

"THE NEW FACES"

IN a two-change England party nominated for the Rumanian and Czechoslovakian Opens, Cheshire supply the new faces on the international scene in Mike Johns and Judy Heaps.

Out from the last European trip, incorporating the Hungarian and Yugoslavian Opens, are Stuart Gibbs (Essex) and Karenza Smith (Middlesex). Retained to spearhead the new look quartet are Yorkshire's Denis Neale and Mary Wright of Surrey.

It will be the first senior outing for Judy, who lives in Reading, Berks, but plays for Cheshire on a birth qualification, following in the footsteps of her father, Deryk.

For Johns it will be his second senior call although his first abroad. Recently taken into the employ of Louis Hoffman, Mike is a native of Weaverham, near Northwich.

Scheduled from January 28-31, the Rumanian Open will be in Bucharest to be followed by the Czech Open in Prague from February 3-5.

ADDITIONAL NOMINEE

Yorkshire left-hander Alan Hydes of Barnsley figured in the New Year's Honours List (E.T.T.A. style) when, on January 1, he was additionally nominated by England for the Rumanian and Czech Opens.

He will thus team up with his county colleague, Denis Neale, in a five-strong playing party dominated by northerners.

No. 1 Junior in season 1965-66, and with nine appearances for his country and a member of the



Alan Hydes

Photo by John O' Sullivan

England team in the European Youth Championships in Denmark last summer, Hydes is no stranger to foreign opposition.

He made his senior international appearance at the commencement of this season against Czechoslovakia at the Lightfoot Stadium, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

INTERNATIONAL SQUAD

At the conclusion of the English Closed Championships, the selectors announced that 17-year old Keith Lawrence and Les Haslam had been added to the International Squad.

(See Spotlight on Les Haslam on page 4).

HARRY WALKER

THE recent appointment of an Administration Secretary ended the period of service rendered to the E.T.T.A. by Harry Walker, a service which proved valuable and helped Association's office through times of change. He started by giving part-time assistance to cope with the increase of work caused by the staging of the European Championships and stayed on after the resignation of Peter Lowen, thus bridging the gap prior to the appointment of Derek Tremayne. Harry still continues to help table tennis in Essex and I am sure that, in future, County affairs will take up more and more of his time.

It is with all sincerity that I take this opportunity to say "Thank you and well done" to Harry, on behalf of all members of the English Table Tennis Association.

IVOR C. EYLES
(Chairman)

ENGLISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Laurie Landry

Neale and Harrison Provide a Treat

MARY WRIGHT WINS FOR THE FIFTH TIME

DENIS NEALE confirmed his number one position in the seeding list when he won the men's singles in the English Closed for the second time. His first win over Harrison in the final was the best match many of the spectators had ever seen. There were four distinct situations in which Neale overcame his own temperament. To play so well in the first two games with the background of no success against Harrison and then just when Ian looked like drawing level in the second, to play what was probably the best point of the match to win that game 19. Thirdly, when Ian had made it two games all, to show such determination and overcome tiredness to go to a 10-2 lead in the fifth. This seemed to be all Denis could manage as Ian gradually made up ground with tight defence coming in with some wonderful hitting, particularly with his backhand, and brought it to 11-12 and 15 all. This then was the fourth situation and Denis won 21-19 with some superb rallies and both players were playing above themselves. What a fighter Harrison is!

Mary Wright won for the fourth year running and fifth time in all beating Karenza Smith in the final. This was a well played match with some fast exchanges but Karenza could have varied her play more within the limitations of over the table counter hitting. It was always down Mary's backhand that Karenza hit. A little more movement around the table might have secured a game as game points were held in the second and third games.

Success for Keith Lawrence

The giant-killer in the men's singles was Keith Lawrence, last year's Junior No. 1. His quick, sharp hitting brought out similar play first from Warren and then Johns and took him to the quarters. He continued his good play against Haslam but was not quite able to bring down the Middlesex player. Brian Wright showed better form than of late when he worried Neale, taking the second and nearly the fourth. Harrison had a comfortable path to the semi, Gibbs seeming to make only a token effort but this is deceptive. To beat Harrison Gibbs has to be brilliant which he was at Woolwich but not at the English. Trevor Taylor had a steady path to the quarters but found Barnes too strong. He showed a good improvement on his previous outing with Barnes, however. Barnes and Harrison met for a semi place whilst Neale was disposing of Haslam. Barnes won the first two and looked all set but let the third go with no fight and Harrison was back in the game. The fourth and fifth games could have gone either way and one was left thinking that both players wanted Harrison to win?

In the women's singles Kathy Perry of Warwicks shone beating Alma Taft and Lesley Proudlock before taking a game from Karenza Smith. Karenza then outplayed Judy Heaps once again after Judy had had a hectic battle with Beverley Sayer.

Shocks in Women's Doubles

The women's doubles provided what was really the shock of the tournament when last year's finalists Shelagh Hession and Judy Williams, unseeded this year, proved a lot too steady for Mary Wright and Karenza Smith who were not playing too well. Elsie Carrington and Jackie Billington beat Hession and Williams in the final with Elsie keeping the ball on the table and Jackie opening out from time to time. The men's doubles brought the young pair Burn and Hydes into the final and suggest that they are probably the second best pair in the country. Denis Neale and Karenza Smith easily beat former winners Brian and Mary Wright and then beat Barnes and Pauline Pidcock in the final. The losers saved match points in the third before winning it, the fourth and going down in the fifth.

Results:

Men's Singles—early rounds: Burn (Northumb) bt Duncombe (Yorks) 14, 8, 12; Haslam (Middx) bt Landry (Middx) 12, 18, -18, 15; Johns (Cheshire) bt Buist (Kent) 17, 14, 19; Lawrence (Essex) bt Warren (Surrey) -10, 15, -10, 15, 20; Creamer (Surrey) bt Morley (Gloucs) 18, 14, 15; Gibbs (Essex) bt Creamer -18, -18, 10, 17, 17; Harrison (Gloucs) bt Stevens (Essex) 20, 14, 5; Taylor (Herts) bt Ogundipe (Sussex) 12, 17, -21, 8; Barnes (Essex) bt Hydes (Yorks) -19, 11, 12, 11; Neale (Yorks) bt Burn 8, 11, 12; Wright (Middx) bt Chandler (Sussex) 13, -19, 20, 5; Haslam bt Kedge (Kent) 13, 17, -18, 14; Lawrence bt Johns 21, -17, 11, 23; Gibbs bt Gunnion (Warwicks) -10, 20, 21, 15; Harrison bt Johnson (Essex) 10, 12, 12; Taylor bt Brown (Essex) 12, 15, 18; Barnes bt Lindsay (Middx) 12, 14, 11; Muranyi (Surrey) bt Pidcock (Kent) 16, 21, 17; Brown bt Muranyi 19, 21, 11.

Quarter-finals: Neale bt Wright 16, -20, 10, 20; Haslam bt Lawrence -19, 17, 17, -12, 9; Harrison bt Gibbs 13, 14, 10; Barnes bt Taylor 12, 12, 18.

Semi-finals: NEALE bt Haslam 16, 17, 15; HARRISON bt Barnes -9, -16, 6, 19, 19.

Final: NEALE bt Harrison 17, 19, -10, -19, 19.

Women's Singles—early rounds: Wright (Surrey) bt Meisel (Martin) (Kent) 13, 15, 15; Radford (Essex) bt Duncombe (Yorks) -18, 9, 13, 9; B. Sayer (Essex) bt Hession (Essex) -16, 22, -11, 11, 17; B. Sayer w.o. M. Heppell (Northumb), ill; Perry (Warwicks) bt Proudlock (Yorks) 16, 11, 5; Taft (Middx) bt Shirley (Bucks) 16, 14, -15, 7; Smith (Middx) bt Simpson (Essex) 17, 8, 14; Radford bt Billington (Essex) -18, 17, 19, 24; Perry bt Taft 11, -17, 17, 22.

Quarter-finals: Wright bt Pidcock (Hemmings) (Kent) 10, 13, 19; Radford bt Williams (Sussex) 23, 9, 17; Heaps (Cheshire) bt B. Sayer -13, 14, -20, 25, 21; Smith bt Perry 16, 18, -19, 18.

Semi-finals: WRIGHT bt Radford 13, -17, 14, 19; SMITH bt Heaps 14, 19, 18.

Final: WRIGHT bt Smith 15, 22, 21.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals: Gibbs/Neale bt Gunnion/Warren 16, 14, 19; Burn/Hydes bt Haslam/Williams 18, 16, -20, 17; S. Hill/D. Whitaker (Kent) bt Hampson/Johns (Cheshire) 20, 17, 19; Barnes/Harrison bt Buist/Pidcock (Kent) 11, 18, 10.

Semi-finals: BURN/HYDES bt GIBBS/NEALE -13, 21, -20, 16, 16; BARNES/HARRISON bt Hill/Whitaker 11, 19, 12.

Final: BARNES/HARRISON bt Burn/Hydes -13, 11, 13, 19.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals: Billington/Carrington bt Heaps/Pidcock -18, 11, 14, 18; Pegg (Derbys)/Perry bt D. Griffiths/D. Deeley (Warwicks/Staffs) 4, 16, 22; Duncombe/Proudlock bt C. Davies (Hants)/H. Lambert (Surrey) -20, 20, -19, 21, 18; S. Hession (Essex)/Williams bt Smith/Wright 18, 18, 13.

Semi-finals: BILLINGTON/CARRINGTON bt S. Pegg/K. Perry 18, 7, 10; HESSION/WILLIAMS bt C. Duncombe/L. Proudlock 19, 13, 17.

Final: BILLINGTON/CARRINGTON bt Hession/Williams -19, 18, 19, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals: Wright/Wright bt A. Ransome (Northumb)/E. Britton (Middx) 14, 15, 11; Neale/Smith bt Johns/Simpson 15, 11, 19; Barnes/Pidcock bt Duncombe/Proudlock -21, 14, 9, 19; Pidcock/Taft bt Taylor/Carrington -14, 20, 8, -19, 10.

Semi-finals: NEALE/SMITH bt Wright/Wright 19, 8, 20; BARNES/PIDDOCK bt Pidcock/Taft -17, 9, -14, 18, 10.

Final: NEALE/SMITH bt Barnes/Pidcock 13, 17, -23, -17, 10.

Men's Consolation Singles—final: P. WILLIAMS (Sussex) bt L. Gresswell (Middx) 9, 13.

Women's Consolation Singles—final: J. SHIRLEY (Bucks) bt M. Walker (Middx) 10, 10.

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Published on the 10th of each month, October to May inclusive. Postal subscriptions 10s. for eight issues post free. Advertisements and Circulation: D. P. Tremayne, English Table Tennis Assn. 26/29, Park Crescent, W.1.

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

LOO PATROL

BECAUSE of the wanton destruction of toilet fittings and blockage of lavatories, stuffed with toilet rolls, at Messrs. Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Ltd., Lostock, Bolton during last season's Lancashire Open, the future of this popular tournament—held there for the previous 12 years without incident—was placed in extreme jeopardy.

So much so, in fact, that an undertaking had to be given before this year's tournament was eventually sanctioned, that all entrants be circularised with details of last January's misdemeanours and that the toilets would have to be under constant surveillance throughout the entire day.

This is a truly shocking state of affairs and one that should be borne in mind by all intent on taking advantage of the wonderful facilities afforded by the management of this northern factory.

A survey of most tournament venues at the close of a day's proceedings is indeed a sight to behold rivalling that of any popular side football ground in the mountain of rubbish left behind.

Seemingly, and sad to relate, this is a national trait and one to be deplored, but vandalism is another matter and not lightly to be dismissed.

Long hours are spent in preparation of a tournament, more still if the organisers take a pride in running it successfully.

It goes very much against the grain to have all the good work undone by the shameful actions of a few louts.

To make an appeal to them would be a waste of time, incapable as they are of coherent thought, but to the majority who are mindful of such matters and who value other people's property, a New Year's resolution is herewith proposed.

Report any such culprits, so observed, to the organising committee and it will be many a day before the offenders gain acceptance into another tournament. The Open Tournament Committee will see to that.

INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

By CONRAD JASCHKE

Deputy Chairman and Hon. International Secretary of the E.T.T.A.

RECENTLY, the 11-man Management Committee of the European Table Tennis Union held a meeting in Bucharest (Rumania) and as some of the discussion will be of interest to players, I think it appropriate to devote some of this month's Round-Up to the meeting.

First of all, words cannot describe the wonderful hospitality extended to us by the Rumanian Table Tennis Association, who really did everything possible to make us enjoy our visit to Bucharest. Sever Danet and Ella Constantinescu acted as our chief hosts, and made a wonderful job of it.

Too often, business visits to another country leave so little time that one sees nothing but the airport and a committee room. On this occasion, the Rumanian officials made sure that the E.T.T.U. committee members had an opportunity to see something of the life of the country, and the programme included a memorable visit to the mountains outside Bucharest.

One day was entirely taken up by the committee meeting, which started at 9.30 in the morning and continued for 12 hours. In his opening statement, Jupp Schlaf, the President of the E.T.T.U., quoted remarks from leading European sports administrators which showed that the success of the E.T.T.U. was being talked about throughout European sport.

Future Role of E.T.T.U.

He pointed out that it was essential that further duties and responsibilities should be devolved from the I.T.T.F. onto the E.T.T.U., to enable European table tennis to progress at an even faster rate. He saw the role of the I.T.T.F. as an overall liaison and guardian of the adherence to the laws of the game, leaving the "Management Function" to the E.T.T.U.

These views were received with acclamation by the committee, and as so many of the E.T.T.U. committee members are also leading I.T.T.F. administrators, it is obvious that this will be the way in which European table tennis must proceed. (On behalf of the E.T.T.A., I have sent a memorandum to the I.T.T.F. Officers and to all Associations in membership with the I.T.T.F., outlining proposals for devolving further responsibilities onto the Continental Federations. This document is too long to reproduce in *Table Tennis News*, but anyone interested in it can obtain a copy from the E.T.T.A. Office.)

Scientific Tests

Mr. Schlaf reported on scientific tests which had been carried out at Braunschweig University. Tests had been made which were designed to improve coaching and training methods in Europe, with a view to bridging the gap between the leading European and Asian players. Cameras capable of 1,000 flashes per minute had been used in the tests, and the speed of the ball for various shots was shown to be around 40 kilometres per hour. There have been extensive tests showing the reaction of players in play against penholders. It had been conclusively proved that orthodox-style players had a disadvantage as regards speed of reaction, because the choice between backhand and forehand caused hesitation which was not obvious in normal play, but which showed up very definitely in the scientific tests. The tests prove that penholders react quicker because they do not have this choice between backhand and forehand.

Questions of Colour

Tests were also made with a yellow ball, and a black table, and it was shown that the eye was able to follow this much better than a white ball on a green table. Players were able to return a yellow ball on a black table, from positions where they would normally not have reacted quickly enough to do so. Tests were also made with a two-coloured ball, and it was found that a yellow/blue combination enabled players to spot spins on the ball which could not be detected normally.

All these tests have the same aim, i.e. to devise training methods that will help European players in match play.

Mr. Schlaf also stressed that the whole question of colour had to be carefully studied in view of the fact that colour television would be widespread in Europe very soon, and table tennis must provide the kind of presentation that would be of interest to the new medium.

By the time this article appears, the tests will have been completed and a full report on them will be available later this season.

Need for Publicity

The committee also discussed the question of publicity for European table tennis. It was clear that public recognition would not come until we devised suitable publicity. This matter is to be gone into in greater detail at the next meeting in Lyons.

Mr. Makarov reported on the arrangements for the next European Youth Meeting, which will be held in Leningrad during the first week in August. The U.S.S.R. Association will organise under-14 events in addition to the under-17 events.

Conditions for National Championships

The committee agreed unanimously that the E.T.T.U. must undertake the task of working out minimum conditions for official national championships in Europe. Regulations should cover not only playing conditions, but also general organisation, food and accommodation. It was decided that for

each official national open championships, one member of the committee would be designated to be responsible to the E.T.T.U., once these regulations had been worked out and agreed.

It was becoming clear that with the advent of the European League there was a congestion of fixtures which made it desirable that countries should hold their national open championships every other year, rather than annually. However, this is a recommendation only, and no Association is prevented from holding its championships annually. This was a point which has been put to the A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A. and the A.G.M. was overwhelmingly in favour that the English Open should continue annually.

It was reported that several new countries would wish to join the European League next season, and it was appropriate that Rumania should be one of them.

European Championships, 1968

Mr. Mercier outlined in detail the arrangements which were being made for the European Championships in Lyons, from April 17 to 24. He stated that the organisation plan and playing schedules would be based on what had been done at Wembley, where he thought the organisation had been perfect. But they would be able to improve on hospitality, and hotels would be only 10 minutes away from the hall. There would be twin-bedded rooms for all players, and an ample number of private bathrooms. The question of meals was discussed in detail, and Mr. Mercier was most anxious to provide what would be universally acceptable. Prices in France are high, and spectators and tourists from other countries will have to face a charge of £5 per day if they attend the Championships.

Mrs. Nancy Evans submitted an income and expenditure statement which showed that the finances of the E.T.T.U. were progressing in a healthy manner. The European League match fees ensure that the bank balance will continue to rise, and the committee decided to wait until this had reached a certain level, and then to consider means of devoting surplus finance to the development of the game.

E.T.T.U. Handbook

The E.T.T.U. will shortly be publishing its handbook, in English, French and German.

There were also reports on the Europe Cup and Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, and it was clear that both these competitions are going from strength to strength. Attempts are now under way to enable us to enter these competitions next season.

Dal-Joon Lee at No. 1

Dal-Joon Lee, of Korea, who for several years partnered Richard Bergmann on his Harlem Globetrotters tours, is the new U.S.A. No. 1 player. Lee married an American girl last summer, and has now settled



in the U.S.A. permanently. He has had some excellent wins lately, including a 3-2 victory over Stanek during the Czech player's visit to U.S.A. Ranked behind Lee are Dell Sweeris at No. 2, Martin Doss at No. 3, at No. 4 Danny Pecora and Erwin Klein at No. 5.

Guernsey Rankings

Guernsey are one of the smallest Associations in the I.T.T.F., but this does not prevent them from emulating the procedures of the bigger Associations. Their Hon. General Secretary, Mr. P. R. Dean, has advised me their men's ranking list, which is as follows:—

1. D. Gaudion
2. J. Cochrane
3. D. Rihoy
4. M. Le Page
5. P. Powell
6. A. Le Gallez
7. B. Powell
8. M. Fostick
9. D. Finn
10. T. Trustum

European League

U.S.S.R. defeated Germany by 5-2 in the European League, and as a result now go to the top of the table with 6 points from 3 matches. Hungary, with 6 points from 4 matches, are second, and England with 6 points from 5 matches, are third. Then come Czechoslovakia who have only played one match, in which they defeated England 5-2.

Ranking Lists

The latest Czechoslovak ranking lists show that Stanek retains his top ranking, followed by Miko and Stepanek. Luzova is still the No. 1 woman player, followed by Vostova, and joint No. 3 are Karlikova and Pauknerova.

1968 European Championship

PARTY TRAVEL

Negotiations are reaching the final stages for a party to travel to Lyons for the European Championships in April. It is envisaged that the trip will cover five days, travelling to Lyons on Sunday, April 21, staying for the three days of the individual events, and returning on Thursday, April 25.

The trip will cost in the region of £40 per person for rail travel and full board, but efforts are being made to keep cost to a minimum.

Although fuller details will appear in the February issue of *Table Tennis News*, anyone interested should contact the Administrative Secretary, Albert Shipley, at the E.T.T.A. office.

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HARRISON BIDES TIME

IAN HARRISON, with a solid display, left it to the rest to knock each other out and then dealt with "Les" Haslam in no uncertain manner.

Alan Hydes had put out the favourite Stuart Gibbs, being far the steadier of the two whilst Keith Lawrence hit off "Connie" Warren in straight games before himself being put out by Haslam who had to save set points against Michael Creamer.

Off his own bat, Mike Johns accounted for Alan Lindsay, Laurie Landry and Brian Wright to spike the Middlesex guns. But it was against "Cannon Ball" himself, "Les" Haslam, that he was eventually outgunned.

In the women's singles, Mary Wright was supreme and the surprise came in the other half when Maureen Heppell hit off Karenza Smith. Results:

Men's Singles — quarter-finals: A. Hydes (Yorks) bt S. Gibbs (Essex) -21, 17, 19; I. Harrison (Gloucs) bt D. Basden (Kent) 18, 11; M. Johns (Ches) bt B. Wright (Middx) -22, 19, 9; O. Haslam (Middx) bt K. Lawrence (Essex) 12, 19.

Semi-finals: HARRISON bt Hydes 18, 12; HASLAM bt Johns 15, 16.

Final: HARRISON bt Haslam 11, 14.

Women's Singles — semi-finals: M. WRIGHT (Surrey) bt P. Pidcock (Herts) 14, 14; M. HEPELLE (Northumb) bt K. Smith (Middx) 6, -18, 18.

Final: WRIGHT bt Heppell 11, 15.

Men's Doubles — semi-finals: B. BURN (Northumb)/HYDES bt P. Duncombe/J. Kedge (Yorks) 15, 20; D. BROWN/D. JOHNSON (Essex) bt Harrison/Wright 17, -9, 16.

CARDIFF OPEN

by Brian Mitchell

BARNES RETAINS CLASS

CHESTER Barnes returned to the ranks of the lesser tournaments on November 25 and showed that he still retains the class of a European standard player despite his recent performances against lesser mortals.

He was never troubled up to the final, in which he achieved a two-straight win over "Les" Haslam in a game of powerful hitting.

Haslam gave Barnes only one anxious moment when he caught up from 13-17 in the second to 18-all. Yet Haslam might not have been in

INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION TOURNAMENT

by John Pike

ALTHOUGH this event was arranged for the B.B.C. at short notice, it turned out to be a big success. The only pity was, that not more people were there to see it.

I rate the conditions at the Harry Mitchell Recreation Centre as near perfect, and from the table tennis we saw, the England players will agree, that this venue at Warley, rates with the best. "Connie" Warren opened the proceedings with a good win over Denis Neale, and this was followed by Ian Harrison beating Stuart Gibbs. Next came the women's singles and this was a cracker. A lot has already been said this season about Karenza Smith, but how well this Middlesex youngster played to beat Mary Wright.

Karenza and Mary then stayed on the table for the mixed doubles. Mary and Denis again took second place, but it was touch and go before Karenza and Stuart Gibbs came out on top.

The next game, the men's singles final, and the one featured in Grandstand, was won by Ian Harrison. With Warren in great attacking form and Harrison defending brilliantly, this was a good advert indeed for the big television audience.

Neale and Gibbs brought the tournament to a close with a win over Warren and Harrison in the men's doubles.

The Birmingham officials did a first class job, and without a single hitch, the B.B.C. must have been impressed with what they saw.

C. Warren bt D. Neale 18, -17, 19.

I. Harrison bt S. Gibbs 18, 20.

Harrison bt Warren -17, 19, 18.

Karenza Smith bt Mary Wright -16, 20, 19.

Gibbs/K. Smith bt Neale/M. Wright 18, 19.

Neale/Gibbs bt Warren/Harrison 13, -16, 12.

Final: BURN/HYDES bt Brown/Johnson 13, 18.

Women's Doubles — semi-finals: SMITH/WRIGHT bt Heppell/A. Taft (Middx) 12, 14; L. RADFORD/D. SIMPSON (Essex) bt S. Hession (Middx)/J. Williams (Sussex) 15, -10, 15.

Final: SMITH/WRIGHT bt Radford/Simpson 17, 12.

Mixed Doubles — semi-finals: WRIGHT/WRIGHT bt P. Williams (Sussex)/M. Walker (Middx) 12, 15; GIBBS/SMITH bt Johns/Simpson -18, 19, 17.

Final: WRIGHT/WRIGHT bt Gibbs/Smith 17, -18, 18.

Boys' Singles — semi-finals: T. TAYLOR (Herts) bt P. Taylor (Herts) 16, -16, 17; P. JUDD (Warwks) bt S. Heaps (Ches) 10, 10.

Final: TAYLOR bt Judd -11, 22, 20.

Girls' Singles — semi-finals: SMITH bt J. Shirley (Bucks) 16, 20; J. HEAPS (Ches) bt C. Mann (Middx) 11, 8.

Final: SMITH bt Heaps 17, 13.

WOOLWICH OPEN

JUDY REACHES FOR A STAR

THE first Woolwich Open, played at A.E.I. Telecommunications in November, proved a triumph for Cheshire's Judy Heaps who, after losing the first game in the final of the women's singles, came back to win the next two, against Mary Wright, for the title!

Another success story was that of Stuart Gibbs in the counterpart

LOITERING WITH INTENT

A recent first division match in the Lancaster and Morecambe League, between YMCA "A" and Nairn Williamson's, lasted 4 hours 40 minutes and concluded at 12.25 a.m!

Lancaster YMCA have the distinction of being unbeaten in four years of local competition, but despite acknowledging their obvious stamina, the use of the Expedite Rule might well be considered—if only to get them home to bed at night.

INTENT ON LOITERING

A thumping forehand hit with speed

Would win the match if taken heed

But no, a drop shot tried instead

That's how we came to drop poor Fred.

ANON.

Venue Changes

... Titles Stay

AT the changed venue of Workington Grammar School, on November 25, the Cumberland Open attracted quite a galaxy of stars and proved a most successful affair.

Denis Neale had little difficulty in retaining his men's singles title but set of the day was that between Peter Duncombe and John Clarke in the semis.

It was one that did the game proud and held the attention of the onlookers from bright beginning to tense finish.

So near and yet so far goes Duncombe in quest of his first open singles title but he is surely without peer as Yorkshire's ambassador.

Two other titles retained were the women's singles and doubles in which Maureen Heppell had it easy in single combat against Cynthia Duncombe, and had Doreen Schofield to assist in the second retention.

In the absence of Brian Mitchell, his Lancastrian teammate, Tony Boasman, stole the show in the junior boys' event and a similar effort was put in by Linda Bashford for the girls' title.

Miss Heppell made it a treble haul when, with John Kedge, she retained her half share in the mixed previously shared with Alan Hydes, a non-starter on this occasion.

Men's Singles — quarter-finals: D. Neale (Yorks) bt G. Livesey (Lancs) 11, 17; M. Johns (Ches) bt S. Kaufman (Lancs) 18, 17; P. Duncombe (Yorks) bt B. Burn (Northumb) 18, 10; J. Clarke (Lancs) bt J. Yeats (Yorks) 19, 17.

Semi-finals: NEALE bt Johns 8, 15; DUNCOMBE bt Clarke 19, -16, 16.

Final: NEALE bt Duncombe 16, 14.

Women's Singles — Semi-finals: M. HEPELLE (Northumb) bt L. Barrie (Scotland) 19, 11; C. DUNCOMBE (Yorks) bt L. S. Proudlock (Yorks) 11, 13.

Final: HEPELLE bt Duncombe 11, 10.

Men's Doubles — semi-finals: CLARKE/J. R. DAVIES (Yorks) bt C. Lang/R. Kelly (Lancs) 15, 10; JOHNS/B. KEAN (Scotland) bt Duncombe/J. Kedge (Yorks) 17, 14.

Final: JOHNS/KEAN bt Clarke/Davies 21, 22.

Women's Doubles — semi-finals: HEPELLE/D. SCHOFIELD (Ches) bt Barrie/M. Holliday (Cumb) 17, 8; DUNCOMBE / PROUDLOCK bt M. Haile/S. Mossop (Cumb) 6, 5.

Final: HEPELLE / SCHOFIELD bt Duncombe/Proudlock -19, 19, 16.

Mixed Doubles—semi-finals: KEDGE/HEPELLE bt Neale/S. Lee (Yorks) 13, 11; DUNCOMBE/PROUDLOCK bt Kean/Barrie -20, 11, 15.

Final: KEDGE / HEPELLE bt Duncombe/Proudlock 13, 15.

Boys' Singles—semi-finals: A. BOASMAN (Lancs) bt J. O'Pray (Cumb) 12, 14; S. KAUFMAN (Lancs) bt I. Robertson (Northumb) 11, 17.

Final: BOASMAN bt Kaufman 19, 13.

Girls' Singles—semi-finals: L. BASHFORD (Yorks) bt S. Lisle (Lancs) -18, 20, 14; LEE bt N. Ferguson (Northumb) 18, 22.

Final: BASHFORD bt Lee 17, 16.

men's event. After basking in the glory of a tight semi-final win over Ian Harrison, the young Essex star climaxed his efforts with a final win over his County team mate Chester Barnes.

Both Mary and Chester had the consolation of half shares in doubles events and Gibbs again came good in the mixed in which he partnered Karenza Smith to the title.

Trevor Taylor met with no trouble in continuing his own march of conquest and must be destined for the heights.

Men's Singles—semi-finals: S. GIBBS (Essex) bt I. Harrison (Gloucs) 17, -14, 20; C. BARNES (Essex) bt B. Wright (Middx) 15, 15.

Final: GIBBS bt Barnes -10, 17, 19.

Women's Singles — semi-finals: J. HEAPS (Ches) bt J. Billington (Berks) -13, 17, 7; M. WRIGHT (Surrey) bt J. Williams (Sussex) 10, 8.

Final: HEAPS bt Wright -11, 18, 19.

Men's Doubles — semi-finals: BARNES/HARRISON bt B. Hill/C. Morris (Surrey) 19, 14; R. HAMPSON/M. JOHNS (Ches) bt H. Buisi/A. Pidcock (Kent) 12, -12, 14.

Final: BARNES/HARRISON bt Hampson/Johns 15, -18, 14.

Women's Doubles—semi-finals: K. SMITH (Middx)/WRIGHT bt Billington/E. Carrington (Essex) 12, 18; L. RADFORD/D. SIMPSON (Essex) bt Heaps/P. Pidcock (Herts) 16, 17.

Final: SMITH/WRIGHT bt Radford/Simpson 15, 18.

Mixed Doubles—semi-finals: GIBBS/SMITH bt Barnes/Pidcock -15, 15, 18; WRIGHT/WRIGHT bt Johns/Simpson 16, 16.

Final: GIBBS/SMITH bt Wright/Wright 21, -16, 21.

Boys' Singles—semi-finals: T. TAYLOR (Herts) bt J. Dabin (Kent) 16, 7; M. WALDMAN (Middx) bt F. Kennedy (Essex) 19, 9.

Final: TAYLOR bt Waldman 10, 11.



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LES HASLAM

BY PHILIP REID

SEVERAL things have changed in the game since sandwich rubber came to the fore; it is faster, the rallies shorter and you have to start younger. In these days it is commonplace for youngsters to start before they have reached their teens and it is generally accepted that anyone who is going to attain any standard will have to start very young.

Although still quite a young man, an exception to this rule is Middlesex player Orville "Les" Haslam who took up the game in 1962 at an age when many players have already won tournaments. He started at Alan Lindsay's club at Fulham and quickly made progress.

For the first year "Les" played with ordinary pimped rubber but then switched to sandwich since when he has never used anything else. Two years in the North Middlesex League put the edge on his game and he was ready for the tournament circuit.

His first appearance in a final was the East of England Men's Doubles at Skegness, in September 1964. People were asking "Who is that playing with Brian Wright?" but before the season was out "Les" was to become a household name in the table tennis world.

The fact "Les" and Britan lost in the final (to Connie Warren and Ralph Gunnion) in no way discouraged him. By November he had collected his first Open title at Portsmouth. Middlesex were not slow to spot this talent within their midst and in December he received his baptism in the County Championships—against Surrey.

He lost both his singles but partnering Alan Lindsay, took the doubles and this set made all the difference for Middlesex won the match 5-4. The following match "Les" played against Yorkshire and had wins over Peter Duncombe and Alan Hydes, besides the doubles. He had another good win over Bobby Stevens before the season ended.

CONSOLIDATION

If 1964-65 had been a year of development, then 1965-66 was to be one of consolidation. The very first tournament of the season, the East of England, found "Les" in the final. Indeed, he was hitting so well that he looked a certain winner. Tony Piddock, however, had other ideas but it was a good start.

In November came one of his really great tournament wins—the Merseyside at Liverpool. Killing magnificently, "Les" won the Men's Singles in grand style. Even a -12 first game defeat in the final against Kevin Forshaw failed to discourage

him; he fairly blasted his way out of trouble.

He had, meanwhile, established a permanent place in the Middlesex side and amongst his better wins was one against Ian Harrison. By the end of the season he had shown such consistency that he was sixth in the Premier Division averages, with only four defeats from fourteen outings; The season 1966-67 provided "Les" with further successes. There were so many that only the better ones are really worth recording. On a cold December day at Hanwell, "Les" warmed the hands of spectators who were applauding almost continuously when he hit his way past Ralph Gunnion and then Denis Neale.

It was not simply that he won—it was the way he did it, with powerful hitting. The English Closed brought him another notable victory—that of Chester Barnes.

There have been, then, three seasons in which "Les" has come from nowhere. His No. 7 ranking is ample indication of the value the selectors place in his skill.

DEDICATION

Were it simply that "Les" was a good player, then this story would still be worth telling as it is a story of dedication, effort and success. But there is much more to it than that.

As a sportsman, "Les" has no superiors in the game. On the table he will fight for every point but he is always the first to indicate to the umpire an edge ball against him. Whilst he wants to win as much as anyone else he is not interested in winning any way other than fairly.

A match in Leicestershire against the New Zealand touring team recently had the crowd applauding non-stop, so brilliant was the play. "Les" lost -20 in the third and the crowd took home memories of his wonderful sportmanship besides his tremendous hitting.

When he is on form nobody in the country can be anything like sure of victory. Over the past two seasons he has beaten EVERY ONE of the top ten! A fitness fanatic, no day passes without his doing exercises. The results are all too apparent in his game, he appears tireless.

A regular on the tournament circuit, "Les" has made friends in all corners of England. The colourful Jamaican would dearly love to be capped for England and it is something which is well within his grasp. If he achieves it, no-one will deserve it more. Nor will there be a more popular recipient. Sportsmanship, dedication and ability add up to a fine player. They also add up to "Les" Haslam.

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JERSEY JOTTING

by Brian Nicolle

AQUILA LOSE RAMESH

OUR leading players are now in training for the forthcoming European League matches and will continue together with the Inter-Insular matches with Guernsey on Feb 10 in Guernsey. We hope that our players will retain all five trophies at stake.

Recent winner of the annual handicap tournament organised by the Priority Club was 17-year-old Ramesh Melwani of the Aquila Youth Club. Playing off a handicap of -16, he beat home club player Doug Lambotte who had a similar handicap 7 and 17. Ramesh, currently playing in Aquila's Div. 1 team, will be missed by his club when he leaves the Island this month.

Pegasus "A" are still going great guns in the first division with 9-1 wins over Pegasus "B" and Aquila, 10-0 over St. Helier "B" and 8-2 wins over Priority and Cycling Club. Second placed St. Helier "A" have had 9-1 wins over Priority "B" and St. Helier "B," 8-2 over Pegasus "B" and 6-4 over Aquila and Priority "A."

Leading teams at half-way stage.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 1							
Pegasus "A"	12	12	—	—	103	17	24
St. Helier "A"	12	11	—	—	1	83	37

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 2							
Optimists "A"	9	7	1	1	60	30	15
Caesar'n C.C. "A"	9	6	2	1	56	34	14
Priority	9	6	1	2	56	34	13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 3							
Caesar'n C.C. "A"	12	11	—	—	1	88	32
Pegasus "A"	12	10	1	1	89	31	21
Optimists "A"	12	10	—	—	2	89	31

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 4							
Caesarean C.C.	12	11	—	—	1	93	27
Pegasus "A"	12	10	—	—	2	89	31

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 5							
Post Office	12	11	—	—	1	86	34
Pegasus "B"	12	9	1	2	74	46	19
Priority "B"	11	8	2	1	76	34	18
Pegasus "A"	12	9	—	—	3	85	35

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 6							
Caesar'n C.C. "A"	14	13	—	—	1	120	20
Caesar'n C.C. "B"	14	12	1	1	96	44	25
Aquila Y.C.	14	11	2	1	102	38	24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Division 7							
St. Helier "A"	10	9	—	—	1	83	17
St. Helier "B"	10	8	0	2	68	32	16

Shamateurism Again

says KEITH WATTS

(Chairman Sussex County E.T.T.A.)

IS it time the E.T.T.A. took another look at its attitude to the problem of payments to players and members? For years the Association has boasted that we have solved the difficulties which produce so much heat in such sports as amateur lawn tennis and amateur soccer. Table tennis has been held up as model by sports writers for the way we have avoided the evils of shamateurism—allowing members to earn money in the game while at the same time retaining some control over their activities.

The main rules and regulations which give this control are those affecting Registered Members (now Permit Members) and prize limits. Now there are signs that this system has completely broken down and that we are in no better position than the sports which we have always regarded as hypocritical in their pretence of amateurism.

Let us look at the Permit Member. Here we find a fairly small number who register regularly and loyally in order to undertake paid coaching or exhibitions. But even some of these are beginning to murmur about paying their fees when they know that a much larger number are taking paid coaching jobs as local authority schemes expand, but are declining to become Permit Members. Most of these defaulters must be E.T.T.A. members—after all a competent coach must keep in touch with the game—and in almost every case they obtained their ability by playing under the aegis of the Association.

OFFICIAL POSITIONS

Some even hold official positions, at any rate at local level, but nothing is done to enforce observance of the rule. Indeed it is becoming increasingly obvious that loopholes have been found that make it almost impossible to carry out this particular rule. When challenged coaches are claiming to be youth leaders, canteen managers, or any designation but coach.

Then we come to the limitation of prize money. E.T.T.A. rules state that "no affiliated player shall receive any remuneration other than expenses . . . or reward (other than prizes as provided for in the Associations regulations dealing with the Registered Member) for playing in any competitive table tennis event."

The regulations referred to then proceed to lay down a limit of £5. But we learn of £100, and other lesser amounts which vastly exceed this limit, being paid in holiday camp tournaments and won by affiliated

members. The rule reads "A competitive table tennis event is one in which a player is playing . . . in an Open, Closed, Invitation or other Tournament."

There would therefore seem no doubt that this covers all such events. But nothing is to be done about this flagrant violation of a rule which has stood for many years and which has never been criticised.

NO LONGER VALID?

Is there then any point in having these rules? Are the principles which led to their adoption no longer valid? Should we allow players to earn what they can, where they can and win as much as they like?

Possibly this is the answer, although I can see problems in this for the organisers of struggling Open Tournaments faced with competition in raising the value of prizes. I have no axe to grind, never having earned any money from table tennis and not being likely to. I am in favour of honest professionalism—if players of any game are attractive enough to deserve rewards I do not oppose this.

What I am saying is that until the organising bodies consider this matter fully and perhaps decide that a change in the rules is necessary then they should insist that the existing rules are observed. And this includes those responsible for the World Championships which, it seems, regularly breaks the prize limit rule.

Most important do not reach when

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

by ALAN LINDSAY

England and Middlesex County Player

THE GRIP. The shake hand grip is the most usual. Grip the handle near the blade as if shaking hands and let the forefinger rest in a comfortable position on the bat.

THE STANCE. You should stand arms length away from the table, feet comfortably apart. The edge of your bat should point at your opponent. You should be on the balls of your feet with knees slightly bent, also you should be leaning forward. Your right foot (assuming you are right handed) should be in line with the centre of the table. When receiving service DO NOT stand with one foot in front of the other. They should be in line, allowing you to move into any stroke with the minimum of effort. This is the position to start from and return to after each stroke if possible.

SERVING. The ball should rest on the palm of your open hand. Throw the ball up from above the height of the table, say about 8in. Play the stroke when the ball is on the way down. Don't hit down but hit through. It is best to serve from a sideways position but remember to move back into starting off position. The ball should bounce on your side of the court first and then on your opponents side. The push stroke is perhaps the easiest and safest stroke. I think it is best to learn this first.

BACKHAND PUSH. When performing this stroke the bat should be tilted considerably backwards and the stroke should be made near you at about waist height, the stroke should be made along the line of the ball without changing the blade angle when connecting. If the ball is short move the right foot forward and play the stroke in a comfortable position. Play the ball at the highest point and do not reach.

FOREHAND PUSH. This is similar to the backhand push. If short, move into the stroke and use the left foot. Most important do not reach when

making any stroke, again tilt the bat considerably backwards and push along the line of the ball. Lean into the stroke and use one movement only and then get back into a starting off position.

FOREHAND TOPSPIN. Begin this stroke from behind the body and from waist height, lower if dealing with chop. The blade of your bat should be open and the moment of contact should come when the ball is at the height of its bounce. The ball should be alongside you and about waist height at the height of its bounce when struck. After contact your follow-through should continue until the bat is above your head. You should not hit across the ball or alter the bat angle when making contact. Imagine the edge of the bat going around the lower half of a circle, the point of contact should be at the lowest point. It is also a good idea if dealing with heavy chop to tilt the bat angle backwards a little then start the stroke from below the table using much more lift. This stroke should be played from a sideways position with the left shoulder and foot forward.

BACKHAND TOPSPIN. This stroke should begin at waist level and the blade of the bat should be open when connecting with the ball. The follow-through should be made above the head. This stroke can also be played with great effect without moving into a sideways position. If the ball is deep and wide it is easier to move across. A few players play this stroke well without being behind the ball but I do not recommend this.

IRISH CORNER

by Kevin Drum

GREAT WIN FOR CAFFREY

THE final of this year's Irish Open provided the packed attendance in the Orange Hall, Omagh, with one of the greatest displays of table tennis ever seen between two Irish players when Ireland's No. 2 Tommy Caffrey won his second Irish title by beating his country's No. 1 Jim Langan 15, -18, 27, 19 in a magnificent final. Caffrey needed to be at his best for he was drawn in the tougher half and had to dispose of English International Tony Piddock and Scotland's John Reilly to reach the final.

Pauline Piddock made a clean sweep in the ladies for having beaten Alma Taft 10, 17 in the singles final she then partnered Alma to win the Doubles, beating the Irish/Scottish combination of Joan Fitzsimons and Leslie Barrie 13, 17 and with husband Tony beat Caffrey and Marie Martin 13, 22 in the Mixed.

Owing to Foot and Mouth Disease precautions, the Irish Closed fixed for January 19-20 and the Leinster Open on February 14-17 may have to be postponed. For the latter which is the big event of the season in Leinster, it was hoped to attract some British and Continental entries. A final decision was being awaited at the time of going to press. Already the Leinster Branch have forbidden any of their players or officials to take part in any table tennis activity outside the province until January 20. This means that Ireland's two stars Jim Langan and Joan Fitzsimons, who have already had success in England this season, will not be able to travel over for the Lancashire Open.

"SEVEN-YEAR ITCH"

Geo. R. Yates reports on Millom School

INSPIRED by schoolmaster John Reed, Cumberland's Millom School Table Tennis Club was formed in season 1961-62 with a foundation comprising one dilapidated table and very little idea.

Gradually through many and varied fund raising schemes, they have built up their assets which, beside a Robot machine, include five tournament tables and two club tables.

This has all been done off their own bat, so to speak. They have 64 regular playing members—a convenient number for competitions and there is usually a standing waiting list of around 20-30 boys.

John Reed is very keen to raise the standard of play though this is taking some time due mainly to their unfortunate geographical position.

However, the school team has progressed from the sixth division of the Barrow League to the third and look good prospects for the second this season.

The boys are starting to represent Barrow Juniors in the Lancashire and Cheshire League and had two members in the side which recently crushed Manchester—without Boasman!—9-1.

Both Jack Carrington and Laurie Landry have paid visits to the school but there is a lack of top class senior players and coaches to bring the boys that bit further on.

Entering County Opens is giving them something to aim at but, in the meantime, it is hoped that with careful programming further progress can be made through the Robot.

HASLAM INELIGIBLE FOR CENTRAL

ALTHOUGH the third round draw sheets were despatched to the winning leagues on December 17, I have actually received three third round results.

This is heartening and mitigates, to a certain extent, the practice of playing on the last day of the period and leaving me wondering what the result may be!

For the first time in three years the committee decided to grant extensions in accordance with Regulation 9. The weather around the Sussex area was particularly bad and travelling was certainly restricted during December 8-10.

I received no result cards or communication whatsoever from one or two leagues. In one case, the card was posted more than a week after the end of the period. The committee declared these matches void.

In the **Wilmott Cup** we have the champions (Gloucester) rampaging away with a 9-0 win over Plymouth and—in the third round—5-3 over Bristol.

Unfortunately Central League was penalised for playing "Les" Haslam against Acton. Because Haslam was ineligible—according to Reg. 2—both his wins were given to Acton. This resulted in Acton winning 5-4.

Birmingham are playing, and winning, with their juniors in their senior team.

At the bottom of the London Civil Service versus Southend score card, the result stated simply 9-0. But the individual scores really told the story. Six sets went to three games. Southend certainly fought but the combination of Piddock, Gibbs and Buist was too much. Nevertheless Gibbs had to concede a game to both M. Watts and R. Raybould.

Rose Bowl
Manchester just pipped Stockport with Miss Mary Leigh winning three sets for the winners. The most easily beaten team was the young Leighton Buzzard trio who succumbed to Bedford.

Bromfield Trophy
Slough managed to beat Leatherhead by the proverbial skin of their teeth. After tying 4-all Sandra Goldsmith beat Miss S. Pacitto 25-23 in the third game of the final set.

Carter Cup
Last year's finalists, East London, only just pulled it off against North Herts. Trevor Taylor (N. Herts) demonstrated complete authority over each of his opponents.

J. M. ROSE BOWL

Round 3—Zone Finals

To be played by January 14, 1968
First Team mentioned drawn at home

Zone	
1	Northumb'land
2	Doncaster
3	Liverpool
4	Grimby
5	W. Bromwich
6	Lowestoft
7	Luton
8	Reading
9	East London
10	Sutton
11	I'ford
12	Basildon
13	Worthing
14	Southampton

15	Newbury	v	Slough
16	Plymouth	v	Bristol

Round 2 Results

Doncaster	6	Chesterfield	2
Liverpool	w.o.	Burnley	
Grimby	8	Lincoln	1
W. Bromwich	w.o.	Northampton	
Lowestoft	9	Gt. Yarmouth	0
St. Albans	4	Luton	5
St. Neots	4	Reading	5
Ins. Offices	0	East London	9
Sutton	9	Bexenham	0
Ilford	5	Romford	4
Walthamstow	3	Basildon	6
Southampton	w.o.	Bognor	
Slough	6	Staines	3
Leeds	6	Sheffield	3
Stockport	4	Manchester	5
Wisbech	3	Spalding	6
Birmingham	6	Leicester	3
Norwich	5	Ely	4
Watford	4	N. Herts	5
L. Buzzard	0	Bedford	9
Wembley	6	Willesden	3
C. London	5	N.W. Kent	1
London Bus	0	Woolwich	9

Houses

London C.	9	Bil'ericay	0
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Service

Hastings	2	Eastbourne	5
Bournemouth	1	Portsmouth	8
W. Cornwall	2	Bristol	7

WILMOTT CUP

Round 3—Zone Finals
To be played by January 14, 1968

Zone	
1	Northumb'land
2	Hull
3	Bolton
4	Burn'ey
5	Birmingham
6	Cambridge
7	N. Herts
8	Oxford
9	London C.
10	Willesden
11	Wembley
12	N.W. Kent
13	Worthing or Brighton
14	Southampton
15	Newbury
16	Bristol

Round 2 Results

Leeds	2	Northumb'land	7
Grimby		Doncaster	
Nottingham	1	Bolton	8
Burn'ey	7	Chester	2
Birmingham	8	Leamington	1
Cambridge	9	Wisbech	0
Luton	4	N. Herts	5
St. Albans	2	Oxford	7
London C. S.	9	Southend	0
Willesden	7	Barking	2
Ins. Offices	3	Wembley	6
†N.W. Kent	0	Dulwich	5
Worthing	0	Brighton	5
Slough	5	Staines	3
Gloucester	9	Plymouth	0
Newcastle	1	Huddersfield	8
Lincoln	0	Hull	9
Liverpool	8	B'ackburn	1
Stockport	1	Manchester	5
W. Bromwich	8	Leicester	1
*Norwich		Gt. Yarmouth	6
Cheshunt	3	Watford	5
Reading	4	High Wycombe	5
Romford	1	East London	8
I'ford	7	Walthamstow	2
Acton	5	Central London	4
Woolwich	9	Croydon	0
Leatherhead	7	Hastings	0
Exeter	0	Bristol	9

* No result received
† Extension claimed (weather conditions)

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

CARTER CUP—Round 3
To be played by January 14, 1968

Zone	
1	Hull
2	Bolton

3	Mid-Cheshire	v	Birmingham
4	Dunstab'le	v	Leighton Buzzard
5	H. Wycombe	v	East London
6	Brom'ey	v	N. Middlesex
7	Slough	v	Crawley
8	Taunton	v	Southampton

Round 2 Results

Hull	7	Middlesbrough	2
*Burn'ey		Whitehaven	
Mid-Cheshire	6	Leicester	3
Dunstab'le	5	Northampton	4
†High Wycombe		Harlow	
Barking	2	Brom'ey	7
Slough	9	Watford	0
†Taunton		Newbury	

(Taunton claimed)

* Leeds

Aycliffe		Manchester	3
Bolton	8	Loughborough	1
Birmingham	6	L. Buzzard	5
Well'ingborough	4	E. London	5
N. Herts	4	N.W. Kent	2
N. Middx.	7	Brighton	0
Crawley	5	Souhampton	7
Exeter	2		

* No results received
† Ties awarded to High Wycombe and Taunton

BROMFIELD TROPHY—Round 3

Zone

1	Sheffie'd	v	Northumber'land
2	Birmingham	(3rd round match already played)	
3	Sittingbourne	v	Ipswich
4	N. Middlesex	v	Cheshunt
5	Barking	v	East London
6	Slough	(3rd round match already played)	
7	Newbury	Bye	
8	Taunton	Bye	

Round 4

The 4th round draw for Zones 7 and 8 is Taunton v Newbury so this match may be played any time before February 18, 1968.

N.B.—Taunton is drawn home.

Round 2 Results

/Sittingbourne	w.o.	Bedford	
St. Neots	4	Ipswich	5
Cheshunt	7	N. Herts	2
L. Buzzard	0	N. Middx.	9
E. London	8	Southend	1

Round 3 Results (played prematurely)

Birmingham	6	Liverpool	3
Leatherhead	4	Slough	5

/ No report from Bedford

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1968

The National Council has given another "shot in the arm" to junior table tennis by agreeing to promote a separate English Junior Open in 1968. It will thus leave the English Open, to be held in Brighton on February 29-March 2, entirely for senior events.

An offer made by Folkestone Corporation to sponsor an English Junior Open has been accepted by the National Council of the E.T.T.A. It will take place in the resort's popular Marine Pavilion from May 3-5.

It is envisaged that 10-12 countries will be invited to compete in both team and individual events thus giving our own juniors every opportunity of competing against the best in Europe.

The Organiser will be as for the English Open, Charles Wyles, with Stuart Dane as the Hon. Referee. Further details of the championships will be published at an early date.

PONTEFRAC T OPEN

by Cliff Darley Jnr.

THREE TIMES FOR BURN

WHEN Brian Burn beat Derek Schofield in the third game of the men's singles final he became the first player to win the "Montague Burton" trophy for three consecutive years.

With Tony Boasman in the men's doubles and Pat Dainty in the mixed, Burn put two more titles under his belt before travelling overnight to compete in the Middlesex Open.

Our own Linda Forkes won the "Key Cup" and the girl's singles title, also for the third year running—in her last season as a Junior, beating Linda Bashford in the final.

Alan Fletcher held his boys' title beating clubmate, and England No. 4 Junior, Tony Clayton in the final.

Men's Singles — quarter-finals: B. Burn (Northumb) bt J. A. Yeats (Yorks) 7, -18, 14; A. Ransome (Northumb) bt C. Deaton (Derbys) 17, 18; M. Dainty (Yorks) bt A. Hunt (Derbys) -20, 9, 18; D. Schofield (Ches) bt A. Boasman (Lanes) 13, 15.

Semi-finals: BURN bt Ransome 20, 19; SCHOFIELD bt Dainty -19, 12, 19.

Final: BURN bt Schofield 10, -14, 17.

Women's Singles — semi-finals: P. DAINY (Yorks) bt D. Schofield (Ches) 15, 14; K. PERRY (Warwks) bt S. Pegg (Derbys) -14, 20, 20.

Final: PERRY bt Dainty -16, 11, 16.

Men's Doubles — Semi-finals: R. BROTHWELL (Yorks) / P. HOYLES (Northumb) bt R. J. Kelly / C. E. Lang (Lanes) -18, 23, 21; BOASMAN / BURN bt W. Crompton (Ches) / Yeats 11, 8.

Final: BOASMAN / BURN bt Brothwell / Hoyles 17, 11.

Women's Doubles — Semi-finals: L. FORKES (Yorks) / SCHOFIELD bt N. Ferguson (Northumb) / P. Hamlett (Yorks) 14, 11; PEGG / PERRY bt L. Bashford / P. Richmond (Yorks) 19, 9.

Final: PEGG / PERRY bt Forkes / Schofield 18, 15.

Mixed Doubles — semi-finals: A. WARENTS (Northumb) / BASHFORD bt Boasman / Perry 10, 23; BURN / DAINY bt Ransome / Richmond 17, 16.

Final: BURN / DAINY bt Warents / Bashford 14, 12.

Boys' Singles — semi-finals: A. FLETCHER (Yorks) bt J. Goldsborough (Yorks) 9, 17; A. L. CLAYTON (Yorks) bt P. Freeman (Durham) 9, 13.

Final: FLETCHER bt Clayton 18, 21.

Girls' Singles — semi-finals: BASHFORD bt A. Waters (Yorks) 13, -17, 15; FORKES bt L. Sutton (Yorks) 9, 10.

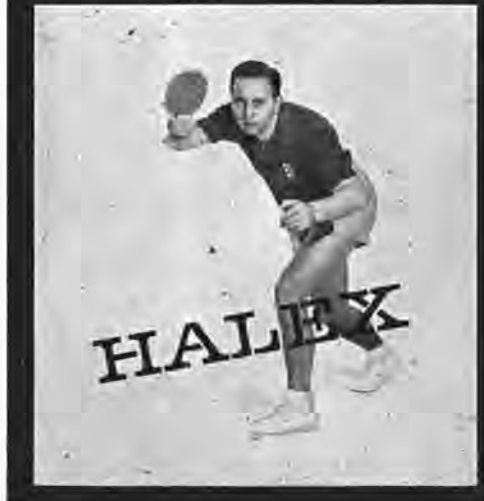
Final: FORKES bt Bashford 20, 8.

Veteran Singles—final: K. MITCHEL-MORE (Yorks) bt N. Lusher (Yorks) -16, 17, 13.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Jan 27-28	Kent Open Marine Pavilion, Folkestone	YS, GS, VS	C. M. Wyles, 48 Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex
Feb. 3	South Yorkshire Open Sheffield		D. Roe, 16 O'iver's Mount, Sheffield, Yorks Closing date: 21.1.68
4	Hythe Restricted Open The Institute, Hythe		R. J. Weaver, 9 St. Hildas Road, Hythe, Kent
4	North Bournemouth Restricted Open Y.M.C.A., Winton, Bournemouth	JS	C. B. Cashell, 16 Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth, Hants
10	Midland Open Harry Mitchell Recreation Centre, Broomfields, Smethwick	BS, GS, VS JD	M. Goldstein, 415 Moseley Road, Birmingham, 19
17	Yorkshire Open Railway Institute, York	VS	F. Briggs, 10 Merton Gardens, Fars'ey, Pudsey, Yorks
18	Portsmouth Junior Open		
24	Essex Open Harlow Sports Centre		W. D. Wad'ing, 39 Ramsgill Drive, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex
24	Tees Side Junior Open	U-15. BS	A. Ransome, 21a Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Yorks
25	Tees Side Senior Open Stockton Sports Centre	GS	
25	Yeovil Area American Tournament		
Feb. 29- Mar. 2	ENGLISH OPEN Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton		C. M. Wyles, 48 Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex

Tournament organisers are requested to send a supply of entry forms to the E.T.T.A. office to meet the demand of enquiries.



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SHOCKS & SURPRISES

writes Harry Levine

SOME 200 competitors entered for the second annual individual tournament held on December 22 at Mount Pleasant Bi-Lateral School.

Apart from the fact that the public address system broke down in the course of the afternoon—an emergency which was triumphantly overcome by Mr. W. D. Monk (Treasurer) and Mr. H. Cherry (Vice-Chairman)—there were other shocks and surprises which added to the interest and the usefulness of the occasion.

In no fewer than four of the twelve events, the top seed was beaten by the No. 2 seed. Perhaps the greatest credit goes to Susan Clarke who, despite her defeat in the Open in two straight games by Jenny Cornock of Warwickshire County fame, managed to turn the tables when the two girls met in the final of the -17.

The surprise will not disturb Jenny who is a grand sport, but it will greatly encourage Susan in her climb to the top.

The other outstanding surprise was the defeat of hitherto indisputable champion Michael Berry by his team mate Michael Jobson in the final of the -17. It was an example of that rare occurrence in table tennis, of an all out attack beating a superb defence.

However, those who saw Michael Jobson's fighting display against Hymer's College, Hull in the National Schools Finals at Leicester, should not have been too surprised.

In the -15 event Martin Davis, having lost the first game, scored a notable victory over the more fancied

Eric Brown. Mention should also be made of the discovery of a promising player in R. Broadmore who so comfortably won the -13 event.

Thirty schools were represented, including six who are non-members of the Association. What the tournament lacked—and this problem should be examined by the Committee when the third one is arranged—was the attendance of spectators at the final stages.

Some of the finals had only the umpire and a couple of stewards watching, and the absence of applause for some brilliant rallies must have been discouraging to the players.

It would have been possible for Michael Berry to have taken his revenge against Michael Jobson in the Open event, but the boys were required for a Birmingham representative match, and the sacrifice had to be made.

GIRLS

Under-12:
JANET HIGGINS (Nechells Park) bt Gale Bailey (Nechells, Eliot Street) 7, 19.

U-13:
JANET HIGGINS bt Gale Bailey 10, 7.

U-15:
SUSAN CLARKE (Nechells, Eliot Street) bt Wendy Hayward (Camp Hill Grammar) 17, 14.

U-17:
SUSAN CLARKE bt J. Cornock (Sir Wilfred Martineau) 20, 14, 18.

Open:
JENNY CORNOCK bt Susan Clarke 15, 21.

BOYS

U-11:
P. KEANE (Oakley) bt S. Davis (Whealers Lane) 16, 19.

U-12:
D. COLEMAN (Brandwood) bt P. Stewart (Oakley) 18, 20.

U-13:
R. BRADMORE (More End) bt I. Scott (Lordwood Technical) 8, 9.

U-15:
M. DAVIS (Nechells Park) bt E. Brown (Whealers Lane) -18, 17, 13.

U-17:
M. JOBSON (Moseley Grammar) bt M. Berry (Moseley Grammar) 13, -19, 16.

Over-17:
S. GILES (Moseley Grammar) bt S. Collinge (Handsworth Grammar) 4, 8.

Open:
GILES bt C. Maiden (Turves Green) -20, 6, 15.

LEAGUE HANDBOOK COMPETITION

THE gratifying entry to this competition, and the varied forms of the handbooks submitted, placed us in the position of having to decide the main basis on which our choice was to be made.

We decided that the prime purpose of any handbook must be that of providing every League player of the date and place of each match. Therefore, we sought that production which provided such information in the clearest and neatest manner, coupled with the most economical utilisation of space.

A secondary consideration was the remainder of the usual detail which, in our view, is less essential but obviously useful. This type of information was considered in the light of its value to (a) the player, (b) the Club Secretary/Team Captain, and (c) the League officials. No regard was taken of cost, as we felt the material content to be more important than the quality of production.

On this basis, we have chosen as the winner on this occasion, the Handbook produced by the Harrogate & District T.T. League, as being that which most closely met these conditions, although seriously challenged by the handbooks of Belfast, Liverpool, Norwich, Welwyn Garden City and West Bromwich. A special mention must be made of the ingeniously produced handbook of the Wisbech & District T.T. League, duplicated yet only 4 1/2 in. x 3 1/2 in. in size!

A cheque for 5 gns. is on its way to Harrogate, and it is hoped to be given sufficient space for an article in a future *Table Tennis News* on the "ideal" handbook, using the best features of the handbooks submitted.

BRIAN HARTLEY
Berkshire County Councillor

ALBERT SHIPLEY
Administrative Secretary, E.T.T.A.

"THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN TOM"

By WALTER MITTON

AFTER reading a recent magazine article written by Shih Pen-Shan, one of the top Chinese players before the Cultural Revolution, I was reminded of a visit I made to Leeds University.

It was to watch the northern members of the International Squad training under Mr. Adamson of the

would have to hold aloft their red-covered books of "Thoughts of Chairman Tom" (as the Chinese do with their booklets on the thoughts of Chairman Mao) and chant aloud to each other the Chairman of Selectors' thoughts on the road to success in table tennis.

To be serious, the training undertaken by the players at Leeds University is very good and one can see the improvement in their fitness. For instance, Denis Neale, one of the leading users of this system of training had a wonderful run in the last tour abroad, to which he owes a lot to this type of training.

The Chinese, whilst going to the extreme, do concentrate on the development of the same muscles. Instead of stringing a sausage-like sandbag to calves and thighs, and running on the spot until tears of agony roll down the cheeks, or using an iron bat ten times the weight of an ordinary one, and hitting the ball

to and fro until the wrists and fore-arms swell, we perform the circuit training with light weights which do strengthen and develop the leg, back and arm muscles.

And to quicken their reactions, our players do sprinting over a short distance with raised boards to help them turn around. The Chinese equivalent is to have a Coach stand by a light that flashes in five colours. The players run forward on green, backward on blue, stop dead on red, hop sideways to left on yellow and to the right on white.

Anyone not responding quickly enough would continue starting and stopping, like a puppet, until he fell in a heap on the floor.

As a final thought, we might emulate the Chinese players and startle the audience by holding high a banner (with a picture of Chairman Tom of course) and proclaim that his thoughts provide the inspiration necessary to win.



Peter Simpson

University and our own Northern Staff Coach, Peter Simpson.

Whilst the training with weights was similar, though not so drastic, I thought that the players would obviously improve their shots a lot more if they emulated the Chinese. To do this, after a bad shot, they

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R.A.F. TURN TABLES

writes W/O J. Bishop

R.A.F. T.T.A. Publicity Officer

SEVEN months ago the Guildford & District Table Tennis Association entertained the R.A.F. Table Tennis Association at The Pegasus Club, Guildford and won 7-3. On Saturday, 25 November, they entertained us once again at the same venue and we were able to turn the tables with an 8-2 victory. Both teams were changed from the last encounter, only Dick Clode of the R.A.F. and Foster and Marriott of Guildford playing in both.

The teams this time were: R.A.F.: Cpl. Dick Clode (Colerne), Sgt. Brian Mayfield (Syerston), Sgt. Brian Cullis (Wyton) and Fg. Off. Wally Ladmore (Cranwell). Guildford: R. Foster, R. Bradstreet, W. Marriott and T. Gerrard.

Result: R.A.F. 8—Guildford 2.
Clode bt Bradstreet 17 -19 13
Mayfield bt Gerrard 16 -14 9
Cullis bt Foster 10 13
Ladmore lost to Marriott -16 16 -9
Clode/Mayfield bt Bradstreet/Gerrard 12 -19 17
Cullis/Ladmore lost to Foster/Marriott -15 -15
Mayfield bt Bradstreet 16 -14 9
Clode bt Gerrard 15 17
Ladmore bt Foster -14 18 12
Cullis bt Marriott -16 16 9
Neither side produced their best form and games were really won on the number of mistakes made. Possibly the best match of the evening was the doubles between Clode/Mayfield and Bradstreet/Gerrard.

WESTERN LEAGUE BULLETIN by Grove Motlow

SURPRISE DEFEAT FOR BETTY GRAY

IN the Women's Section, Newport beat Swindon 6-3 in a keenly contested match. For Newport, Betty Gray was on form winning all her three sets whilst, for Swindon, Gwen Hazell won two.

Away to Weston, the Newport trio were well on top winning 7-2. A surprise defeat for Betty Gray was that administered by Mrs. Hall in straight games.

Bristol beat visitors Exeter 7-2. Both Joan Golding and Joan Collier recorded treble successes which they repeated against Swindon beaten 8-1. Against Plymouth, last season's champions, Bristol won 5-4, Mrs. Golding beating Mrs. Munday for the decider. For the losers, Pam Mortimer was invincible.

Swindon, at home to Plymouth, were beaten 7-2. Gwen Hazell was not available for this match and Mrs. J. Price deputised and she and Miss Onslow were Swindon's only winners beating Mrs. Munday.

In the Men's Section, Bristol II were at home to Exeter and, in a very close match in which six of the nine sets went to three, the visitors won 6-3.

Bath, making a welcome return, visited Newport and were worthy

winners 6-3 with Don Smith thrice a victor.

Bristol entertained Plymouth and won 6-3. Ron Bowles, Allan Marsh and Eric Hall each won 2, whilst for Plymouth, C. Judson claimed a treble.

For Weston, 7-2 winners over Newport, Graham Gear and Ray Philpott were unbeaten. Newport included 14-year-old Michael Nocivelli who did well in taking games off Gear and Philpott and beating Tony Russe.

Bath, at home to Bristol, lost 6-3, the visitors' Eric Hall being the outstanding player. For Bath Dick Clode had a good victory over Bowles and also beat Marsh.

Against Newport, Bristol won 8-1, and were far too good for the opposition.

It is pleasing to learn that Tom Anson, for many years the popular Secretary of Plymouth until this season, when through illness he was forced to retire, is now making excellent progress.

We wish him well and hope that this progress will be maintained and we all look forward to his return to activity in the Plymouth League in the very near future.

S.-E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE CHATTER by Leslie Constable

North Herts The Danger

RESULTS obtained so far show that such is the state of parity that it cannot be ascertained who the likely champions will be in any section although Wellingboro' Juniors have shown particularly good form. They hold top position as do Ely in the Veterans' Section.

St. Neots gained a notable win over Bletchley in both Senior and Junior matches, Len Saywell beating Les Wooding and Paul Racey.

League secretary, Henry Fox, is also playing well indicative of there being life in the old dog yet!

North Herts are a real danger in the Men's and Ladies' Sections, but the threat is not so menacing as last season.

Ann Lenton has been prominent for Kettering. Wisbech and Dunstable, in their first season, are finding the going hard.

Brian Jones (Ely) and John Thurston (Cambridge City) are doing well as

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Staff Coach (North):
Peter Simpson, 30 Vesper Gate Mount, Leeds 5. Leeds 57510

Date	Venue	Function	Enquiries to
Jan. 14	Bradford Sports Centre	Regional Training All levels	P. Simpson (Director in attendance)
17-18	London Paddington Street	Coaches' Study and Assessment	J. Carrington
21	Stockton Sports Centre	Regional Training	P. Simpson
Feb. 4	Crystal Palace	Regional Training	J. Carrington
19	Exmouth S.M. School	National Schools Competitions 10.30	B. Worts 36 Park Road Exmouth (as above)
20	Exmouth S.M. School	South Devon Coaching 10.30	
22	Weston-super-Mare Worle S.M. School	Schools Coaching 10.30	J. Carrington
23	Leicester National College	Teacher Training 2.0	College
25	Burford Grammar School	Schools Coaching 10.30	J. Carrington
28	Harlow Sportcentre	Coaches' Training 2.0	J. Carrington
Feb. 3	Colchester Technical College	Rally (lower levels) 2.0	D. Arr 222 Holland Road Clacton
9	Worcester	Coaches' Study 7.0	I. Crickmer 42 Cypress Street Worcester
10-11	St. Austell Penrice School	Schools Coaching 10.30	A. R. Bunt 36 Carclew Street Truro
11	Bradford Sports Centre	Regional Training 11.30	P. Simpson
17	Birmingham Northfields Y.M.C.A.	National Finals: Best Trained School Group	J. Carrington
18	Stockton Sports Centre	Regional Training 11.30	P. Simpson
20	Havant	Schools Rally 10.30	P. Neil 29 Brooklands Road Bedhampton
Mar. 10	Crystal Palace	Regional Training 11.30	J. Carrington
10	Bradford Sports Centre	Regional Training 11.30	P. Simpson
30-31	Matlock Lea Green	Teachers' Course 10.30	Derbyshire C.C.

HOLIDAY TRAINING COURSES

Apr. 7-11	Loughborough	Teachers/Coaches	Leicestershire County Education Officer C.C.P.R. 26 Park Crescent London, W.1
21-27	Torquay	Moderate Players	
July 13-20	Lilleshall	Medium and Strong Players	C.C.P.R. (as above)

Sugden Confirms Ranking

At the Scottish Closed Championships held in Springburn Sports Centre, Glasgow, on Sunday 10th Dec, Malcolm Sugden confirmed his number one ranking by successfully defending his title against Ian Barclay who was in tremendous form. The first end was dominated by Ian Barclay's brilliant backhand attack which again and again penetrated the Sugden defence, and Ian won 19. Sugden at last found the table with his forehand and switching the play to Barclay's forehand won the next two ends 6, 17 for the championship.

Semi-finals: Sugden bt Kerr 16, 20; Barclay bt Cameron -13, 13, 12.

Barclay also featured in the very exciting Mixed Doubles final when partnered by Miss B. Johnstone. He used his backhand and superb retrieving to beat Brian Kean and Mrs. Hawkins -20, 21, 24. The mixed doubles games are now providing some first class play indicative of the great strides our ladies are making, and Miss Johnstone, a late comer to the game, must be congratulated on a very fine performance.

Miss L. Barrie retained her title against Mrs. O. Hawkins, never allowing Mrs. Hawkins to use her forehand attack. Leslie has improved after many visit to the English and Irish Tournaments.

In the Men's Doubles, favourites Sugden and Kean lost to Barclay/Hogg in a match where neither Sugden nor Kean could maintain an attack. Hogg played steadily and imperturbably and Ian Barclay's controlled mixing of the game never let his opponents settle.

Sugden/Kean lost to Barclay/Hogg -19, -18.

West of Scotland Players Suspended

At the last meeting of the Disciplinary Committee of the S.T.T.A. four West of Scotland players were suspended.

J. Reilly for two weeks, as a result of improperly failing to take part in the later stages of the recent Top Ten Tournament.

E. Latham for two weeks, for similar actions at the Top Ten Tournament.

J. Dow for eight weeks, for his

behaviour at the Falkirk Open Championship.

S. Lennie for two weeks, as a result of his behaviour at the same tournament.

All of these decisions are confirmed by the S.T.T.A. Council which is known to have a very tough attitude this season. The S.T.T.A. is determined to improve the general image at tournaments and of the game in Scotland in order to provide a proper background to introduce the many new young players coming into the game from the schools and other youth services.

National Team Training

Mr. R. Reid has been confirmed as the new man in charge of national team training. Mr. Reid, who was a table tennis player some years ago, has also been a professional football player and is a qualified physiotherapist.

Sugden Trip

Malcolm left for Moscow on the first stage of his tour on Wednesday, 13th Dec with an air ticket almost as thick as a book. He has promised regular reports: any tips on training methods will be used in National Team Training programme.

JIM MARSH RESIGNS

LEINSTER Branch of the Irish Table Tennis Association reached the end of an era on November 24 when secretary Jim Marsh reluctantly had his resignation accepted. The fact that Mr. Marsh would soon be leaving his post has been rumoured for some time, but the difficulty of finding a replacement had forced him to carry on.

"I can no longer devote the time necessary for the secretaryship owing to pressure of business," says Jim, whose name has become so much a part of the game not alone in Leinster, but in the whole country.

He was first elected to the office in 1950 and has held it ever since, with the exception on one year, when he was chairman. Although handing over the secretaryship, Mr. Marsh hopes to remain in the game in some capacity.

TEMPERED ADMIRATION

I WOULD congratulate Mr. Goldfinch on the complete way he has taken the blame for a difficult decision, and not attempted to involve any other official. My admiration would have been greater if his apology to the umpire had been as whole-hearted. His statement that the scoring "appeared to be of a high standard" was purely derogatory, and robbed his apology of any sincerity. I would be interested to know the "several factors" involved in his decision. To the spectators it appeared a clear case of an umpire correctly faulting a dirty serve.

To Mr. Woodford I would say that the referee had four alternatives:

1. To say (as he should have done) the umpire is right. She has my full support.

2. To compromise and appoint a service judge.

3. Again to compromise and join her as a service judge.

4. The one decision he should not have made, was to be panicked into changing the umpire.

If the fault had not been called, and Gibbs had objected to having a

weak umpire would he have been as ready to replace her?

When the referee went to the table he went straight to the umpire, sent for a new umpire, and made no effort to speak to Miko or his Captain. It was an obvious case of his believing that whatever a foreign player wanted must be right and he intended giving it to them whatever the price paid by a mere English Official.

Having read the referee's comments, and those of others, would it be possible to hear those of Gibbs and possibly the umpire herself?

ALAN PALMER

37 Old Church Road
Maidstone, Kent

REPUTATION SPOILT

IT is well over fifteen years ago, when visiting Bristol, I saw their first qualified lady umpire score her first International match. Since then she has built up a justly deserved reputation as a first class umpire. Her crowning achievement was being invited, by the Swedes, to score the "Match of the night" at the recent world championships in Stockholm.

In all those years I cannot remember her being criticised by the

referee, and she has been given some tricky games.

To have such a reputation spoilt by being ordered off the table at a comparatively unimportant quarter-final must be most distressing, to be ordered off, for being right, really painful. To be replaced by a County Umpire, however competent, was added insult.

As Mr. Berry said (November issue) the scoring of the match had been faultless. To have it described (December issue) as "appeared to be of a good standard," can only make the semi-apology offered by the referee a mockery and cause more pain to a person he has already hurt enough.

DICK BAKER

18 Park Road
Oxford

TIME TO BURY THE HATCHET

AFTER talking to "Connie" Warren recently, it appears that some players and officials have been getting at him, over his behaviour at the Birmingham Open.

Let me quickly put this right following my report on the tournament in the December issue.

As a county umpire, as well as a sports journalist, I criticised Warren, and I thought rightly so, for his attitude towards the umpire in the final of the men's singles.

You all know what has happened to football in recent years, and a lot of this has been brought about by players not accepting the referee's decision. This sorry state of affairs must not be allowed to spread into table tennis.

Having said this, let me now say that apart from this incident, Warren's behaviour at the tournament was first class. He conducted himself equally as well at the same venue when he played in the international tournament arranged for the B.B.C.

Because of his past record, Warren is not always welcomed at these tournaments, and so I feel the time has come, for both sides to bury the hatchet.

If they do, and Warren behaves himself, then the game itself, is the one thing that will come out on top.

JOHN PIKE

15 Glendale Drive
Wormbourne, Staffs

WELSH CORNER

by Roy Evans

Five Welsh Titles for Chester

CHESTER BARNES, on the "come back" trail, took five titles in two very good Welsh tournaments. Highlight of all the finals was his two straight defeat of Les Haslam in the Cardiff event, a match which the crowd would have loved seeing going to the third, so good was the table tennis. At Swansea, Ralph Gunnion was Chester's opponent, and the Warwickshire star found Chester much too fast for him.

As usual, most of all the titles went to English players, who supported both tournaments well, and there were few Welsh results to enthuse over.

Our top players still have either "bogey" men or "bogey" styles. Graham Davies, now up at University in London, appears to be playing better, but once again he lost to Stuart Davies in the Swansea, a result which ought to be significant for the latter except that he has done nothing of note since beating Graham in the Aberdare.

Haydn Thomas, in convincing form to win both his matches in the Junior International against England, flopped on the day after at the Cardiff, losing in the Junior to Clayton whom he had beaten easily in the match, and then putting up a woeful performance against Bristolian veteran Bowles, whose style Haydn just cannot cope with at present.

Robert Bishop had probably the best results in both events.

The following have been chosen in the training squad for the European League matches in Jersey in January and for the Quadrangular in Belfast in February — Graham Davies, Robert Bishop, Haydn Thomas and John Spencer. Neither Margaret Phillips nor Sandra Morgan (now Pickering) is available for representative play, and the four women chosen are Elizabeth Gray, Janet Evans, Dorothy Attenborough and Margaret Jones. The players have already been together for the first of several sessions.

Swansea Open results.

Men's Singles — semi-finals: GUNNION bt Morley; BARNES bt Mike Johns.

Final: BARNES bt Gunnion 14, 12.
Women's Singles — semi-finals: DIANE SIMPSON bt Elizabeth Gray; JILL SHIRLEY bt Margaret Phillips.

Final: JILL SHIRLEY bt Diane Simpson 17, -15, 17.

Men's Doubles — final: F. BARNES/KEITH LAERENCE bt J. Brenner/B. Petch 19, -19, 13.

Women's Doubles — final: M. WALKER/J. SHIRLEY bt Diane Simpson/Betty Gray 10, -22, 14.

Mixed Doubles — final: F. BARNES/DOROTHY ATTENBOROUGH bt John Spencer/Elizabeth Gray -19, 16, 10.

Junior Boys' Singles — finals: F. HAYDN THOMAS bt Chris Evans 8, 11.

Junior Girls' Singles — finals: JILL SHIRLEY bt Christine Mann 18, 11.

ACROSTIC

Compiled by T. Sears

Put the answers to the clues in the spaces to their right. Then transpose the letters to the corresponding numbered squares below. If the correct answers are found a phrase familiar to T.T. players will appear. The initial letters of the answers gives the name of a T.T. personality.

1. A T.T. contest in an equal light?
2. Glean, a smash, short off the corner
3. Di and Ros —
4. We've come to the end of this
5. A bad one Tosh gets no points
6. Jack who had a different bat
7. In singles you are — on, beers all round
8. Six inches high — ten if disturbed
9. A girl in Lyons — should make a good T.T. player
10. Good players and enemies don't hit it —
11. Played, won, got the present
12. It's new, smashing, T.T. players try to do this (two words)
13. Strange lures — the ETTA make them
14. It's hopeless Pet, get in and smash
15. Ship gets in the make of glue. Shining (Not our TT tables)
16. A chopper rarely —
17. Di and Ros are —

22	41	1	5	2	
19	9	10	28	5	
7	6	31	23		
35	30	21	44		
4	25	11	17		
37	14	29	34	18	
26	27	32	16	38	
33	43	36			
55	8	13	39	42	
47	12	48			
64	63	45			
58	15	60	24	59	52
50	72	40	65	51	
49	89	75	66	57	
20	74	67	56	71	62
46	54	61	76		
70	53	68	73	77	

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33			
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47				
48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77						

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BOOM ON SOUTH BANK

TABLE Tennis is booming in the County, and particularly in the South Tees area. Interest in this area has increased 100 per cent since the Middlesbrough & District League affiliated to Yorkshire.

In taking full advantage of the benefits provided by their new county, they combined with the North Yorkshire League to enter seven teams in the Yorkshire inter-league competitions. This indicates the tremendous keenness as the average distance for an away fixture is 70 miles.

The Yorkshire committee helped by allowing the Men's first team to enter direct into the first division.

With Denis Neale, Alan Ransome, John Phelps and Malcolm Corking in the side, they made an excellent start by taking a point from the reigning champions, at Doncaster. Neale was outstanding beating both Mike Symonds and Peter Duncombe and Ransome's win over Duncombe was a great blow to the home side. But Mike Dainty, for Doncaster, won both his singles to keep them in the game. At 18-12 up in the second, after winning the first, John Keys looked all set to give Doncaster victory against Corking, but the Middlesbrough boy took his courage in both hands and blasted John with some unstoppable shots to take the game at 22-20.

In their second match they beat Hull (away) 7-3. Graham Birch put up an excellent show before losing to Neale -17 and -20. Alan Fletcher, the young Hull junior, was outstanding having a clean sheet.

Middlesbrough and North Yorkshire, in the 2nd and 3rd division

respectively, are doing quite well and holding their own.

Two intermediate teams are entered, the first being unbeaten, while the second, not quite as successful, is being used for the second string of juniors.

Linda Bashford, from whom much is expected, is drawing valuable experience being No. 1 for the Ladies' side, which, at 15, is quite an achievement, as well as being the girl in a very strong junior side which will be battling it out with Hull for the championship. With Denis Neale at No. 1 for the Premier Division side, Linda Bashford at No. 5 in Yorkshire Rankings (Senior) and No. 2 in Junior, John Phelps at No. 3 in the Junior Rankings and Nicky Jarvis, Peter Abel and Ray Darcy also ranked, the new area abounds with talent. The Leagues have organised an Open tournament, The Tees-side Junior and Senior. This will be held at the £600,000 Stockton Sports Stadium on February 24-25. Twelve Jacques tables will be used. Events range from under-13 Boys and Girls singles right through to the veterans' singles.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

LITTLE IN RESERVE

RELATION at the three outstanding successes of the Sussex premier division team continues to dominate the county scene but should one of our four "stars" be unfit to play in the remaining four matches against Essex, Gloucester, Lancashire and

Cheshire there is no player of this standard available as a replacement.

At the present time there is only one young player who looks as though he may reach premier division standard, 20-year-old Terry Riley of Crawley. Joyce Sheppard is the only woman player strong enough to put up any sort of resistance in the top flight should she have to substitute for Judy Williams. Joyce will re-appear shortly for Sussex II who are struggling against relegation in Division 2 (South). Sussex juniors are also struggling at the bottom of the Junior South after a talent search amongst young and inexperienced contenders.

Norwich have reached the zone finals of both the Rose Bowl and Wilmott Cup. Val Hartman took the final set to give Norwich a 5-4 Rose Bowl win over Ely, for whom Carol Chapman was undefeated. Philip Graver won all his three sets when Norwich removed Great Yarmouth from the Wilmott Cup.

Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. have suffered their first league defeat in six seasons when losing to Norwich Lads' Club in a Premier Division match. Since then, they have also lost to their "B" team. However, 150 matches without defeat is a wonderful record. Their "D" team are undefeated in Division II.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by Teddy Grant

Southampton Dominate

HAMPSHIRE'S Closed tournament returned, after several years absence, to its former seaside venue of Wimbledon Park, Southsea.

Southampton players dominated the tournament in which four titles were retained by previous holders. R. De La Haye, former County Secretary and Treasurer for many years, won the veteran singles to bring a ray of hope for North Hants.

In the junior singles, C. Shetler for once turned the tables on county

teammate S. Tannahill and in the girls' event dominated by Bournemouth Celia Hutchings beat Julia Hudson. Other results:

M.S.: W. Moulding (Soton) bt F. Bradley (Portsmouth).

W.S.: P. Edwards (Soton) bt J. Coop (Bournemouth).

M.D.: C. Edwards/T. Ward bt D. Davies/Moulding.

W.D.: C. Davies/Edwards bt S. Foster/D. Gray.

-23: Moulding bt D. Holman (Bournemouth).

Prizes were presented by County Chairman, R. Yates.

FOCUS ON BASINGSTOKE

The rapid development of the semi-industrial north Hants town of Basingstoke, which now has a diversity of light industries, has had occasion to expand the local t.t. league and provided much welcome competition for representative team places.

Alan Waters whose excellent coaching has benefitted the juniors, is just one name of many behind the scenes responsible for the smooth organisation of an old league within a new town.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Jim Beckley

It's That Lad Again!

MIKE JOHNS has received yet another honour by being selected to play for the International Club of England on January 14 against the Manchester T.T. League. Mike must surely be Cheshire's most successful player.

Judy Heaps' great win over Mary Wright in the Woolwich "Open" didn't go unnoticed, for now she has

"IT'S AN ILL WIND"

BECAUSE of the foot and mouth epidemic, players and officials in the Walsall, Wolverhampton and West Bromwich areas, were given the chance to see the England team in action, when they came to the Harry

Mitchell Recreation Centre at Warley.

This event, an invitation tournament, was arranged at fairly short notice, when the B.B.C. were unable to film an athletics meeting, because of the outbreak, at nearby Cosford. It was good to see table tennis featured in Grandstand.

The county first team, and juniors, are both doing well, but the second team are still looking for their first win.

Umpires, or at least the lack of them, is again causing the committee some concern. In the first team match with Oxfordshire, one of the Staffordshire players did more umpiring than playing. New umpires are needed badly, and anyone who is interested should contact Gordon Rose, he is the new umpires secretary, at the E.C.C. Ltd., Showell Road, Wolverhampton.

The Woodfield tournament was again a big success, which meant that over £30 went to a local charity. Talking of tournaments, it looks like Wolverhampton will be going without one this season, unless a suitable venue is found quickly.

There should be a full house in Wolverhampton early in the New Year, when Ken Stanley demonstrates his robot machine, to county officials and coaches.

Those marathons have been going the rounds again, and I would like to hear from Brian Worts down there in Exmouth what the record now stands at.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

Soham Meths. Top Club

AGAINST Norfolk, in the County Championships, Cambs were beaten 6-4 but were handicapped by the absence of Betty Bird who was unable to travel.

John Thurston did his share by accounting for Alan Coby and Graver and seems to be playing better than ever.

Tony Littlechild and Alan Ponder each had a singles success, against the Gravers, but all the doubles sets were lost and with them the match.

In the Cambs League, the championship of Division I now seems to rest between New Chesteron Institute, University Press and Y.M.C.A. The Institute are slight favourites as

Press were penalised for non-fulfilment of a fixture.

Soham Meths II hold the lead in Division 2 with Brian Jones their leading light and, with their third team heading Division 3 there is little doubt as to which is the most successful club.

The popular Handicap Trophy is now in full swing as is the Cambridge United Hospitals Cup for individual players. This handsome trophy donated by the Cambridge Hospitals, is certainly well worth winning.

Coaching sessions for juniors at the Y.M.C.A. have brought to light one or two useful youngsters who should make the grade. But, oh for table tennis in the schools where they can keep up with their game!

Alan Ponder, now at College in London, has joined the same club as Stuart Gibbs and David Brown and is more than holding his own in this good company.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by "Expedite"

Michael Jobson Challenging

WARWICKSHIRE'S first team continued their successful run in the County Championships with a resounding 9-1 victory over Glamorgan at Leamington Spa.

There were some very close games and Warwks were thankful to win so comfortably. Last season the score

was 6-4, so it is evident that our young players have improved considerably, especially Paul Judd, who is playing very well at the moment.

The second team had a comfortable 10-0 win over Staffs seconds, who did not turn out a very strong side. Pat Glynn, another of last season's successful junior side, played well and continues to show consistently good form.

Warwks juniors also had a fine 10-0 win over Notts, to complete a very successful day. Michael Jobson made a very successful debut, and will be soon challenging the other five boys with county experience, for a permanent place.

In open tournaments, Warwks players continue to figure prominently. Kath Perry has now won two Women's Singles titles, the Cardiff and Pontefract Opens.

Paul Judd continues to be one of the most successful juniors in the country, and in the recent Middlesex Open, figured in the best final of the night, when he narrowly lost to Trevor Taylor in the boys' singles.

On the Birmingham front, the two Midland League junior teams have amazing records, each having won their three matches played 10-0, using 10 players in the six matches.

So far this season has been very successful for Birmingham and Warwickshire, and we can look forward to better things still, with so many boys and girls playing in the schools.

BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by P. A. Denton

MIXED FORTUNES

THE County side have met with mixed fortunes in their last two matches. After beating Hunts 9-1, their best victory for several seasons, they were well beaten by Cambs 8-2.

It was a good all round performance against Hunts. Captain Colin Crowe won both his singles, and his tactics and advice to the rest

of the team paid dividends. Young Alan Nicholl improves with every match and played particularly well to beat Saywell.

It was pleasing to see the Ladies, Anita James and Jennifer Racey, take all their sets.

With none of the three regular men available for the match against Cambs, Beds played two newcomers, Fred Morris and Brian Smedley, with David White, a regular member of the team a few years ago, making up the side. White won Bed's only singles and the Ladies took the doubles for Bed's only successes.

Both Bedford and Luton still have teams in the Rose Bowl Competition and the Leighton Buzzard boys had a good win in the Carter Cup to take them through to the next round.

Colin Crowe has recently entered hospital for a minor operation, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

ISLE OF ELY NOTES

by J. G. Ashman

Telephones Have 'Double Line'

DUE to the incorporation of the highly popular Handicap Competition, the league programme started later this season but has now got into full swing. Handicap semi-finalists are: Soham I (0) v Telephones I (2) and Wilburton I (1) v Telephones II (4).

In Division I of the League, Soham I are leading challenged by Wilburton I and Telephones I. In Division 2 the Soham team of Ruth Ashman, Alan Jugg and Les Edwards are at present the fractional leaders.

Teams representing Ely in the S.E. Midland League are having a varied passage. The men's team, of Johnnie Ashman, Bryan Jones, Denny Sore

and Eddie Sharp have toppled firstly the current champions Northampton and secondly a very useful side from N. Herts.

The ladies team of Carol Chapman, Phyl Everitt and Ruth Ashman are, despite the presence of Miss Chapman, finding life rather difficult.

Despite a brave effort, the junior team of Alan Jugg, Steve Palmer and Graham Randall are finding the opposition a bit too strong.

In the Veteran Section, Ely's team are once again proving hard to beat being chosen from John Baird, Tommy Catlyn, Reg Kimberley and Martin Pratt.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

Wins for Coby and Edna Allen

THE Norfolk Closed Championships held at the Civil Defence Headquarters, Norwich, saw Alan Coby consolidate his position as County Champion. He scored a treble and also won the Craske Victor Ludorum Shield. This was his third title win in succession and his fourth in five seasons. The Championships were also a triumph for Edna Allen, who beat Betty Cassell in the Women's final and took the Women's Doubles with Pat Kelf.

Coby took the singles title with a win over Paul Gilbertson of Great Yarmouth. Gilbertson had defeated Neville Graver in the Semis. Alan teamed with Chris Fie'ds, who had deprived him of the Norfolk singles crown four seasons ago, to retain the Men's Doubles. He partnered Betty Cassell to win the Mixed for the fifth successive year.

Jack Mansi brought the Great Yarmouth titles to three when he retained the Veterans' championship.

Men's Singles: A. Coby (N) bt P. Gilbertson (Y) 13, 16.

Men's Doubles: Coby/Fields (Y) bt L. Holdom/B. Broom (N) 12, 13.

Women's Singles: Mrs. E. Allen (Y) bt Mrs. B. Cassell (K.L.) -17, 17, 15.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. Allen/Miss P. Kelf (Y) bt Mrs. Cassell/Miss M. Turner (N) 15, -11, 13.

Veterans' Singles: J. Mansi (Y) bt W. Mathews (Fakenham) -17, 18, 17.

Mixed Doubles: Coby/Mrs. Cassell bt N. Graver (N)/Miss Turner 15, 10.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by Geo. R. Yates

"TROTTERS" PRODUCE KICK

FOLLOWING their curtain-raiser win over Bolton, in Division 1 of the Lancs and Ches League, Stockport have maintained full steam ahead to dispose of Burnley (9-1), Hyde (8-2) and Preston (9-1) to reach

the half way stage of the season with an unblemished record.

Partial revenge was obtained by the "Trotters" in the first round of the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy competition when, at Bolton, Cheshire's foremost representatives were ousted 5-4 with Brvn Farnworth getting the better of Wilf Crompton in a tense decider.

Revenge was also the order of the day when Stockport, still smarting from the Rose Bowl defeat by Manchester, turned the tables on the Mancunians in their L and C match.

Four teams, each with a 100 per cent record, is the proud boast of Blackpool whose first trio top Div. 2 (North), and second and third teams Div. 3(N) and 4(N). Completing the successful quartet the junior seiders have yet to drop a point in the Junior Div. 2.

Back on the competitive scene in Liverpool is Arthur Taylor but it was not with his assistance that the Liverpoolians put paid to Blackburn's ambitions in the Wilmott and Norman Cook competitions.

MEN'S FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockport	4	4	0	0	37	8	8
Manchester	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Bolton	4	3	0	1	37	8	6
Burnley	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Liverpool	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Preston	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Lytham	4	1	0	3	10	30	?
Hyde	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Urmston	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

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TABLE TENNIS EXHIBITIONS by MARY & BRIAN WRIGHT

Contact: Ken Mathews 11, South Norwood Hill London, S.E.25. (LIV 1918)

Juniors Come Good

PRIDE of place this month must go to the County Junior team who look almost certain to have the most successful season in their history by finishing runners-up in the Junior (Midland) Division after avoiding finishing bottom last season only by winning their last match. Their 9-1 victory over Staffs was flattering by its margin but there is little doubt the team, unchanged in four matches, is the strongest all-round one the County have ever had. Consisting of Andy Holdsworth, Tony Branson, Ivor Billson and Susan Baxter it is a young as well as successful team and the whole of it will still be in the junior age group next season.

The Senior team could collect only three sets from the Staffs Seniors but it was a splendid match as well as a personal triumph for Colin Truman, who won both his sets.

There will be a Junior Section, after all, in the Leicestershire Towns League thanks largely to the efforts of Reg Billson and Peter Harrison. Leicester expect to blood young players such as Peter Williamson, David Carter and Phil Barratt and Loughborough too have plenty of youngsters.

Leicester are out of the running for the League Championship in the Midland League 1st Division but the second team (Roger Maddocks, John Bowness and Mick Porter) are still unbeaten. The Intermediates beat Coventry 7-3 with Bob Phillips winning all three. The ladies drew 5-5 with Nottingham, the Men's first team also drew as did the veterans. Three draws and not a maximum, except in the Junior match, which Leicester won 6-4, Andy Holdsworth being unbeaten.

Leicester are out of the Wilmott, Rose Bowl and Carter Cup. Jacques won Leicester's lone set against West Brom in the men's match but the ladies did well to take three sets from Birmingham with Pat Kilsby beating both Doreen Griffiths and Ingrid Sykes. The juniors also lost 6-3 after their long trip to Mid-Cheshire, Holdsworth winning two and Branson one.

Loughborough are still unbeaten in the Midland League and everything points to the match with Nottingham Juniors being decisive. Hinckley, too are 100 per cent in the Midland League Div. 3. In the Carter Cup, Loughborough met their "Waterloo" when they lost 8-1 to Birmingham.

Out of the Rose Johnson Bowl are Leicester Y.M.C.A. who lost 6-3 despite a splendid maximum from Colin

Truman when they played Barwell Constitutional.

First defeat for four years by Shepshed, top of the Loughborough League first division, came from Garendon School when a maximum from Mick Brooks failed to prevent a 7-3 defeat.

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

by Arthur E. Durrant

Coby Mops Up

THE first event of "Top Ten"—one of the twin competitions of the Suffolk Invitation Tournament—was held at a new venue during December. This was the first time Orwell Works Athletic Club in Ipswich has been used for "Top Ten."

Alan Coby won the day's event with a maximum mark of 16 which means that he did not lose a solitary game. He beat Colin Tucker in the intergroup tie 9 and 16 and was in his most devastating form.

The three leading players in the table are: Alan Coby (16), Colin Tucker (12) and Reg Purnell (8).

Suffolk's senior team has started off the season in fine style beating both Hunts and Northants 9-1. The team of Colin Tucker, Brian Buckle, David

Mann, Dianne and Jeanne Youngs is the same composition as last season. Lowestoft's Rose Bowl team, which last season reached the semi-final, has again started off on the trial in great style. They beat Great Yarmouth 9-0 and, once again, showed themselves to be a really fine side.

NORTHANTS NEWS

by David Bliss

Hogg & Steward Missed

IN their first season in the County Championships since the reformation of the County Association, Northants have lost both matches

played so far in the Eastern division against Cambridgeshire 4-6 and Suffolk 1-9. The juniors began well by beating Suffolk 7-3 but not surprisingly went down 10-0 to Essex.

In the South-East Midlands League, Northampton, who are defending their title, are not doing too well this term having won only two out of five matches and are sorely missing Colin Hogg and Roger Steward who are not available. The juniors seem more promising especially Wellingborough who lie second in their section.

Both Wellingborough and Northampton leagues have increased in size and extra divisions have been created. In Northampton, table tennis is becoming more popular among the ladies and there are now two separate divisions for them. All this extra interest brings with it the problem of new cups and trophies but it is hoped that it will soon bring improvements in both town and county standards.

KENT NOTES

by Charles M. Wyles

Folkestone The Mecca

THE attractive Channel Port town of Folkestone is fast becoming a "mecca" of table tennis tournaments. Re-decoration and new roofing at the Marine Pavilion has certainly paid off.

Used recently for the Kent Junior Open, the Pavilion is booked for the Kent Open on January 27-28 to be followed by the County's Senior Closed on March 30-31—for the first time a two-day event. To complete the circle, the venue has been chosen for the first English Junior Open Championships in May.

It is always a pleasure to introduce a new personality in the organising field. Trevor Dommedy, of Sittingbourne, is no stranger to local organisation, assisting with Ted Inge in the running of a young peoples club. He is a qualified coach and has offered his services to run the popular "Kent Messenger" tournament this season.

Our congratulations go to Albert Shipley on his appointment and ele-

vation to higher spheres. Our loss is the National gain and our best wishes go with you "Our Albert."

The annual Deal Inter-Association tournament produced some surprise results with defeat for two holders in the finals. Results: M.S.: Brian Maxted (Canterbury); W.S.: Linda Chesson (Sittingbourne); M.D.: Trevor Downing/Barry Grimwade (Sittingbourne); W.D.: Ruth Wilson (Folkestone)/Bernie McGrorty (Sittingbourne); X.D.: Chris Hopper (Folkestone)/Wilson.

SURREY NOTES

by John Zenthon

Uneasy Situation

ANOTHER blow to the first team, with their 6-3 defeat at the hands of Yorkshire. They only have two points from four matches, and to avoid relegation it would seem essential that they beat Lancs, and also pull something out of the bag against Middlesex and Essex. An uneasy situation for players and selectors alike. Although Barry Hill did not win a game in the Yorkshire match he played well to be 19-17 up on Michael Symonds in their first game

but then disappointingly lost the next four points.

The Juniors kept their unbeaten record with an easy 9-1 win over Sussex at Leatherhead on December 16 although they made heavy weather of it. Nice to see that most of them, on conclusion of their match, went on to see the encounter versus Yorkshire at Woking.

I wonder what they must have thought, having been hauled over the coals in their various matches for service faults, to see senior players getting away with murder (i.e. serving under the table, behind their backs—you name it, it happened) although let me hasten to add that this only applied to the few. A pity that there cannot be a consistency in the Umpires approach to service action even in Surrey alone and players surely have a legitimate grouse if they are apparently "passed" by some Umpires and not by others.

Congratulations to Derek Smith, Chris Thorns and Michael Fisher awarded badges having now represented Surrey Juniors on three occasions.

Concluding, can I give you a reminder that I will be happy to receive any articles or information which you think will be of interest and that of course means at League level as well (telephone number: 01-660 1974).

Surrey v Sussex (Juniors). Won 9-1. D. Smith lost to A Downer -15, 20, -17; bt S. Mitchell -17, 16, 15.

C. Thorns bt Mitchell 18, 13; bt Bull 18, 17.

M. Fisher bt Bull 4, 18; bt Downer 14, -18, 18.

Miss S. Goldsmith bt Miss S. Kavalieron 15, 19.

Goldsmith/Miss S. Howard bt Kavalieron/Miss T. Johnson 10, 10.

Thorns/Fisher bt Downer/Bull 18, 10. Howard/Smith bt Johnson/Mitchell 15, 14.

BEDFORD LEAGUE NOTES

by R. A. Cox

HUNTER BOOSTS RIVERSIDE

IN the national competitions, Bedford's Rose Bowl team of Anita James, Barbara Hammond and Doreen Underwood have now reached the Zone final with a 9-0 win over Leighton Buzzard. Likely next round opponents are Reading.

Turning to League affairs, as expected, the 1st Division championship is a 2-team affair with only one point separating St. Neots "A" and Cryselco "A". In Div. 2 Riverside, reinforced by Cambridge League player J. Hunter, are drawing away.

At the top of Div. 3 it is a neck and neck struggle between BLTC "B" and the two promoted teams College of Aeronautics and Hunting Engineering "A."

In Div. 4, BETA "C" are unbeaten and hold a clear lead and look set to repeat last season's success in winning the Div. 5 title.

The Preliminary Round of the W.G. Smith Cup has now been played off. This tournament, in which teams are handicapped, gives the lower divisioned teams a fair chance as instanced by the defeat of a 1st Division team—Biggleswade "B," put out by 4th Div. BLTC "D."

Len Takes Over

ST. NEOTS player Len Saywell takes over as the new Hunts/Peterborough No. 1 in the County's most recent ranking list. This is the first time that Len has occupied the No. 1 spot, but he has fully earned it by his consistent performances in the S.E. Midlands League this season with 11 out of a possible 12 wins before Christmas.

His only defeat, and this but a narrow one, was by Tony Littlechild of Cambridge. In the two County matches played so far he has taken only one singles, but lost two others by the narrowest margin.

With Len as No. 1, Alan Albon drops to No. 2 and David Obee to No. 3. Brian Cullis retains the No. 4 position.

In the ladies' section Diane Maxfield continues at No. 1, Olive Noble, Ann Boddy and Mary Maxfield following in that order.

The County match against Bedfordshire proved a disappointment for the home side who never recovered from losing the first two singles at 19 in the third. For the visitors, young Tony Nichols showed immense promise, putting on a brilliant display in his second singles against Saywell. Colin Crowe also proved a little too good.

In the national knock-out competitions St. Neots suffered a double blow when both their ladies' and junior girls' teams went down 5-4, to Reading and Ipswich respectively. Luck was not with St. Neots whose Diane Maxfield was the star both times, with 3 wins in the girls' match and 2 in the ladies'.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

MEN DIVISION 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Gloucester	4	4	0	0	30	10	8			
Leicester "A"	4	2	0	2	24	16	6			
Birmingham "A"	2	1	0	1	15	5	3			
Coventry "A"	3	0	1	2	14	16	2			
Chesterfield "A"	3	1	2	0	10	20	2			
West Bromwich	3	1	2	0	9	21	2			
Nottingham "A"	3	0	2	1	11	19	1			
Wolverton "A"	2	0	2	0	7	13	0			

LADIES DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
West Bromwich	4	3	1	0	30	10	6			
Chesterfield	3	2	1	0	17	13	4			
Birmingham	2	2	0	0	16	4	4			
Leicester	3	1	1	1	17	13	3			
Nottingham	2	0	1	1	8	12	1			
Nuneaton	3	0	3	0	2	28	0			
Wolverhampton	1	0	1	0	0	10	0			

JUNIOR DIVISION 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Birmingham "A"	2	2	0	0	20	0	4			
Birmingham "B"	2	2	0	0	20	0	4			
Worcester	1	1	0	0	8	2	2			
Coventry	2	0	2	0	2	18	0			
Walsall	1	0	1	0	0	10	0			
Wolverhampton	2	0	2	0	0	20	0			

VETERANS DIVISION 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Birmingham "A"	4	4	0	0	24	6	8			
Birmingham "B"	3	1	0	2	16	14	4			
Leicester	3	0	0	3	15	15	3			
Walsall "A"	3	1	1	1	13	17	3			
Nottingham "A"	3	1	1	1	13	17	3			
Oxford	3	1	2	0	12	18	2			
Darlaston	2	0	1	1	9	11	1			
Cheltenham	3	0	3	0	8	22	0			

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Birmingham	3	3	0	0	22	8	6			
Leicester	2	2	0	0	13	7	4			
Leamington	3	1	2	0	12	18	2			
Coventry	4	1	3	0	15	25	2			
Walsall	2	0	2	0	8	12	0			

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Divisional Tables to 19.12.67

Table with columns: PREMIER, 2nd SOUTH, 2nd NORTH, 2nd MIDLAND, 2nd WEST, SOUTHERN, MIDLAND, EASTERN, JUNIOR SOUTH, JUNIOR NORTH, JUNIOR MIDLAND, JUNIOR EAST, JUNIOR WEST. Rows list counties and their P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP

SUSSEX BROUGHT TO EARTH

AS expected, Essex have taken over the Premier Division lead, followed by Yorkshire and Sussex (whose reign ended painfully).

At the other end of the table, Lancashire now seem certain to be relegated following their humiliation at the hands of neighbours Cheshire, and Surrey slip further into trouble with the Gloucestershire win over Middlesex.

But Middlesex themselves are not yet safe, and the end-of-season clash between these two could see the loser dropping from the top flight for a season.

Still too early to predict divisional winners, but one cannot but help notice Warwickshire teams, with an overall record of played 9 won 9, sets (for) 84 (against) 6—points 18.

Although possibly unlucky to lose XD and having a definite chance in MD, 3-6 was the best Lancashire could have achieved. Mike Johns superb against Kevin Forshaw and a crumb of comfort for the red rose in the way debutant Bryn Farnworth fought throughout.

Gloucs always on top after Roy Morley's surprise win over Brian Wright who led him by a game and 6-0. Both Morley and Ian Harrison at their very best but poor 'flu victim Alan Lindsay below par. 'Flu kept Les Haslam out of this match, the first blank evening Brian Wright has had in 8 years.

A closely fought match with Surrey desperately striving to avoid relegation. Highlight of the evening was volatile Connie Warren's merited victory in a breathtaking singles over Denis Neale. Alan Hydes maintained his unbeaten singles record.

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Terry Densham never in trouble, but Trevor Taylor had to work against Alf Watson.

Hants slightly unlucky to lose last two sets at 20 in 3rd and 21 in 3rd but Middlesex deserved to win a tense match in which 7 sets went to 3. The home women just that bit too good—and how often that has been said of Christine Davies and Pauline Edwards.

Tony Piddock stood out for this match and when the score reached 2-all must have wondered if this was a wise decision. But Kent then pulled away to a victory that was not altogether convincing. Good result for Terry Riley whose straight games win over Ken Baker opened the proceedings.

A fine women's singles with Connie Moran steadying after losing first to Pat Gleeson. Both girls did well not to let the stream of net and edge balls disturb them, Lincs rallied to lead 5-3, but Lancs came back strongly through Don Berry and Bob Kelly and deserved their point.

Yorkshire's youth policy vindicated, their three juniors playing well in an entertaining match. Durham handicapped by the absence of Wilf Barker.

By no means as one-sided as the score might indicate, with half the sets going to 3. Fine defensive display by Derek Munt and good mixed win for Haydn Thomas and Stella Jones.

Staffs justifying their position in the table, with No. 1 Glenn Warwick in dominating form. For the home team, Colin Truman did well to take both singles and Staffs knew that they had been in a match.

3-1 up became 4-5 down, but Keith Truscott followed his win over Cleve Judson by beating David James, the Eng. and No. 9 Junior making his debut for Devon. First ever WD win by Cornwall over Devon, and from 12-18 in third as well!

The score speaks for itself, with only Tony Kinsey v Cliff Diffev (16, -18, 19) set being close.

A friendly, sporting match between the joint leaders, with the visitors comfortable winners. And when did the new year last see a Worcs team firmly established at the head of a division?

This weakened Oxford side soundly thrashed, with no set in danger of needing a 3rd game.

The greater experience of the Hants team (plus two rubber bat defensive players) proved too much for Kent, although Graham French maintained his 100 per cent singles record.

Outstanding in this generally comfortable win. After a dismal display in their doubles the home women returned to form, Mrs. Hammond taking her singles after dropping the first and Mrs. Wass combining well with John Felstead.

Somewhat flattering to Worcs in this foot-of-the-table clash, with four really tight sets to take the score from 3-0 to 6-1. With Roy and Barbara Williams returning to the scene of some of their former triumphs, the match was something of a re-union.

Far closer than 3-7 suggests, with 7 sets going the full distance and the match lasting about 4½ hours. Alf Saunders and Pat Hammond the stars. Staffordshire II 0, Warwickshire II 10

Beds well below strength and no match for Cambs. Alan Ponder and John Thurston played with great confidence but the latter made to fight for every point by D. White in his first county match for 6 years.

A comfortable first win for Northants on their return to the Championships although Hunts led 2-1. A really great recovery by B. Bond and Miss D. Fox to clinch the match victory: they trailed 13-20 in 3rd game of XD and won.

John Dabin takes the main honours with his sound win over England ranked Michael Wa'd. This was the general pattern: Kent superior in boys singles and Bucks came into their own in the other events.

Kent much too good, and this led to a rather impersonal atmosphere with little excitement. J. Gregory and B. Grimwade provided the best set, with tension to the end.

By JOHN WRIGHT

county for some time. Three efficient victories for Susan Baxter.

All members of the Norfolk side played above themselves to get this close to this strong Herts team. Five sets needed the 3rd game, with Herts winning only one of these.

Weakened by the absence of Karenza Smith, Middlesex went down to the division leaders. Good wins by Melvin Waldman and Bob Gibson over Frank Kennedy, and (not for the first time) Steve Smith, the No. 2, was the Essex star.

A comfortable win for Middlesex although Melvin Waldman given good sets by David Huddle and Roderick Marchant. Visiting girls far too good, with Christine Mann recording second win in 24 hours.

Two singles wins and the boys doubles for Dave Ashton, but Gloucs had more all-round experience.

Two sets forfeited for Monmouths, who played R. Tear and M. Nocivelli in wrong order. Young Pat Beazer had another good match for Somerset.

COUNTY DIARY

FIXTURES & VENUES FOR JANUARY/EARLY FEBRUARY

Table with columns: PREMIER DIVISION, SECOND DIVISION SOUTH, SECOND DIVISION NORTH, SECOND DIVISION WEST, SOUTHERN DIVISION, MIDLAND DIVISION, EASTERN DIVISION, JUNIOR SOUTH, JUNIOR NORTH, JUNIOR MIDLAND, JUNIOR EAST, JUNIOR WEST. Rows list dates, fixtures, and venues.

41st English Open Championships

Corn Exchange and Dome, Brighton

Thursday, 29th February, (commencing 10 a.m.) Team Championships. Evening—Team Finals.

Friday, 1st March, (Commencing 9 a.m.) Individual Events. Evening—Quarter-Finals.

Saturday, 2nd March, (commencing 9.30 a.m.) Individual Events. Morning—Semi-finals. Afternoon—2.15 p.m. GRAND FINALS.

Admission at Door Thursday - - - - - 5/- Children 2/6 Friday - - - - - 5/- Children 2/6 Saturday (Morning only) - - - - 5/- Children 2/6

Grand Finals Saturday 2.15 p.m. Tickets obtainable from the Box Office Brighton, or E.T.T.A. Office Numbered and Reserved 10/- and £1 (no reduction for children)

Rover tickets—Available at all times except the Grand Finals 15/-