reluctantly departed, I remember Jean Mercier and Peggy Franks dancing what looked like the highland fling and finally when the party was over, there was Ella Constantinescu taking a walk alone in the grounds at Crystal Palace; my guess was she was humming "memories are made of this".

Finally, on behalf of all members, our thanks to the two kind gentlemen who personally arranged and paid for this party — it did not come out of club funds!

May it be first of many get-togethers not only in the U.K. but in other parts of the world as well.

And, finally, I heard all sorts of alarming rumours about Jim Langan's health and I thought quite a number of readers would be interested to know that I have spoken to him on the telephone very recently. He is very much better and fully expects to be playing again next season.

Attending the get-together at Crystal Palace were:— Johnny Leach (representing England), Peggy Franks, Ernie Bublely, Eric Filby, Alec Brook, Ken Stanley, Stanley Proffitt, Phyllis Hodgkinson, Vera Dace, Micky Thornhill, Roy Crayden, Ivor Montagu, Victor Barna (President, Swaythling Club), "Bill" Vint (ITTF Sec.), Jimmie McCormack (Sec., Swaythling Club), Jean Mercier (ITTF Treasurer and representing the Swaythling Club of France), M. Parmentier (France), Roy Evans (President, ITTF and representative of the Swaythling Club of

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Guests comprised ETTA officials Tom Blunn, Charles Wyles and Derek Tremayne, Mr. & Mrs. Emyln Jones (Director of Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre), Mr. & Mrs. Carr (Dunlops), Mr. Carter (Dunlops), Mr. Webb (Halex) and Ronny Hook.



Emyln Jones has a tale for Peggy Franks. Listening in (from l. to r.) Jean Mercier, Jimmie McCormack and Monsieur Parmentier.

—Photo by Cliff Darley



Another story-teller is Ivan Andreadis with one to delight Mary Wright.

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SWAYTHLING CLUB

Mounted 8" x 6" copies of the photos taken at the Club's reception at Crystal Palace during the English Open can be ordered from the ETТА office, address on Page 2, at a cost of 15/- each, including mounting, packing and posting. Cash with order, please.

One photo shows Club members only, the other one shows members and guests. When ordering, please state which picture you want.

E.T.T.A. "100 CLUB"

A most enjoyable Dinner was held after the finals of the English Open on February 28th, when the newly elected Chairman of the club, Ron Crayden, introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Emlyn Jones.

Amongst the 75 diners present were representatives from eight foreign Associations, including Roy Evans and Jean Mercier, respectively, President and Treasurer of the I.T.T.F.

The 'members only' draw resulted as follows: £100, C. M. Wyles; £50, L. C. T. Davis; £10, Mrs. H. R. Crevald.

Membership of the club now totals 88, of which 21 have joined this season, leaving only 12 vacancies. By a coincidence there are just twelve counties not represented in the club, so how about it you people in Cornwall, Cumberland, Durham, Leics., Norfolk, Northants., Notts., Shrops., Somerset, Suffolk, Wilts., and Worcs! Albert Shipley at the E.T.T.A. office will gladly supply all details.

Master Points Scheme

BY virtue of their performances in the English Open, Jill Shirley and Chester Barnes earned sufficient points to take them from County to Tournament Master, the springboard for the final step of joining Denis Neale and Mary Wright as National Masters.

Chester earned 2,000 points for reaching the semi-final and joins Trevor Taylor and Ralph Gunnion on the penultimate rung.

Twenty-five other Open tournaments have made points available this season and support for the Scheme is spreading. The number of Club Masters is getting very near to No. 1,000 for whom a prize of £10 is waiting.

Any league interested in taking part in the scheme has only to contact Albert Shipley at the ETТА office for full details.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Additional to normal events	Organising Secretary
Apr. 11/12	—East of England Open, Scunthorpe, Lincs.		Mr. K. Dewar, 133 Eastgate, Louth, Lincs.
.. 12	—Sussex Junior Open, Assembly Hall, Worthing.	U-15 BS GS BD GD U-13 BS GS	Mr. F. Raynor, 32 Frobisher Way, Worthing, Sussex.
.. 18	—Gwent Open, Standard Telephones and Cables Canteen, Corporation Road, Newport, Mon.	JBS JGS	Mr. G. E. Motlow, 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon., NPT 8NX.
.. 18/19	—Slough Junior Open, Slough College, William Street, Slough.	U-15 BS GS BD GD XD U-13 BS GS U-11 BS GS	Mr. J. A. Pacitto, 73 Bexley Street, Windsor, Berks.
May 8/9	—Crescent Junior (Girls) Open, Bowaters Social and Recreation Club, Sittingbourne, Kent.	Inter Singles, Jnr. Singles and Doubles U-15 S & D U-13 S & D U-12 S U-10 S	Mr. F. G. Mannooch, 216 Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.
.. 23/24	—1st Dagenham Open, Sports Centre Wood Lane Dagenham Essex.	MVS JBS JGS	Miss M. E. Harden, 173 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex. Closing date: 15-4-70

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ENGLISH SCHOOLS T.T.A.

4th NATIONAL SCHOOL-TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Geo. R. Yates

LED by No. 5 ranked England junior Michael Read, **Plaistow Grammar School** captured the Boys Under-19 title in the 4th National School-Team Championships held at the Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, on March 15th.

"Crunch" match for the winners was in opposition to St. Mary's College, Middlesbrough—a quartet spear-headed by England's No. 1 Junior, Nicky Jarvis

Jarvis duly obliged to win his two sets, against Read and Michael Locke, but the only other win obtained by the Yorkshire team was Tony Martin's defeat of Peter Firbanks.

Thus, with a 5-3 win over St. Mary's and a 6-2 conquest of Northampton's Trinity Grammar

Plaistow took possession of the Norman Cook Cup previously held by Moseley Grammar, Birmingham.

In the counterpart Girls' event, **Newbury High**, after beating East C.S., Sittingbourne, 6-2, figured in a 4-all draw with Thoresby H.S., Hull, whose "A" classified junior, Valerie King, lost to both Jacqueline Smith and Joyce Turner. So too did Thoresby's No. 2 Beryl Lillford.

Having beaten East by the same 6-2 margin, the ratio of games won to games lost determined the passage of the Claude Kichenside Cup from Newham's Rectory Manor to Newbury by the ratio of 23-14 to 21-15.

Great was the jubilation in the Lancastrian camp when **Burnley Wood** retained the Boys' U-15 title with a 4-all draw with Birmingham's Turves Green having previously beaten St. Helena, Colchester, 6-2

Burnley's hero was Brett Cooper who was undefeated in his four sets and inflicted the only defeat suffered by Birmingham's Jeffrey Nix. Back then went the Leach-Carrington Cup to East Lancashire carried off in triumph by team leader Alan Magnall.

Taking over the "Mick Betts Memorial" Cup from South Shields' St. Cuthbert's were four fair maids

of Kent from **Westland Secondary School, Sittingbourne**. They had 5-3 wins over both Holly Lodge, Liverpool and Brandwood, Birmingham in the U-15 Girls' competition. Architects of victory were Julie Holtam and Allyson Chesson, both winning their four sets, and Marion Clout, who obtained one win in each match.

Winners of the T. Austin Harrison Cup (Boys' U-13) were **Plaistow G.S.** with an 8-0 slaying of Stephenson Hall, Billingham and a 6-2 defeat of Brandwood. Undefeated for the winners were Peter Hunt and Barry Neil.

Retaining the U-13 Girls' title, **Holly Lodge** took repossession of the Hartshill Cup following 5-3 wins over both Nechells, Eliot St., Birmingham and Plaistow G.S.

Gill Rowbotham had four wins to her credit for the Liverpoolians, all in straight games.

Due acknowledgement was afforded Mrs. Dolly Harmer who donated the Irene Elliott Cup, in memory of her mother who did a great deal to introduce young children to the game, and for which a new competition, for the Under-11's, was introduced.

Open to boys, girls or mixed teams, the first winners were **Godwin J.M.S., Forest Gate** whose team of Richard Howlett, Trevor Marsh, Barry Shapiro and Stephen Forsythe dropped only one game in 16 sets.

Apart from the Irene Elliott Cup, which was presented by Mrs. Harmer, all other trophies were handed over by the General Secretary of the E.T.T.A., Derek Tremayne, who together with other E.T.T.A. officials, were warmly welcomed by Chairman J. A. Maxwell, Esq., B.Sc. (Econ).

Event secretary was John Wright and the referee, Ian Crickmer.

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the E.S.T.T.A. will be held at Hartshill High School, Nuneaton, on Sunday, May 10th, commencing at 2 p.m. All enquiries should be made to the Association's Hon. Secretary, G. N. Gurney, Esq., M.A., Guildhall Orchard, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex.

Results:

Boys

U-19: 1. Plaistow Grammar School, Newham; 2. St. Mary's College, Middlesbrough; 3. Trinity Grammar School, Birmingham.

U-15: 1. Burnley Wood C.S. School; 2. Turves Green Secondary, Birmingham; 3. St. Helena S.C., Colchester.

U-13: Plaistow Grammar School, Newham; 2. Stephenson Hall School, Billingham; 3. Brandwood School, Birmingham.

Girls

U-19: 1. Newbury High School; 2. Thoresby High School, Hull; 3. East Secondary School, Sittingbourne.

U-15: 1. Westland Secondary School, Sittingbourne; 2. Holly Lodge High School, Liverpool; 3. Brandwood School, Birmingham.

U-13: 1. Holly Lodge High School, Liverpool; 2. Plaistow Grammar School, Newham; 3. Nechells, Eliot Street, Birmingham.

Mixed

U-11: 1. Godwin J.M.S., Forest Gate, Newham; 2. Barnes Road C.P. School, South Shields; 3. Rookery Road P.S., Birmingham.

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M.N.A.H., M.H.

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And after a particularly gruelling session at the table there is nothing more exhilarating than a first-class massage. You can, of course, receive it from a Masseur . . . but you will pay highly for it in terms of finance!

The first requirement of massage is to understand that there are two forms — a dry-heat massage and the wet-lubricating form. The former is designed to remove aches and pains and is particularly valuable in cases where players suffer from rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago and allied physical conditions. The technique for effective alleviation is to massage morning and evening — and always about an hour before taking part in a table tennis session. And if this therapy is carried out twice daily for a month prior to a Tournament then, providing your skill is good, you should have an excellent chance of gaining a Cup!

The dry-heat massage can take many forms . . . infra-red heat, heat applied by means of an electric pad or massaging-in a stimulating liniment or similar preparation.

In the latter case AVOID all chemical preparations sold by pharmacists . . . these products create irritation, blistering and skin diseases. And most of them are fiery to say the least.

One of the most effective and safe stimulant — which lasts for hours — is Wintergreen either in the form of

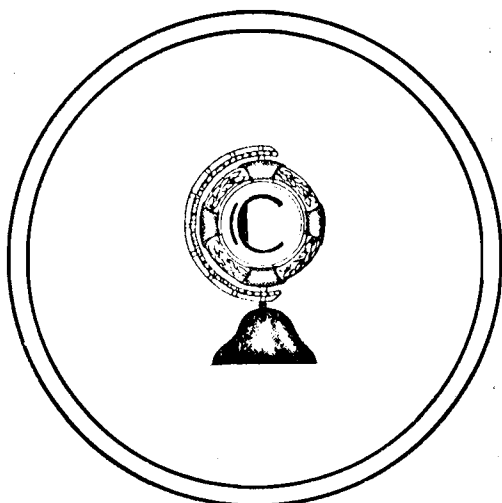
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Massage your way cont.

an oil or ointment. It is my favourite for general muscular weakness of the wrist, arms, legs and thighs.

But let us consider the merits of those devices so popular in bringing heat to the body. There are numerous highly-expensive infra-red lamps and vibratory massage devices. Apart from the initial expense there is the "running cost" which is high in most cases.

There is, however, now available an Infra-Red Heat/Light Bulb: It operates for 4 hours at 1 unit of electricity and costs £1. It plugs into any ordinary light fitting and believe me it promotes a soothing heat . . . whilst providing illumination simultaneously. It is not readily available through retailers since it was designed for those who believe in natural methods of healing.

In the case of Vibrators, there is an excellent battery-operated Personal Vibrator costing 59/6d. It rejuvenates tired muscles and — for ladies — removes wrinkles from the face. It is also of considerable value, coupled with herbal therapy, in promoting energy, "drive" . . . and combating run-down conditions.

One of the more recent and lesser-known natural forms of massage is the VIKI-THERM Massage Cushion

. . . again only obtainable through natural health channels. It was designed for the treatment of rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago and allied conditions. It can also be used with considerable gain for slimming since it acts on the fleshy tissues. It has a vibratory massage action though it is a little expensive . . . but good.

And finally in the mechanised vibratory field comes a battery-operated Massager costing 69/6d. It can be used anywhere . . . even a few minutes before a Tournament and without anyone knowing. In fact I use it frequently. It makes a game really feel good!

The second form of massage is the wet-therapy . . . and for those whose muscles require limbering up I doubt whether any mechanical aid can compete with this therapy. It consists of massaging morning and evening the entire musculature area with WARM Olive oil, allowing it to penetrate deeply into the joints. It is a joint-lubricant and many doctors have recently been experimenting with this technique. It is one of the oldest and most effective massage therapies known.

You CAN be a top-notch . . . the massage way.

Readers can obtain free advice and assistance by sending S.A.E. to this contributor c/o Table Tennis News.

62-YEAR-OLD BEATS 14-YEAR-OLD BUT LOSES TO 12-YEAR OLD

It happened in a 4th Division match in the Wandsworth League on February 23rd. K. E. Woodard first played David Bangerter (No. 9 Surrey Junior boy) and lost -19, -18. David had an "untakeable" service which he used when he needed a point.

Veteran Woodward's next set was against Gillian Macrae (No. 3 Surrey Junior girl) which he won -15, 21, 21 after trailing 15-20 in the second and having led 19-16 in the decider.

Unfortunately he had to "hate" his opponent in order to win but both are great little players reports Mr. Woodward—since turned 63—and he will watch their progress with interest.



As we go to press comes the sad news of the death of Richard Bergmann.

A tribute will appear in our May issue.

Poet's Corner

*The colour is important, so he states,
Identity the problem, sad, but true.*

*Jim Beckley says, the present garb he hates
and pleads for any brighter shade or hue.*

*The Counties should, of course, no trouble spare
to satisfy the viewers of the scene
with colours to identify them there.
Like Nottingham should always be in green.*

*Imagination's all we need I'm sure,
to make the Inter-counties quite a dream
For Cheshire, in a shade of 'cheese' would awe
with Devon in a deep, but clotted cream.*

*Should Leicester wear a hunting shade of pink
With Yorkshire in a pudding sort of hue?
With Worcester in a 'saucy' kit we think,
With Oxford, Cambridge, in their shades of blue.*

*It's red, we're sure, to match their bleeding Herts,
A shade of Southend mud for Essex say,
The mind, with all these fancies, flirts,
spectators only now in drab array.*

*Would Sussex like a regal set in Mauve?
and Beds., a boudoir shade of rose,
the visitors would flock again to Hove
no longer disillusioned and morose.*

*At Stafford's wedgewood blue they'd have to stare
and Umpires too, would want to join the trend
and swingingly, their loudest blazers wear
on coloured television . . . that's the end.*

*So, Hoffman, Perry and the rest take note,
your clothing now, too drab to suit the nation,
Mike Johns will quickly get the vote
if he produces clothes with inspiration.*

Don Kenny.

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ESSEX

by Harry Walker

GIBBS ON HIS WAY BACK

GREAT news for Essex followers — Stuart Gibbs is on his way back from Australia — married! — and Trevor Taylor has now officially expressed the wish to be considered by Essex for next season.

What talent the County selectors will have at their disposal with Barnes, Brown and Stevens making up just about the strongest male quintet in the country.

Shelagh Hession seems to play in more Open Tournaments than anybody I know and recently applied for one of the vacant places to go to Moscow for the European Championships.

This application has been granted by the ETTA and she will be travelling with the English party. Good luck to her, she deserves it.

Fairbairn Boys' Club (Barking) recently hit the headlines when they competed in the Individual Championships of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs and won every event.

Johnny Holton was the U-19 singles winner and took the doubles with Brian Cox. Likewise, in the U-17 events, Mickie Locke won the singles and doubles with Johnny Whipps. U-15 singles winner was Jeffrey White.

Holton and Locke now go forward to compete in the national finals to be held at Crystal Palace later in the year.

This accomplishment can be understood when it is realised that over 40 boys attend this famous club on four nights every week. Even Chester Barnes finds time to go there now and again.

Having won their division, Essex Juniors are looking forward to the Junior Challenge matches to be played on April 25/26. Prior to, the "Essex Shepherd" (Alan) is hoping to arrange a friendly match with a Boys' team from the Birmingham Schools' TTA.

Belated congratulations to Susan Beckwith and Janet Hellaby on their selection to attend the Federal German Open — and their nomination for the English Open. Now another Essex boy has made the grade — Robert Hellaby—who gains his first "cap" against the Welsh Juniors at Aberdare on April 4.

The Braintree League are holding their Individual Championships at Crittalls Social Club on April 10 and the Ilford League are staging theirs at the North Ilford LTC on April 11.

East London are to run their Closed Tournament at Chingford on Sunday, April 19. Organising Secretary is Len Tolvin of 10 Chadwick Road, Leytonstone, E.11.

ESSEX OPEN

BARNES BEATEN

Outstanding feature of the Essex Open, played at Harlow on February 21/22 was the great win by **Ron Penfold** over Chester Barnes in the final, and Malcolm Sugden in the semis. This win must surely put him

in line for international honours as he has already beaten Denis Neale in a County match and Alan Hydes in the Middlesex Open. Chester beat David Brown in the other semi.



RON PENFOLD

Photo by John Heritage

RESULTS

M.S.: PENFOLD bt Barnes -13, 17, 17.

W.S.—Semi-finals:
J. Williams (Sussex) bt D. Simpson (Essex).
L. Radford (Essex) bt S. Hession (Essex).

Final: WILLIAMS bt Radford.

M.D.: D. BROWN/R. STEVENS (Essex) bt E. Coster (Herts)/M. Sudgen (Middx).

W.D.: HESSION/WILLIAMS bt Radford/Simpson.

X.D.: SUGDEN/RADFORD bt Barnes/Simpson.

Y.S.—(U-21): S. BECKWITH (Essex) bt. S. Kavalierou (Sussex).

V.S.: S. NORTON (Essex) bt L. Hoffman (Middx).

(Black mark Harry for losing the individual scores—hence the abbreviated results.—Ed.).

NORTHANTS

by Gwyn Powell

FIRST TITLE FOR WELLINGBOROUGH

THE promising Wellingborough juniors, John Moloney, Steve Crawley, Pete Crawley and Andrew Wallis, have been doing great things this season in both the South-East Midlands League and the Carter Cup competition. In the former it was only the strong North Herts team that deprived them of an outright title after Wellingborough had put the pressure on by setting them to get 20 points from their last two matches to win the championship. This they just failed to do by dropping a solitary point against Bedford

and so Wellingborough share their first-ever South-East Midlands Title.

Another junior team to do well in the latter part of the season was Trinity Grammar School, Northampton. U-19's, consisting of Nick Haycock, Dave Berridge, Paul Blincow and Alan Counsell, which fought through to the National Finals of the English Schools' T.T.A.'s Team Championships only to be beaten into 3rd place by teams containing players of international standard.

The Northampton League's annual Dance and Trophy presentation is rapidly becoming one of the social events of the season and this year it will again be held at the Salon Ballroom, Franklins Gardens, Northampton on Tuesday, April 28th, with music provided by Nat Temple and his orchestra. Tickets costing only 12/6d are available from R. W. Allen, 12 Weston Way, Northampton and a warm welcome is extended to all players and friends, old and new.

On the coaching scene, Doug Gwillim becomes the first Northampton player to be awarded the E.T.T.A. one star diploma and the second in the county. He continues to put in a lot of hard work among clubs in the area and also at the Y.M.C.A. coaching centre, in addition to playing regularly for the Y.M.C.A. 'A' team at present lying second in the Premier division and representing Northampton in the S.E. Midlands League. Another Northampton player deserving congratulations is Dick Ingle who won the veteran's title at the S.E. Midlands tournament.

The Daventry league, which is going from strength to strength, is now anxious to take part in representative matches against other leagues and the secretary, Bob Boughton, would like to restart the Northants County league which gave up the ghost several years ago.

SUSSEX

by John Woodford

ROGER SAVES SUSSEX

IN a cliff-hanger of a premier division match at Littlehampton on March 21st an outstanding performance by Brighton's Roger Chandler led to Sussex beating Northumberland 5-4 and avoiding relegation.

Roger led with the ace of trumps—a win over England No. 6 Brian Burn 23-21, 21-14 in the first set of the evening. Peter Williams followed by stopping Alan Ransome. Northumberland then came back into the match when John Clarke lost to Stuart Lennie and the mixed pair, Clarke and Judy Williams, were all at sea against Ransome and Cynthia Duncombe.

The mid-match climax was the men's doubles when Sussex (as it appeared later) found themselves only two points from relegation. In the third, Burn and Lennie recovered from five-point deficits twice to reach 20-all. Chandler and Williams just pulled themselves together to win 24-22 after losing four match points.

Judy Williams then made her contribution with an impressive 21-14,

21-15 win over Mrs. Duncombe in which Judy's winning hits, seven back-hand and three forehands were all killers — every hit from the table was a winner. Burn's defeat of Williams at 21-19 in the third and Ransome's destruction of Clarke led to a 4-4 climax with Chandler to face Lennie.

Roger is the calmest man in any crisis. With icy determination the Brighton man piled on the loop-drives which provided too many problems for Lennie who was beaten 21-10, 21-16 leaving both Sussex and Northumberland in the premier division should Northumberland II win the play-off.

With the Sussex senior selectors still shy of revealing their ranking lists we can only assume that they are watching with interest the great battle for the women's No. 2 spot between Suzanna Kavallierou, (Littlehampton), Diane Gard (Eastbourne) and Carol Randall (Uckfield).

These three "fillies" have this season provided a whole host of exciting battles on the table, especially when they have opposed each other. All three are hitters and counter-hitters with Carol having the advantage of being able to drop back on a very useful slow game whilst Diane and Suzanna keep on hitting and praying for the reflex advantages whether skilful or fortunate. Carol has now almost finished her term as a junior, slightly behind the other two in recent results but with age on her side.

Crawley players are, on the whole, finishing the campaign quite strongly. The success of Terry Riley and John Clarke (who also has league and Wilmott connections with the Brighton league) in the Sussex closed men's doubles, has given cause for celebration in the New Town and they are rightly proud of the fact that a further upsurge of junior talent by such players as Michael Juett, Terry Taylor and Alan and Alison Terry has led to these players making a number of appearances for Sussex juniors.

All Sussex will be hoping that some of these players make senior county grade — even Clarke with his experience in Lancashire and the northern circuit has found the going in the premier division mighty tough. Head of the "junior prospects league" at this time is still Stephen Marley (Bognor) whose performance in winning the Worthing senior title at 15, is still in my view, the best show of the season — and, he still has two seasons as a junior.

SUSSEX CLOSED

Results:—
M.S. Semi-finals:
H. Skuballa bt P. Williams -10, 20, 13; R. Chandler bt J. Clarke 14, 11.
Final:
Chandler bt Skuballa 9, 12.

W.S.:
J. Williams bt S. Kavallierou 13, 13.

M.D.:
Clarke/T. Riley bt A. Allen/Chandler 18, 14.

W.D.:
D. Gard/J. Sheppard bt S. Franklin/J. Bishop 16, 11.

X.D.:
C. Monson / Gard bt D. Holman / Sheppard -15, 15, 18.

KENT

John Tulloch

FOCUS ON NORTH-WEST KENT

ONE of Kent's most lively Associations, North-West Kent, is celebrating its 21st birthday this year. Founded early in 1948 out of the Dartford and District League, it then boasted one women's and four men's divisions, made up of 48 teams from 25 member clubs.

They held their first closed championships in February 1949 and the awards were presented by Sam Bartram, the then famous Charlton Athletic AFC goalkeeper.

Today, there are 116 teams from 44 clubs taking part. Not only do officials work hard but many of them find time to assist in both County and National affairs.

President is Conrad Jaschke, present Chairman of the ETTA and current President of Kent County. Chairman is Mr. R. Spittles.

Hon. Treasurer, Bob Groves, also serves the County in the same capacity. Hon. Secretary is Ken Daniels, also a member of the County Executive and a member of the Selection Committee. Vice-Chairman and Publicity Officer is Mr. C. G. Dyke who is very keen to improve press coverage. Although he succeeds in his local paper, like the rest of us, he looks forward to the day when the Nationals will appoint T.T. types to be their Sports Editors.

Highlights of the many special functions arranged in this celebration year, were a Premier Division county match, against Surrey, and a special Anniversary Handicap Team knockout competition. A special award is to be made to the player who wins most sets in the first division this season.

Climax of the celebrations will be a Dinner Dance at the R.A.S.C. Restaurant, Woolwich, on May 1st when the principal guest will be "Bill" Vint, Hon. Secretary of the I.T.T.F.

DERBYSHIRE

by Walter Reeves

NOT BENEFICIAL

NOW that Denis Neale is a Derbyshire resident, and seemingly has a difference of opinion with his native Yorkshire, there is talk of the England No. 1 playing for Derbyshire next season.

Whilst this may be very good for Derbyshire, I am not at all sure that the standard of play will be of benefit to a player now ranked No. 7 in Europe. Derbyshire's players are not yet of Premier Division standard despite a wealth of talent in the Chesterfield area.

Amongst the men playing in our 2nd team we have no-one likely to oust any of the present first team players and the present crop of juniors do not appear to have a budding champion in their midst. So, unless we manage to find some ready-made player from somewhere within the County. I am afraid we must

spend at least another two seasons in 2nd Division Midland.

The County Championships are in an advanced stage of preparation and are being run by a sub-committee of the County Executive. The venue will be as last season — in Matlock, with national umpire Tony Chatwin in charge of affairs.

Derby have played their Individual tournament at their new H.Q. and, thanks to Arthur Morgan aided by Mike Yallop, it proved a great success.

Doug Foulds is once again men's singles champion, beating last season's title holder Chris Francis. Highlight of the finals night was the handicap singles in which Foulds took on Peter Jackson, giving him 18 points start in 21 and won 22-20, 22-20!

- Results:
 M.S.: D. Foulds bt C. Francis 11, -14, 9.
 W.S.: M. Deakin bt D. Hollis 17, 16.
 J.S.: P. Madin bt I. Warner 12, 14.
 V.S.: E. A. Whitfield bt W. Reeves -11, 18, 14.
 C.S.: M. Yallop bt I. Warner 15, 12.
 M.D.: Foulds/D. Stills bt D. Donnelly/Francis 18, 11.
 X.D.: Francis/Deakin bt P. Whitehall/D. Hollis 14, 19.

Leading positions in the County League are:—

	Division 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesterfield	5	4	1	0	37	13	8
Matlock	6	4	0	2	37	23	8
Derby	5	3	0	2	31	19	6

	Division 2						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Matlock II	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Glossop	3	3	0	0	30	0	6
Alfreton II	4	1	2	1	16	24	4

	Juniors						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesterfield	4	2	2	0	23	17	6
Derby	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Burton	2	1	0	1	9	11	2

Topping the averages table with 100% returns are Chesterfield's John Wallhead, Colin Deaton and Derek Marples. Doug Foulds is placed fourth with an average of 91.7% having lost one set from 12 played.

WESTERN LEAGUE BULLETIN

by Grove Motlow

SWINDON IN FULL CHASE

Maximums by C. Judson and D. James enabled Plymouth to pull off a good win over Swindon "B" who subsequently took a 9-0 pounding from Exeter.

Assuming the role of avengers, Swindon "A" put matters right by beating Exeter 5-4 from a trailing 3-4 position. Fight-back wins for Tony Wolff and F. Bailey over Paul Stone and Mike Putland clinched the victory, Wolff completing a treble that took in Mike Rattue.

Another win, making it three-in-a-row for Swindon "A", followed their visit to Taunton where they were victorious by 6-3 with M. Andrews securing a good maximum.

Taunton, at home to Newport, were beaten 7-2 with the visitors' John Bloomer showing a welcome return to form, winning his three sets.

At home, Exeter were beaten 6-3 by league leaders Bristol whose John Wise was in brilliant form winning three, including a fine win over Rattue -18, 9, 7! A remarkable performance against Exeter's star player.

In the Women's Division, the strong Newbury team have equal points with Bristol but have two matches in hand.

Exeter visited Devizes and won an exciting match 5-4. Joan Ware proved an adequate substitute for Pam Mortimer losing only to Miss A. Boyce whilst Valeria Addicott also did well incurring one loss to Mrs. M. Alexander.

Newbury had to fight all the way to clinch victory in their home match with Devizes and thanks to Mrs. H. Masters they just won 5-4, Mrs. Masters winning the last vital set against Kath Waters to secure yet another maximum for herself.

Still feeling the loss of Elizabeth Jones, Newport were beaten 6-3 at home by Exeter when young Avril Binnions found the opposition much too strong for her. It was certainly a baptism under fire but Stella Jones played well to beat Val Addicott and Mrs. Spray.

Pam Mortimer, returning to the Exeter team, had her usual maximum, and the Devon team, after a bad start, have now won their last four matches.

Leading positions:

	Men						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
Bristol	9	7	2	54	27	14	
Swindon	8	6	2	42	30	12	
Newport	7	5	2	44	19	10	
Exeter	8	5	3	43	29	10	
Weston	7	4	3	40	23	8	
Newbury	7	4	3	34	29	8	

	Women						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts	
Bristol	9	6	3	58	23	12	
Newbury	7	6	1	31	23	12	
Exeter	8	4	4	30	42	8	

NORFOLK

by J. S. Penny

TITLE REGAINED AFTER 15 YEARS!

THE NORFOLK CLOSED Championships, at King's Lynn, saw Tony Hipperson beat the defending champion Stan Honor in the semis and go on to avenge his defeat by Phillip Graver in the Norwich League final. Hipperson regained the title he held fifteen years ago. Mrs. Edna Fletcher (formerly Edna Allen) retained her crown, and with Mrs. Joan Rodwell also the Women's Doubles. The Victor Ludorum was shared by Mrs. Betty Cassell and Phillip Graver.

RESULTS

- M.S.: A. HIPPERSON (N) bt P. Graver (N) 12, -12, 19.
 W.S.: E. FLETCHER (Y) bt B. Cassell (KL) 15, 17.
 V.S.: L. HOLDOM (N) bt A. Cropper (Y) 8, 18.

- M.D.: GRAVER/C. FIELDS (Y) bt L. Holdom/S. Honor (N) -17, 7, 17.
 W.D.: FLETCHER/J. RODWELL (Y) bt Cassell/V. Trayler (N) 11, -18, 17.
 X.D.: R. MITCHAM / CASSELL (N) bt Graver/Trayler 11, 16.

The NORFOLK JUNIOR CLOSED was held at Thorpe Youth Centre, and provided almost a clean sweep for Yarmouth, with John Fuller beating the holder, Peter Vertigan, and also taking the under-15 title. Jean Allen of Yarmouth became Girls' Champion:—

BOYS

- (U-13): P. DURRANT (Y) bt M. Hemp 13, 15.
 (U-15): J. FULLER (Y) bt A. Beard (N) 9, 14.
 (U-17): J. FULLER (Y) bt P. Vertigan (Fak) 18, -23, 13.

GIRLS

- (U-13): SANDRA MANSI (Y) bt J. Thomas (Den) 18, -20, 20.
 (U-15): LESLEY READ (Y) bt C. Mayhew (Den) 10, -12, 21.
 (U-17): JEAN ALLEN (Y) bt L. Read (Y) -18, 19, 15.

The NORWICH LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS were held at the Drill Hall, Aylsham Road.

- M.S.: P. GRAVER bt A. Hipperson 16, -18, 13.
 W.S.: D. YOUNGS bt J. Youngs -11, 22, 23.
 V.S.: KEN EDWARDS bt R. Cooper 17, -19, 14.

In the WYMONDHAM LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS, Stephen Bassett retained his title — but Peter and Roger Meadows surrendered the doubles they had held six times.

RESULTS

- M.S.: S. BASSETT bt Bob King 18, 12, 18.
 M.D.: A. HIPPERSON/S. ROWLES bt P. and R. Meadows 15, 10, 11.
 Junior S.: P. MAYBURY bt Johnny Scent -16, 18, 9.

GREAT YARMOUTH LEAGUE Divisional Singles titles went to:— Premier: P. Graver; I: Peter White; II: D. George; III: R. Lee; IV: P. McDermott.

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YORKSHIRE

by **Cliff Darley**

NEALE FOR WALTERS?

Denis Neale for Derbyshire in exchange for Sandra Walters is the current topic of conversation around the County at the moment, a question that can only be resolved by the players themselves when the time comes around for opting.

Linda Bashford, ordered by her doctor to take a minimum of two months rest, is suffering from being unable to cope with the excessive demands of matches, physical exercises and practice given out by Alan Ransome.

The County Committee are more than concerned about the health and welfare of both Linda and Nicky Jarvis who is heading the same way. To play in more than one competitive match at the same time seems to be common practice in North Yorkshire.

Northern Staff Coach, Peter Simpson, is at present (time permitting) writing a book on coaching aimed at the younger end. It will be interesting to read his views on the subject, especially with a northern slant.

Barnsley North End, who celebrated their 35th birthday last August, came perilously close to extinction when, with only a few weeks to go before the start of this season, they were given notice to quit their Lundwood Hotel premises. Alan Cook, club secretary had since its inception in 1934, was offered an old warehouse.

Structurally sound, a great deal of indoor renovation had to be tackled before this sixth home was declared satisfactory and initial thoughts of it being temporary have now been dispelled.

In Bradford, it was Hermits "B" who avenged their "A" team's cup k.o. by Sedbergh. Next to the bottom of Div. 1, Graham Carr, John Troughton and David Weatherhead (all from Harrogate) saw Hermits "B" through to the semi-finals.

Pontefract TT Club (first formed in 1927) have moved into a new home. After a nomadic existence, they are now sharing a room with the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Stars went down like ninepins in the Hull and E. Riding Divisional Championships with both Alan Fletcher and Clive Pollard falling to North Hull's Alan Hutchinson. Young Mike Wright accounted for

the much-fancied Pete Bowsley.

With the score at 50-all, the Sheffield & District League were beaten by the Sheffield Football Referees in the dying seconds of a Sports Quiz on Radio Sheffield. Without devling into record books, do you know who won the women's singles in the 1937 World Championships in Vienna? Without batting an eyelid, John Hatfield did.

All Yorkshire mourns the loss to table tennis of former ETTA President, Austin Harrison, and sympathy is hereby extended, through this column, to his widow and family.

When the British Rail national team was picked to travel to Yugoslavia to compete in the Railways' European TT Championships, top name in the women's team of three was that of Hull's Lynda Sutton.

Also journeying to Sarajevo will be Scottish international Jimmy Dow and those two Cheshire stalwarts Lou and Mrs. Moran.

In the Hull Closed Championships, Lynda Sutton celebrated by winning the women's singles title and making, in all, five final appearances. The Newland High School girl finished up on the winning side in all three ladies' events.

Tony Clayton won the men's singles title with a 21-18, 21-15 victory over Alan Fletcher, the latter overcoming Neil Fulstow in the boys' event.

LINCOLN HANDICAP

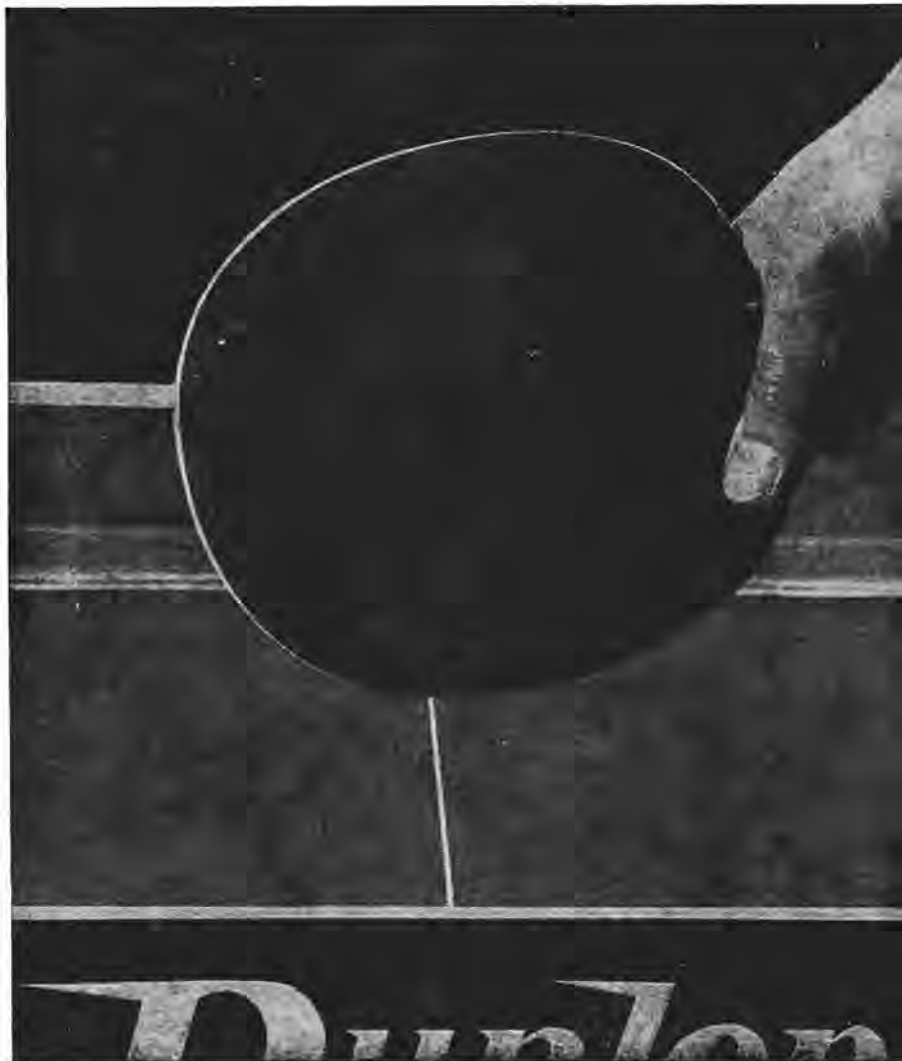
DRAW 1970

OUR thanks are due to the 15 Counties and 40 leagues who have supported this venture, resulting in a total income of over £2,500. This means that £1,250 will be handed back as rebate to these Associations — a valuable contribution to the finance of table tennis.

Winner of the £250 first prize was T. Woodgate, c/o 6a Stockers Lane, Kingfield, Woking, Surrey, who drew the 100-9 winning horse New Chapter.

Second prize of £50 was won by E. Tydeman, 15 Chapel Close, Rainham, Kent, with his horse Prince De Galles and Brookway, the horse finishing third, earned £25 for W. E. Austin, Workshop Supervisor, P.O. Garage, Station Road, Belmont, Surrey.

For drawing a horse 25 other ticket holders have each been forwarded £1.



Where were the '69 world championships held?

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LEICESTERSHIRE

by Phil Reid

SURPRISE CLOSED WINNER

THE Leicestershire Closed Championships brought a surprise winner in the men's singles in the shape of Colin Truman. Ranked No. 7 in the County, losing games in the Leicester League 2nd Division, and struggling in the Town team, the Melton left-hander gave a wonderful performance in beating first Andy Holdsworth in the semis and Charlie Jacques in the final.

A popular winner and a great worker for the game, Colin's win will please his many friends throughout the country. With Charlie Jacques he took the men's doubles against the more aggressive but less consistent pair of John Illife and Graham Hughes.

Illife was more successful in the mixed when, with Jose Rogers as his partner, they beat juniors Paul Randall and Janet Hamer in the final. Paul, in fact, appeared in five finals!

Most exciting final was that between Randall and Holdsworth, the latter's attack just getting him home to retain his title. In the intermediate singles, Paul had a great 3-game set with Maurice Newman before taking the title.

The U-15 singles, won last season by Clive Stretton, returned to Loughborough in Peter Angrave's hands. Peter beat Karen Rogers in the final to complete the Leicestershire U-15 "grand slam"—the YMCA Open, the Loughborough Closed and the Leics Closed.

Karen took the girls' singles with a win over Janet Billson, and Paul Randall and Alan Philpott added the junior doubles to go with the YMCA Open title after a good final match with Andy Holdsworth and David Lever. Pat Kilsby was a double winner. She was too strong for Sally Elsdon in the Women's singles final but Sally did exceptionally well to reach this stage.

Partnered by Glenys Odams, Pat was equally successful in the women's doubles, with Janet Hamer and Susan Baxter their final opponents. John Bryant retained his veteran's title with a good win over John Ellis. The restricted singles went to Paul Randall who accounted for Alan Mould in the final.

The Loughborough Closed had a big entry and it proved a busy day for Chris Brewer, winner of the men's singles and intermediate. He partnered Terry Hall and Trudie Fowkes in the men's and mixed doubles and added wins in both events to collect four titles.

One of the best finals was the women's singles, contested by two 14-year-olds, Anita Stevenson and Janet Billson, with the former just getting home. Clive Stretton beat Terry Jeffcott in the junior singles with Peter Angrave taking the U-15 singles. Phil Jacques had a good final with Ted Dixon before taking the veteran's title.

Paul Newman had no trouble in taking the Coalville First Division title. It simply became a matter of who he would play in the final, and it turned out to be Mike Newton.

Contrasting news on two of Hinckley's Midland League team. Maurice Newman has recently married — all the best from all of us, Maurice! Ernest McLeish has had an operation for appendicitis. "Mac" assures me he will be back in action again next season.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

by Leslie Constable

IN a season that promised so much, but produced so little, the County finished their programme with a 5-all draw against Northants. It was, however, a big improvement on last season when only one point was secured! Alan Ponder was the most successful player, with Carol Chapman, Stephen Andrews and Ken Muhr winning more than they lost.

For the record:—

	Played	Won
Ponder	10	8
Andrews	6	4
Muhr	4	3
Barry Wilson	6	1
Tony Littlechild	4	0
Carol Chapman	5	4

Apart from John Willis's brilliant victory over Ian Horsham, in the match against Essex, the Junior performances have been most inept.

Individual averages:—

	Played	Won
Willis	8	2
Carl Dellar	12	2
Peter Laughlin	10	1
John Suchowski	2	0
Eddy Day	4	0
Janet Ferguson	6	2

In the South-East Midlands League, Cambridge City have again won the Men's Division without loss. John Thurston, Andrews, Littlechild and Gerald Coteman have been the usual side. Against Wisbech, an experimental side was chosen and Maurice Ewles made his debut and won both his sets. Paul Chisnall, returning after a few years absence, won one in a 7-3 City victory. The City Juniors overwhelmed the Wisbech lads 10-0.

When beating North Herts 8-2, at Leichworth, Thurston lost his 100% record when beaten by M. Harper.

The women did well to hold Ely to a draw, Sally Browning beating Closed Champion, Carol Chapman.

In their division the Veterans will finish second.

In our coaching rally at St. Neots, my great-nephew Neil Constable, aged 13, obtained a "Gold Award" in the E.T.T.A. Proficiency Scheme but two weeks later Paul Day of Soham, aged 11, obtained his to become the youngest player to do so. This boy is a bright prospect and won his three for Ely, against Cambridge Juniors, the same day as he obtained his "gold".

So far the number of Cambs awards in this scheme are as follows: GOLD 14, SILVER 61, BRONZE 237.

The following Cambs players have obtained their 1 star Coaching Diplomas: Keith Chapman (Manor Youth Club), David Alexander and David Jarvis (Y.M.C.A.), John Sell and Barry Wilson (Wisbech).

Club Coach badges were awarded to: Jenny Williams (Chesterton Girls School), John Slack (Chatteris), Rex Archer and Cyril Halstead (Wisbech) and Ken Crawley (Manor Youth Club).

All these people are doing a fine job and we look to them for our future champions!

John and Margaret Cornwell have, as usual, been busy on the coaching front and never seem to tire of this work.

In the Cambs League, New Chesterton Institute are still top of the first division but their challengers, University Press, had a near thing against Torchbearers I when they got home 6-4 after trailing 3-4. Littlechild saved them by winning all his sets after Coteman and Tom Gawthron had beaten Keith Puddick and Paul Chisnall. Soham III had a set-back against lowly Wilburton and lost 4-6. Eddie Sharpe (3) and Sid Burgess (2) being the Wilburton heroes.

In the Eastern final of the Police Athletic Assn. Indoor Games Championships, Chief Inspector Maile and P.C. Venn of the Mid-Anglia Police were beaten by the Lincolnshire representatives, -14, -7, -10.

The Cambs and Isle of Ely Association held a Dinner Dance at the Royal Hotel, Cambridge, on Feb. 26. It was a great success and will surely be repeated next season. The President, Bill Rogerson, was unable to attend but is improving after a bout of flu and shingles. Also at the Dinner was Jack Baughan, my old doubles partner, who does not look a day over 70!

T. W. Howell of Wisbech has passed his Umpire's Examination, both practical and theory, and is now fully-fledged. Let's have lots more!

LANCASHIRE

by George R. Yates

MANCHESTER BACK ON TOP

Manchester, with a "full house" of eight wins, regained the first division championship title of the Lancs. and Cheshire League with a devastating 10-0 win over Burnley in their final match.

Seven years has been the span of the "rich" since the Mancunians last held the trophy which brought to an end nine years of domination in this premier division.

Another trophy re-captured by Manchester was the Norman Cook Memorial, won at Oldham, with a semi-final win over Bury (7-2) and final victory over Stockport "A" (6-3).

In this latter engagement, a 3-0 lead for Manchester was pegged back to 3-all when the Stockport League's representatives countered 3 men's singles defeats, inflicted by Kevin Forshaw, Jeff Ingber and Tony Boasman, with two doubles successes and a win for Doreen Schofield over Mary Leigh.

The pattern was repeated all over when, in the final three men's singles, John Hilton, Wilf Crompton and Philip Mayman failed once more although young Mayman made Ingber work hard for his win.

Earlier, in the semis, Manchester's two losses had been suffered by Tony Boasman losing to Ted Foster, and Jack Warne going under to Brian Hymanson.

Stockport "A" had brought off a surprise 6-3 win over Burnley whose Jack Keogh was their only strong element with wins over Hilton and Crompton and sharing a doubles success with Doug Hodgson.

The Management Committee of the Bury & District Table Tennis League made the following announcement after their meeting on the 12th February, 1970:

"The Management Committee of the Bury & District Table Tennis League have finalised the details of the League's Youth Training Scheme, preliminary details of which were announced last December.

The League is grateful for the co-operation received from the Youth Services Officer of Bury and the leadership of the Elton Youth Club which has resulted in the League obtaining the use of accommodation adjoining the Elton Youth Club, which will provide excellent playing conditions sufficient for six tables.

The League has also been fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Cliff Booth (former England Junior International) as Official Coach to the League and he will be responsible for advising the League on all coaching matters.

The League are nominating twenty youth players who will be invited to attend a coaching course under the direction of Mr. Cliff Booth from the end of this month until next August. Because of the lack of current financial resources these players will be asked to do this at their own cost.

In August the League will nominate an Official Junior Squad, probably of twelve players, whose future coaching will be considered for subsidy by the League. This Junior Squad will be under the general direction of Mr. Ken Turley, a member of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee of the League feel that this is the biggest step forward in the thirty-eight years the League has been in existence and hope that all who are involved in the Youth Training Scheme will work together to make it a huge success."

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HERTFORDSHIRE

J. M. Barnes

LAMPE SHINES AT SHENLEY

THE County Senior Championships, held at Shenley, produced some surprise results, but despite the entry of notable semi-retired players, such as Terry Densham and Brian Barr, the final stages were fought between players from the present ranking lists.

In the men's singles semis, Alan Lampe beat David Seaholme and Barry White, ranked No. 3 in the County, defeated the No. 2, Eric Coster, 17 and 11. In the final, White had to be content as runner-up for the second successive year, losing to No. 5 ranked Lampe, -19, 16, -14. The women's singles final also produced a ranking upset, with Mrs. Daphne Baines, the No. 3, victorious over Mrs. Valerie Scripps, Hertfordshire No. 1, 16 and 10.

Coster and White came together to win the men's doubles, with Mrs. Baines and Mrs. Gill Calver taking the women's. David Rawlinson, an up-and-coming junior, partnered Mrs. Calver to win the mixed, and Doug Tomsett and Mrs. Kathy Rowden took the respective men's and women's veteran's titles.

In the Inter-club Competitions, only the finals remain to be played. The Open is between Apsley of Hemel Hempstead, and Hertford; with Rolls Royce of Watford to play Cheshunt in the Intermediate. Water Lane of Bishops Stortford, and Letchworth Settlement contest the women's final.

A full range of age-group events played in the County Junior Championships with Rawlinson of Stevenage taking the Boys' Under-17 Title over Martin Harris of Borehamwood, 14 and 13.

In the Junior Girls', following some creditable performances in recent Open Tournaments, Jane Hartwell of Cheshunt took both the Under-17 and Under-15 titles. The Under-17 result, 19, 13, over Moira Carter of St. Albans, was a reversal of the previous season's final. Richard Morris of Letchworth won the Boys' Under-15 with a win over Martin Harris; and Sandra Harding of Letchworth was runner-up in the Girls' Under-15, and winner of the Under-13 from Christine Hart of Cheshunt.

Terence Everitt of Stotford beat G. Harding of Letchworth in the Boys' Under-13. In a close final in the Girls' doubles, Sandra Harding and Karen Morton, both of Letchworth, gained a victory over the Cheshunt sisters, Jane and Susan Hartwell, 19, -17, 22. In the Boys' doubles final, Rawlinson and Morris beat Martin Corrie and Chris Hervey, both from Watford, and in the mixed, Harris and Jane Hartwell beat Rawlinson and Moira Carter.

Silver Spoons of Merit were awarded to Angela Mitchell, aged 10 of Cheshunt, who won sets in both her Under-13 and Under-15 groups, and to Richard Jermy, aged 9 of Letchworth, who won both his Under-15 and Under-17 groups, and reached the Quarter-final in the Under-17's!

WORCESTERSHIRE

Edward J. Mitchell

TITLE HOPES DASHED

THE vital 2nd Division West encounter with Somerset at Cripplegate Pavilion proved a great disappointment to the home side's supporters when they saw a 4-2 lead change to a 4-6 defeat for the second year in succession.

Worcestershire, needing a draw, hoped for 3 wins by their women and 2 successes over Hartry. They got a better start than expected when John Heathcote beat Alan Kinsey, but when 4-3 up they lost the mixed,

the turning point being Di Moss's trouble with Hartry's service.

A chance for the draw was still there but Brian Belcher was beaten comfortably by Hartry. But what a pity Janet Hunt was not available. We now travel to Devon, on April 4th, with Somerset's best wishes as a good win by us will see them as champions.

The County Closed held at the new sports hall in Redditch had the largest and strongest entry ever. The standard can be shown by the exits of Mick Hawkins and Mick Yeates in the first round! John Bell won the men's singles without conceding a game and Joyce Lloyd won all three

titles open to her for the first time in any competition.

In the County Club competitions, Ipsley already in one final, failed in the semis of the Handicap when well beaten by the solid and experienced Lea & Perrins trio of Grundy, Staite and Moss.

Ipsley, playing without Ron Judd, found the deficit of 144 too much to catch up. L. & P. now meet Somers — Grainger, Bird and Wood—in the final.

In the non-handicap event, Ipsley—Brown, and Hammond — meet the champions Malvernains — Collier, Thompson and Buston



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STAFFORDSHIRE

John Pike

DRAWN CURTAINS IN WEST BROM!

JOHN PUGH and Kath Perry take top honours in the closed tournament . . . West Bromwich crash in the Midland League and the Wilmott Cup . . . Bryan Merritt to spend a week in the County in May.

These are some of the highlights as the table tennis season in Staffordshire draws to a close.

This year's closed championships were held in the spacious Northwood Sports Centre at Stoke, the same venue that was used for the Potteries' tournament and the National Schools' finals.

John Pugh was a very popular winner in the men's singles and it was no surprise to see Kath Perry walk off with the women's trophy.

One of the things that must have impressed the selectors at this year's event, was the fine form shown by some of our youngsters. Steve Dunning, Keith Fellows and Helen Blower must now have their sights on a place in the senior side.

At the other end of the scale, Wolverhampton's old campaigner Jeff Robbins brought off a useful double by taking the consolation and veteran's singles.

It was a very despondent Alan Deeley that told me how West Bromwich failed, when it looked much easier for them to succeed. After beating Chesterfield 10-0, their final Midland League match against out-of-touch Gloucester looked a mere formality. The result however must have been one of the shocks of the season for the West Bromwich trio of Warwick, Keats and Baddeley lost 6-4 and so let in Birmingham for the title.

On now to the quarter-finals of the Wilmott Cup and again another disappointing performance saw them go down 5-1 at Oxford. With their soccer team also losing against Manchester City in the Football League Cup final, black ties, I am told, were at a premium in West Bromwich.

We should be seeing a lot of Bryan Merritt in the County next month. Local leagues he will visit from the 11th to the 15th May will be the Potteries, Stone, Walsall and Wolverhampton. This month he has a date at the Woodfield club and the new Highfield Schools Centre in Wolverhampton. By then he should have got over the shock of his County rugby team. Gloucestershire, losing to Staffs in the final of the County championships at Burton.

It was good to see so many E.T.T.A. officials in the County when the English Schools held their finals at Stoke. Derek Tremayne outlined what was in store for the schools before presenting the trophies to the various winners.

Wolverhampton had more shocks than usual in their annual championships held over two weekends at the Woodfield club. Mel Lloyd did well to take the men's title with a win over John Piggott. Earlier Piggott had put out Mac Evans, the County second team player.

Sue Warner made it four wins in a row when beating Barbara Hall in the women's final. If she wins the title again next year, she will beat Joyce Hayward's record which was set up 15 years ago.

HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH

David Obee

PROMISING FUTURE

COUNTY officials, ever hopeful of increasing success for the "Cinderella" county, have at last something more tangible on which to pin their hopes. This season has shown that there is an abundance of young players in the area who could establish themselves as members of the senior team within the next year or so.

St. Neots are to be congratulated on their fine efforts in the coaching sphere, and for staging two proficiency rallies, the first of their kind. A regional centre, it is hoped, might be based on St. Neots, which would surely be a tremendous asset.

On the playing scene John Last, of Ramsey, must be congratulated for his fine results in county junior matches this season, seven wins from ten excursions to the table. He has spearheaded a team which has turned in fighting performances in every match they have played.

Although having no success in the South East Midlands League's annual closed championships at Cambridge, players from the County acquitted themselves well, and were responsible for the departure of at least two seeded players.

The Closed Championships were once again to be held at Peterborough's giant Werrin stadium and the entry showed an enormous increase on last season, with 96 players in the men's singles, against last season's 64.

Details of the three leagues' closed events as well as the County closed will be included in next month's report.

SURREY

John Zenthon

GET IN TOUCH WITH MICK

COACHING in Surrey has, for some time, been centred on the Surrey Junior Table Tennis Club (under the auspices of the County) at Tweeddale School, Carshalton, and since 1963 about 250 juniors have benefited from the regular sessions which have been held.

It has always been apparent, that the number of youngsters who have wanted coaching, has only been limited by the facilities available and the distance they have to travel. In fact, unless you are exceptional you will be on the end of a waiting list at Tweeddale. With this in mind, and also with the growing interest from the schools, questionnaires are being sent to all table tennis clubs in Surrey in order to set up a number

of coaching centres throughout the county. Incidentally, over the last three years—since the inception of the Surrey Schools' Table Tennis Association—the number of affiliated schools has increased from 8 to 42!

The purpose of the questionnaire is to find out the facilities at the clubs; the number and types of teams they run; the people they cater for and, most important, to obtain a list of potential coaches.

So many people hear the word coach and immediately think in terms of training the England players. But the qualifications of such coaches are completely different from the coaching abilities required to either start off the 10/11-year-olds or, for that matter, even the more advanced youngsters. A reasonable playing standard, linked with a good grounding are the basis for the former. As to the latter, I am quite sure that no first division player, prepared to "feed" balls to the youngsters (or remind them that they are not as good as they might think they are should the necessity arise!), would ever be turned down.

As soon as the questionnaires have been returned and analysed, it is intended to run a coaching rally and to organise the County's own coaching scheme.

In the meantime, please make sure that your own Club provides the information required and if you feel that you are a potential coach, either with or without some assistance, get your name down on the questionnaire or, if you prefer or would like more information, get in touch with Mick Kercher, 69 Titchfield Road, Carshalton, Surrey, either by letter (a reply is guaranteed) or telephone him at business—Monarch 4455 extension 454.

LINCOLNSHIRE

by Joan Robinson

NO CHANGE AT THE TOP

IN the Haigh, Butlin and Butcher Cup Competitions, the reigning champions again lead the way to renewed conquests. In the Haigh Cup, Brian Hill (Boston) has only played three in 3 matches but is the only unbeaten player. Mike East, also of Boston, has played in all six matches winning 17 out of a possible 18.

The one defeat came in the Louth v Boston match when Terry Bruce gained a narrow verdict over Mike. One of Boston's closest calls was against Lincoln when Boston, without star performer Hill, won 6-4. East won his three and the doubles with Dave Armstrong, who won two singles losing to Roy Norton.

In the Butlin Cup, holders Spalding (Jean White, Mary Burgess and Monica Green) have a better sets average than Grimsby, both teams having 7 points from 4 matches. When these teams met the result was a 5-all draw with Connie Moran (Grimsby) accomplishing a treble, including wins over Mary Burgess 16, 16, and Jean White 19, -25, 17. Connie has played in three matches and is unbeaten, whereas Jean and

Mary have dropped the one set each in 12 played.

The Butcher Cup has Boston (T. Herod, G. King, M. Vaughan) four points clear of their nearest rivals. Unfortunately some centres play a town second team rather than a junior side, but it is to the credit of the Boston lads to be out on top. Gary King, who is ranked Junior No. 1 and has been chosen to play for Lincolnshire in their next County Match, has lost only two, but one of these was to Louth Secretary Alan Norman who won -14, 12 and 28!

Leading positions:—

Haigh	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Boston	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Grimsby	5	4	1	0	33	17	8
Lincoln	5	3	2	0	29	21	6

Rubbers:—

Butlin	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Spalding	4	3	0	1	33	7	7
Grimsby	4	3	0	1	30	10	7
Boston	5	2	2	1	19	31	5

Butcher	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Boston	5	4	0	0	33	7	10
Spalding	5	2	1	2	22	28	6
Gainsborough	5	2	2	1	27	23	5

FIRST DEFEAT

Last season's first division Lincoln League champions, Ruston Bucyrus 'A', suffered an 8-2 defeat at the hands of College of Technology 'A'. Both teams had only dropped one point, as a result of their first meeting, but the College team of Roy Norton, Alan Robinson and Melvyn Dawson really went to town over John Radley, Roy Davidson and Dennis Worrell in the return.

Roy Norton won his three in fine style, and the doubles, with Alan Robinson, over current champions Radley and Davidson, and Alan beat the current Lincoln No. 1 Radley.

WARWICKSHIRE

Ralph Gunnion

QUINS, BUT NO FARTHER!

AT the recent English Schools' National Team Championships, Birmingham had five teams through to the finals but, unfortunately, no winners. The standard of play was exceptionally high and the Birmingham players should not feel too despondent.

The next few weeks will certainly be active on the tournament scene for local players. In addition to eight local league championships, the Birmingham Closed will be held on April 5th, followed by the Warwickshire Closed, on April 12th and ending with the Midland Closed, at Derby, on April 26th.

Between times, on April 19th at Leicester, the Senior Promotion Challenge matches will be played in which Warwickshire have every hope of being participants.

The Juniors too, with one more match to play, will again take part in Junior Challenge matches, if they win, or draw, with Leicestershire.

Congratulations to Jenny Cornock and Barry Hill who were married on March 14th in Birmingham. No prizes for guessing who was the best man there!

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Middlesex	7	7	0	0	43	20 14
Yorkshire	7	6	0	1	44	19 12
Essex	7	4	0	3	34	29 8
Surrey	7	4	0	3	33	30 8
Kent	7	4	0	3	32	31 8
Sussex	7	2	0	5	25	38 4
Nthtblnd	7	1	0	6	21	42 2
Cheshire	7	0	0	7	20	43 0

II SOUTH						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Bucks.	6	4	1	1	41	19 9
Surrey II	6	4	1	1	40	20 9
Essex II	6	4	0	2	39	21 8
Middlesex II	6	4	0	2	36	24 8
Kent II	6	3	0	3	26	34 6
Hertfordshire	6	1	0	5	21	39 2
Suffolk	6	0	0	6	7	53 0

II NORTH						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Nthtblnd II	6	5	1	0	41	19 11
Lancashire	6	4	2	0	42	18 10
Yorkshire II	6	4	0	2	40	20 8
Lincolnshire	6	1	3	2	29	31 5
Cheshire II	6	2	1	3	21	39 5
Durham	6	1	1	4	25	35 3
Cumberland	6	0	0	6	12	48 0

II MIDLAND						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Warwks.	6	6	0	0	49	11 12
Glamorgan	6	5	0	1	40	20 10
Staffordshire	6	4	0	2	37	23 8
Derbyshire	6	3	0	3	35	25 6
Notts.	6	2	0	4	23	37 4
Leics.	6	1	0	5	16	44 2
Monmthshire	6	0	0	6	10	50 0

II WEST						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Somerset	7	6	0	1	43	27 12
Devon	6	5	1	0	36	24 11
Worcesters.	6	3	2	1	39	21 8
Hampshire	7	4	0	3	39	31 8
Gloucs.	7	2	2	3	37	33 6
Dorset	7	2	1	4	35	35 5
Wiltshire	7	1	2	4	29	41 4
Cornwall	7	0	0	7	12	58 0

SOUTHERN						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Bucks. II	8	6	1	1	52	28 13
Berkshire	8	5	1	2	50	30 11
Hampshire II	8	3	2	3	43	37 8
Oxfordshire	8	4	0	4	38	42 8
Worcs. II	8	0	0	8	17	63 0

MIDLAND						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Warwicks. II	4	4	0	0	32	8 8
Staffs. II	4	3	0	1	30	10 6
Derbyshire II	4	2	0	2	18	22 4
Denbighshire	4	1	0	3	12	28 2
Shropshire	4	0	0	4	8	32 0

EASTERN						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Bedfordshire	5	4	1	0	36	14 9
Herts. II	5	3	0	2	32	18 6
Cambs.	5	1	3	1	27	23 5
Norfolk	5	2	1	2	23	27 5
Northants	5	1	1	3	20	30 3
Hunts.	5	1	0	4	12	38 2

JUNIOR SOUTH						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Kent	6	5	1	0	49	11 11
Middlesex	6	5	0	1	47	13 10
Surrey	6	3	2	1	38	22 8
Hampshire	6	3	1	2	32	28 7
Sussex	6	2	0	4	26	34 4
Berkshire	6	1	0	5	14	46 2
Bucks.	6	0	0	6	4	56 0

JUNIOR NORTH						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Yorkshire	5	5	0	0	44	6 10
Cheshire	5	4	0	1	31	17 8
Lancashire	5	3	0	2	35	15 6
Northtblnd.	5	2	0	3	19	31 4
Durham	5	1	0	4	12	38 2
Cumberland	5	0	0	5	9	41 0

JUNIOR MIDLAND						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Warks.	5	5	0	0	39	11 10
Staffs.	5	2	2	1	31	19 6
Leics.	5	2	2	1	30	20 6
Notts.	5	1	3	1	24	26 5
Northants.	5	1	1	3	18	32 3
Derbyshire	5	0	0	5	4	46 0

JUNIOR EAST						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Essex	6	6	0	0	55	5 12
Herts.	5	4	0	1	38	12 8
Beds.	6	4	0	2	31	29 8
Hunts.	6	3	0	3	23	37 6
Norfolk	5	2	0	3	24	26 4
Suffolk	6	1	0	5	19	41 2
Cambs.	6	0	0	6	10	50 0

JUNIOR WEST						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Glamorgan	5	5	0	0	42	8 10
Monmthshire	5	4	0	1	33	17 8
Wiltshire	5	3	0	2	29	21 6
Somerset	5	2	0	3	22	28 4
Gloucs.	5	1	0	4	14	36 2
Worcs.	5	0	0	5	10	40 2

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County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

MIDDLESEX REGAIN TITLE

As the dust starts to settle, one can now see exactly what has been happening in the championships this season. Middlesex take the proud title of Champion County for the 16th time (the first since 1963-64 though) Cheshire return to the Second Division, but Northumberland may not as their 2nd team will be competing in the promotion challenge as 2nd North winners and fighting for both the Premier status of their first team and their own status as a 2nd Division team (no County may have two teams in the same division).

Two other challengers are known, Buckinghamshire (for the first time) and Warwickshire, but the team from 2nd West is yet to be decided. A Devon win against Worcs. on April 4 puts them through — any other result puts through Somerset. The challenge matches are being staged by the Notts. TTA at the Bingham Sports Centre on April 18/19.

Glamorgan's second place in 2nd Midland is well-merited: the team has played well to record the County's best placing for several seasons. Their juniors have also had their best season, winning a division for the first time since 1950-51! Bucks. 11, Warwks. 11 and Bedfordshire won the Regional Divisions, the promotion of the first two depending on the success of their first teams in the challenge.

Kent, Yorkshire, Warwickshire and Essex won the other four Junior Divisions and compete in the challenge at the Loughborough College of P.E. on April 25/26.

An enormous number of proposals for alterations to rules have been submitted, but these come under four main headings. Essex want a Junior Premier Division, Staffs want veteran Divisions and also want to see the Premier Division made 10 sets with the addition of a womens doubles set (the old favourite one might almost call this). Finally, Cornwall have submitted a new idea (or a new one to me, anyway) concerning the sharing of travelling expenses for away matches. Results:

Premier Division

YORKSHIRE 7 SUSSEX 2

D. Neale bt P. Williams 10, 11; bt R. Chandler 16, 11.
A. Hydes lost to Williams 9, -10, -14; bt J. Clarke 3, 13.
A. Clayton bt Chandler 18, 22; bt Clarke 14, 10.
Hydes/Neale bt Chandler/P. Williams 14, 16.
Mrs. P. Bassano lost to Miss J. Williams -15, -16.
Clayton/Bassano bt Clarke/Williams 11, -13, 17.

Peter Williams scored shock win over Alan Hydes in first set, playing extremely well, but the only other Sussex success came from sister Judy who beat first-appearance-of-the-season Pat Bassano. Denis Neale in sparkling form, but Sussex not the force they were two seasons ago when they won 5-4.

SUSSEX 5

NORTHUMBERLAND 4

P. Williams lost to B. Burn -13, 17,

19; bt A. Ransome -18, 11, 15.
R. Chandler bt Burn 21, 14; bt S. Lennie 10, 16.

J. Clarke lost to Ransome -13, -12; lost to Lennie -17, -14.

Chandler/P. Williams bt Burn/Lennie 12, -19, 23.

Miss J. Williams bt Mrs. C. Duncombe 14, 15.

Clarke/Williams lost to Ransome/Duncombe -13, -14.

Fine start for Sussex in this vital match when Roger Chandler beat Brian Burn and Peter Williams consolidated by taking Alan Ransome. John Clarke disappointed v Stuart Lennie and in XD—2-all. Nerves made MD finish far closer than it need have been, then competent Judy Williams made it 4-2. But the visitors not finished, with Burn just getting the better of Williams, and Ransome thrashing poor Clarke. One of Chandler's better displays against Lennie made the match (and Premier status) safe, while Northumberland must wait. . . .

YORKSHIRE 7 ESSEX 2

D. Neale bt D. Brown 15, 14; bt R. Stevens 18, 17.

A. Hydes bt Brown -19, 15, 9; bt P. Radford 13, 14.

A. Clayton bt Stevens -18, 9, 13; bt Radford 11, 11.

Hydes/Nealt bt Brown/Stevens 19, 14.
Mrs. P. Bassano lost to Mrs. L. Radford -17, -7.

Clayton/Bassano lost to Radford/Radford -16, 20, -18.

Big crowd, good match and competent display by Tony Clayton. Disappointment caused by absence of Chester Barnes.

CHESHIRE 3 SURREY 6

M. Johns bt C. Warren 12, 19; bt R. Penfold 19, 18.

B. Kean lost to Warren -13, -12; lost to B. Hill -19, -21.

S. Heaps lost to Penfold -19, -16; bt Hill 22, 15.

Heaps/Kean lost to Hill/Penfold -13, 21, -16.

Mrs. D. Schofield lost to Mrs. M. Wright -15, -17.

Johns/Schofield lost to Warren/Wright -18, -12.

After four seasons in the Premier, Cheshire return to 2nd North. Too dependent on Mike Johns, who featured in 13 of the 20 sets won in the season.

MIDDLESEX 8 KENT 1

M. Sugden bt A. Piddock 20, 4; bt D. Basden 11, 7.

O. Haslam lost to Piddock 20, -19, -10; bt H. Buist 15, 16.

A. Lindsay bt Basden 12, 12; bt Buist 17, 20.

Sugden/B. Wright bt Buist/Piddock -13, 15, 17.

Mrs. K. Mathews bt Mrs. P. Piddock 8, 15.

Wright/Mathews bt Basden/Piddock 15, 20.

Tony Piddock staged a superb come-back to beat "Les" Haslam from a game and 6-14 down to shock Middlesex, who needed a win for the title. Alan Lindsay excelled v Henry Buist with many first class rallies in a fine set and when Middlesex held XD things look good. They looked even better when Malcolm Sugden and Brian Wright took MD against

Buist and Piddock, the latter beaten only once this season and middlesex with only two MD successes! Karenza Mathews "saw off" a dispirited Pauline Piddock and Middlesex were there! The rest a formality. Can Len Pilditch grow some more fingernails before next season's campaign opens?

2nd South

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 3

MIDDLESEX II 7

Despite this, Bucks take the title on set average. Fine win by the visitors who really found form in the new year.

ESSEX II 8 HERTFORDSHIRE 2

KENT II 2, SURREY II 8

2nd North

NORTHUMBERLAND II 7

DURHAM 3

Good start by the visitors, who led 3-1, but no more home mistakes. Ron Kettlewell missed (broken foot-bone) but Peter Hoyles continued successful run and Cynthia Duncombe made a welcome and vital re-appearance.

LANCASHIRE 7 YORKSHIRE II 3

Concerned only with the result of the foregoing match, Lancashire's uninspired win over a youthful White Rose second string availed them nothing.

LINCOLNSHIRE 7

CUMBERLAND 3

Three juniors in Lincs team, with their junior champion G. King winning a singles and taking XD with Connie Moran. Connie had a tussle to win her singles and an entertaining match.

2nd Midland

DERBYSHIRE 3 GLAMORGAN 7

After 30 matches with the same three men (John Wallhead, Tony Hunt and Colin Deaton) Wallhead's absence on business sorely felt. Good wins by Deaton over Graham Davies and Fraser Anderson, both straight games, and spirited resistance from the rest of the home team.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 7

MONMOUTHSHIRE 3

STAFFORDSHIRE 3

WARWICKSHIRE 7

Ralph Gunnion in a class of his own. Glenn Warwick lost to Paul Judd after leading by a game and 18-12 (then 20-17).

2nd West

WORCESTERSHIRE 4

SOMERSET 6

For the second successive season Worcs saw a 4-2 lead turned to defeat, Eric Hall completed unbeaten season in singles but with his part in the match over much depended on John Hartry, who dominated XD and disposed comfortably of Brian Belcher in the last singles.

CORNWALL 3 DEVON 7

DORSET 3 WILTSHIRE 4

Little trouble in MS for Trevor Smith, but a surprise defeat with Cyril Bush in MD. Dorset's women turned the match with ever-improving Jenny Vass and stalwart Joyce Coop recording three fairly comfortable wins. Dennis Applebee, on debut, left to win the last MS for the match, which he did in fine style.

HAMPSHIRE 6

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 4

After 3 successive defeats this win, in a sparkling match, exceedingly welcome. Fine win by -18, 9, 13 by Pat Taylor over more experienced Christine Davies, and Ray Lush, in first match for Hants I, unbeaten. No real MS trouble for Roy Morley.

Southern Division

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE II 7

BERKSHIRE 3

HAMPSHIRE II 3

OXFORDSHIRE 7

Oxfordshire's experience just saw them through against this youngest-ever Hampshire team. Chris Shetler and Alf Davies both unbeaten in MS.

OXFORDSHIRE 2

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE II 8

WORCESTERSHIRE II 4

HAMPSHIRE II 6

Worcs. claim a win on points, 494-466! All 3 opening MS lost, at 18, 17, 19 in 3rd, when the match levelled at 3-all. Another MS lost at 18 in 3rd (and Worcs. led 230-223 on the four MS lost). Mick Yeates crushed Keith Summerfield for only MS win, but Stuart Tannahill very composed in last set.

Junior South

BERKSHIRE 7

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 3

MIDDLESEX 4 KENT 6

From 3-0 up, Kent never looked back and clinched the division for the 3rd successive season. Middlesex took all three doubles (all close in the final game) but Kent thoroughly deserved their victory on the performance of their boys.

SURREY 8 SUSSEX 2

Junior North

NORTHUMBERLAND 8

DURHAM 2

Back to full strength, the home side too good in singles but failed in two of the doubles.

LANCASHIRE 1 YORKSHIRE 9

Lancashire's solitary set salvaged by Susan Lisle at the expense of Val King. Yorkshires trio of Nicky Jarvis, Alan Fletcher and Peter Abell much more forceful although young Donald Parker continues to hold out great promise for the future. Yorkshire's first title, in this division, for four years.

CHESHIRE 7

NORTHUMBERLAND 3

Junior Midland

LEICESTERSHIRE 3

WARWICKSHIRE 7

No fewer than 8 sets required a deciding game, and Warwks. emerged worthy winners with Martyn Davies their best player on view.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 1

STAFFORDSHIRE 9

Junior East

HERTFORDSHIRE 8

BEDFORDSHIRE 2

HUNTINGDONSHIRE 0 ESSEX 10

Fine performance by Linda Mellin (who has played every Hunts. junior match for two seasons). She took Susan Beckwith to -18, -17 and with Pat Bingham won the first game of GD. Both Linda and brother Robert are moving to Surrey—Hunts. will miss them.

SUFFOLK 4 NORFOLK 6

Norfolk just about worth their win although Suffolk could have forced a draw. Two nice singles wins for John Kitchener, while Norfolk's Chris Bensley earned applause for his whirlwind finish.

Junior West

WILTSHIRE 9

WORCESTERSHIRE 1