

FEBRUARY, 1966
ONE SHILLING & SIXPENCE

Table Tennis

*The Official Magazine of the
English Table Tennis Association*



England's women's team, minus Diane Rowe, with the Victor Barna Trophy awarded for their achievement of winning the team title at the last European Championships — MARY WRIGHT, IRENE OGUS, RON CRAYDEN (non-playing captain), VICTOR BARNA, who made the presentation, and LESLEY BELL.

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Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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IS THE E.T.T.A. BIG ENOUGH ?

TABLE Tennis receives its biggest boost for at least a decade with the European Championships at Wembley in April. With the cream of the Continent coming to this country people, who in the past have dismissed the game merely as "ping pong," will discover that it is a highly athletic sport and new interests will be aroused.

They will want to know more about it. So this is the ideal opportunity for Table Tennis to cash in.

Present leaders of the game are well aware of this, but it poses the big question: is the organisation big enough to cope with the increasing interest which will probably lead to more and more folk wanting to play the game and wanting to know where they can play?

This is something that always has to be faced when an association takes on such an ambitious undertaking.

The E.T.T.A. is still in the course of new development. But is this far enough advanced to deal with the influx that the game can expect after the Europeans?

This is a problem that faces many sports in this affluent age. They grow so fast that administration becomes a full time job, or at least a job for people who are in semi-retirement. And these must be folk with the necessary ability.

There are of course many willing helpers, but those with the required ability are rare birds and all too often we find them saddled with so many jobs that they cannot give their best to one.

This is not a criticism, but just pause and look in your own immediate circle and you will find this is so. The general secretary is often the team secretary, match secretary, delegate to the league or county and more than likely also holding one of their key posts.

Magnify this up to a national scale and you

will find there is little alteration. Some people are like a magnet to the administration field and do not know when to say no.

So it seems there is room for a big rethinking. We all know too well the number of willing horses who are doing far too many jobs and in consequence are turning out second rate efforts. Yet, given the one task on which to concentrate, it would be first class. Obviously then this is something that must be stopped.

It would appear that the re-organisation that went on a year ago with the inauguration of a national council is not enough. The E.T.T.A. office as such is not big enough to deal with the growing amount of work.

What else can be done. It is suggested that a greater decentralisation is necessary. This will not please everyone but remember the game is far greater than any individual and must come first. Officers come and go but the game must always go on.

A study of other sports and their administration could be worth while. Take swimming, for instance. They are broken down into five areas—Midlands, North, North-East, South and West—each of which is self administered, with an executive committee which meets at regular intervals. They deal with the clubs in their areas thus taking work away from the national administration, which is governed by a committee composed of two representatives from each district plus the officers. This "Cabinet," which meets four or five times a year, is in turn answerable to the Council which meets once a year and is in fact the annual meeting, the delegates being drawn from each of the districts in proportion with the number of clubs under their wing.

It is a system that has worked well for swimming and might well be adapted to Table Tennis.

LANCASHIRE OPEN

by GEORGE R. YATES

Neale Leads A Day Of Plunder

A CLEAN sweep of Lancashire's sideboard was effected at Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, Lostock, near Bolton on January 15 when all eight titles of the county's Open were plundered by competitors from beyond its boundaries.

Both major singles titles went to Yorkshire and the minor ones to Northumberland, who trebled their haul with the veteran's crown.

WELSH OPEN INNOVATION

This season's Welsh Open will assume greater importance than usual. It has taken over the weekend vacated by the English Open and will now be staged on March 5 and 6. And what is more the matches will be the best of five games, thus offering international conditions and opposition as a warming up for the European Championships in April.

A strong international entry, headed by the Czechs and West Germans has already been promised.

In the absence of the English Open this will offer the ideal opportunity, not only for the top stars, but also for those who fail to win acceptance for the European Championships.

The Welsh Association held a very successful trials tournament in January when Ron Davies and young Jeff Morgan finished joint No. 1. Davies finished with the slightly better games average. They were followed by Phillip Bevan, Dennis Samuel and Glyn Morgan joint third, Fraser Anderson and John Spencer 6th, Wayne Smith 8, Graham Davies 9, and Jeff Spencer 10.

Sandra Morgan and Elizabeth Gray shared the No. 1 spot among the women, Sandra beating Elizabeth, but losing to Betty Gray, who was joint third with Margaret Phillips. Other placings were: 5 Stella Jones, 6 Linda Barrett, 7 Janet Evans, 8 Dorothy Attenborough, 9 Shirley Sutherland, 10 Gloria Miles.

Jeff Morgan and Dennis Samuel missed the junior trials to concentrate on the senior event and this paved the way for young Haydn Thomas, of Abergavenny, to come through unbeaten in his six matches. He was followed by Keith Morris, Robert Bishop, Christopher Evans, Tony Roberts, Keith David and Andrew Evans.

The outcome of the trials has been a first senior international for Morgan in the Quadrangular against England, Ireland and Scotland in Glasgow on February 12-13. He is joined by Ron Davies, Phillip Bevan, Sandra Morgan, and Elizabeth Gray with Dennis Samuel and Margaret Phillips as reserves.

And there is a first junior badge for Haydn Thomas when he teams up with Morgan, Samuel and Robert Bishop to meet England juniors at Aberaman on February 26. Reserve is Keith Morris.

Yorkshire also took the women's doubles, shared the men's with Middlesex and the mixed with Northumberland to leave a carcass devoid of meat for home consumption.

Consolation in having run the tournament successfully and to having provided the sternest opposition to new men's singles champion, Denis Neale, were the crumbs to provide the subsistence allowance for the next twelve months.

Neale attracted a considerable gallery and apart from the final dropped only one game. This was to rejuvenated Mike Dainty of Doncaster in the fourth.

From then on George Livesey was disposed of in the quarters, after the Lancastrian had ousted Laurie Landry, Mike Symonds fought desperately hard as two 23's would indicate and finally Jeff Ingber fought as only Ingber can but all to no avail.

Coinciding with his selection for the Quadrangular, Ralph Gunnion had a most unhappy tournament losing to Stuart Lennie in the second round and, with Neale, going down to Roger Hampson and Geoff Salter in the first round of the doubles.

AT LOGGERHEADS

Lennie who is at loggerheads with the Northumberland committee had a day out for apart from Gunnion he also despatched such notables as Mike Johns, Peter Eaton and Geoff Salter.

Holder Kevin Forshaw lost his grip in the quarters to Ingber, whom he had beaten the previous week when recapturing the Manchester Closed title.

Shocks abounded in the cut and thrust of the early rounds. Cheshire's Hampson out to Alan Ransome of Durham; Ransome out to Burn and Yorkshire's John Kedge thrashed by Symonds 9 and 7. Hydes, who later saw off Salter in the boys' event, lost to the Surrey junior in the third round of the men's and Forshaw tumbled Peter Duncombe and Glasgow's Jimmy Dow.

Maureen Heppell was odd one out from making it an all-Yorkshire quartet for the women's singles crown vacated by Diane Johnson, but she

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Quarter-Finals: D. Neale (Yorks.) b G. Livesey (Lancs.) 11, 14; M. Symonds (Lancs.) b B. Burn (N'land) 19, 23; S. Lennie (N'land) b G. Salter (Surrey) 11, —16, 14; J. Ingber (Jancs.) b K. Forshaw (Lancs.) 17, 10. **Semi-Finals:** NEALE b Symonds 23, 23; INGBER b Lennie 16, 16. **Final:** NEALE b Ingber 12, —13, 17.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: L. S. PROUDLOCK (Yorks.) b M. Heppell (N'land) —17, 19, 16; C. DUNCOMBE (Yorks.) b P. E. Dainty (Yorks.) 9, 8. **Final:** DUNCOMBE b Proudlock 15, —18, 22.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: A. HYDES (Yorks.)/L. F. LANDRY (Mid dx.) b R. Hampson (Ches.)/G. Salter (Surrey) —19, 11, 19; BURN/J. McLEOD (N'land) b P. C. Duncombe (Yorks.)/Symonds —13, 14, 18. **Final:** HYDES/LANDRY b Burn/McLeod 17, —16, 16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: DUNCOMBE/PROUDLOCK b B. Carless/D. B. Griffiths (Warwicks.) 17, —9, 15; HEPPELL/L. SYKES (Warwicks.) b J. Crafter (Lancs.)/Dainty —12, 16, 11. **Final:** DUNCOMBE/PROUDLOCK bt Heppell/Sykes 21, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: K. FORSHAW/W. SWIFT (Lancs.) b Livesey/Crafter 15, 16; HYDES/HEPPELL b M. Johns (Ches.)/Sykes —16, 20, 18. **Final:** HYDES/HEPPELL b Forshaw/Swift 9, 12.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: BURN b P. Eaton (Staffs.) 13, 17; HYDES b Salter 11, 10. **Final:** BURN b Hydes 19, —19, 14.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: HEPPELL b E. Kirk (Ches.) 8, 9; SYKES b B. E. Yates (Lancs.) 5, 9. **Final:** HEPPELL b Sykes —13, 17, 13.

Veteran Singles: Semi-Finals: L. HEPPELL (N'land) b N. G. Sumner (Ches.) 17, 18; N. LUSHER (Yorks.) b H. Nixon (Lancs.) 14, 21. **Final:** HEPPELL b Lusher 16, 23.

fell to Lesley Proudlock who went on for a final clash with her compatriot Cynthia Duncombe, who scored a narrow victory.

As at Hull, in the Yorkshire Junior, Hydes failed to withstand the onslaught unleashed by Burn in the boys' final. Dripping perspiration this North Shields lad is all action and not for him the runners-up prize which was his lot 12-months previously in opposition to Kedge.

Burn, this time with Joe McLeod, was the dominant figure as they disposed of Farnworth/Livesey (holders), Kedge/Ransome and Duncombe/Symonds. But it was revenge for Hydes as he partnered Landry to stop the Northumbrians in the final.

Northumberland however marched on to further successes in the girls' and veteran singles, with Maureen Heppell and her father shaking off stern opposition from Ingrid Sykes and Norman Lusher respectively in the finals.

Singles winners and runners-up joined forces in the women's doubles which went to the senior pairing from Yorkshire over the junior combination but Miss Heppell was there again in the mixed to share with Hydes an easy conquest of Forshaw and Winifred Swift.

LANDRY CUTS THE ADMIN. SIDE

EVERY once in a while sport throws up a remarkable young man who not only climbs to the top competitively but also on the administrative side. Such a person is Laurie Landry, non-playing Captain of England's juniors.

At 27 Landry has been reflecting over the past 14 years since he first came into the game. He has discovered to his amazement that for 10 of those years he has served on the Committee of the Willesden League and on the Middlesex Executive for eight years.

And throughout the whole of that time he has been one of the most active of players, competing in tournaments throughout the country.

Just look at his record. He achieved a No. 6 England ranking and he has chalked up 83 victories out of 138 open tournament final appearances.

It was typical of Laurie's determination to keep going in table tennis when five years ago he fought off the effects of a car accident which threatened to leave him a spectator for the rest of his life.

GAME FIRST

Playing the game has always come foremost and now he feels that the combining of competitive play with administration is getting too much. It is burning him up. He is wise enough to realise this and has decided the admin. side has got to go.

He has announced that he will not seek re-election to the Willesden League and Middlesex Committees.

"I feel that I still have a lot of

table tennis in me and I would like to concentrate on my own play and the England Junior Captaincy," he explained.

Landry has been one of those willing horses who have been caught up in the web of administrative work, but at a much younger age than most. And having spent a decade on this side of the game, who can blame him for shaking off the fetters at this stage.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

PLAYER FROM THE SEA

THE unknown bearded wonder from out in the sea has taken the Scarborough League by storm. He is Leonard Miller, working aboard an oil rig. "The Endeavour," about six miles out from the seaside town.

Although no one knew him in Scarborough he rapidly showed he is no stranger to the game. Turning out for Lawn Tennis Club he won all his sets against Division Two leaders Legg's Eleven and inspired them to a shock victory.

A heliport has been set up to link the men on the rig with the mainland, which has given rise to some tongue-in-cheek speculation about the prospects of flying out by helicopter to play table tennis on an oil rig in the middle of the North Sea!

Legg's Eleven, probably a unique name in table tennis, came about when Eric Legg, a Scallyby councillor, formed a cricket team. Table tennis is their winter game and the first team of George McKinlay, Ken Duck and Roy Lester are all out to regain their place in Division One.

The top section has developed into a battle between Pickering (Mike Atkinson, Tony Bointon and Ian Lewis, a teenaged penholder), YMCA "A" (Ray Dargue, Albert Lung, Mike Dobson) and Rose and Crown "A" (Geoff Moorhouse, Syd Waller and Ted Lester, the former Yorkshire country cricketer who is now the official scorer).

They're a keen lot in this league for the clubs cover a wide triangular area bounded by Whitby in the north, Bridlington to the south and Pickering in the west. Thus a Whitby team playing at Bridlington need to make a round trip of 75 miles.

York veteran Len Godderidge, the league fixtures secretary, was this season's winner of the Barshaw Handicap Trophy. In the final he gave David Atkinson 16 start in games of 31 up and scraped home 31-27, 22-31, 33-31.

Earlier he overcame Williamson 26-31,

He has plenty of time to come back to that later.

While Landry appreciated the support of those who have persuaded him into various jobs, with the suggestions that as a player he could do a useful job as an official, he feels he was pushed along perhaps a little too young and the strain is beginning to tell.

He gives this word of advice to all young players who may have the urge to help the game they enjoy:

"Don't get too involved in administration. It is good to be a selector or hold a non-time-consuming job of this sort, but there is always time later to become a fully-fledged official."

MALCOLM HARTLEY

32-30, 33-31 and Armstrong 31-29, 31-29 so he really had to work for the cup.

More exciting finishes marked Jimmy Lamb's first inter-league appearances for York's second team.

In his first match against Wakefield he lost to Womersley 21-23, 21-23 and to Harriman 19-21, 20-22 and in the doubles with Ian Farrar lost to Harriman-Wright 19-21, 20-22. York, however, won 7-3.

On his second appearance against Doncaster "C" Lamb's luck changed and he beat Tate 23-21 in the third and won his doubles with Farrar 24-22 in the third!

Youngster with a future in the Sheffield League is 15-year-old Jim Coleman, last season in Division Eight but now averaging over 50 per cent in the top section with Albion Casuals. He is No. 1 for Sheffield Youths.

When Sheffield's second team travelled to Bradford they found both sides contained a player named John Page. Bradford's is an experienced inter-league campaigner of 35 appearances. The Sheffield Page played for the city's youth team last season and is now striving to make his name in the senior ranks with Wadsley Bridge.

PITTS RETIRES

Bradford No. 1 Maurice Pitts has retired from the Yorkshire League after 94 appearances. At the season's start he was troubled by a shoulder injury which kept him out of the game for a spell and at 34 he has decided it's time to leave the big-time.

He will continue in the local league where his team, Metal Box, hold a four-point championship lead.

Many congratulations to Denis Neale on his brilliant English Closed success, and also to his Harrogate Wanderers' clubmate Eric Hall, who ran up some fine victories in winning the men's consolation. They were the first northern winners of any English Closed events.

MIXED DOUBLE

CONGRATULATIONS to Bob and Joan Griffin on the arrival of twins—a boy and a girl—just before Christmas. Bob, former Gloucestershire County player, is now the Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets professional at the Edgbaston Club, Birmingham.

ST. BRIDES TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C.4

has some vacancies. The Club meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Write to Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. W. Hill, 31, Byron Avenue, Coulsdon, Surrey.

A CHEER LEADER NEEDED

by PAT BAKER

IT was most noticeable at the World Championships in Yugoslavia last year that whenever home players were called to play, a fantastic reception awaited them. In fact, it continued throughout their match, helping to lift their usual game to higher standards and therefore adding vital points to their game.

Not only the top Yugoslavs were treated in this fashion but also the lesser known players.

The point of this article, therefore, is to ask everyone who intends coming to Wembley for the European Championships this April to please show our players that anything the Continentals can do, we can do better.

Our teams have their best-ever chance of winning titles. With Mary Shannon-Wright and Diane Rowe-Schöler we should certainly retain the European Women's Team title and I am sure that everyone will agree with me that "magnificent Mary" must have a wonderful chance of adding the singles title. And let us not forget Chester Barnes, who, incidentally, played so well at the World's that we are certain he will, once again, rise to the big occasion. Harrison and Wright, together with Neale, our new English champion, plus other top women competitors, will also show their fighting spirit if we can show them that we are all right behind them.

Without going to the fantastic lengths of an American type "Cheer Leader," which incidentally I would be quite willing to be, it is suggested we should have a battle chant of approximately two or four lines on the basis perhaps of "World Cup Willie" currently being sung for the benefit of the forthcoming World Cup. Any suggestions would be welcome and if we found a verse I am sure we could have it printed in the March or April edition of this magazine to give you a chance to memorise it.

NO 1 SUPPORTER

I have laughingly been called England's No. 1 Supporter. I am proud of my title, and will do anything to help the team achieve results. This may all seem like going too far but surely it would be worth it to help England take the titles.

So c'mon everybody, Wembley is a big place to fill and we need all our cheers to echo loudly. You've come to see good Ping and believe me with the galaxy of stars attending better Ping you will see if you forget your English reserve for once and whenever our players appear cheer and applaud until you ache.

ONLOOKER.

NORWAY TO VISIT NORTHUMBERLAND

IT is always difficult to compare one's standard with previous form and even more so to judge one's own County's standards. But praise from knowledgeable critics outside Northumberland, allied to many excellent tournament and match performances by our players, speak for themselves.

At Lancashire for instance, Stuart Lennie giant-killed Ralph Gunnion, England's No. 6, and reached the men's singles semi-final. Brian Burn lost a close encounter with Mike Symonds in the quarters and was runner-up in the men's doubles with Joe McLeod, beating several strong combinations. Len Heppell captured the veterans' singles title and with Hexham colleague Frank Mitchinson upset Johns and Clark in the doubles. Maureen Heppell, of course, has whizzed up the England rankings this season and is currently rated No. 6.

INTERNATIONAL PROSPECT

Maureen is still improving and, at 16, is a wonderful prospect for international honours. She has been playing well at Southern events but is finding the going tough in the North against lower ranked girls with all to gain. However, she has such a mature game and temperament that this obstacle will, I'm sure, be soon removed.

Burn and Lennie notched three sets each when helping North Shields Y.M.C.A. beat M.P.N.I., the 1st division leaders, 8-4. Both teams have dropped 3 points but Shields have the superior sets average. Revac are in third place, a point in arrears, followed by Gateshead Y.M.C.A. and Westonians.

Blyth Y.M.C.A. are having their leanest season for many years, and have been forced to drop both "C" and "D" teams from the Northumberland League. Their "A" and "B" sides are holding up the first division. But with such players as Bill McCabe, Fred Stokoe and Tony Jarvis the "A" team will surely fight their way out of trouble.

Those friendly rivals from Bergen, Norway, will be with us again at Easter. A 20-strong party will attempt to wrest the North Sea Cup from Northumberland during a week's visit. Afterwards the leading Norwegians travel to London for the European Championships.

Barry Thomas, 15, of Reyrolles, and George Wilson, 16, of B.W.S.C., made valuable debuts for the League in the Carter Cup. Each scored two wins in the 7-2 defeat of Leeds; Burn naturally was unbeaten. Thomas ousts Wilson from the County team, but there's little to choose between these two, Charlie Grassie (North Shields Y.M.C.A.), John Barrass (Gateshead Y.M.C.A.), Joe Smyth and Len Oxley (Newcastle Y.M.C.A.). Both Thomas and Grassie are available for the juniors next season.

ARNOLD WARENTS.

PLYMOUTH H.Q. IN DANGER

WITH their fingers tightly crossed, the Plymouth league are at present renting their H.Q. on a monthly basis, and feel that with luck they should be able to finish the season, before seeking new premises.

The prospect of losing the H.Q. was in mind when the annual championships were brought forward and held in December. Barry Davis and Pam Mortimer both completed hat-tricks.

Miss Mortimer, back to something like her old form, has been ably supported by Barbara Pearson and Nancy Hollywood to take Plymouth Ladies to the top of the Western League. Hopes are running high of further successes in the Rose Bowl this season. Plymouth men were thrashed 9-0 by Gloucester in the Wilmot Cup. This was league secretary Tommy Anson's 100th game for Plymouth, and before the match he was presented with a silver tankard by the League's chairman, H. S. Moran.

Adrian Wright has withdrawn from inter-town matches until further notice. Junior Bob Parkins was drafted into the side at Weston, and gave a good account of himself without notching any wins.

The "Old Firm" at Exeter, Ofield, Lyons and Heals, showed a welcome return to form against Weston with a splendid 8-1 victory. Exeter Ladies, with Joan Crosby making a welcome return, only just went under to Plymouth in the Rose Bowl match 5-4, Pam Mortimer doing the damage for Plymouth.

Devon County hopes of winning the 2nd Division West slumped at Camborne when they dipped to Cornwall 6-4. John Basset continued his comeback for Cornwall, but will have his work cut out to keep out Torpoint's Keith Truscott, who is still on the upgrade.

MATHEWS—THE PLAYERS' AGENT

KEN MATHEWS is the name of a tall young man who is becoming a permanent part of the tournament scene these days. His 6ft, 2in. figure can be seen looming in the background at most important matches and the finals night of the English Closed at the Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre was no exception.

The singles results could not have been better for Ken as the winners, Denis Neale and Mary Wright, are both under his management. Titles also went to the two other players under his management, Brian Wright in the mixed doubles with Mary, and Karenza Smith, who partnered Mary to win the women's doubles.

Highly delighted with his players, all of whom had done wonderfully well, Mathews said: "I am particularly pleased with Karenza. She played with confidence in the final of the ladies' doubles and did not seem to be put off by the occasion. However, whether or not Mary and Karenza will continue to play together is a matter entirely for them to decide.

THREE TITLES

"Mary's performance was great. We get used to her winning titles and tend to take her for granted. We should not forget, however, that taking three titles was a magnificent achievement.

"I was also pleased with Denis's performance. Although he is ahead of Chester Barnes in their encounters, Denis lost in the previous occasion in the Sussex Open and with a player of Chester's calibre you can never



KEN MATHEWS with MARY WRIGHT

—Picture by MICHAEL MACLAREN

be sure what will happen. Personally, I have never seen faster counter hitting between any two European players than in their semi-final match.

"In the European Championships we have a wonderful chance of taking the Men's Team Trophy and of retaining the Ladies' Team Championship. The singles titles are also well within the reach of our top players."

Ken, who lives near Croydon, and has been playing table tennis for about ten years, has a good appreciation of the qualities required to make a champion.

He explains his position as a manager: "To get to the top, players have to spend a lot of their time in training. They give a great deal to the

game and my aim is to try and get something back for them. I arrange exhibitions and write articles for many publications. I also deal with contracts from various manufacturers and generally look out for ways of giving the champions a reward for the pleasure they give to us."

Mathews is also Public Relations Officer for one of the largest manufacturers of table tennis equipment, attending at most major tournaments in this capacity—and also playing in them as well!

He cares about what goes on in English Table Tennis, a refreshing change to the apathy of many other supporters of our game; we cannot have too many people with his kind of interest.

MARY SHANNON-WRIGHT & BRIAN WRIGHT

are in training for the EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS in April.

For a taste of the thrills in store at Wembley, have these two world famous players give an exhibition of World Class Table Tennis at your club or league.

Contact :

KEN MATHEWS, 11 South Norwood Hill, London, S.E.25

LIV 1918

BACKROOM BOYS

TOM BLUNN

ONE of the busiest table tennis officials of all time is 48-year-old Tom Blunn, of Hesse in East Yorkshire. His work as Training Officer for a large firm of Chartered Accountants covering the whole of the U.K. takes him away from home so frequently that, added to his numerous table tennis engagements all over England, he probably spends more time away than at home. His vivacious wife, Edna, has a strong interest in amateur operatics which keeps her occupied, but his 20-year-old daughter and two sons (aged 15 and 13) could qualify for a place in the classic painting "When did you last see your father?"

Tom was born in Oldham 48 years ago and started his table tennis administrative activities as the Oldham League's auditor. He was in turn league secretary, chairman, president and, finally, life member. Moving to Liverpool, he was auditor of the Liverpool League in 1950, and a founder member of the Wirral League of which he became deputy chairman.

Tom was also a founder member of the Lancashire County T.T.A., the Cheshire County T.T.A., and the Lancashire/Cheshire League, serving these bodies in turn as auditor, chairman, treasurer, and finally being made a life member when he moved to his present abode in Yorkshire.

National duties have reduced Tom's time for local commitments, but since 1959 he has still found time to remain a member of the Hull T.T. Association Committee.

Tom's national career began in earnest in 1952 when he was appointed treasurer of the County Championships, a position he still holds. From humble beginnings he has steered the finances of this top national competition to its present healthy state. His highly imaginative use of finance, not only in building up balances but also in the wise spending of money on good projects, have made a major contribution to the County Championships boom.

SPARKLING HUMOUR

He was elected to the E.T.T.A. National Executive in 1956, and the impact of his north country shrewdness, coupled with his sparkling humour (belied by his sometimes austere facial expression), immediately made him a force on the national ruling body. The changes brought about by different factors in 1958 resulting in Bill Vint being called upon to take over the chairmanship, saw Tom unanimously elected E.T.T.A. treasurer.

The E.T.T.A. has derived tremendous benefit from the creative way in which Tom Blunn has interpreted his duties

and there has been no finer example of his farsighted grasp of affairs than the brilliantly conceived 5-year Plan for Table Tennis which was entirely his creation, and to which Denis Howell, the Minister for Sport, has repeatedly referred in glowing terms. If accepted by the Government, it should help table tennis in England to progress at a rate undreamed of before.

Tom has overall financial responsibility for the European Championship's £18,000 budget, and is chairman of the Finance and Box Office committee, and is also deputy chairman of the Championships.

A grateful E.T.T.A. has already bestowed its highest honour on Tom Blunn in the form of life membership. Yet his greatest services to the Association probably still are in the future.

A table tennis player for 33 years, Tom Blunn is equally at home with the local lads at the table as he is with the top brass he meets in the course of his activities. Table tennis is lucky to have him.

W. L. GEORGE
OF HASTINGS

A SEVERE blow to table tennis in Hastings is the loss of Wally George, who died while playing in a league match at his club, Nalgo, on January 10. He was 56.

He served for many years on Hastings Association Executive Committee—held office for a large part of this time as Chairman, both pre-war and post-war—also as President—and he was actually President-Elect at the time of his death.

His biggest contribution to the game was the foundation that he helped to build for the Sussex County Association. He was a founder member when the county body was formed in 1946 and immediately took on Secretary/Treasurer, a position he held for eight years. He also acted as Umpires Secretary after giving up these first jobs and in fact continued to play an active part on the umpires committee up to his death.

Keith Watts, Sussex T.T.A. chairman, writes: "I was both an officer and table tennis colleague of Wally George for 35 years and one could not find a more friendly or helpful person with whom to work. He did a tremendous amount for table tennis, but always without fuss or show. Although he was never a first-class player he was, nevertheless, a difficult one to beat as he would not give up—and he was still holding his end up when the untimely end came."

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NEALE DETHRONES BARNES

● **FIRST NORTHERN CHAMPION**

● **TRIPLE CROWN FOR MARY**

THE dethroning of Chester Barnes, the crowning of Denis Neale and the fine achievement of Stuart Gibbs in reaching the men's singles finals in his first year as a senior. These were the highlights of the English Closed Championships at Crystal Palace on January 6-8.

And strengthening her hold of the women's side of the games Mary Shannon Wright finished with a fine treble. In addition to the singles she won the women's doubles with Karenza Smith and annexed the mixed doubles with husband Brian Wright. Barnes and Ian Harrison won the men's doubles for the second successive year.

Until now the English Closed titles had been the exclusive property of players from Essex, Gloucestershire, Middlesex and Surrey. The success of Neale breaks new ground, which is not a bad thing for the games as a whole. It may well create new interests in other neglected areas.

No one can begrudge Neale his right to the title. He earned it the hard way, clearing his own passage to the top, taking Barnes in his stride in a hard hitting and exciting semi-final. This went the full distance of five games and it was Neale's little extra pace and fitness that carried him through at 21-19, 13-21, 18-21, 21-18, 21-17.

When Barnes recovered from the loss of the first games and took a 2-1 lead, there was every indication that he would keep the title he had won for the

By **HARRISON EDWARDS**

three previous years. But the persistent Neale knew this was his big chance and never let go.

In comparison the final, where Neale beat Gibbs 21-15, 21-16, 21-19, was somewhat of an anti-climax. Gibbs, who earlier in the season had been written off by many, fought well but lacked the experience to force home the vital points.

Neale's other victims on the way to his national title were Peter Duncombe (Yorks.), G. Chapman (Surrey), Bobby Stevens (Essex), champion of 1962, and Tony Piddock (Kent). Duncombe and Stevens both won games from Neale, but he was never seriously troubled.

The one seeding upset in the top half of the draw was the third round defeat of Derek Basden by his Kent colleague Tony Piddock, who then lost to Neale.



DENIS NEALE, the new champion, and **STUART GIBBS**, the beaten finalist.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROLL

Men's Singles
DENIS NEALE
(Yorkshire)

Women's Singles
MARY SHANNON WRIGHT
(Surrey)

Men's Doubles
CHESTER BARNES
(Essex)

Men's Doubles
IAN HARRISON
(Gloucestershire)

Women's Doubles
MARY SHANNON WRIGHT
(Surrey)

Women's Doubles
KARENZA SMITH
(Middlesex)

Mixed Doubles
BRIAN WRIGHT
(Middlesex)

Mixed Doubles
MARY SHANNON WRIGHT
(Surrey)

The bottom half of the draw provided the big excitement and none more so than from Connie Warren as he talked his way past Les Haslam and Brian Wright into the semi-final where he was edged out by Gibbs at 18-21, 21-17, 22-20, 22-20.

Warren's match with Haslam was the centre of controversy. He was down and almost out with Haslam leading two games to one and 19-13 and poised for the knock-out punch when Warren loudly exclaimed "How can I lose to somebody like you!"

Haslam was visibly shaken and let the match slip from his grasp.

Some of Warren's tactics, particularly his habit of tossing the ball from hand to racket several times before serving caused outcries of "Gamesmanship." This is not the first time that Warren has been in a spot

ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

of bother over his service. It is his way of winding up his concentration, for whatever may be said about his tactics, he does try to win right to the end.

Warren had obviously taken heed of the strong criticism when he came out for the quarter final against Wright later the same evening. He had a much more rigid control over his temperament but it did not stop him storming to the biggest upset thus far. Wright's sharp hits were just to Warren's liking and he won 21-19, 21-16, 14-21, 21-17.

It was left to young Gibbs to expose the weakness in Warren's game with an attack wide on his forehead and it paid dividends. It could be that Warren was suffering some reaction from the previous night's efforts, but his game did not possess quite the same zest, although there was no lack of effort.

Former champion Ian Harrison, the No. 2 seed, was unable to play in the singles because of business commitments, and this bottom quarter was left without a seed when Ralph Gunnion crashed to Roger Chandler, of Brighton, at the first hurdle. An up-and-coming player who will upset many of the top players

before he is through, Gunnion was much too strong and won 19-21, 21-19, 21-15, 21-9. He followed with a win over his Sussex colleague S. Ogundipe and scored another great win over Allan Lindsay in straight games, before falling to Gibbs at the quarter final stage.

In the absence of Diane Rowe,

PALACE COMFORTS

To take a reasoned view
Of the English closed venue
Would be a near impossibility,
By torrid air we're fried,
While on the other side
A mistral chills our lower vertebrae.
Croessus could enjoy,
By braving Winter's ploy,
Delights to be obtained in Forte's
larder,
While seats to see each match
Provide another catch.
The Benches are designed by
Torquemada.
For those with spirits bold,
And built with Spartan mould,
A tournament at Norwood could be
pleasure,
Otherwise it's wiser
To be an organiser,
With meals and seats provided for
your leisure.

R.P.S.

Mary Shannon Wright had only one player to fear in her bid to continue her reign as the singles queen . . . her old bogey player Lesley Bell. They duly met in the final and had their usual tough game. But Mary has found her answer to Lesley and was always in command to win 21-18, 21-17, 16-21, 21-16. It was the only match in which Mrs. Wright dropped a game.

Seeded players had a rough time and only three achieved their appointed places in the quarter finals, Pauline Martin of Kent, joining Miss Bell and Mrs. Wright.

Alma Taft to Karenza Smith and Judy Williams to Cynthia Duncombe went out in the first round; and they were quickly followed by Pauline Hemmings (out to Joyce Williams), Irene Ogus (out to Beverley Sayer), and Maureen Heppell (out to Mary Gafney) in the next round. Miss Sayer also accounted for Lesley Proudlock (who had beaten Karenza Smith) before falling to Miss Bell in the semi-final. Miss Bell had also beaten Miss Williams.

Mrs. Duncombe could make very little impression on Mrs. Wright, but Mrs. Gafney offered plenty of resistance before bowing out to Pauline Martin, who had made tremendous progress this season.

Miss Martin had a second round win over Joyce Ellis.

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ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

The new partnership of Mrs. Wright with Karenza Smith was the chief focus of interest in the women's doubles, but it was an experiment that worked well and they went on to take the title.

In the past Mrs. Wright has always played with Diane Rowe, but the young junior did not let her down and indeed provided plenty of fight as they beat Alma Taft and Pauline Martin in the semi-final, then Lesley Bell and Irene Ogus in the final. It was a most pleasing result, promising much for the future.

Ian Harrison was back in action for the doubles in partnership with Barnes and after some adventurous matches particularly against Stan Jacobson and Alan Lindsay, whom they beat at 19 in the fifth, they kept their hold on the title they won last year. But there was another tough match awaiting them in the final where they beat Stuart Gibbs and Bobby Stevens 21-13, 19-21, 21-17, 13-21, 21-14.

This was another event in which the seeded pairs made an early exit. Connie Warren and Brian Wright went out to Gibbs and Stevens in the

quarter finals, Ralph Gunnion and Denis Neale lost to Harry Buist and Tony Piddock in the third round at which stage Roger Hampson and Mike Johns lost to Peter Duncombe and Mike Symonds.

The mixed doubles was the only event in which the seeding worked out according to plan and the semi-final stage found Mary and Brian Wright beating Roy Morley and Pauline Martin, and Denis Neale and Irene Ogus dismissing Chester Barnes and Lesley Bell. This gave Neale a second finals appearance and they put up a strong fight before the Wrights got the verdict at 21-23, 21-13, 21-14, 22-20.

This was Mary's third title of the meeting and once again emphasises her class. She is undisputedly this country's finest woman player and will carry our main hopes in the European Championships. There, of course, she will be back in partnership with Diane Rowe for the doubles, but it will probably be for the last time. Thus the success of Karenza Smith in the doubles could well provide the clue to the future partnership.

DETAILED RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

First Round: G. Barnes (Essex) bt D. Holland (Glos.) 13, 11, 14; D. Whittaker (Kent) b G. Livesey (Lancs.) 11, —15, —16, 11, 14; A. Davis (Glos.) w.o.; D. Wall (Warwick.) bt J. Densham (Herts.) —12, 15, —18, 12, 11; D. Creamer (Middx.) bt J. Marshall (Ches.) 16, 13, 8; R. Hampson (Ches.) b K. Lawrence (Essex) 21, —21, 19, 17; B. Hill (Surrey) b K. Matthews (Ches.) 11, 15, 4; K. Symonds (Lancs.) b J. Ingber (Lancs.) 17, 16, 14; D. Basden (Kent) bt M. Maclaren rtd.; P. Williams (Sussex) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 17, 10, —18, 8; J. Goodall (Northants.) w.o. A. Piddock (Kent) bt S. Jacobson (Middx.) 18, 16, 15; A. Hydes (Yorks.) bt R. Waiter (Warw.) 18, 6, 14; R. Stevens (Essex) bt K. Baker (Kent) 10, 18, 9; G. Chapman (Surrey) bt R. Wells (Hants.) 14, 8, 19; D. Neale (Yorks.) bt P. Duncombe (Yorks.) —20, 18, 11, 17.

B. Wright (Middx.) bt A. Miller (Surrey) 9, 18, 13; D. Brown (Essex) bt J. Narse (Oxon.) 12, 18, 6; M. Creamer (Surrey) bt P. Shirley (Bucks.) —19, 14, 12, 17.

B. Meisel (Kent) bt L. Wooding (Bucks.) —16, 12, 17, 12; R. Morley (Glos.) bt L. Heppell (N'land) 8, 16, 11; O. Haslam (Middx.) bt V. Ireland (Surrey) 16, 13, 16; R. McKewon (Surrey) bt G. Cooklin (Middx.) —17, 9, 13, 13; C. Warren (Surrey) bt A. Cornish (Kent) 16, 14, 17.

R. Chandler (Sussex) bt R. Gunnion (Warw.) —19, 19, 15, 9; S. Ogundice (Sussex) bt A. Coby (Norfolk) 12, 17, 19; A. Lindsay (Middx.) bt L. Landry (Middx.) 11, 12, 18; J. Kedge (Yorks.) w.o. M. Billington (Warw.) bt B. Burn (N'land) 19, 10, —19, —10, 20; H. Venner (Essex) bt G. Muranyi (Surrey); S. Gibbs (Essex) w.o.; A. Thornton (Glos) w.o.

Second Round: Barnes bt Whittaker 11, 12, 12. Wall b Davis 14, 14, 5; Creamer bt

Hampson —18, 18, 15, 17; Symonds bt Hill 17, 16, —20, 11.

Basden bt Williams 11, 15, 12; **Piddock** bt Goodall 12, 8, 18; **Stevens** bt Hydes 19, —13, 23, 16; **Neale** bt Chapman 11, 14, 17.

Wright bt Brown 8, 16, 13; **Meisel** bt Creamer —10, 20, 18, —18, 15; **Haslam** bt Morley 16, 14, 9; **Warren** bt McKewon —17, 9, 13, 13.

Chandler bt Ogundice 17, —19, —17, 6; **Lindsay** bt Kedge —8, 15, 19, 25; **Billington** bt Venner 9, —17, 15, 18; **Gibbs** bt Thornton 19, 17, 15.

Third Round: Barnes bt Wall 8, 10 rtd.; **Symonds** bt Creamer 18, —17, 18, 17; **Piddock** bt Basden 14, 17, 10; **Neale** bt Stevens 8, 9, —14, 10.

Wright bt Meisel 13, 11, 5; **Warren** bt Haslam 16, —14, —17, 21, 17; **Chandler** bt Lindsay 19, 20, 15; **Gibbs** bt Billington 19, 17, 15.

Quarter Finals: Barnes bt Symonds 18, 17, 12; Neale bt Piddock 19, 10, 17; Warren bt Wright 19, 16, —14, 17; Gibbs bt Chandler 19, 14, —18, 12.

Semi-Finals: NEALE bt Barnes 19, —13, —18, 18, 17; GIBBS bt Warren —18, 17, 20, 20.

Final: NEALE bt Gibbs 15, 16, 19.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

First Round: L. Bell (Essex) bye. D. Simpson (Essex) bt M. Stevens (Kent) 12, 8, 13; J. Williams (Bucks.) bt C. Carter (Kent) 15, —22, 19, 18; P. Hemmings (Herts.) bt M. Piper (Surrey) 19, —16, 21, 13; K. Smith (Essex) bt M. Taft (Middx.) —17, —15, 18, 19, 19; L. Proudlock (Yorks.) bt J. Head (Surrey) 19, 7, 10; B. Sayer (Essex) bt B. Andrews (Herts.) 13, 19, 14; I. Ogus (Middx.) w.o.

P. Martin (Kent) bt E. Britton (Middx.) 8, 12, 8; M. Ellis (Kent) bt P. Venus (Surrey) 5, 11, 7; M. Gafney (Middx.)

bt T. Thyeesen (Surrey) 13, 13, 13; M. Heppell (N'lands) bt J. Canham (Herts.) 13, 10, —22, 17; P. Duncombe (Yorks.) bt J. Williams (Sussex) 17, 21, —13, —13, 15. A. Mills (Hants.) bt L. Henwood (Essex) 17, —19, 18, —17, 20; J. Heaps (Ches.) bt G. Sayer (Essex) —13, 11, 12, 9; M. Shannon-Wright bye.

Second Round: Bell bt Simpson 18, 15, 13; Williams bt Hemmings 21, —18, 15, 10; Proudlock bt Smith —15, —15, 19, 17, 16; B. Sayer bt Ogus —20, —8, 16, 19, 13. Martin bt Ellis —18, 18, —15, 12, 15; Gafney bt Heppell 23, 15, 17; Duncombe bt Hills 12, 9, 16; Wright bt Heaps 9, 14, 12.

Quarter-Finals: Bell bt Williams 13, 9, 8; B. Sayer bt Proudlock 18, 12, 16; Martin bt Gafney 19, 18, —14, 14; Wright bt Duncombe 10, 9, 16.

Semi-Finals: BELL bt B. Sayer 17, 11, —17, 8; WRIGHT bt Martin 11, 14, 10.

Final: WRIGHT bt Bell 18, 17, —16, 16.

MEN'S DOUBLES

First Round: R. Burn (N'land)/B. Hill (Surrey) bt P. Leckie (Middx.)/A. Thornton (Glos.) 18, —14, 18, 19; S. Gibbs/R. Stevens (Essex) bt P. Donaghay (Herts.)/D. Narse (Oxon.) 13, 13, 11; A. Coby (Norfolk)/P. Radford (Essex) bt E. Russell/M. Walczak (Kent) 17, 2, 6; K. Baker (Kent)/G. Muranyi (Surrey) bt R. Thorn/D. Whittaker (Kent) 10, 14, —18, —14, 13; L. Cooper/M. Ellis (Kent) bt R. Allen/M. Bax (Middx.) 11, 20, 16.

S. Hill/B. Meisel (Kent) b B. Chatterley/G. Pergande (Essex) 8, 10, 15; J. Bromley/D. Luddy (Middx.) bt E. Abdoun/R. Azeez (Surrey) 17, 11, 20; R. Chandler (Sussex)/R. Morley (Glos.) bt G. Livesey (Lancs.)/J. Densham (Herts.) 11, 12, 9; D. Brown (Essex)/M. Creamer (Surrey) bt A. Harmsworth/P. Ruddy (Kent) 18, 13, 18; C. Morris (Kent)/M. Lazarus (Surrey) bt J. Goodall (N'ants.)/L. Wooding (Beds.) 23, —11, 17, 18; S. Jacobson/A. Lindsay (Middx.) bt A. Ward (Wilts.)/R. Wells (Hants.) 15, 20, 11.

Second Round: C. Warren (Surrey)/B. Wright (Middx.) bt Burn/Hill 19, 17, 19; G. Chapman (Surrey)/G. Cooklin (Middx.) bt E. Coster (Herts.)/C. Endfield (Middx.) 14, 21, 19; Gibbs/Stevens bt R. Gwynne (Surrey)/C. Wright (Kent) 11, 18, 19; J. Kedge (Yorks.)/K. Lawrence (Essex) bt A. Hydes (Yorks.)/L. Landry (Middx.) 19, —12, —16, 8, 15; Coby/Radford bt E. Ogundice/P. Williams (Sussex) 15, 18, 15; V. Ireland (Surrey)/H. Venner (Essex) bt Baker/Muranyi —18, —14, 9, 14, 17; H. Buist/A. Piddock (Kent) bt Cooper/Ellis 18, 14, 11; R. Gunnion (Warw.)/D. Neale (Yorks.) bt G. Salter (Surrey)/P. Smith (Essex) 10, 12, 18.

R. Hampson/M. Johns (Ches.) bt Hill/Meisel 10, 18, 14; **P. Duncombe/M. Symonds (Yorks.)** bt R. McKewon (Surrey)/P. Shirley 19, —24, 17, 12; **M. Heppell/M. Mitchinson (N'land)** bt Bromley/Luddy 13, 13, —23, 11; **Chandler/Morley** bt D. Holland (Glos.)/D. Johnson (Essex) 14, 19, —12, 12; **D. Basden (Kent)/O. Haslam (Middx.)** bt Brown/Creamer —15, —18, 18, 11, 16; **J. Ingber (Lancs.)/D. Wall (Warw.)** bt Morris/Lazarus 7, 11, 12; **M. Billington (Warw.)/E. Hall (Yorks.)** bt D. Seaholme/S. Seaholme (Herts.) 12, —20, —16, 10, 17; **G. Barnes (Essex)/I. Harrison (Glos.)** bt Jacobson/Lindsay —15, 11, 14, —21, 19.

Third Round: Warren/Wright bt Chapman/Cooklin —18, 13, 9, 16; Gibbs/Stevens bt Kedge/Lawrence 19, 13, —19, —19, 11; Ireland/Venner bt Coby/Radford 17, 16, 15; Buist/Piddock bt Gunnion/Neale 15, 18, 16.

Duncombe/Symonds bt Hampson/Johns —15, 14, 13, —11, 12; **Chandler/Morley** bt Heppell/Mitchinson 13, 15, 15; **Basden/Haslam** bt Ingber/Wall —18, 16, 11, —20, 14; **Barnes/Harrison** bt Billington/Hall 19, 13, 14.

Quarter-Finals: Gibbs/Stevens bt Warren/Wright 20, —12, 15, —23, 19; Buist/

ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

Piddock bt Ireland/Venner 16, 13, —14, 20; **Chandler/Morley** bt Duncombe/Symonds 10, 18, 17; **Barnes/Harrison** bt Basden/Haslam 12, —22, 19, 21.

Semi-Finals: GIBBS/STEVENS bt Buist/Piddock —18, 16, 21, —21, 18. **BARNES/HARRISON** bt Basden/Haslam —19, 16, 16, 11.

Final: **BARNES/HARRISON** bt Gibbs/Stevens 13, —19, 17, —13, 14.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

First Round: **J. Canham** (Herts.)/**E. Carrington** (Essex) bt **B. Sayer/G. Sayer** (Essex) 12, 19, 12; **J. Heaps** (Ches.)/**M. Heppell** (N'lands) bt **L. Henwood** (Essex)/**A. Mills** (Hants.) 12, 22, 11; **P. Hemmings/J. Williams** (Herts.) bt **P. Duncombe/L. Proudlock** (Yorks.) 12, 20, 10; **P. Martin** (Kent)/**A. Taft** (Middx.) bt **B. Andrews** (Herts.)/**J. Williamson** (Herts.) 10, —16, 17, 12; **M. Gafney** (Middx.)/**M. Piper** (Surrey) bt **E. Britton** (Middx.)/**H. Williams** (Herts.) 8, 17, 19; **D. Simpson** (Essex)/**C. Carter** (Kent) bt **M. Stevens/R. Wilson** (Kent) 10, 11, 17.

Quarter Finals: **L. Bell** (Essex)/**I. Ogus** (Middx.) bt **Canham/Carrington** 21, 15, 11; **Hemmings/Williams** bt **Heaps/Heppell** —16, —14, 13, 9, 19; **Martin/Taft** bt **Gafney/Piper** 14, 18, 21; **K. Smith** (Middx.)/**M. Wright** (Surrey) bt **Simpson/Carter** 16, 11, 9.

Semi-Finals: **BELL/OGUS** bt **Hemmings/Williams** 17, —18, 16, 12; **SMITH/WRIGHT** bt **Martin/Taft** 12, 17, 7.

Final: **SMITH/WRIGHT** bt **Bell/Ogus** 10, 19, —14, 18.

MIXED DOUBLES

First Round: **B. Burn** (N'land)/**Miss K. Smith** (Essex) bt **A. Thornton** (Glos.)/**Miss E. Britton** (Middx.) 12, 12, 16; **R. Hampson** (Ches.)/**Miss A. Mills** (Hants.) bt **J. Kedge** (Yorks.)/**Miss R. Wilson** (Kent) —11, 19, 16, —19, 17; **R. Stevens/ Miss G. Sayer** (Essex) bt **H. Venner/ Miss D. Simpson** (Essex) 18, 19, —18, —16, 22; **A. Hydes** (Yorks.)/**Miss M. Heppell** (N'land) bt **M. Billington** (Warw.)/**Miss J. Canham** (Herts.) —18, 15, 17, —15, 18; **R. Chandler/ Miss J. Williams** (Sussex) bt **E. Russell/ Miss M. Stevens** (Kent) 11, 12, 12; **R. Gunnion** (Warw.)/**Miss B. Sayer** (Essex) bt **B. Hill** (Surrey)/**Miss L. Henwood** (Essex) —20, 19, 17, —13, 18; **M. Symonds/ Miss L. Proudlock** (Yorks.) bt **P. Leckie** (Middx.)/**Miss J. Williams** (Bucks.) 8, 22, 18; **P. Duncombe/ Mrs Duncombe** (Yorks.) bt **S. Gibbs** (Essex)/**Miss M. Piper** (Surrey) 10, —19, 18, —16, 18.

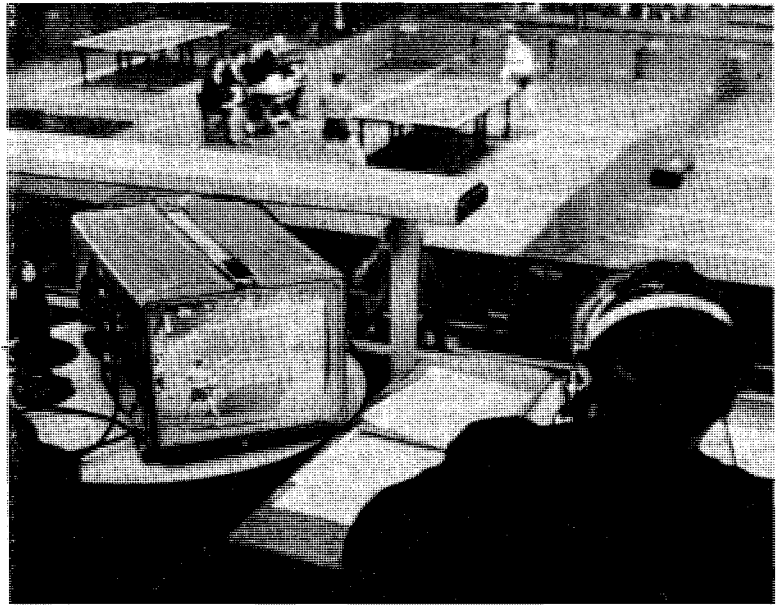
Second Round: **B. Wright** (Middx.)/**Mrs. Wright** (Surrey) bt **Burn/Smith** 11, 16, 15; **Stevens/Sayer** bt **Hampson/Mills** 17, —10, —19, 16, 14; **L. Landry** (Middx.)/**Miss P. Hemmings** (Herts.) bt **Hydes/Heppell** 17, 16, —13, 15; **R. Morley** (Glos.)/**Miss P. Martin** (Kent) bt **Chandler/Williams** 19, 15, 13; **D. Neale** (Yorks.)/**Miss I. Ogus** (Middx.) bt **Gunnion/Sayer** 12, 16, 21; **Symonds/Proudlock** bt **K. Baker** (Kent)/**Mrs. M. Gaffney** (Middx.) —19, 17, 23, 8; **Duncombe/Duncombe** bt **M. Johns** (Ches.)/**Miss A. Taft** (Middx.) 14, —17, 19, 17; **G. Barnes/ Miss L. Bell** (Essex) w.o. **O. Haslam** (Middx.)/**Miss J. Heaps** (Ches.) scr.

Quarter-Finals: **Wright/Wright** bt **Stevens/Sayer** 12, 18, 14; **Morley/Martin** bt **Landry/Hemmings** 15, 18, 19; **Neale/Ogus** bt **Symonds/Proudlock** 10, —18, 8, 17; **Barnes/Bell** bt **Duncombe/Duncombe** —20, 20, 16, 13.

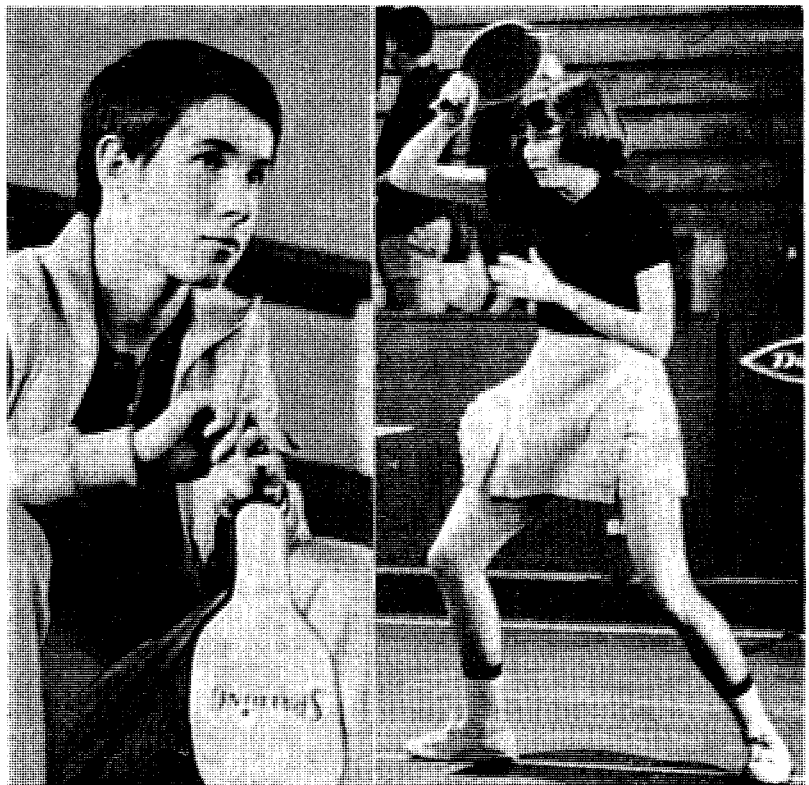
Semi-Finals: **WRIGHT/WRIGHT** bt **Morley/Martin** 17, 12, 20; **NEALE/OGUS** bt **Barnes/Bell** 18, 14, —8, 16.

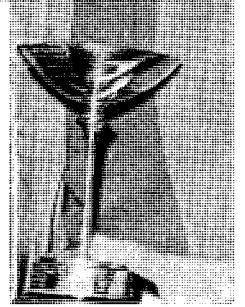
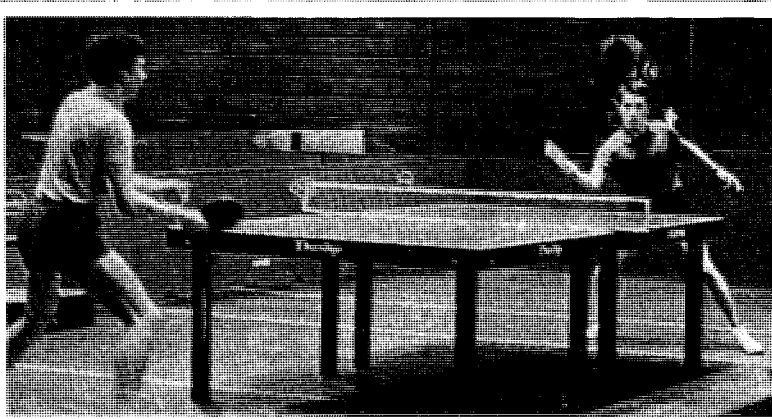
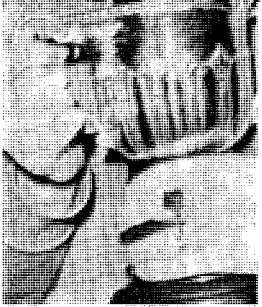
Final: **WRIGHT/WRIGHT** bt **Neale/Ogus** —21, 13, 14, 20.

PHOTO COVERAGE BY PETER MADGE

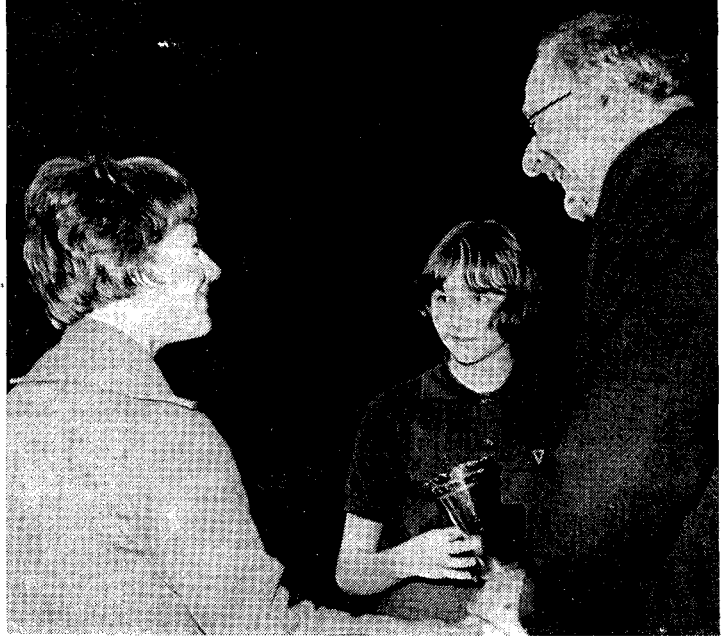


Top: The commentator's eye view.
Bottom: **CHESTER BARNES** the fallen idol, and **KARENZA SMITH** the rising star.





CHAMPIONS' PARADE. Top : DENIS NEALE, IAN HARRISON and CHESTER BARNES; MARY WRIGHT. Centrepiece : NEALE in action against BARNES. Bottom : MARY and BRIAN WRIGHT receive their mixed trophy; MARY again with KARENZA SMITH and HON. IVOR MONTAGU.





EUROPEAN TOUR

GETTING THE "SOLD OUT" NOTICES READY

THE Championships organisation is by no means upside down, nor is the date so far away as the heading on this page last month might suggest. Indeed, excellent progress is being made with but little more than two months to go to the great day.

As our publicity gains momentum so interest is increasing, not only in this country, but also abroad. Magazines of the European Associations are featuring the event each month and enquiries for tickets and accommodation are coming in from enthusiasts overseas.

Meanwhile, there are still a thousand and one tasks to be accomplished, but the whole organisation is in top gear and the largest event the Association has ever staged promises to be the greatest also. With the recent notification by Rumania, promises to enter have been received from 26 countries, to enter 26 men's and 23 ladies' teams.

TICKETS

There is now a heavy demand and by the time this appears in print the

FOR PHILATELISTS

THE G.P.O. has authorised the use of a distinctive hand stamp cancellation on all mail posted at the special Post Office which it will operate at Wembley Pool during the Championships from April 13th to 20th.

The E.T.T.A. has produced a special souvenir envelope, incorporating the Championships motif, and this will be serviced to any part of the World, at a charge of 1/-d. per envelope. Orders should state the name and full postal address of each addressee, specifying the date(s) for which the cancellation is required, and be sent by April 6th, to I. R. Crickmer, 12, Cypress Street, Barbourne, Worcester. Remittances should preferably be by cheque or crossed postal order, made payable to the English Table Tennis Association.

For collectors who prefer to service their own covers, the envelopes will be available from Mr. Crickmer after March 21st, at a cost of 4d. each, (plus return postage).

SOLD OUT notice will be against certain areas of the arena for finals nights. A reminder has been sent to all Clubs and you are strongly advised to place your order without delay. Applications should be made to the Box Office, Wembley Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, Middlesex.

The prices are as follows:—

Saturday 16th April 1966 at 7 p.m.
(Team Finals).

Wednesday 20th April 1966 at 7 p.m.
(Individual Finals)

Reserved seats 30/-d., 21/-d., 15/-d., 10/6d., and 6/-d.

All other sessions

Admission by rover seat ticket 7/6d. or 5/-d. whatever time of arrival, enabling spectators to move to vantage points to watch play on any of the 14 tables in the arena.

COACH PARTIES

If you have not yet made up your coach party, why not do so without delay? Many coach firms have told us they will offer most reasonable terms and some will also arrange accommodation in London as well.

SCHOOL PARTIES

A number of schools have already booked tickets but there is still room for plenty more. For block bookings the 5/-d. Rover tickets will be made available for the specially reduced price of 2/-d. Please send your orders to Don Mitchell, 21a, Hayne Road, Beckenham, Kent.

ADVERTISING MATERIAL

Posters, handbills and car stickers have been distributed but plenty more are available on request. We are particularly anxious to distribute as many car stickers as possible because these are one of the most useful forms of advertising.

PROGRAMME

Some advertisement space is still available and enquiries should be addressed to Bill Vint, 69a, St. Helens Park Road, Hastings, Sussex.

Those who find it impossible to get to Wembley will be able to obtain a copy of the Souvenir programme by sending a remittance for 3s. to the European Championships Office. A copy of the programme will be sent after the Championships.

HOUSE MAGAZINES

The Editors of 1,000 house magazines have been contacted but we would be pleased to send publicity handouts to anyone else who can use them.

HELPERS WANTED

There is still room for more, especially typists, and even more especially bi-lingual or multi-lingual typists.

SOUVENIRS

The following are available:

Ball Point Pens, inscribed in gold lettering. Price 6/6d. per dozen. These are proving popular to schools who are selling them at a copper or two profit, thus helping their own funds. What about your school?

Address Books, inscribed in gold lettering. Price 30/-d. per dozen.

Ties, 100% Terylene. Available in three designs—Navy blue with all over pattern of the championships motif. Price 15/-d. each, 155/-d. per dozen.

Ladies' Scarves, 27 inch, printed crepe squares, in white or powder blue, with the championships motif in each corner. Price 10/6d. each, 114/-d. per dozen.

Badges The motif of the championships as printed at top of this page is now available in the form of a badge in blue and gold enamel with a brooch type pin fastening at 2/6d. each. They are proving extremely popular and a limited number only are available.

REMINDER

A large number of invoices have been issued for which settlement has not been made. The sale of souvenirs causes a vast amount of work and it would be appreciated if outstanding accounts were settled soon to avoid correspondence.

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A list of accommodation in and near Wembley is available on request.

Your local railway station will give you information about specially reduced rail fares and hotel prices for weekends in London. Under this scheme for only two thirds of the normal price you can have return rail fare to London and two nights

accommodation with breakfast (tips included). The prices apply until 30th April and are for single passengers or parties.

DRAW FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

This will be held in Room E 91, Shell-Mex House, Strand, W.C.2., on Monday 14th March, 1966 at 1600 hours. It will be attended by representatives of the European Table Tennis Union. Members of the Association are entitled to attend. A reception will be held for the Press to whom invitations will be issued.

ALL ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS PLEASE TO:—
European Championships Office,
E.T.T.A.,
26/29, Park Crescent,
London, W.1.
Telephone LANGham 6312
or outside office hours
Telephone HATch End 1470.

LOOK OUT ENGLAND

THE Swedes are obviously all out to make a good showing at the European Championships in April.

We have just heard from Messrs. John Jaques and Son Ltd., that the Swedish Association have ordered three Jaques Tournament Tables for immediate shipment to Falkenberg.

It would seem that they want their players to get some intensive practice on the fast Jaques Table before they leave so that they will not be at a disadvantage when they start playing at Wembley.

Forward thinking of this sort does mean that the team are being given every chance to produce their best during the Championships.

SUSSEX

Roger Chandler should have little difficulty in keeping the men's singles at the Sussex closed but a head-on clash is expected in the women's singles between Ann Woodford, the holder, and new challengers Judy Williams.

Title holders Terry Riley and Diane Gard should keep their title in the Junior closed on February 20.

KENT

Normandy will be invading Kent in March. The county have drawn the Province of Normandy in the first round of the Belgium Invitation Tournament.

Woolwich men's and women's teams are firmly in the lead of the top divisions at the half-way stage of the Kent League.

MARY - No. 1 IN EUROPE



THE significant progress of Mary Shannon Wright to a world class singles player has been officially recognised by the European Union. She has been elevated to share the No. 1 spot with Eva Foldi, of Hungary, in the new classification list to be used at the European Championships at Wembley on April 13-20.

In the previous list Mary was ranked No. 3. Diane Rowe has moved up a place to No. 8, and Lesley Bell comes into the list for the first time, sharing the 16th place with D. Kalweit-Hovestadt (E. Germany).

The two Russian players Svetlana Grinberg (joint 3 with Maria Alexandru) and Zoya Rudnova No. 5, are both highly placed, while Marta Luzova, the Czech holder of the English Open title, jumps from No. 11 to No. 6.

The biggest drop is that of Erzsébet Jurik, of Hungary, runner-up for the European title, who slips to No. 7.

Only two home players get men's rankings, Chester Barnes, at No. 14, an improvement of four places, and Denis Neale, the new English closed champion who, despite wins over five of the top six players in Europe last season, drops two places to just scrape in at No. 17.

Kjell Johansson, of Sweden, the reigning European champion, again tops the men's list, but Ebbv Scholer, of West Germany, ousts former champion Hans Alser, of Sweden for the No. 2 spot. Zolly Berczik, of Hungary takes a hefty drop from

No. 4 to No. 9, while Vojislav Markovic, of Yugoslavia, is down to No. 11. These two placings are surely a sign of changing times.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

CLIMBING EARLIER

PLAYERS are reaching the top at a far younger age than ever before. Evidence of this has been the performances of the top junior and those just over the age limit this season. And there was no better example than the English Closed Championships.

Right at the top of the list were Stuart Gibbs, of Essex, who, in his first season as a senior, reached the finals of the men's singles and doubles, and Karenza Smith, of Middlesex, still a junior, who won the women's doubles with Mary Wright. This was a terrific first-time effort from the young Middlesex starlet.

A junior who has started to show real promise is Brian Burn of North Shields. At Newbury in December, he fought back to beat Roy Morley before disposing of Derek Basden, two nationally ranked seniors. He then went to Bolton to give Mike Symonds a scare in the Lancashire Open, where he won the junior title, beating Alan Hydes, No. 1 Boy, and reached the men's doubles final with Joe McLeod, who is only just out of the junior bracket.

Talking of the Lancashire doubles final, I was amazed to find I was the oldest contestant by over nine years. And I'm still pretty young!

The separate report on the Essex Open shows the strong position of the junior girls. Indeed, it is being said that it is becoming more difficult to win the girls' singles than the women's singles!

EUROPEAN RANKING

MEN

1. K. Johansson (Sweden) (1)
2. E. Scholer (W. Germany) (3)
3. H. Alser (Sweden) (2)
4. D. Giurgiuca (Roumania) (5)
5. J. Stanek (Czech.) (6)
6. I. Korpa (Yugo.) (7)
7. V. Miko (Czech.) (9)
8. A. Amelin (U.S.S.R.) (11)
9. Z. Berczik (Hungary) (4)
10. C. Barnes (England) (14)
11. V. Markovic (Yugo.) (8)
12. E. Vecko (Yugo.) (13)
13. P. Rozsas (Hungary) (10)
14. L. Vardanjan (U.S.S.R.) (—)
15. L. Pignitski (Hungary) (—)
16. N. Ramberg (Denmark) (16)
17. D. Neale (England) (15)

WOMEN

1. M. Shannon-Wright (England) (3) and E. Koczian (Hungary) (1)
3. M. Alexandru (Roumania) (6) and S. Grinberg (U.S.S.R.) (5)
5. Z. Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) (4)
6. M. Luzova (Czech.) (11)
7. E. Jurik (Hungary) (2)
8. D. Rowe-Scholer (England) (9)
9. A. Simon (W. Germany) (10)
10. E. Constantinescu (Roumania) (8) and S. Lucacs (Hungary) (7)
12. E. Buchholz (W. Germany) (13)
13. I. Bosa (Czech.) (14),
- S. Paisjarv (U.S.S.R.) (12) and E. Mihalca (Roumania) (—)
16. L. Bell (England) (—) and D. Kalweit-Hovestadt (E. Germany)

(Previous ranking in parenthesis)

A Plan For Table Tennis

CONTINUING *A Plan For Table Tennis*, which shows the way the game's administrators are thinking when sufficient funds become available, this latest instalment moves on to Publicity and the broader aspects of the international scene both at home and abroad.

THE NATIONAL CUPS

THE National Cup competitions have now entered the fourth round except for the Junior Girls L. M. Bromfield Trophy. Here the committee agreed on an extension, although East London have already played and beaten Slough 8-0.

Chesterfield had to pull out the stop for their 5-4 Wilmott Cup win over Doncaster. Seven sets went to three games and in one of these J. Wallhead beat M. Dainty 29-27.

Gloucester, the holders, were without Ian Harrison when they visited Plymouth but won without loss of a game.

Sudden illness of Flo Rolling left Barnsley a player short for their Rose Bowl match with Doncaster yet they lost only by the odd set to a side which included Lesley Proudlock and Pat Dainty.

Former international Marjorie Cumberbatch helped West Bromwich to a 5-4 win over Birmingham, England's largest league. But London teams look formidable with East London, Sutton, Romford and Wembley all winning convincingly.

East London again look strong in the Boys' Carter Cup.

WILMOTT CUP

Third Round

Watford 3, Luton 6; Northumberland 9, Carlisle 0; Harrogate 5, Huddersfield 3; Chesterfield 5, Doncaster 4; Liverpool 0, Bolton 6; Manchester 8, Bury 1; Leamington 3, Birmingham 6; Cambridge 5, Norwich 4; Oxford 2, Hemel Hempstead 7; Romford 2, East London 7; Ilford 1, Willesden 8; Insurance Off. 2, Acton 5; Brighton 5, Crawley 1; Bournemouth 3, Southampton 6; Staines 5, Newbury 2; Gloucester 9, Plymouth 0.

ROSE BOWL

Third Round

Northumberland 6, Sunderland 3; Doncaster 5, Barnsley 4; Liverpool 2, Manchester 7; Spalding 6, Wisbech 3; Birmingham 5, W. Bromwich 4; Watford 0, N. Herts. 9; Bedford 2, Reading 7; Gt. Yarmouth w.o. Cambridge scr.; East London 8, Willesden 1; Sutton 7, Beckenham 2; Woolwich 2, Romford 7; Wembley 6, Basildon 2; Hastings 3, Eastbourne 6; Southampton 6, Bournemouth 3; Slough 8, Newbury 1; Plymouth 5, Exeter 4.

JUNIOR BOYS

Third Round

Leeds 2, Northumberland 7; Lytham St. Annes 3, Bolton 6; Birmingham 5, W. Bromwich 4; Slough 7, Luton 2; Bromley 1, East London 8; Kingston G.S. 0, Brighton 9; Southampton 7, Plymouth 2.

5. Publicity:

Present Position:

A voluntary Press Officer from within the Organisation.

Press receptions given for particular occasions, mainly to the National Newspapers based in London.

Contact with well known people who show signs of interest in the game.

Regular Press handouts of information with a restricted distribution.

Publication and distribution of instructional books and films.

Voluntary Press officers in most Counties.

Local Leagues keep in contact with local evening newspapers direct.

Press given invitation to all major events and satisfactory facilities provided for them.

Plan:

(i) To hire part time professional assistance as appropriate to advise on special projects and events.

(ii) To extend the services to obtain much more publicity in the Provinces.

(iii) To revise existing books and films and produce new instructional films.

(iv) To give much wider circulation of the regular Press handouts.

(v) To distribute propaganda in the black spots.

6(a) International Tours abroad—Seniors:

Present Position:

Restricted mainly to European countries with only the minimum number of players taking part.

By invitation for particular players at expense of the hosts or by reciprocal arrangements for full teams with hospitality only paid by the hosts.

By direct choice with full costs paid by the Association.

Mainly concerned with competitions where both teams and individual events take place. Teams vary from two players to five players with a non-playing captain.

Three years out of four a quadrangular tournament with the other three Home Countries is held in Wales, Ireland or Scotland with hospitality only paid by the hosts.

Plan:

(i) To visit more countries, including Asian countries, sending full teams on a reciprocal basis.

(ii) Entry into open National Tournaments of overseas countries.

(iii) To arrange tours of international matches within the limits of availability of the players and officials.

6(b) International Tours abroad Juniors (under 17 years of age):

Present Position:

Limited to reciprocal arrangements with West Germany.

Regular matches on home and away basis with Wales.

An annual visit to Scotland.

Mixed teams of three to seven players with one or two non-playing captains and a chaperone as necessary for the girls.

Plan:

(i) Juniors to accompany seniors where practicable for experience of top class play and to develop character for the big event.

(ii) To promote "B" International matches in appropriate cases.

(iii) Regular visits to European events catering specially for Juniors.

(iv) Regular participation in open tournaments of the other Home countries including Channel Isles.

(v) A reciprocal arrangement with other European countries on the same lines as at present with West Germany.

(vi) Entry in European Junior Championships held every two years, which include cultural visits.

6(c) International Matches at home—Seniors:

Present Position:

Quadrangular tournament with home countries every four years is played in England.

Other matches arranged each season, mainly when television coverage is available, usually Saturday afternoons.

To pay the fares of the opponents.

Only matches by invitation to those teams who are prepared to play more than one match and who can attract a good attendance.

Full return fare and all hospitality paid by the Association in most cases.

Some reciprocal arrangements where hospitality only is paid by the Association and each Association pay their own travelling expenses.

Plan:

(i) To encourage tours of the United Kingdom (by arrangements with the other Home Countries) of top European teams including U.S.S.R., Sweden and also certain Asian countries.

(ii) To arrange matches at provincial centres in order to encourage support for the Association in those areas.

(iii) To be able to stage internationals at any place, time and date it will produce the most benefits, particularly in the black spots and where audience participation may not at present be sufficient to cover expenses.

6(d) International Matches at Home—Juniors (under 17 years of age):

Present Position:

Annual match with Wales on home and away basis paying hospitality only.

Reciprocal arrangements with West Germany for a tour of two or three matches on home and away basis in alternate years.

Occasional match with near continental countries to coincide with their entry into an Open Tournament.

Plan:

(i) To run a junior international competition for teams and to invite teams from the continent.

(ii) To have a reciprocal arrangement with the European countries on the same lines as Germany but in the intervening years.

(iii) To encourage more competitive play with the other home countries, including the Channel Isles.

LANCS. AND CHESHIRE

by G. R. YATES

FLETCHER'S ENTERPRISE

SINCE last these notes appeared I accompanied, as is my practice, Bolton's senior inter-league team to Burnley on Thursday, January 13. Note well the date.

There on the top floor of St. James's Buildings, which was the match venue, I saw the fruits of Barry Fletcher's enterprise on behalf of the Burnley League in converting same into a table tennis centre.

Equipped with seven tables, refreshment bar and one-armed bandit here, once again, was the resurrection of Ken Stanley's former dream but not as a commercial venture this time.

With such counter activities in progress one could hardly describe it as the ideal inter-league venue but otherwise Burnley, thanks to their former secretary and a band of helpers, have a centre to be proud of and one that other leagues might well envy.

The gilt of a 9-1 victory for Bolton was somewhat tarnished by an overlong stay in the East Lancashire township due to a car that refused to start. A midnight tow to an all-night garage after the combined efforts of both teams and officials

to push the monster into action had failed, resulted in my missing the milkman by a short head.

Early by the calendar of most leagues, Manchester held their closed championships during the week commencing January 10 at their usual venue of the university's McDougall Centre.

Kevin Forshaw, who last won the men's title in 1964 regained his lost crown when he beat Mike Johns 19, -15, 16, after beating the holder, Jeff Ingber -15, 12, 17 in the semis. Johns' penultimate set was against his Cheshire county compatriot Roger Hampson, up from Southampton University.

The pair retained their men's doubles title without the loss of a game beating Ingber and Benny Casofsky in the final.

Doreen Schofield won the women's singles with scores of -14, 19, 19 over Mary Leigh, after the Cheshire county player had ousted the holder, Connie Moore in the semis.

Doreen and Connie, however, combined forces to retain their doubles title as did Benny Casofsky who stretched his hold of the veteran's crown to six years.

Other results were:—Junior Singles: P. D. Pownall b A. Boasman 13, 17. Mixed Doubles: Forshaw/Moore b B. Kean/J. Nield 16, 11. Men's Consolation: J. Clarke b I. Caplan 17, 8. Women's Consolation: P. Murphy b E. Crossley 21, 12.

MIDDLESEX CLOSED

WRIGHT'S TITLE

BRIAN WRIGHT won the men's singles for the first time in the Middlesex Closed at Fulham Town Hall on January 22-23. He was in great form and went through without loss of a game, his final victim being David Creamer, who has beaten Les Haslam in the previous round.

A surprise was the mixed doubles victory of David Offenbach and Irene Ogus, who beat Haslam and Mary Gafney in a close final. Haslam had his turn in the men's doubles, partnering Laurie Landry to beat Jack Bender and Lloyd Lewis.

Miss Ogus completed a treble when she won the women's singles and the doubles with Karenza Smith.

Results:

Men's Singles: B. Wright b D. Creamer 19, 15. Women's Singles: I. Ogus b A. Taft -18, 21, 12. Men's Doubles: L. Landry/O. Haslam b J. Bender/L. Lewis 15, 12. Women's Doubles: Ogus/K. Smith b Fat/J. Redfearn 11, 6. Mixed Doubles: D. Offenbach/Miss Ogus b Haslam/Mrs. M. Gafney -13, 13, 23. Boys' Singles: T. Coker b R. Gibson -12, 18, 10. Girls' Singles: M. Walker b C. Mann 14, -23, 7.

RHYL CLOSED

ROY WILLIAMS retained the men's singles in the Rhyl Closed and also won the doubles with Dave Murray.

Pat Halsall dethroned Sandra Evans, winner for the past two years, to win the women's singles for the ninth time. She was also successful in the mixed doubles with E. Kane.

Results: Men's Singles: R. WILLIAMS b H. McEvoy 14, 12.

Women's Singles: P. HALSALL b S. Evans 18, 17.

Men's Doubles: WILLIAMS/D. MURRAY b E. Kane/K. Vickery 12, 15. Mixed Doubles: KANE/HALSALL b G. Hay/Evans 14, 22. Junior Singles: P. CHESTER b G. Black -18, 14, 11.

LLANDUDNO CLOSED

TUDNO WILLIAMS provided the surprises of the Llandudno Closed by winning the men's singles and the doubles with Don Hobbs.

Williams beat Hobbs, the No. 1 seed, in the quarters, then went on to beat J. Collier in the semi and G. Mynott in the final.

Results: Men's Singles: H. T. WILLIAMS b G. Mynott 16, 17. Men's Doubles: D. HOBBS/WILLIAMS b J. Paton/P. Harpin 19, 16. Junior Singles: P. McGURK b M. Church 17, 12.

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20 ST. JOHN'S HILL, LONDON, SW11

Pam Mortimer Again

THE inclusion of Pam Mortimer has made Plymouth Ladies the power of the Ladies' Division of the Western Counties League, and they will take some stopping this season. A brilliant treble by Pam contributed to the 7-2 win over Newport for Plymouth to mark up their fourth successive win. Newport's successes were both gained by Betty Gray who beat both Barbara Pearson and Nancy Hollywood.

Miss Gray was again Newport's best player when they narrowly lost 4-5 at Exeter, and 3-6 to Bristol.

Bristol Seconds have taken the lead from their first team in the Men's Division, but only on games aggregate. They crushed Bath 9-0, while Bristol firsts beat Newport 8-1.

Tony Dinambro made a welcome return to town matches for Bristol and was unbeaten, as was Morley Mordecai.

There were five three setters when Swindon gained a thrilling 6-3 win over Exeter.

MEN

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Bristol 2nds	3	3	0	22	5	6
Bristol	3	3	0	21	6	6
Weston	4	2	2	14	22	4
Cheltenham	2	1	1	11	7	2
Exeter	3	1	2	14	13	2
Swindon	3	1	2	12	15	2
Plymouth	3	1	2	11	16	2
Bath	3	1	2	7	20	2
Newport	4	1	3	14	22	2

LADIES DIVISION

Plymouth	4	4	0	28	8	8
Bristol	3	2	1	18	9	4
Exeter	3	2	1	13	14	4
Swindon	4	2	2	13	23	4
Newport	6	2	4	28	26	4
Weston	4	0	4	8	28	0

Letters

IN answer to the article in the January issue of Table Tennis on my old friend and colleague Ivor Eyles. I would not detract from anything Ivor has done for the game and greatly admire his dedication but he was not the founder of the Gloucestershire T.T.A. as stated in your article.

The County Association was not formed until June 5, 1948, at a meeting held at Gloucester Y.M.C.A. after an earlier meeting in Cheltenham had been unsuccessful.

It was I as chairman of Cheltenham T.T.A. who took the initiative in calling both meetings, prodded as I was by that other great worker Geoff Harrower who was a colleague of mine on the National Executive Committee.

I was elected as first chairman of the County and Ivor Eyles was first Secretary (but not since 1947).

It is some 15 years since I last wrote to Table Tennis but although I do not now play I still follow the game with great interest. I greatly enjoyed my years in office in the West Country and have many happy memories. My leisure time these days is taken up largely by my work as chairman of the Great Yarmouth Sports Advisory Council on which Table Tennis has a large part to play. Sincere good wishes to my many friends in the game.

DENNIS THOMPSON.
(Great Yarmouth.)

TOURNAMENT TOPICS

WALL GETS FIRST TITLE

IT was only natural that the new ranking list should come under fire. They always do (writes Laurie Landry).

The general opinion is that after the first five there is little to choose between the rest and Roger Chandler, the Sussex left-hander.

Roger was No. 10 on the last list but his exclusion after recent wins over Ralph Gunnion (still No. 6) and Alan Lindsay in the English Closed has been greeted with amazement.

But Roger had his own way of showing what he thought with a tilt at the top by beating Chester Barnes in the semi-final of the Essex Open. The selectors did not need to be told there was a good player down Brighton way, but they certainly know now!

Congratulations to Derek Wall, the former South African champion now of Warwickshire, on winning the singles title at the Bournemouth Open. Originally a rubber bat specialist, Derek came to this country five years ago with an ambition to win some Open titles. He has collected quite a few doubles titles, but this was his first in singles.

Connie Warren gained his first in the Bournemouth some years ago, and my own first was also at Bournemouth even further back.

Derek has adapted his game to the modern type of play and while he still has rubber on the backhand he has a sandwich face on the forehand. He has always been a difficult opponent for most players and now with this success to boost . . .

WILTSHIRE WANDERINGS

LOOKING FOR A RETURN

by DON HILLIER

THE long awaited friendly junior match with Essex at Leyton proved an outstanding success and although the Moonrakers were on the receiving end of 6-4, Ronnie Lloyd had the distinction of extending Keith Lawrence to a decider.

Salisbury's Bill Moulding played well to beat both Pat Hooper and David Bowles and hopes are high of a return match in Wilts before the end of the season.

In their best Wilts League run of recent years Salisbury could well lift three divisional titles. The most outstanding individual county league success was recorded by Moulding when beating Alan Alexander—the then Wilts No. 3—by 14 and 18.

100 PER CENTERS

Four teams only boasted of 100% records at the half-way stage of the Salisbury League competition. They were SPCC A (Div. 2 leaders), Amesbury YC A (Div. 4), Strugglers A (Div. 5) and Bemerton YC (Div. 6).

Salisbury Hospitals have a three point lead over New Sarum A in the Premier Division while Porton Rec. A and St. Mark's B are level on points at the top of Division One as are SPCC and Woodgreen F in the Third Division.

Hardcourts lead the First Division of the Women's Section of the Swindon League while Garrard B are top of the Second Division.

Unicorn B—who have dropped only six games in seven matches—lead the Devizes League First Division while Tennis Club B top the Second Division.

Dilton A and Unicorn are neck-and-neck at the top of the West Wilts League Premier Division with Avon Sports a point ahead of Unigate C in Division One. Unigate D lead the Second Division while their E team are top of Division Three. Angell TTC have a point lead over KSM D in Division Four.

Wilts No. 1 Dick Clode is now the only unbeaten player in the West Wilts League.

Roger Whiting was voted the first holder of the Trowbridge Shield for the best Individual Championships performance—in the West Wilts K.O. Championships at Trowbridge.

Results:

OPEN SINGLES—R. Clode b J. Cleveland 15, 17. OPEN DOUBLES—D. Morris/R. Clode b J. Analts/A. Gnyr —18, 20, 13, 9. WOMEN' SINGLES—C. Shiple b V. Webb (holder) —10, 18, 13. JUNIOR SINGLES—S. Robinson b C. Hussey —18, 13, 9. JUNIOR DOUBLES—S. Robinson/A. Griffin b N. Crees/C. Hussey —14, 18, 12.

The World Comes to Wembley for the ALL-ENGLAND BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

23rd to 26th MARCH, 1966

It is hoped that readers will not think it strange that an announcement appears in the Table Tennis Magazine about the All-England Badminton Championships. There are, however, a very considerable number of both players and supporters who follow both sports. It may well be that there are others who would like to see first-class Badminton.

Unlike table tennis, there are no World Championships, and for a very long time the All-England Championships have been recognised as the unofficial championships of the world. They always attract the very best players, from all parts of the globe, and this season will be no exception.

Like table tennis, also, much of the best play is seen prior to the finals, and a visit on either the Wednesday

or Thursday would enable you to see the cream of world talent playing on seven courts. On Friday evening the quarter- and semi-finals are staged, with the finals on Saturday afternoon.

PRICES

Wednesday, March 23rd, from 2 p.m., Rover tickets, 7s. 6d.

Thursday, March 24th, from 3.30 p.m. Rover tickets, 7s. 6d.

Friday, March 25th, from 6 p.m., and Saturday, March 26th, from 2 p.m., 25s., 21s., 15s., 12s. 6d., 7s. 6d. and 6s.

Season tickets available covering all session, for 40s.

RON LANGNER

Sportsman And Schoolmaster Extraordinary

An Appreciation by George Eagles

POSSIBLY few of the present younger generation of table tennis players outside Essex knew much of Ron Langner, whose recent death has lost to Essex a valued friend. Players of a slightly earlier era will, however, certainly recall him, remembering that to find his name in the vicinity of their own in a tournament meant that by having to encounter his unorthodox grip and unusual attack, their progress to latter rounds would be in great danger.

This did not apply to singles play alone, for his partnership with Roy Markwell produced a pair which no other players could face with confidence.

Some will recall amongst other battles a great encounter between Ron Langner and Roy Markwell with the great Czech pair Sebestak and Berger, which caused one spectator, enthralled by the game, to ask Brian Brumwell, himself a protege of Ron Langner, which pair were the visitors from Czechoslovakia.

In tournaments and county matches alike, reputations of the opposition meant nothing to Ron Langner, and although on the resumption of competitive table tennis after the last war, he represented Essex on many occasions, it is considered by some that had there been no interruption he would doubtless also have represented his country.

The player at the other end of the table was always to Ron a player to be beaten, and he would always fight his hardest to achieve that.

Whilst this applied in tournaments and team events alike, it was possibly when he was playing for a team that Ron Langner really tried his hardest, and when eventually he laid his bat aside and took up administrative work for table tennis, the same outlook on the game persisted.

Ron Langner could never forgive a player who when representing country or county threw a game when defeat was

sensed. Always he was sufficiently understanding to give players subsequent chances to redeem their reputations, but with him the memory remained that the player had let a team down.

A school-teacher by profession Langner devoted uncounted hours of his official leisure time to the encouragement of sport. He was the trainer of East Ham Boys teams in football and cricket, and also served on the committees of the London Schools Football and the Essex School Cricket Associations.

Perhaps schools football was his greatest love, for by that means he was able to get the greatest number of boys taking part in a sporting activity. It was under his guidance that the East Ham Schools football team reached the final of the national competition, and West Ham footballers Brian Dear, Eddie Presland and Ron Boyce are "graduates" of his school teams.

Brian Brumwell was another of his pupils to get to the top in sport through the early guidance of Ron Langner, for in addition to representing England and Essex at table tennis, Brian regularly played in top-class amateur football.

ALL SPORTS

It is, however, another of the many who benefited from Ron Langner's love of sport for schoolboys, who summed up what the multitude could have said. In a conversation, Brian Taylor, the manager of Bexley United, and the Essex wicketkeeper, stated, that during the years from 1942 to 1946, as far as he was aware, Ron Langner, with his friends Les Fielding and Harold Cutting, ran the whole of sport in East Ham, including football, cricket, athletics, and almost anything else you care to mention. All aspects of schoolboy sport received their attention, and he added that he still realises that it is to his parents and those three great men that he owes his present position in sport.

Barry Knight, at present with the M.C.C. team in Australia, whilst never an immediate pupil of Ron Langner's, is another who came under his influence due to his work on behalf of the Essex Schools Cricket Association, and cricket in schools in East Ham.

All this may seem to present a picture of an almost superhuman, superbly fit, sportsman, but Ron Langner was something greater. He was an overworked schoolmaster doing what he considered to be his duty, and only too late was it allowed to become apparent to those working with him, that all the time he was fighting ill-health.

The probability is that Ron Langner was so bound up in his various activities, that he did not even allow himself to realise that he was a sick man, and even when he was eventually persuaded to go into hospital, he did not resign as Treasurer of the Essex County Table Tennis Association, and his other posts, until he had satisfied himself that everything was in a fit state to be handed over to others.

With such a man it is difficult to pay a sufficient tribute, but it is certain that the only tribute which Ron himself would have desired is that all young people should take part in sport in accordance with the principles which he tried to inspire in those who came under him.

NEWBURY OPEN

by LAURIE LANDRY

BARNES AND BELL FALL

BIG surprises at the Newbury Open were the defeats of Chester Barnes and Lesley Bell, the top singles seeds. Chester lost to Dennis Holland, a capable player against whom one has to concentrate, even Barnes! Lesley went out to Cynthia Duncombe 10 and 14 and showed very little fight.

To show how topsy-turvy everything was, Holland was beaten by Duncombe, who then lost to Pidcock, who in turn lost to Gunnion the runner-up to Ian Harrison. Cynthia Duncombe lost to Beverley Sayer, the runner-up to Maureen Heppell.

Best performance otherwise came from junior Brian Burn, who defeated Roy Morley after trailing 11-17 in the 3rd. Burn also beat Basden 2-0 before losing to Lindsay.

Harrison won the Men's Singles with two wonderful matches in the semi and final when he wore down Warren and Gunnion.

THIRD TITLE

Maureen Heppell won her third Women's Singles title. She beat Pauline Martin in the semi and Beverley Sayer in the final. Beverley is starting to play well again and has got a little of her confidence back.

Harrison completed a treble when he won the two doubles events with Barnes and Bell respectively. The

Women's Doubles went to Cynthia Duncombe and Lesley Proudlock but they were given a great match by Lesley Bell and "scratch" partner Bucks junior Brenda Camps. With Brenda just pushing and keeping the ball on the table, they managed to extend their experienced opponents to the full distance.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Quarter-Finals: I. Harrison (Glos.) b A. Lindsay (Middx.) 16, 11; C. Warren (Surrey) b M. Creamer (Surrey) 19, 18; R. Gunnion (Warwks.) b M. MacLaren (Surrey) 9, 8; A. Pidcock (Kent) b P. Duncombe (Yorks.) 11, 14. **Semi-Finals:** HARRISON b Warren —18, 10, 14; GUNNION b Pidcock —17, 18, 20. **Final:** HARRISON b Gunnion —14, 17, 9.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: M. HEPP-PELL (Northumberland) b P. Martin (Kent) 16, 18; B. SAYER (Essex) b P. Hemmings (Herts.) 15, 16. **Final:** HEPP-PELL b Sayer 15, —20, 15.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: C. BARNES (Essex)/HARRISON b R. Chandler (Sussex)/R. Morley (Glos.) 22, 17; H. BUIST/PIDDOCK (Kent) b Gunnion/Warren —17, 17, 19. **Final:** BARNES/HARRISON b Buist/Pidcock 15, 22.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: L. PROUDLOCK/C. DUNCOMBE (Yorks.) b A. Taft (Middx.)/Martin 12, 12; L. BELL (Essex)/B. CAMPS (Bucks.) b L. Henwood (Essex)/Hemmings 15, 9. **Final:** PROUDLOCK/DUNCOMBE b Bell/Camps 15, —9, 15.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: M. SYMONDS (Lancs.)/DUNCOMBE b Morley/Martin —15, 14, 20; HARRISON/BELL b Chandler/J. Williams (Sussex) —19, 20, 11. **Final:** HARRISON/BELL b Symonds/Duncombe 16, 17.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

	PREMIER		DIVISION			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Surrey	4	4	0	0	22	14 8
Essex	3	3	0	0	23	4 6
Middlesex	4	3	0	1	27	9 6
Kent	4	3	0	1	21	15 6
Gloucestershire	3	2	0	1	17	10 4
Cheshire	5	1	0	4	13	32 2
Lancashire	4	0	0	4	10	26 0
Sussex	5	0	0	5	11	34 0

	SECOND DIVISION		SOUTH			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Hertfordshire	4	4	0	0	28	12 3
Kent II	4	2	1	1	22	18 5
Sussex II	4	2	1	1	19	21 5
Surrey II	5	1	2	2	26	24 4
Buckinghamshire	4	1	2	1	20	20 4
Hampshire	5	1	1	3	23	27 3
Bedfordshire	4	0	1	3	12	28 1

	SECOND DIVISION		NORTH			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	27	3 6
Lancashire II	3	3	0	0	25	5 6
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	12	18 4
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	16	14 2
Durham	3	0	0	3	10	20 0
Cumberland	3	0	0	3	0	30 0

	SECOND DIVISION		MIDLAND			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Warwickshire	5	5	0	0	45	5 10
Staffordshire	5	4	1	0	34	16 9
Glamorgan	5	2	2	1	27	23 6
Oxfordshire	5	2	1	2	23	27 5
Derbyshire	5	1	2	2	24	26 4
Nottinghamshire	5	0	3	2	20	30 3
Worcestershire	5	1	0	4	15	35 2
Monmouthshire	5	0	1	4	12	38 1

	SECOND DIVISION		WEST			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Devon	4	3	0	1	23	17 6
Cornwall	3	2	0	1	17	13 4
Wiltshire	3	1	1	1	15	15 3
Somerset	3	1	0	2	13	17 2
Dorset	3	0	1	2	12	18 1

	SOUTHERN DIVISION					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Hertfordshire II	4	3	1	0	27	13 7
Norfolk	4	2	2	0	27	13 6
Buckinghamshire II	3	2	1	0	21	9 5
Suffolk	4	2	0	2	21	19 4
Cambridgeshire	3	0	2	1	13	17 2
Hampshire II	3	1	0	2	12	18 2
Huntingdonshire	5	0	0	5	9	41 0

	MIDLAND DIVISION					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Warwickshire II	3	3	0	0	26	4 6
Oxfordshire II	3	2	0	1	13	17 4
Staffordshire II	3	1	1	1	15	15 3
Worcestershire II	4	1	1	2	19	21 3
Denbighshire	2	0	0	3	7	23 0

	JUNIOR DIVISION		SOUTH			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Sussex	2	2	0	0	17	3 4
Kent	2	2	0	0	13	7 4
Surrey	3	1	0	2	14	16 2
Berkshire	3	0	1	2	11	19 1
Hampshire	2	0	1	1	5	15 1

	JUNIOR DIVISION		NORTH			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	15	1 4
Lancashire	2	2	0	0	13	3 4
Northumberland	2	1	0	1	10	6 2
Cheshire	1	0	0	1	1	7 0
Cumberland	3	0	0	3	1	23 0

Note.—Durham have withdrawn from this division, and their results have been expunged.

	JUNIOR DIVISION		MIDLAND			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	40	0 8
Nottinghamshire	4	2	1	1	21	19 5
Leicestershire	3	1	1	1	17	13 3
Staffordshire	3	1	1	1	11	19 3
Oxfordshire	4	1	1	2	13	27 3
Worcestershire	4	0	0	4	8	32 0

	JUNIOR DIVISION		EAST			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	23	7 6
Essex	3	2	1	0	23	7 5
Buckinghamshire	3	2	1	0	22	8 5
Middlesex	4	2	0	2	20	20 4
Norfolk	3	0	0	3	8	22 0
Suffolk	4	0	0	4	4	36 0

	JUNIOR DIVISION		SOUTH-WEST			
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Glamorgan	3	3	0	0	25	5 6
Wiltshire	2	2	0	0	14	6 4
Monmouthshire	3	1	0	2	12	18 2
Gloucestershire	2	0	0	2	5	15 0
Pembrokeshire	2	0	0	2	4	16 0

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

by JOHN WRIGHT

SURREY CHECK KENT AND TAKE THE LEAD

KENT hopes of a notable treble—Premier, 2nd South and Junior South—received a setback with the defeat of both senior teams. So close are things at the top of the Premier that only the unwise would discount the chances of Gloucestershire, at present below the half-way mark!

By the time these notes appear in print Essex and Middlesex will have met: what a match that promises to be! The relegation position shows little change, with only Cheshire having opened their account.

Two counties still have a chance of three titles. Warwickshire are proving sudden death to all in the Midlands (overall record is Played 12, Won 12, For 111, Against 9), and Hertfordshire continue to do well in the Home Counties.

PREMIER DIVISION
Cheshire 1, Gloucestershire 8

R. Hampson lost to I. Harrison —10, —18; lost to R. Morley —17, —13; M. Johns lost to Harrison —17, —16; lost to B. Merrett —9, —16. D. Schofield lost to Morley —11, —14; lost to Merrett 16, —10, —14.
Miss J. Heaps b Miss P. Taylor 12, 9.
Hampson/Johns lost to Harrison/Merrett 19, —18, —17.

Schofield/Miss Heaps lost to Morley/Miss P. Taylor 19, —11, —15.

The inclusion of Brian Merrett seemed to strengthen Gloucestershire, and Cheshire found that instead of taking both doubles as hoped they dropped both. (Gloucestershire's first "mixed" win since 1961). The men's doubles was as close as the scores suggest and with the opening set of Mike Johns v Ian Harrison, where the latter needed all his experience, proved the highlight of the match.

Middlesex 7, Lancashire 2

B. Wright b M. Symonds —11, 12, 11; b K. Forshaw 19, 15. L. Haslam b Symonds —20, 18, 14; b G. Livesey 16, 13. A. Lindsay b Forshaw 11, 13; bt Livesey 13, 17.

Miss I. Ogus b Miss J. Crafter 17, 10. Wright/Haslam lost to Symonds/Forshaw —18, —20.

Lindsay/Miss Ogus lost to Livesey/Miss C. Moore —25, —20.

Had Lancashire's men played with the same resolve of purpose in their singles as did Mike Symonds in partnership with Kevin Forshaw, and George Livesey with Connie Moore, the verdict would have been closer. A very rare mixed defeat for Middlesex. Symonds was in good form against Brian Wright until the third game.

Essex 8, Lancashire 1

C. Barnes b M. Symonds 16, 26; bt K. Forshaw —19, 10, 5. S. Gibbs b Symonds 19, 18; b G. Livesey 12, 13. R. Stevens b Forshaw 18, —19, 13; b Livesey 17, 17. Miss L. Bell b Miss J. Crafter —16, 9, 6.

Barnes/Gibbs lost to Symonds/Forshaw 18, —22, —8.

Stevens/Miss Bell b Livesey/Miss C. Moore 13, 13.

Another fine men's double victory for the Red Rose, but three sets (all doubles) was poor consolation for the round trip in excess of 400 miles.

Kent 4, Surrey 5

A. Piddock b C. Warren 17, 19; b M. Creamer 16, —11, 14. D. Basden lost to Warren —10, —14; b G. Muranyi —18, 12, 15. K. Baker lost to Creamer 15, —13, —10; lost to Muranyi —18, 15, —19.

Miss P. Martin lost to Mrs. M. Shannon-Wright —14, —11.

Piddock/H. Buist b Warren/Muranyi 18, 23.

Basden/Miss P. Martin lost to Creamer/Mrs. Wright —15, 19, —11.

An exciting match before a capacity (350) house with every good rally applauded. Ken Baker's loss to Mike Creamer, whom he has beaten three times this season, gave Surrey their win, but Tony Piddock played magnificently in both singles and doubles.

Middlesex 9, Sussex 0

B. Wright b R. Chandler 12, 18; b S. Ogundipe 16, 12. L. Haslam b Chandler 16, —18, 17; b P. Williams 14, —20, 17. A. Lindsay b Ogundipe 9, 9; b Williams 11, 13.

Miss I. Ogus b Miss J. Williams 10, 11. Haslam/Lindsay b Chandler/Ogundipe 18, —11, 12.

Wright/Miss Ogus b Williams/Miss Williams 16, 9.

Les Haslam started Middlesex off on the right note, beating Roger Chandler in a very good set. From this point the former champions could not put a foot wrong, and dropped only two more games. Judy Williams for the visitors again disappointed.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Hertfordshire 6, Surrey II 4

Although the men were fairly evenly matched, Herts. were helped considerably by the strength of their women. Some excellent counter-hitting, particularly from Bob McKeown.

Buckinghamshire 5, Bedfordshire 5

Hertfordshire 7, Kent II 3

A fine match, with a high standard of play from both teams. Kent No. 1 Whittaker in tremendous form, but

again the Herts. women made the difference after Herts. had trailed 0-3.

Sussex II 6, Hampshire 4

An unexpected edge for Sussex in the men's events, but twins Pauline and Christine Holes in command for Hants. in the women's. John Beasley (Sussex) on senior debut, won on each visit to the table, with the men's doubles, won at 19, —19, 19 the turning point. Two good wins for Robin Pierce.

**SECOND DIVISION NORTH
Durham 3, Lancashire II 7**

Alan Ransome alone scored for the home county, with two singles victories and the Mixed Doubles with Mrs. Moor.

Northumberland 10, Cumberland 0
The strength and experience of the home county told in a rather one-sided match. Ron Batty and his sister both show promise, but not even a game was conceded.

Yorkshire 10, Lincolnshire 0

"Standing room only" was the order of the day. Very fine table tennis, particularly from the No. 1's Denis Neale and Brian Hill, and Lincs. fought for every point.

**SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND
Glamorgan 6, Worcestershire 4**

A close-fought match throughout, with the Men's Doubles proving the deciding point. The match was transferred to Cardiff when the Cefn Coed venue burnt down two days before it.

A New Leicestershire Singles Champion

THE Leicestershire Closed Championship produced a whole crop of surprises. Ernest McLeish, men's singles holder for the past four seasons, lost his title in a thrilling final with Charlie Jacques. Rita Beith again collected the ladies' singles title, beating Beryl Hibberd in the final.

Rita added the mixed doubles, partnered by Ernest McLeish, while Beryl collected the ladies' doubles with Shirley Pickering. Surprise winners of the men's doubles were Michael Porter and Graham Hughes, who beat Philip Powell and Graham Elsdon in the final. John Corral retained his junior singles title and, partnered by Kevin Parker, took the junior doubles. Robert Spring won the under-15 singles, while Brian Pearn once again proved too strong for all opposition in the veterans' singles.

The Rose Johnson Bowl competition continues to produce close finishes, the closest third-round match being between Leicester Y.M.C.A. and Blaby Boys' Club. The latter had 350 points start, only to lose by 15 points. Three youngsters of outstanding promise have emerged from this competition in S. Hobell (East Cheam), Trevor Barker (Cottons) and David Lewin (Blaby Boys' Club).

CORRAL AVAILABLE

Good news for Leicestershire is that John Corral will be available for the rest of the season and his inclusion should considerably strengthen the County junior team.

The Leicestershire Towns League continues to make good progress with Leicester "B" and Loughborough Juniors leading the way.

Great interest continues to be shown in the forthcoming European championships. At least one bus-load will be visiting Wembley, besides a number of cars and several people who will be there for the duration of the championships.

The Rose Johnson Cup could go to one of three teams—Barwell Constitutional (E. McLeish, R. Jenkins and J. Iliffe), Bentley Engineering (C. Jacques, G. Murray and N. Wilson) or Leicester Y.M.C.A. (C. Truman, P. Powell, G. Hughes). In the Saracen Cup, Nazarenes, with Jimmy Mee and Malcolm Bassett showing such brilliant form, must be favourites, particularly after their quarter-final victory over Post Office.

In the Loughborough and District League Shepherd (Ted Dixon, Mick Brooks, Phil Jacques) look to have the first division tied up. Division II looks much more open where Fisons, Shepshed Y.C. and Sawley are all playing well. In this division J. Crowther has been playing brilliantly for Brush and is undefeated. Shepshed lead the third division.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

- February 9 Essex v Middlesex, Estric Sports Club, Ashton Road, Harold Hill, Romford 7.00 p.m.
- February 11 Lancashire v Cheshire, Messrs Rubery Owen Ltd., Staff Canteen, Great Sankey, Warrington. 7.00 p.m.
- February 26 Gloucestershire v Lancashire, J. S. Fry & Sons, Somerdale, Bristol. 7.15 p.m.
- February 26 Sussex v Kent, A.P.V. Factory, Manor Royal, Industrial Estate, Crawley. 7.00 p.m.
- March 5 Kent v Essex, Town Hall, Sittingbourne. 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

- February 19 Bedfordshire v Hertfordshire, Dunstable Pioneer Club, Rear of A.B.C. Cinema, High Street North, Dunstable. 7.30 p.m.
- February 19 Hampshire v Bucks., Tanners Brook Infants' School, Millbrook, Southampton. 7.00 p.m.
- February 26 Kent v Sussex, Old People's Club, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne. 7.15 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

- February 26 Lincolnshire v Cumberland, Y.M.C.A., Heneage Road, Grimsby 7.30 p.m.
- February 26 Northumberland v Durham, Berwick-on-Tweed. 7.00 p.m.
- March 5 Lancashire v Yorkshire, Montague Burton's Clothing Works, Halliwell Road, Bolton. 7.15 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

- February 26 Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire, The Police Station, Chesterfield. 7.00 p.m.
- February 26 Oxfordshire v Glamorgan, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford. 6.30 p.m.
- February 26 Staffordshire v Warwickshire, Stowe. 7.00 p.m.
- February 26 Worcestershire v Monmouthshire, South Wye Community Centre, Ross Road, Hereford. 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

- February 26 Dorset v Cornwall. 7.15 p.m.
- February 26 Wiltshire v Somerset, The Drill Hall, By-the-Sea Road, Trowbridge. 7.15 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

- February 19 Buckinghamshire v Hampshire. 7.30 p.m.
- February 26 Buckinghamshire v Norfolk.
- February 26 Huntingdonshire v Cambridgeshire, Hotpoint Canteen, Celta Road, Peterborough. 7.30 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

- February 13 Warwickshire v Denbeighshire, Mint Sports Club, Icknield Street, Birmingham, 18. 3.00 p.m.
- February 26 Oxfordshire v Staffordshire, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford. 6.30 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH

- February 26 Cheshire v Cumberland, Lostock Alkali Social Club, Works Lane, Lostock Gralam, Northwich. 2.30 p.m.
- February 26 Northumberland v Durham, Berwick-on-Tweed. 3.00 p.m.
- March 6 Cheshire v Northumberland, Birkenhead Co-op. Society, Education Department, Katherine Street, Birkenhead. 10.30 a.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION EAST

- February 19 Essex v Hertfordshire, St. Luke's Table Tennis Club, Jude Street, Canning Town, E.16. 3.00 p.m.
- February 26 Buckinghamshire v Norfolk.

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

- February 26 Hampshire v Surrey, S.E.B. Sports Club, Lower Drayton Lane, Farington, Portsmouth. 7.00 p.m.
- February 26 Sussex v Kent, A.P.V. Canteen, Manor Royal, Crawley. 3.30 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLAND

- February 26 Leicestershire v Warwickshire, Leicester Y.M.C.A., 113 Granby Street, Leicester 3.00 p.m.
- February 26 Oxfordshire v Staffordshire, Burford Grammar School, Burford 6.30 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH-WEST

- February 26 Wiltshire v Pembrokehire, Swindon probably 2.30 p.m.
- February 26 Gloucestershire v Monmouthshire.

ESSEX OPEN

by LAURIE LANDRY

CHANDLER BEATS BARNES BUT PIDDOCK TAKES TITLE

ROGER CHANDLER, ignored by the National Selection Committee, knocked the top off the new ranking list when he beat Chester Barnes in the semi-final of the Essex Open at Harlow on January 16.

This second downfall of the thrice English Champion in the space of eight days was his refusal to change his game. Perhaps the idea that he could lose never entered his head.

Chandler had saved match points against David Brown in the previous round, while Barnes had earlier only just made it against Stuart Gibbs, losing the first game and standing at 18-all in the second before applying the pressure.

The dethroning of Barnes opened the way for Tony Piddock, of Kent, to become the new champion. He had a nice draw to the semi-final and here he met Les Haslam, who had outplayed his Middlesex colleagues David Creamer and Brian Wright.

Piddock gradually took control of this match in what was almost a repeat of their encounter at Skegness at the start of the season.

In the final Piddock again took command and was not seriously troubled by Chandler, who could never get going after his wonderful win over Barnes.

USUAL FINAL

The women's singles resulted in the usual final of Mary Wright and Lesley Bell. They came through without any difficulty; it was the other ranked players who came unstuck.

Judy Heaps, the No. 5 junior beat Pauline Martin, No. 4 senior, in the second round, while Karenza Smith, No. 3 junior overcame Irene Ogus, No. 5 senior. Then Elsie Carrington was too tight in defence for Beverley Sayer, the No. 8, and Miss Smith.

Miss Heaps eventually fell in the quarter final to another junior Diane Simpson, who was then stopped by Mary Wright.

There is little to choose between the top juniors, who are certainly keeping the seniors on their toes, and this was emphasised in the girls' singles. Here Miss Simpson was beaten by Pauline Hemmings, who in turn lost to Judy Heaps, runner-up to Karenza Smith to the final.

This was a superb finish, providing Karenza with some consolation for her disappointment in the Women's Doubles where she partnered Mary Wright.

They are the English closed Champions but lost in the semi-final to Mrs. Carrington and Jackie Canham, who



TONY PIDDOCK receives his trophy.

were in turn beaten by Irene Ogus and Lesley Bell.

Brian Wright atoned for his singles set-back by taking the men's doubles with Tony Piddock and the mixed with his wife.

Wright and Piddock dropped only one game and this was in the final, against Bobby Stevens and Stuart Gibbs, who had come through erratically and brilliantly. It was a cracking final with Wright and Piddock coming back from 12-18 down in the first game.

The mixed was an uneventful affair with Mary and Brian dominating each of their matches. Keith Lawrence collected yet another junior singles when he beat Trevor Taylor.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Quarter-Finals: O. Haslam (Middx.) b B. Wright (Middx.) 21, 19; A. Piddock (Kent) b K. Baker (Kent) 13, —19, 13; P. Chandler (Sussex) b D. Brown (Essex) —18, 17, 20; G. Barnes (Essex) b R. Stevens (Essex) 18, 13. **Semi-Finals:** PIDDOCK b Haslam —20, 16, 12; CHANDLER b Barnes 18,

—18, 18. **Final:** PIDDOCK b Chandler 17, 15.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: M. WRIGHT (Surrey) b D. Simpson (Essex) 7, 14; L. BELL (Essex) b E. Carrington (Essex) 7, 10. **Final:** WRIGHT b Bell 19, 12.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: WRIGHT/PIDDOCK b T. Goodall/L. Wooding (Bucks.) 12, 18; STEVENS/S. GIBBS (Essex) b T. Densham (Herts.)/Barnes —16, 15, 15. **Final:** WRIGHT/PIDDOCK b Stevens/Gibbs 23, —17, 14.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: I. OGUS (Middx.)/BELL b J. Heaps (Ches.)/L. Henwood (Essex) —16, 18, 15; J. CANHAM (Herts.)/CARRINGTON b K. Smith (Middx.)/Wright —15, 19, 13. **Final:** OGUS/BELL b Canham/Carrington —19, 15, 25.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: WRIGHT/Mrs. WRIGHT b T. Taylor (Herts.)/Mrs. Carrington 16, 18; BARNES/Miss P. MARTIN (Kent) b Gibbs/Miss B. Sayer (Essex) —6, 19, 17. **Final:** WRIGHT/WRIGHT b Barnes/Martin 15, 16.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: W. LAWRENCE (Essex) b S. Williams 11, 15; TAYLOR b P. Harmer (Herts.) 11, 20. **Final:** LAWRENCE b Taylor —17, 14, 10.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: K. SMITH (Middx.) b L. Henwood (Essex) 18, 13; J. HEAPS (Ches.) b P. Hemmings (Herts.) 14, 11. **Final:** SMITH b Heaps —12, 18, 19.

WRONG TABLE

The Dunlop Sports Company wish to draw attention to an error in their advertisement last month which indicated that their table had been adopted for the European Table Tennis Championships. In fact, the table chosen is the one made by Messrs. John Jaques & Son, Ltd.

ESSEX GIVES LANGNER TROPHY TO SCHOOLS

ESSEX have suffered a severe blow with the sad death of Ron Langner, county treasurer for the past 13 years. He passed away on January 3 but had been in hospital since September.

The county have opened a fund to present a perpetual trophy bearing his name to the newly formed Essex Schools Association. Donations should be made to the Essex Secretary, Harry Walker.

Bert Simpson, father of junior international Diane Simpson, succeeds Langner as Essex Treasurer.

Dennis Arr, the County Coaching Officer will be visiting Colchester, Braintree, Southend and Thurrock and will be pleased to hear from coaches willing to assist.

Essex players fared well in the English Closed, with representatives in four finals. Chester Barnes, in the men's doubles, collected the county's only title, but Stuart Gibbs, in his first senior season, confounded the critics by reaching the men's singles final with a great win over Connie Warren.

East London League are still interested in all four national team competitions, while Romford are still in the Rose Bowl.

FIVE TITLES

Keith Lawrence has won five junior open titles this season but still awaits the chance of playing for his country. We enter the second half of the season but with no information of junior internationals, except for the summer! Essex are arranging second team junior matches with Kent and Surrey. The friendly junior match with Wiltshire was won 6-4. A return is being arranged.

Essex Schools Association are planning the County Tournament for early March. A record entry is expected.

The County team knock-out competition has now reached the semi-final stages as follows: Section "A," Eton Manor v Fellows Cranleigh; Harrow Green v St. Lukes. Section "B," Hollywood v Paxmans; Brotherhood v Red Triangle 1st.

Harry Walker.

BERNARD CROUCH TROPHY

Essex are falling behind in the Bernard Crouch Trophy, having played only one match. But that was sufficient to keep them abreast on Surrey and Middlesex in the number of wins.

Middlesex, beaten 5-4 by Surrey, reversed the result and score in the return.

Results: Surrey 2, Essex 7, Middlesex 4, Surrey 5, Surrey 4, Middlesex 5.

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Essex	1	1	0	7	2	2
Middlesex	2	1	1	9	9	2
Surrey	3	1	2	11	16	2

FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are *additional* to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D. in every case. Tournaments marked (R) are Restricted. Suitable entries are inserted in this diary without charge but all organisers should send information to the Editor at the earliest possible date.

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Feb. 1-3	CZECHOSLOVAKIAN OPEN Prague.		
4-6	EAST GERMAN OPEN Berlin		
5	South Yorkshire Open Norfolk Barracks, Sheffield, Yorks.	Y.S. J.G.S.	D. W. Roe, 16, Olivers Mount, Sheffield, 9
5-6	Hythe Open (R) The Institute, Hythe, Kent		R. J. Weaver, 9, St. Hildas Road, Hythe, Kent
6	North Bournemouth Open (R) Y.M.C.A., Winton, Bournemouth, Hants.	J.S.	C. B. Cashell, 16, Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth, Hants.
12	Midland Open		
12-13	QUADRANGULAR INTERNATIONAL (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales)		
19	Yorkshire Open Railway Institute, York.		C. Warley, 2, Thornfield Avenue, Muncaster, York
27	Yeovil Area American Tournament Houndstone Camp, Yeovil, Somerset		Mrs. P. J. Coleman, "Greenwood," 7, Priory Close Nash Lane, Yeovil, Somerset
26-27	WEST GERMAN OPEN		Heidelberg
Mar. 2	GWENT OPEN Standard Telephones Corporation Road Newport, Mon. (Closing date: March 19)	JBS JGS	Grove Motlow 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon.
5-6	WELSH OPEN Dumfries Place Drill Hall, Cardiff	All Snr. Events best of 5	Miss Nancy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cardiff
12	Northumberland Open Ministry of Pensions, Newcastle	J.B.S. J.G.S.	T. A. Morpeth, 59, Preston Avenue, North Shields
12	North-Middlesex Open Edmonton		
13	Sussex Junior Open Worthing	U.17 U.15 U.13	M. D. Oldham, 25, Offington Gardens, Worthing, Sussex
19	SCOTTISH OPEN		
19	East London Junior Closed St. Luke's Youth Club, Jude Street, Canning Town, London, E.16.		G. Styles, Grange Farm Centre, Chigwell, Essex.
19-20	Scottish Open	J.B.S. J.G.S. V.S.	J. M. McCormack, 2, Bramdean Place, Edinburgh 10.
26-27	Bucks Open		
April 2-3	Cambridge Open Corn Exchange, Cambridge	J.B.S. L.G.S.	Mrs. M. A. Cornwell, 28, Harding Way, Cambridge
9-11	North East England Open Wallis Camp, Cayton Bay, Scarborough, Yorks.	Y.S. J.B.S. J.G.S. V.S.	W. Mitton, 16, The Whins, Newby, Scarborough, Yorks.
23-24	Slough (British Legion) Junior Open Community Centre, Slough, Bucks.		J. A. Pacitto, 73, Bexley Street, Windsor, Berks.
May 5	Old Boys' Invitation The Old Boys' Club, London, E.1		Secretary, The Old Boys' Club, 241, Mile End Road, London, E.1
13-14	Crescent Junior Girls' Open Drill Hall, Sittingbourne, Kent		F. G. Mannooch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent
13-20	EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS Empire Pool, Wembley, Middx.		

OFFICIAL NEWS

E.T.T.U.: Ivor Eyles and Conrad Jasochke have been appointed by the Management Committee to be the E.T.T.A.'s delegates at the E.T.T.U. Congress meeting in London in April.

TEAM SELECTIONS:

Czechoslovakian Open: Prague — January 31 to February 2, 1966, and **Germany D.T.T.V. Open:** East Berlin — February 3 to 6, 1966: **G. C. Barnes** (Essex), **I. O. Harrison** (Gloucestershire); **Mrs. M. Shannon-Wright** (Surrey); **Miss D. Rowe** (Middlesex). Non-playing captain: **J. A. Leach** (Essex).

Quadrangular Home International Matches: Glasgow — February 11/12, 1966: **G. C. Barnes** (Essex), **R. Gunnion** (Warwickshire), **B. D. Wright** (Middlesex), **Mrs. M. Shannon-Wright** (Surrey), **Miss Pauline Martin** (Kent). Non-playing captain: **R. J. Crayden** (Surrey).

West German Open Championships: Lubeck—February 26/27, 1966: **G. C. Barnes** (Essex), **D. Neale** (Yorkshire), **C. Warren** (Surrey), **Mrs. M. Shannon-Wright** (Surrey), **Miss D. Rowe** (Middlesex). Non-playing captain: **J. A. Leach** (Essex).

SWEDEN: Stockholm and Gothenberg, February 23/24, 1966. **G. C. Barnes** (Essex), **D. Neale** (Yorks), **C. Warren** (Surrey). Non-playing captain, **J. A. Leach** (Essex).

NO CHANGE AT THE TOP OF REVISED RANKING LIST

THE loss of his English closed title made no difference to Chester Barnes in the new national rankings list. He keeps his position as England's No. 1, but Denis Neale, the new champion, moves up only one place

to No. 3. There is similar promotion for Connie Warren and this comes about because Brian Wright slips from No. 3 to No. 6.

Les Haslam, who came into the list at No. 12 for the first time this season, jumps forward to No. 8, while two newcomers are Stuart Gibbs, runner-up for the English closed title, at No. 9 and Roy Morley at No. 12. Derek Basden and Roger Chandler are both dropped.

The big change of the women's list is the omission of Jean McCree, due to insufficient evidence. The top three places are unaltered with Mary Wright leading the way. The interesting changes concern the two juniors, with Maureen Heppell overhauling Pauline Hemmings (now No. 9) to become the new No. 6.

New to the list is Beverley Sayer at No. 8, while there is a two-place promotion for Lesley Proudlock to No. 10.

English Table Tennis Association

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Office of the Association: 26/29, Park Crescent, London, W.1 (Telephone: LAngham 6312).

ILLNESS BEATS CAMBRIDGE

A BITTER blow for Cambridge City has been the withdrawal of the women's team from the Rose Bowl owing to illness. They had been making good progress until this setback. Meanwhile, their men have reached the fourth round of the Wilmott Cup.

Both the City and County teams have been enjoying a good measure of success and the return of John Thurston has certainly played its part. Both county matches have been drawn, while in the South-East Midlands League the City have impressed in all three sections.

All this is helping to boost the game throughout the county and, with many youngsters undergoing weekly coaching, Cambridgeshire will keep on the upgrade.

Y.M.C.A. I are hanging on to the leadership of the Cams. League First Division, although Press I are chasing hard, with games in hand. Sohan Methodists, promoted this season, are also strong challengers. Brian Jones has been the mainstay of this team which entered the league a few years ago in the bottom division, and has made a consistent climb.

Fire Brigade head the Second Division, with a big threat from the Exiles, who have become a power since the acquisition of John Puddock.

The knock-out handicap competition is now down to the last eight.

Leslie Constable.

- MEN**
1. G. C. Barnes (Essex) (1)
 2. I. O. Harrison (Glos.) (2)
 3. D. Neale (Yorks.) (4)
 4. C. Warren (Surrey) (5)
 5. B. D. Wright (Middx.) (3)
 6. R. Gunnion (Warwicks.) (6)
 7. A. R. Piddock (Kent) (9)
 8. O. Haslam (Middx.) (12)
 9. S. Gibbs (Essex) (—)
 10. R. J. Stevens (Essex) (11)
 11. M. Symonds (Lancs.) (8)
 12. R. Morley (Glos.) (—)

- WOMEN**
1. Mrs. M. Shannon-Wright (Surrey) (1)
 2. D. Rowe (Middx.) (2)
 3. L. Bell (Essex) (3)
 4. P. Martin (Kent) (5)
 5. L. Ogus (Middx.) (6)
 6. M. Heppell (N'land) (8)
 7. Mrs. C. Duncombe (Yorks) (11)
 8. B. Sayer (Essex) (—)
 9. P. Hemmings (Herts.) (7)
 10. L. Proudlock (Yorks.) (12)
 11. Y. J. Williams (Sussex) (9)
 12. A. Taft (Middx.) (10)
- Insufficient evidence:
Mrs. J. McCree (Beds.) (4)

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