WANTED—THE TOOLS FOR THE JOB

As the chairman suggested in his opening remarks, the Special General Meeting at Church House, Westminster, on January 18, was probably the most important and significant in the Association's history since its inauguration. Before the meeting were proposals for a radical change in the E.T.T.A.'s constitution and it was hardly surprising that a long, contentious and difficult conference was expected. What was surprising, however, was the complete ineffectiveness of the opposition to the proposals. It had been expected that substantial resistance would come from the North but, it was left to one League to voice disapproval after which a mere three hands rose in defiance of the remainder of the hall.

Here then was an overwhelming and unquestionable victory for the National Executive Committee and its supporters for a new and democratic constitution, framed on the basis recommended by the Development Commission in its report. Here also was the unusual occasion of an old order reconsidering its own dissolution in yielding place to new.

As a result, from the next Annual General Meeting, the present National Executive Committee will be replaced by a National Council and a Management Committee. The National Council will be composed of the Officers of the Association and one representative from each county in membership. It will meet several times a year to determine the broad lines of the Association's policy and will elect four of its members, who, together with the Officers, will form the Management Committee for the conduct of day to day business.

The new constitution will be more democratic; each county will have its delegate to represent it in the formation of policy and to have a voice in the future organisation of the game throughout the country. Gone, we hope, will be the days when apathy selected the governing body of table tennis in England. One of the aims of the new constitution is to give more representation and importance to county associations and, it is hoped that new and lively administrators will come to the fore dedicated to the task of expanding the activity and furthering the prestige of the game and the Association.

The Development Commission pointed the way and part of the road has been taken; the rest of the journey will be long hard and — like many things worth having — costly. Finance. Here to many, and to even more who thought of it afterwards, was the most disappointing aspect of the Special General Meeting. In the flush of enthusiasm and success over the unanimous decision to give the constitution a new look the need to pay for it had been overlooked. In fact the new fee structure which has been approved will provide insufficient additional income to pay the expenses of the new National Council so that as things stand at present, the Association's activities will have to be cut next season.

It is hardly credible that the game's administrators could agree to assemble two teams with a brand new table, net, posts and bats and then throw them a cracked ball to play with — for that is the summary of the outcome of the Special General Meeting in table tennis terms.

On several occasions these columns have drawn attention to the need for the Association to expand and advance and for the need of adequate funds to enable this to be done. The wrong of it is that those who are alleged to be opposed to the paying of a few extra coppers per player are the first to criticise England's lack of success in the international ring. They overlook the fact that the roots of success lie in the schools, the provision of facilities, coaching and presentation of the image of the game, all of which require money.

Again then, we repeat that extra income is needed, and the Association's finances must be put on a sound footing unless progress is to give way to stagnation. We believe the request will not go unheeded if it is accompanied by adequate explanations. As we see it, it is for the N.E.C. in the next few months to explain the job and to persuade the Annual General Meeting to provide the tools for it.

CHESTER BARNES jumps for joy at retaining the English Closed title.
CRITICISM must be expected by all those in office and we of the Selection Committee do not oppose it, as we feel it stimulates and encourages progressive thinking and policies. It is our opinion, however, that criticism should be fair and not born out of fiction or fabrication. Because of this, we feel justified in answering the recent article by Johnny Leach — Three who are overlooked — which was published in last month’s magazine.

We find it difficult to reconcile with fact the two paragraphs contained under the heading "No clear policy." Several articles by the Selectors on the policy of selection have been printed in the Magazine, the last one being an extract as November, 1963. It was then that we wrote about the Ranking Meetings and the importance we were attaching to them. For one with such an avid interest in the game as Johnny it is rather disturbing to know that he does not read articles by the Senior Selection Committee.

Incidentally we should have thought that being selected himself 150 times for England would have given him a clue or two towards answering his question, "What must a player do to achieve international honours?"

Other articles have been agreed that an earnest recommendation from the Selection Committee has, to a great extent, had its influence, as it was only fitting that the man who had done more for international table tennis, both at home and abroad, should be elected President. He referred, of course, to the Hon. Ivor Montagu, and this statement was greeted with acclamation. After Leach had associated himself with this view, Mr. Montagu was unanimously elected.

A proposition that every English player who had won a world singles or doubles title should be elected a Vice-President was also carried unanimously. There are many present day players and supporters who do not realise that this list is ten strong. As a matter of general interest, here is the full list: Mrs. Rosalind Cornett (Rowe), Mrs. Doris Devenney (Bergeret), Miss Peggy Franks, Mrs. Blaine Rowe, Mrs. Vera Thompson (Dace), Miss Wendy Woodhead, Victor Barna, Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach and Fred Perry.

Aldborough Simons, who was a member of the Annual General Meeting of the National Executive Committee in 1962, has been re-elected, pending elections by postal ballot once the Annual General Meeting has been held.

The Secretary will be pleased to send a copy of these to any International player this week, but a selection committee has to live with its mistakes and it doesn’t help for England’s future if they are corrected indiscriminately. “I told you so.”

INTERNATIONAL CLUB FORMED

At a General Meeting held on January 4 at the Manor Place Baths, it was unanimously agreed to form an International Club. A “caretaker” committee was elected, pending elections by postal ballot once the Annual General Meeting has been held.

The “Annual General Meeting of the new club will be held at The Commerce Club, Exchange, Brighton, on Saturday, February 29, at 6 p.m. It was agreed that the previously circulated draft Rules would become the proposed Rules, and that any alterations or additions should be put forward as amendments. The Treasurer would like to receive subscriptions, and the fees are: 10s. per annum from any player who has represented England in an official senior international match, and 5s. per annum — a junior membership—from any player who has represented England in an official junior international match.

It is hoped that these very low fees will encourage all Internationals, past and present, to join. Unfortunately there are still very considerable gaps in the list of names and addresses available, and any information regarding past Internationalists would be gratefully received by Geoff Harrower.

The early emphasis will be placed on building up the membership, but later on it is hoped to undertake an active programme of social events, and also play a number of matches. All ideas on activities which the Club could undertake will be welcomed. The Committee will consider these, and, of course, any proposed alterations to the Rules, before the Annual General Meeting.

INDIVIDUALLY, we all have sympathy for those who have been deserving and who would appear to have been overlooked, but surely all level-headed supporters of the game will agree that arguments can be put forward and cases made out for dozens of players, both of the past and present.

We have been playing results of all the top players in the country and although they are carefully studied and charted, they alone do not determine selection. Other factors have to be taken into consideration, otherwise a slide rule, rather than a selection committee would be needed.

Moreover, the N.E.C. are watchdogs of the money, relying upon the quality of those who have been selected in some quarters, to the Selection Committee. They have a right to expect each investment to pay handsome dividends in matches won. We have tried to ensure the best results for England in all matches within our capabilities. We have introduced young players with somewhat more promise than time alone will show if they can make the grade in the hurly-burly of a rapidly developing sport.

It is easy for a writer to sing the praises of one player this week and play down another the next, but a selection committee has to live with its mistakes and it doesn’t help for England’s future if they are corrected indiscriminately. “I told you so.”

Table Tennis February - 1964
AROUND EAST ANGLIA

SUFFOLK NOTES

by D. J. BARRETT

A CLEAN SWEEP FOR MANN

In his last year as a junior, David Mann set the seal on a series of successes over the season by winning the Suffolk Men's Closed title after a struggle with Stowmarket's Brian Buckle. The finals, at St. Margaret's Institute, Lowestoft, saw an almost clean sweep of all events by Ipswich players. Only the Restricted Singles escaped them.

Mann had a good day, and also took the Boys' championship as might be expected, with the Mixed and Men's doubles thrown in for good measure. The senior event saw some typically fast

CAMBRIDGE SHIRE

FARE BADLY

CAMBRIDGE, without John Thurston, looked a very ordinary side when they crashed 9-1 to Norfolk in the County championship. Only Alan Ponder, who is still a junior, showed any sort of form and marked up the county's lone success.

Keith Chapman and Reg Dean gave inept displays, while Valerie Gilliam, although giving her best, found Betty Cassell too good. Chapman has been playing well in the Cambridge League, but county form has been disappointing, while Dean will have a hard job to retain his place.

Cambridge City have fared much better in the South East Midlands League, where they head the Men's and Junior Divisions and promise to take both titles.

There has been plenty of excitement in the Cambridge League, where University Press have overtaken Y.M.C.A. to top the First Division. Their team of Keith Chapman, Roy Nunn and Carol Barrett will be hard to dislodge.

New Chesterton Institute and Y.M.C.A., the pacemakers of last season, are certainly finding the going hard, but should finish in the first three. Pest Control and Wilburton foundered at the bottom of the table.

Stowmarket, with Martin Brown, John Constable and Valerie Gilliam, head the Second Division, with Great Ouse River Board and St. George's their main rivals. Hospitals II appear doomed to relegation.

Northern Employees are closely followed by Sohan Methodists at the top of the Third Division.

Stan Jacobson, the Middlesex player who was mainly responsible for the development of the "loop drive," was a recent visitor to the Y.M.C.A., and played for three hours against the various Cambridge players, including Ponder, Paul Chisnal, Albert Jackson and John Cornel, who produced some of his old fire in winning a game.

The question of County umpires is again "burning" and all players are urged to make themselves available by taking the appropriate examinations to help the hard-pressed few.

The only lady county umpire in Cambridge is Margaret Cornwell, who is also County secretary.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

NORTH WALSHAM LOOK UP

Fred Mace, chairman of North Walsham League, will be delighted with the progress made in that area since his return from Ipswich. Their team is strengthened by Alan Gibby, attracted entrants from Aldbrough, Aylsham, Catfield, Corpusty, East Ruston, Holdenhurst, Ashbourne, Great Yarmouth, and Potter Heigham, with a total of 62 for the senior singles, 27 for the junior, and 22 in the senior doubles.

Midnight was almost striking when Gibby was deprived of his senior singles by Gordon Harrison, of Norwich, at 22-20 in the third. The junior final was equalled with Raymond Gale (N. Walsham Methodists) beating his club-mate Ian Miller 21-23, 21-17, 22-20.

Gordon and Marion Harrison, although lucky to survive against Mace and Stannard, made it a Norwich night by beating Durrant and Amis (Hickling) for the senior doubles.

All that is needed now is for North Walsham to follow Cromer and affiliate to the County Association so that their players become eligible for Norfolk and the Norfolk Championships.

Les Holden, county captain and Norwich League coach, who is paying six visits to Aylsham Youth Club and Maurice Ewles, the county coach, are looking for volunteers from league players to help them with their untiring effort. Visits around the county can be a real change and relaxation after years of nothing but league matches.

So keen is the competition among Norfolk boys that Ewles is arranging a further County tournament to establish their rankings. Pity there is not the same following from the girls. Maybe special ladies' sections in each league would give them more opportunities for experience until strong enough to play in mixed leagues.

Great Yarmouth took another step forward in the Rose Bowl, beating Norwich 5-4. Norwich, however, are doing well in the Wilmott Cup where they beat Spalding 6-3 and now meet Oxford with a chance to enter the semi-finals.

Norwich championships are arranged for February 16.

A new venture of Doug Clutton, the Yarmouth coach, is a school's tournament, with three age-grouped sections for boys and girls, plus a special section for players who have represented the league in inter-town games.

Norfolk's 9-1 victory over a weakened Cambridge side has given them their highest place for many season in the Southern Division.
THE ORDER OF ST. CARRINGTON
by GEORGE A. STARKE

There are three major religions in Great Britain today: Christianity, Hinduism and Table Tennis.

No doubt, in all faiths, you will find people whose religion is not only a way of life but a means whereby they may earn a livelihood. Even monks and nuns, though under vows of poverty, are assured of food, clothing and medical necessities. There are also those who, while ensuring their keep in some business or trade, freely devote much of their time to promoting the welfare of their church and its congregation and in attempting to increase the number of those who, at long last, have the correct attitude respecting the world, the flesh and the devil.

Normally, those people who wish to give their services without charge, even in their spare time, involving themselves in personal expense, may do so without examination and without having, first, to give any undertakings to some official body.

RIGOROUS REQUIREMENTS

In table tennis, however, the requirements are rigorous. Devotees who would spread the gospel must attain a sufficiently high degree of scholarship before being officially recorded as persons fit to give their services without examination and with a view to some official body.

The award of the Diploma Badge does not authorise the charging of any fees. On the contrary, it places upon awardees a moral obligation not to demand any fees. Diploma coaches, and those who desire to become such, know that such coaches must not pick and choose their pupils but be prepared and able to help all comers.

The marvel is that anybody should strive for such an award. Yet more and more players are filling up the yellow application form as year follows year.

What is it that prompts people to such devotion? Such a degree of devotion surely takes table tennis into the sphere of religion.

I suspect that members of a secret sub-committee, masked and hooded, present themselves at dead of Sunday-afternoon-kipt time to make a "signature or else" demand. The "or else" indicating a good, long discussion of amendments to motions respecting Individual Direct Affiliations.

STAFFORDSHIRE

FRoM GLOOM To GLoRy

At the halfway stage it is interesting to note the fortunes of Staffordshire in the County Championship. The season opened on a shock note with the departure of Derek Backhouse to nearby Warwickshire, a decision which suggested the county were in for a rough time. I must confess things did look pretty black. Yet if Staffordshire can win their match with Glamorgan it will be gloom to glory in the space of four months. For a win over the Welsh county would make them runners-up to Warwickshire.

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THE YOUNGEST UMPIRE

BY JIMMY MANNOOCH

BERNADETTE McGRERTY, a young lady who has just passed her tenth birthday, has the distinction of being the youngest person in the country to qualify as a county umpire. She is also the only female county umpire in Kent.

She won her badge after passing the written test satisfactorily, then coming successfully through some quite stiff practical tests, conducted at the Kent Junior Open and the Deal Invitation tournament.

Bernadette, who stands just 4 feet 2 inches tall, has been umpiring at various matches since she was eight years old, so she is quite a young veteran.

And table tennis is not the only sport where she knows and can administer the rules, for she can umpire equally well at lawn tennis.

A member of the Crescent Club, Bernadette plays for her club team, which heads the sixth division of the Sittingbourne League. She won the Under 10’s singles in the Crescent Club Invitation tournament and also reached the final of the Under 11’s event in the Kent Junior Open. So it can be seen that her knowledge of table tennis is not restricted to umpiring.

ALL ROUNDER

Indeed, Bernadette is a talented young all-rounder. She can hold her own against many older girls at lawn tennis and at swimming and diving. At the Crescent Club Invitation swimming gala she swam in the under 10 and under 13 events, and also represented the club in diving against girls up to 16.

It is not surprising that this girl of many parts—she also holds the club darts shield and is a popular entertainer at the club concerts with her piano playing, singing and acrobatic dancing—has won the Crescent Club Parents’ Association Sports Girl of the Year Cup for the past two years.

For all her talent at sport and administration—she is a member of the club committee and their representative to the Kent County Association—Bernadette is equally capable of lighting the fire or organising a handicap competition. And moreover she is capable of being as mischievous as any of the members.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

by GROVE MOTLOW

CARDIFF MARCH ON

CARDIFF continued their winning way in the Western Counties League when they beat Newport, who were without Evans and Huish, 8-1. Brian Everson scored the only Newport success when he beat K. Bull, but he lost to George Evans, the Welsh international, and Phil Bevans, both of whom were unbeaten.

Everson promised well when he forced a final set against Evans in the opening match, but he was well beaten by Bevan.

Newport also crashed 2-7 to Bristol and once again missed the services of Huish and Evans. Everson and Gray, both of whom beat Wise, were the Newport winners.

Mordecai and Brady were unbeaten for Bristol. Mordecai, however, was fully extended by Gray before getting home over three games.

Mordecai and Brady were again in top form when Bristol triumphed Bath 9-0.

Wise was the only Bristol player to experience any trouble.

A mother and daughter, Mrs. Bonner and Miss D. Bonner, played a major part in Weston Ladies’ 6-3 win over Swindon Ladies, collecting five wins between them.

Mrs. Bonner, who deputised for Mrs. Pettifer, celebrated with an unbeaten record. She had a tough match to open when she just beat Mrs. Hazell 22-20, 25-23. Miss D. Bonner, playing in place of her sister “Penny,” created a good impression with two wins.

Miss Onslow was the most successful of the Swindon players, beating Mrs. Bull and Miss Bonner.

Mrs. O’Brien won all three of her matches when Bristol Ladies beat Newport 7-2. Mrs. Gray beat both Mrs. Spokes and Mrs. Watts for the Newport wins.

Page Nine
SALISBURY HUMBLED BY WEST WILTS

TONY WARD, the ex-Wilts champion, put up his best performance in the Premier Division of the County League this season. Johnny Cleveland, the West Wilts secretary, put up his best performance with a brilliant hat-trick over Ward 20 and 15; Dorset player John Tribbles 20 and 7; and the experienced ex-Wilts player Dennis Water 14 and 15.

Swindon's faith in 15 years old William Silto and 16 years old Tony Wolff (jnr.) paid off when, captained by Tony Wolff (snr.), they held Salisbury to a Premier Division draw. Silto beat Ward 7 and 15, while young Wolff only lost 21-23 in the decider.

Salisbury suffered one of their rare Second Division (Mixed) defeats at the hands of West Wilts by 4-6. A feature of the match was the defeat of Kathleen Waters, the Wilts No. 3, by unranked Margaret Alexander.

League positions as on January 18, 1964.

DIVISION 1

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*Includes match awarded to Corsham under Rule 9.

JUNIOR DIVISION

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Tickets for the Wilts Dinner at Devizes on March 13 are now available (15s.) from all league secretaries. Seating is limited to 100, so early application is advised.

A second international matches for the Swedes in Trowbridge as the venue, is now scheduled for next season.

Bearing in mind the financial success, coupled with the Swedes congratulations on the local hospitality last season, it is hoped that the powers that be will endeavour to honour us with a full England team.

Wiltshire secretary John Cleveland held an evening last week with a large attendance, which included John Ford, Bill Moore, Rodney Bush to mention but a few—continues to guide his league from strength to strength as this season's championship entries prove. The total entry of 239 is 42 up on last season's record breaking entry. A new event is a Junior Doubles.

Ambitious Barnets Plan Own Centre

At an annual meeting of the Barnets and District Table Tennis League nearly two years ago it was suggested by a member, himself a local business man, that the league should try to provide their own headquarters. The idea was readily accepted and now after a great deal of spadework the league are almost ready to go ahead with their project which, it is estimated, will cost about £10,000.

Full planning permission has just been received for the erection of the building, which will be situated in Barnet. It will accommodate 10 table tennis tables, and a spacious bar together with a canteen, dressing rooms and showers.

The project is ambitious and it is said that this will be the finest table tennis centre of its kind.

The idea that brought this about was the feeling that table tennis is probably the most under privileged sport in this country with very little money behind it. Playing facilities for the average club player are in most cases poor or restricted. The provision of the centre will overcome this problem and will give the players first rate facilities where they can practise or play matches every day of the week if they wish.

The main problem now remaining is that of raising enough money to begin building. The League are at the moment negotiating to borrow a substantial amount of money which is needed. Obviously a big task lies ahead in raising as much money as possible by voluntary means. Any offers of help should be directed to Mr. G. Stephens, 32, Northfield Road, Boreham Wood, Hertfordshire.
ENGLAND and WALES v. WEST GERMANY

BARNES MEETS HIS MATCH

The innovation of placing a joint English/Welsh team against the touring West German side at Swansea proved an outstanding success. The venue was not a large hall but it was packed to capacity, and this always provides a much better atmosphere than the reverse.

With the publicity which surrounded Chester Barnes early in the week, there were many waiting with interest to see whether his actions would speak as loudly as his words. To some extent he did as well as could be expected, losing in the third to Scholer, who must surely be one of the best defensive players in the world, and beating Martin Ness. Both these games provided the spectators with plenty of thrills.


Barnes/Lindsay lost to Scholer /Ness 19-21, 21-19, 16-21.

The Welsh players in the side did not do particularly well, and had Mansfield been in better form the result may have been different, for neither Stegmann nor Michaeloff are in any way as good as the other two. As it was, John Mansfield, after his fine display in Dublin, was right out of touch and seemed to be lacking in match practise. He rarely played at all well.

Graham Gear opened the proceedings, and was obviously nervous. He did not do well against Michaeloff but his second performance, against Stegmann, had the crowd in plenty of excitement. He took the second game in great style but seemed to become too reckless in the decider.

The doubles, which Barnes and Lindsay lost to Scholer /Ness in the third, sparkled at times.

The event was extremely well organised by the Swansea and District League and undoubtedly provided valuable propaganda for table tennis in West Glamorgan.

S.E. MIDLANDS LEAGUE
CAMBRIDGE STAY IN FRONT

Cambridge City continue to lead the Men's and Junior sections of the South East Midlands League, with Kettering as the pace makers in the Women's section.

Cambridge have been at the top of the Men's section since the beginning of the season, although they had a narrow shave when playing Kettering. Northampton now look their chief rivals. Kettering are having quite a tussle with Bletchley for the Women's section, but their team of Miss Rixon, Miss Coleman and Miss Lenton will be hard to beat.

Cambridge City are in third position with Bedford close behind. Cambridge appear much too strong for all comers in the Junior section, where chief opposition is likely to come from Bedford.

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THE UMPIRE PROBLEM

First it should be established that there is a problem. Not at International matches, probably not at County matches, but at County Open or Closed tournaments and at lesser events the shortage is often most marked.

It is not difficult to see why there is no scarcity at an International, particularly at one which is being televised. The umpire is more noticeable at an event of this type when there is action on only one table; he will have a timekeeper to assist him if necessary. He knows that the players will be on their best behaviour and that at the end of the match he will be thanked for his services and not ignored. But, and this is probably most important, he knows that he will not be expected to do too much; there will be enough other umpires present to guarantee this.

This matter of overworking an umpire may bring a superior smile to the reader's lips, and thoughts of "Umpiring is easy—not strain—anyone can do it." To that, one can only invite such doubters to do some umpiring. Take four sets on the trot; In my opinion at least two dozen twelve tables in use for any length of time. Open to umpire, this being forbidden to Umpiring is easy—not strain—anyone can do it. Common courtesy

It seems to be only common courtesy to thank him afterwards (even if you lost) for he might well have wished to be doing any of the numerous things one can do between sets.

All little things? Yes, maybe, but they add up, and the sum is greater than its constituent parts.

Does the E.T.T.A. do enough to encourage umpires? Probably not—I would like to see more publicity given in the magazine. The "League Umpire" scheme was worth trying, but seems to have brought little response, at least in Middlesex. The leagues should do more—they must have umpires for Wilmott Cup and other representative matches, and for the finals of their own Closed championships. If those who umpire those matches could be persuaded to qualify and work (there is of course a difference) the problem would be partly solved.

JOHN M. WRIGHT (Hon. County Umpires Secretary, Middlesex).

The views expressed above are not necessarily those held by the M.T.T.A.

A LITTLE MORE MODEST, PLEASE

So Chester Barnes has set himself up as the "Queen City of Table Tennis." In itself I doubt whether this will do the game as a whole any harm. Chester is full of youthful exuberance, but if he searches a few plates on being ranked England's No. 1, I should think what might happen if he won the English Open next month or a European or World title. I feel he must become a little more modest in victory and a little more generous in defeat, and then with his undisputed talent and potential he could become a player of world class.

A. E. STARFLEET (Leptonian)
SHOCKED

I was shocked to read that a young

I teenager has stated the following:

1. Refuses to play his opponent in

The form of a game unless he

changed his bat with a darker covering;

2. Refuses to play for England unless

he is ranked No. 1;

3. Refuses to play in the Essex Open

because he dislikes the slow type table

rackets with different coverings on

each side was so widespread that it

would be unreasonable to try to

enforce a ban at such short notice, and

the I.T.T.F. issued an

amendment to their earlier letter

saying that this restriction would not

apply "for the present."

Roy Evans, the I.T.T.F. secre-

tary, has indicated that no

further change has been made so

that for the time being, at least,
rackets may be covered on either

or both sides with any of the approved

surface materials.

Following his win in the English Closed, Chester Barnes received an amount of publicity in the Press that was unprecedented in table tennis and unusual for an individual sport. This was largely due to the behind-the-scenes activities of Chester's manager, Peter Madge, a producer of advertising films and therefore no stranger to the world of publicity. In view of the varying reactions to this publicity we asked Peter to tell us the full story.

BUILDING A STAR

by Peter Madge

To explain the whole point of the

publicity campaign for Chester let us

start by stating the final aim and

Barnes—World Champion. Why not?

high about any marksmen in the reply

given in last month's magazine to a

query about dis-similar racket

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When racket standardisation was introduced some years ago it was intended that the surfaces on each side of the racket should be similar, although no specific reference was made in the approved wording of Law 4.

This intention was reaffirmed by the I.T.T.F. in a circular sent to member associations shortly before the last World Championships, and it was stated that during the championships all the restrictions on the coverings, colour and reflectivity of the racket would be strictly observed. The reaction produced by this letter indicated that the use of rackets with different coverings on each side was so widespread that it would be unreasonable to try to enforce a ban at such short notice, and the I.T.T.F. issued an amendment to their earlier letter saying that this restriction would not apply "for the present."

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DRAMATIC ESCAPE FOR ENGLAND TEAM

ENGLAND'S two-girl team of Diana Rowe and Mary Shannon, with Ron Crayden as captain, will not forget their recent tour of Czechoslovakia in a hurry. In fact they are lucky to be alive after being involved in a dramatic car accident when being taken to Tynec for the international.

Fresh from their triumphs in the Czech Open they were travelling across country in sub-zero weather on roads of frozen snow and ice, when at a sharp bend they were suddenly confronted by a large open lorry in an uncontrollable skid coming straight towards them. There was no time for considered action, but their driver, with great presence of mind, averted a head-on collision by frantically swinging the wheel to the right. The tail of the car bumped the lorry and, complete with its precious cargo, hurtled over the parapet of the road to finish on its side some 20 feet below in the frozen snow.

UNHURT

Diane was the first to emerge, scrambling through the void that was once the rear window. Then, in turn came Mary, Ron and the driver ... all visibly shaken but fortunately without serious physical injury.

The red car lay there on its side, oozing petrol and oil, like some mortally wounded monster.

An hour of waiting around in the frozen weather followed, before the three frozen mortals were whisked away by cab to Tynec, arriving 15 minutes before the start of the match.

Even by the standards of a stunt man, this was not the best pre-match training and it was little wonder that the English girls were beaten 3-1.

Mary, who took a nasty bump on the head and was obviously suffering from delayed shock, tried her touch was missing and she lost to an inspired Bossa, whom she had previously beaten in the Czech Open.

Gallant Di might have beaten Luzova, winning the first and leading 20-18 in the second, but it was not to be and the Czech girl took the match to put her country 2-0 up.

By a superhuman effort, our girls preserved their "story book" doubles record, but they were willing fast and the score tells the rest with Luzova beating Mary to make it 3-1 to Czechoslovakia.

After his return home, Ron Crayden said: "Without wishing to detract from the skill of the Czech girls - 21-11, 21-20, splendid - but the fact that Mary and Di played at all was miraculous. Their courage, composure and character throughout made me proud to be their captain."


CZECH OPEN

THANK HEAVENS FOR LITTLE GIRLS

IN the Bohemian town of Ceske Budejovice, in the coldest weather I have ever experienced, many of the top European players met to contest the Czechoslovakian Open Championships. Had January in England ever been as cold as this, then February would have been afraid to turn up. It was bone chilling.

Against the elements, however, and indeed against hostile opposition, Diane Rowe and Mary Shannon, those star turns of English table tennis, gave a heart-warming performance. Out of three possible finals, two were won and the other narrowly lost.

Our spearhead on this occasion was Diane, who was runner-up in the singles, won the mixed doubles with Vyhnansky and once again the women's doubles with Mary.

SIX NATIONAL TITLES

If the record books are a guide then the Rowe-Shannon partnership must rate as one of the greatest of all times. They have been unbeaten since the final of the last world championships and this season have won six major opens - the Netherlands, Yugoslavian, Hungarian, Scandinavian, Welsh and Czechoslovakian - with the English closed thrown in for good measure.

With the Rumanian, West German and English Opens to come they could set up a record that will stand for many years.

The attractive young Czech girl, Marta Luzova, proved the one stumbling block that prevented our girls sweeping all before them. She beat Mary in the semi-finals of the singles at 21-13, 21-18, 21-13, then conquered Diane in the final by 21-19, 21-12, 22-20 to take the title without loss of a game.

The English girls gained their revenge in the doubles finals, for Mary and Diane beat Luzova and Bosu in the women's doubles final, 15-21, 21-16, 21-14; and Miss Rowe partnered Vyhnansky to beat Stanek and Luzova in the mixed final 19-21, 21-15, 21-17, 22-20.

SWEDES FAIL

Surprisingly, in view of their previous successes in Europe, Sweden failed to produce a finalist, the men's singles going to Vekko (Yugoslavia), who beat Miko (Czechoslovakia); and the men's doubles to the Czechs Miko and Kunz with a five games win over the East Germans, Pleuse and Fahnhirch.

CZECH OPEN RESULTS


Women's Singles: Final: LUZOVA (Czech.) bt Rowe 21-10, 21-11, 22-20.

Men's Doubles, MIKO/KUNZ (Czech.) bt Pleuse/Fahnhirch (East Germany) 21-15, 15-21, 21-9, 16-21, 21-15.


ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

BARNES DOES IT AGAIN

• DROPS ONLY ONE GAME

• TRIPLE CROWN FOR DIANE

by HARRISON EDWARDS

WHATEVER the personal opinions of the ballyhoo that surrounds CHESTER BARNES, that controversial 16-year-old from Forest Gate, he is a talented young table tennis player. No one can dispute this after his success in the English Closed Championships at Manor Place Baths, Walton, from January 1 to 4.

While other stars slipped up, and titles changed hands, Barnes carried all before him to become the first player to successfully defend the men's singles.

No one can begrudge him his right to the title, for only Brian Wright, in the needle atmosphere of the final, succeeded in taking a game from him.

Diane Rowe and Mary Shannon, in the women's doubles, as to be expected of the European champions who have carried all before them in Europe this season, were the only other title holders to win again. Miss Rowe made it a treble by regaining the women's singles and mixed doubles with Ian Harrison.

And back to champion status once again came veteran Johnny Leach with a brilliant win in the men's doubles, partnered by David Creamer, for whom it was his first national title.

Barnes proudly boasted before the championship that he would keep the title without losing a game, but he found a stubborn Brian Wright a worthy opponent in the final before winning 21-11, 18-21, 21-17, 22-20. Indeed, Barnes was fortunate not to be forced to a deciding set for the fourth was all set up for Wright, when, after fighting off a match point, he smashed an easy winner into the bottom of the net. It was a costly mistake for he was never given another chance.

UNRANKED

Wright, who had been dropped from the ranking list earlier in the season, has never played better or more grimly.

When Barnes halted play to rub the towel over his face, Wright calmly waited at the table, then went and did the same thing himself. And when Barnes jumped about at the table to receive service Wright waited until he kept still. He refused to stand any nonsense and in the end Barnes found himself with quite a fight on his hands.

The opening set went easily to Barnes and it was in the second that Wright began to find his length and rhythm to level at set-all. Barnes edged out in the third, but only after Wright had made two spectacular recoveries from 7-13 to 13-14, and from 13-19 to 17-20. The fourth and last set saw-saw with Wright threatening a turn up when he led 18-16, but was beaten by an "edge ball" to be 19-20 down, before missing that "sit" which could have given him 21-20.

Barnes, with his controlled use of the "loop" and the drop shot, had previously beaten D. Gilbert, of Bucks, Tony Piddock, of Kent, George Muranyi, of Surrey, Brian Merrett, of Gloucestershire, and Connie Warren, of Surrey.

FIRST SHOCK

It was fitting that Wright should reach the final for he opened the championships with the major shock when he beat Ian Harrison, until then England's No. 1, in the first round.

This was a thrill-packed match, going the full distance, before Wright won, 21-18, 21-18, 19-21, 20-22, 22-20. Using the loop to full purpose, Wright was well on top for the first two games, then Harrison started his fight back.

Harrison survived a crisis when he needed three points to win the third game then in the fourth saved two match points with some splendid retrieving to make it two-all.

Wright became a little anxious at this stage and started to push, but there was an incident here which should have given him the match on his second point.

Harrison, in attempting to go back for a shot, moved the table, but it apparently missed the notice of the umpire.

Having got to terms it began to look as though Harrison would now save the match and amidst mounting excitement he kept just a point or two in front to 17-15. Three brilliant shots took Wright ahead; the next two points went to Harrison. Then fate took a hand. Harrison got to what looked a winner all the way from Wright, spectacularly returned the ball high, only for it to hit the wires supporting the lights.

It was a cruel stroke of luck and with it went his last chance, although he did save two more match points before finally hitting off.
Encouraged by this success, Wright took another crack at the ranking list by beating the seeded Mike Symonds in the quarter-finals, another five-setter, with a score of 21-17, 14-21, 21-19, 10-21, 21-14.

The pattern for shocks had been set by Alan Cornish, of Woolwich, with a first round win over Bobby Stevens, the champion of 1962, playing as he had never done before, Cornish hit like a whirlwind to win 24-22, 22-20, 16-21, 21-19.

His success was, however, short lived for he fell to Joe Somogyi in the next round.

Of the eight seeded players, only Barnes survived the quarter-finals. Ralph Gunnion went out to Merrett Creamer losrt to Alan Lindsay, while Jived fire hitting and knowledge ithe the remaining seed scratched lin Venner in the Stevens, the champion of 1962.

To meet his pupil in the final. He behing Barnes, would come through Cornish hit like a whirlwind to 21-16, 21-16, 21-19, 21-19. 21-19.

Whether or no.t Venner, the coach to a shock result. However, this was not to be, for Wright ended Venner's set another flute-setter, with 21-17, 14-21, 21-19, 10-21, 21-14.

The only upset of the women's doubles was provided by Jackie Canham and Elsie Carrington when they beat Mrs. McCree and Miss Piper, before going out to Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon.

Miss Bell and Miss Martin came through the other half, but were hopelessly outclassed in the final at 21-4, 21-9, 21-6.

The first shock of the men's doubles was the second round defeat of Harrison and Wright by Michael Creamer and Terry Densham, who kept up their good work to reach the final, where they had a terrific battle with David Creamer and Leach before losing over five games.

TWO BROTHERS

It was indeed unusual to find two brothers on opposing sides and there was no love lost as each tried to win. Densham and Michael Creamer looked set to take the title when they won the first two games, but with Leach finding his form and beginning to hit with power and accuracy he carried David Creamer to victory at 17-21, 22-24, 21-16, 21-16, 21-19.

Leach and Creamer bent the top seeds, Stevens and Bobbie Raybould, in the quarter-finals, while Henry Buist and Tony Piddock, the No. 4 seeds, surprisingly went down to David Lowe and Peter Shead.

Harrison, who has had such a poor time since his return from Sweden, and had begun to wonder if his journey was really necessary, made amends for earlier failures in the mixed doubles. Here he teamed up with Diane Rowe to dethrone the holders, Brian Wright and Mary Shannon in the final.

Wright and Miss Shannon had promised to keep their title when they took the opening game, but the determined Harrison found his real touch and ably supported by Miss Rowe swept through the next three to win 19-21, 21-9, 21-15, 21-11.

Harrison and Miss Rowe dropped only one other game and that was to Piddock and Olga Ogus in their opening match. After that they were completely dominant. They easily disposed of the No. 4 seeds, Gunnion and Miss Bell in the semi-final.

This was the only event where the seeding worked out as planned, for the other semi-final brought together Stevens and Mrs. McCree against Wright and Miss Shannon, who were fully extended before going through at 21-15, 12-21, 21-17, 18-21, 21-15.

Stevens and Mrs. McCree also had
FEBRUARY · 1964

ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

PHOTO COVERAGE by MICHAEL MACLAREN

Top: BARNES arrives for his final and two action studies. Second row: DAVID CREAMER emphasises a point to JOHNNY LEACH. Old England players are the formation of the new Internationals Club: AUBREY SIMONS, BARBARA (MILBANK) ANDREWS, JOYCE (SEAMAN) FAULKNER, PEGGY (FRANKS) HOOK, and BETTY STEVENTON. Bottom row: IAN HARRISON; HARRISON and Miss ROWE the mixed doubles winners. ROY MOOR, of the "Daily Mail" and JOHNNY LEACH study the programme; DIANE ROWE with her trophy.
a five games match with David Creamer and Peggy Piper, while Wright and Miss Shanion surprisingly dropped a game to the Essex pair of Stuart Gibbs and Beverley Sayer.

Although there were no new discoveries, there was a noticeable narrowing of the gap in some cases and the crowds were always keen on tenterhooks with anticipation of upsets. And, of course, in the true traditions of the English closed, there were plenty of these around.

**DETAILED RESULTS**

**MEN'S SINGLES**

- First Round: G. C. Barnes (Essex) bt D. Gilbert (Bucks.) 12, 8, 16, A. Piddock (Kent) bt A. Ward (Wilt.) 5, 16, G. Muranyi (Sussex) bt D. Bevan (York.)

- Second Round: G. C. Barnes (Essex) bt B. H. Bell (Essex) 15, 20, 17, M. Venner (Sussex) bt D. Neale (York.)

**WOMEN'S SINGLES**

- First Round: D. Rowe (Middlesex) bt G. Sayer (Essex) bt A. Mills (Hants.) 9, 17, B. Sayer (Essex) mt M. J. Hicks (Middlesex) 17, 10, 19, J. Williams (Herts.) bt Mrs. R. Bird (Kent) 10, 16, 16.

**MEN'S DOUBLES**

- First Round: R. Raybould/Stevens (Middlesex) bt K. Hurlock (Sussex)/L. Kerkes (Middlesex) 8, 6, 21, S. H. Westley (Middlesex) bt D. Baddeley/J. Leach (Middlesex) 15, 15, 19, 20.

**WOMEN'S DOUBLES**

- First Round: L. Bell (Essex) bye.

**MIXED DOUBLES**

- First Round: J. S. Broadbent (Warwick) / Miss J. M. R. Cassell (Norfolk) 15, 12, 15, 19, 15.
ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL
ACTION SHOTS by DENIS OFFER

Top: The Champions in action. DIANE ROWE, women's singles winner. CHESTER BARNES, the men's champion, and a fine study of MARY SHANNON, women's doubles champion. Centre: DAVID CREAMER watches JOHNNY LEACH slam a winner in their doubles final success. BRIAN WRIGHT shows his paces against Barnes. TERRY DENSHAM and MICHAEL CREAMER the doubles runners-up. Bottom: LESLEY BELL plays the loop, and some forceful hitting by HARRY VENNER in the singles semi-final.


BARNES GOES TO THE TOP

AFTER a record run of four-and-a-half years Ian Harrison has lost his position as England No. 1 in the New Ranking List. Up to the top goes that controversial young Essex player, Chester Barnes.

After his brilliant performances this season, including the winning of the English League in the Dee Cup for the second time, no one can dispute Barnes's right to the premier position. Now, however, he will find the heat on as he becomes the "Aunt Sally" of all.

Harrison, who has had a disappointing season, shares the No. 2 spot with Brian Wright, who has come in storming back after being dropped from the list this season.

There is a high ranking, too, for Alan Lindsay, who shoots up from No. 12 to No. 4. David Creamer slumps to No. 7 and Alan Rhodes to No. 8, both being passed by Bobby Stevens and Mike Symonds.

Into the list for the first time comes Connie Warren on the strength of his semi-final place in the English closed. He shares the No. 10 spot with Ralph Gunnion.

Brian Merritt, the previous No. 2 is also out of the list because of insufficient evidence, following his long absence because of a broken wrist. Yet he was good enough to beat Gunnion at the "closed," before losing to Barnes.

There is no change among the top four places in the women's list with Diane Rowe still top, Lesley Bell and Mary Shannon sharing the second position, and Jean McCree at No. 4.

A case could be made out for Miss Stevens to remain in the championship now seems to hinge on the result of the Barking-East London match, which will be played in March.

Titles change hands

Two Leagues, East London and Romford, have held their individual championships. Surprise of the former was the failure of Bobby Stevens to retain the men's singles title he has won six times in all. Victor, for the first time in 18 years of trying, was Percy Curtis, who proved his form by also taking the men's doubles, partnered by Reg Gray. At Romford the men's title was also won. Ken Beamin, going out in the semi-final to Danny Tomphey, who in turn lost to Roy Murray.


Table Tennis—February 1964

Barnes is not ranked because of insufficient evidence. However, she has repeatedly lost to Miss Bell and it would appear that the selectors are playing safe.

Jackie Canham, who came into the list for the first time this season, has been promoted to No. 5, while with only ten ranked this time, Joyce Ellis and Mary Hicks have been dropped from the list.

RANKING LIST

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<th>MEN</th>
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(Continued from Page 18)

(Aesse) 12, 15, 15. M. Ellis/Mrs. M. Ellis (Kent) bt L. Grenwell (Middx.)/Miss G. Beyer (Essex) 12-14, 13-16. B. Wright (Middx.)/Miss M. Shannon (Surrey) byes.


Semi-Finals: Harrison/Rowe bt Gunnion/Bell. Wright/Shannon bt Stevens/McCree 15, 15, 19, 14.}

Final: HARRISON/ROWE bt Wright/Shannon 15, 15, 19, 14.

CONSOLATION SINGLES

Men: A. Pidcock (Kent) bt H. Butler (Kent) 15, 16.

Women: P. Holes (Hants.) bt Mrs. R. Bird (Kent) 13, 17, 22.
Michael Maclaren's GLAMOUR CHOICE

PENNY HANSEN

The second of my table tennis glamour-girls is PENNY HANSEN from Redhill in Surrey.

"I love playing table tennis," says Penny, "but I'm no good at it—I must be the worst player in the whole of Surrey—and yet all the boys come and see me play. I don't know why!"

Well, I do and here's a photograph to prove it!

Penny, who is all of fifteen years, is still a schoolgirl but will be leaving soon to become a hairdressing apprentice and would eventually like to work in this or in any of the show business professions. She loves dancing, lots of boy friends (she had lost count of how many), the Dave Clark Five and, of course, the Beatles (particularly Paul whom she met).

Travel is another of her pursuits and she has probably played more T.T. abroad than anyone else so she journeys regularly between England and West Africa and greatly enjoys the ship competitions.

Her only comment on the game is that she would like to play in the boys' events, but I explained tactfully that she does enough disturbing in this quarter, or should I say half, without having to play in it, as well!

Penny stands 5ft. 4in. without her socks on, her lateral dimensions being 34in., 23in., 34in., she also has a sister, Sandra, aged eleven, who is coming along on these lines but does not play table tennis yet.

English Open Draws International Stars

BIGGER and better than ever. That's the prospect for the English "Open" at the Corn Exchange and Dome, Brighton, on February 27-29.

It will be like the European Championships in miniature with entries from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Sweden and West Germany, as well as the four home countries. Also for the first time there will be challengers from Jersey.

Unlike last season when only the finals took place in the Dome, this arena will be in operation each day, and added to the Corn Exchange will keep ten tables going.

The international team competitions, introduced last season, are being repeated and these will be played on the Thursday in the Dome.

Sessions from the Dome will be televised each day. His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O., will present the prizes.

Tickets for the finals of the Saturday evening in the Dome will be 15s., 12s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., and 4s. Evenings session in the Dome on Thursday and Friday will be 4s., while admission to the Corn Exchange will be 2s. 6d. per session.

BOOK REVIEW

KNOW THE RULES

ARGUMENTS over rules are commonplace whenever sportsmen get together. Everyone appears to have a different version over some particular knotty point.

Those thoughtful publishers of sporting books, Messrs. Nicholas Kaye, have therefore, once again proved themselves the sportsman's friends with their new edition of "Official Rules of Sports and Games 1964-1965."

Compiled with the co-operation of governing bodies, the book covers 20 different sports in its 642 pages, ranging from Athletics to Water Polo. It is liberally illustrated with line drawings and cartoons to clarify many tricky points.

Table Tennis has its own section covering 17 pages. Priced at 30s. it is a handy reference book, which should be on the bookshelf of anyone claiming to be an enthusiastic and knowledgeable follower of sport generally.

HARRY VENNER
(England & Surrey)
Coach to the Champions:
Mary Shannon, Chester Barnes.
Individual coaching 15/- per hour.
All enquiries:
14, CRANHAM ROAD,
HORNCCHURCH, ESSEX.
HORNCCHURCH 46344.
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

MIDDLESEX GO TO THE TOP

THIS has been a quiet month for the County Championships, only two senior and five junior matches having been played.

Middlesex, the reigning champions, take over the lead of the Premier Division following a 9-0 win over luckless Hertfordshire, who foundered on the bottom of the table, without a win from their four matches.

Such was the Middlesex supremacy that they swept through the match without loss of a game.

Brian Sykes came nearest to preventing the complete whitewash when he ran Alan Lindsay to 23-25 in the first game, while Terry Densham and Judy Williams put up some strong resistance in the mixed doubles before going down 22-24, 19-21 to David Creamer and Diane Rowe.

With two matches in February—against Gloucestershire and Surrey—Middlesex are likely to increase their lead over Lancashire, who, after their match with Warwickshire at the end of January, are not due to play again until mid-March.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION
February 1 Warwickshire v Hertfordshire, Parth Hall, Vicarage Street, Nuneaton 7 p.m.
February 1 Essex v Yorkshire, Iford Ltd. Sports Club, Iford Lane, Iford 7 p.m.
February 1 Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Duchess of Gloucester Homes, Hanover Place, Hertford 7 p.m.
February 15 Hertfordshire v Surrey 7.30 p.m.
February 20 Surrey v Middlesex, Congregational Hall, North Street, Guildford 7.30 p.m.
February 21 Hertfordshire v Essex

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH
February 1 Hampshire v Kent, Tanners Brook Infants’ School, Millbrook, Southampton 6.30 p.m.
February 1 Bedfordshire v Sussex 7.15 p.m.
February 1 Essex v Hampshire 7 p.m.
February 22 Kent v Bedfordshire, V.C.S., Crayford 7.30 p.m.
February 22 Durham v Lincolnshire, Darlington 7 p.m.
February 22 Lancashire v Yorkshire

SECOND DIVISION WEST
February 1 Dorset v Cornwall 7.30 p.m.
February 1 Somerset v Devon, St. Peter’s Church Hall, Doret Street, Lower Bristol Road, Bath 7.15 p.m.
February 22 Wiltshire v Somerset 7 p.m.
February 22 Devon v Dorset

SECOND DIVISION NORTH
February 1 Oxford v Glamorgan, St. Margaret’s Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford 7.30 p.m.
February 15 Warwickshire v Oxfordshire, Birmingham Gas Co., Devon Street, Birmingham 7 p.m.
February 22 Staffordshire v Glamorgan

MIDLAND DIVISION
February 1 Worcestershire v Staffordshire, Cripplegate Pavilion, Worcester 7 p.m.
February 1 Nottingham v Derbyshire 7 p.m.
February 22 Derbyshire v Oxfordshire, Chesterfield 7 p.m.
February 22 Staffordshire v Nottinghamshire 7 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION
February 1 Hampshire v Cambridgeshire, Samuel Jones Paper Mills, St. Neots 7 p.m.
February 1 Kent v Norfolk, Berry Grosvenor Canteen, Broadwell 7.30 p.m.
February 15 Huntingdonshire v Hertfordshire, Samuel Jones Paper Mills, St. Neots 7 p.m.
February 22 Cambridgeshire v Berkshire 7 p.m.
February 22 Buckinghamshire v Huntingdonshire 7 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLAND
February 1 Leicestershire v Staffordshire 7 p.m.
February 1 Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire, Gilling Ltd., Tody, Birmingham 7 p.m.
February 22 Staffordshire v Warwickshire 7 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH
February 1 Berkshire v Sussex, Berry Grosvenor Canteen, Broadwell 3.30 p.m.
February 1 Surrey v Sussex, Huggs and Hill, Vauxhall 4 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION WEST
February 1 Oxfordshire v Glamorgan, St. Margaret’s Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford 3 p.m.
February 1 Gloucestershire v Monmouthshire 7 p.m.
February 22 Gloucestershire v Glamorgan 7 p.m.
February 22 Monmouthshire v Oxfordshire

JUNIOR DIVISION EAST
February 22 Middlesex v Buckinghamshire, Victoria Hops’ and Girls’ Club, Napton Road, Stamford Hill, London, N.16 7.30 p.m.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
MARGARET FRY, secretary of the National County Championships, has moved to:
32, DUDLEY GARDENS, EALING, LONDON, W.13.

Hertfordshire were just that little too good for Norfolk in the Southern Division, winning 8-2. Norfolk’s David Mann played exceptionally well for Suffolk, marking up one of their wins.

It was not a happy month for Suffolk, however, for they also lost 4-6 to Buckinghamshire and 3-7 to Hertfordshire.

The one bright spot has been the promise of Mann, who won both his singles against Hertfordshire. He was, however, on the losing side in the mixed doubles.

Pauline Hemmings won the girls’ singles for Hertfordshire, beating L. Barrett.

Suffolk might well have taken a point from Buckinghamshire had not Lipscombe faltered when leading Oliver. Suffolk mixed doubles pair also looked set for a win, but slipped up against the Bucks youngsters, who played well.

The big upset of this section was Hertfordshire’s 6-4 win over Middlesex, thanks mainly to the splendid play of Peter Williams who upset the national junior ranking list by beating Tony Robinson. Williams also won his other singles.
### Table Tennis

#### PREMIER DIVISION

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### Welsh Open

**SCHOLER TAKES ALL THREE**

The best footwork since Richard Bergman. This was the unanimous verdict of the large and enthusiastic crowd who saw the finals of the Welsh Open in Cardiff on January 11, and the reference was to the impeccable artistry of West Germany's Eberhard Scholer, who took the Men's Singles title.

His task was not an easy one, for the cream of English table tennis was there to deny him success, but in the event he appeared to have every little trouble.

In the fourth round hard-hitting Tony Morley made little impression on Scholer, Alan Lindsay could not repeat his effort of the previous night, and Ian Harrison in the semi-final, although he took the first game and tried to build up a position for an attacking winner, seemed to give up the unequal struggle in the decider.

Harrison had previously beaten David Card and Ralph Gunnison in this quarter. The best outside performance here was by London's D. H. Lowe, who defeated Stegmann 21-8, 21-18.

Martin Ness, now challenging Scholer for top West German place, was a game from his countryman by virtue of painstaking top spin and the occasional winner, but only just got double figures in the third.

Ness's semi-final was against Chester Barnes, and although this was a brilliant game of counter-attack. Chester never looked like winning. In the previous rounds Chester had beaten Derek Wall and disposed of West German Michaeloff in three games, whilst Ness, after beating Warren, just scraped home in the third against Brian Wright.

It was West Germany again in the final, and Scholer and Doreen Spooner combining to beat Warren and Gunnison in the semi-final and Harrison and Lindsay in the final. Warren and Gunnison did well to dispose of Barnes and Wright in the quarter-finals.

Harrison and Lindsay and Brian Wright had previously beaten Scholer and Michaeloff in the semi-final, before losing to David Creamer. This time they made no mistake, and although Doreen Spooner saved four match points in the second game, Mary Shannon beat Creamer in the semi-final, and as expected, had little difficulty in beating the scratch partnership of Alma Taft and Pat Taylor.

Scholer collected his third title in the mixed, teaming up with Diane Rowe, to Roy Morley and Irene Ogus in the semi-final, then Ness and Alma Taft against the final. Brian Wright and Mary Shannon beat Michaeloff and Doreen Spooner before losing narrowly in the third to the runners-up.

Chester Barnes was rarely extended in winning the Boys' Singles but the Welsh disappointment here was the failure of Dennis Samuel to repeat an earlier success against David McCarron by earning the right to meet Chester Barnes in the final.

Sandra Hinley, with no outside opposition, won the Girls' Singles with ease.

---

**Results**


Final: SCHOLER bt NESS 21-12, 14-21, 21-11.

Women's Singles: Final: M. SHANNON (Bury) bt D. Rowe (Middx.), 21-7, 22-20.


Mixed Doubles: Final: SCHOLER/Miss D. ROWE bt Ness/Miss Taft 21-13, 21-17, 13-11.

M ALCOLM SUGDEN, following on from his unbeaten singles run the previous week-end in the Quadrangular International — although regretably he was not in against England — won the Scottish Closed championship in convincing style by defeating Jim Dow 2-1 in an exciting final.

Sugden’s passage to the final was relatively easy, the first player to extend him being new cap John Reilly in the semi-final. This game was a delight to the spectators and with both players determined to attack, the first set developed into a counter-hitting battle, with Sugden the more agile and versatile, winning comfortably.

Reilly appeared to control his hitting more in the second and took a good lead, only to be caught at 15, by Sugden, who then went ahead to 20-18. Reilly levelled at 20-all and the game ended with a Sugden forehand to which Reilly did not move. Dow had the more difficult path to the final, beating Ian Barclay, the defending champion, in the quarter-final, and Ally Laidlaw in the semi-final.

The final saw Sugden lose a closely contested first game — the first he had dropped in the championship — but he took command early in the second with a top-spin, side-spin defence and had no further trouble.

Making more errors than usual, Olive Hawkins easily lost her women’s singles title to Lesley Barrie. However, she made amends to retain the women’s doubles with Doreen Robertson, beating Miss Barrie and Doreen Donaldson, although it went to three light games.

Mrs. Hawkins and Miss Barrie were on opposing sides yet again in the mixed doubles, where Mrs. Hawkins and Dow twice came from behind to beat Reilly and Miss Barrie. Strong calculated hitting by Dow while under pressure was a deciding factor.

Dow collected a second title in the men’s doubles with Sugden, but they were hard pushed to beat Laidlaw and George Maxwell, being game points down in both sets before winning 24-22, 23-21.

The boys’ singles final provided one of the best of the meeting with John Hawkins beating Reilly 27-25 in the third. Reilly had previously beaten the defending champion, Billy Gibbs.

SCOTTISH CLOSED RESULTS


Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: DOW/Mrs. HAWKINS bt Kerr/Mrs. Kerr 11, 11, Final: HAWKINS/Mrs. HAWKINS bt Laidlaw/Maxwell 22, 21.


SCOTLAND THRASHED

SCOTTISH fans were shown how table tennis should be played when the West German team of Eberhard Scholer, Martin Ness, Elmar Stegmann and Hans Michaeloff thrashed Malcolm Sugden, John Reilly, Jim Dow and Ally Laidlaw 7-0 in an entertaining if somewhat topsided international in Glasgow.

Although well beaten, the Scottish players were never disgraced. Sugden, the unorthodox left hander, prevented the Germans going through with a clean score card, using a full blooded drive from well back to take a game off Ness. Scholer, the West German champion, obviously a defensive player, found no difficulty in returning Reilly’s loop, which is considered quite formidable, and scored freely with a whiplash forehand.

Dow played well when going down in straight games to Michaeloff, but lost more easily to the hard-hitting Stegmann.

Stegmann and Michaeloff handed out the same treatment, but in greater measure, to Laidlaw, while Sugden and Dow went down to Scholer and Ness in the doubles.

Scotland 0, West Germany 7: M. Sugden lost to M. Ness —11, 15, —6, J. Reilly lost to E. Scholer —15, 14, J. Dow lost to H. Michaeloff —18, 16, lost to E. Stegmann —19, 16, A. Laidlaw lost to Stegmann —13, 14, 15, lost to Michaeloff —6, 6, Sugden/Dow lost to Scholer/Ness —15, 16.
BOLTON PILE UP POINTS

BEFORE the season started I was naturally considering just how many leagues would enter the Master Points Scheme before the deadline of January 31. Bearing in mind that this is a revolutionary scheme, and that the committee has decided not to exert any pressure at all upon members to join, I thought that perhaps 15 per cent of the membership would be a good figure, with 20 per cent the very maximum that could be hoped for.

Many of the leagues of the Contract Bridge Scheme, now well into its eighth year, convinced me that a great number of people would want first-hand information before they said "yes" or "no". Additionally, many organisations would not be able to join in the first season, for they had already held their annual general meetings prior to the introduction of the scheme.

It is with very great pleasure that I am able to report that, by mid-January, 37 leagues had entered, covering over 12,500 players. Now, last season between 68 and 69 thousand players paid the 6d. levy, so over 18 per cent have already been enrolled. Several other leagues, I know, were holding meetings before the deadline date, and two have applied for a brief extension so that general meetings could decide whether or not to enter.

PARTIALLY COVERED

Of course, many more players are partially covered by the scheme. Not only are many county associations including their annual championships, and Inter-League and Inter-Town programmes, but the South-East Midlands League has now joined.

This is a "League of Leagues" and includes Bedford, Bletchley, Cambridge, Hunts Central, Kettering, Northampton and St. Neots. Of these leagues, only Cambridge were members at the time of writing, I have been told that one of those leagues had decided not to enter because of "too much work involved." My informant is another league official, who, in passing, mentioned that, to date, he hadn't noticed any increased work.

If there are any leagues who feel that too much work is involved, may I ask them to write to me, so that I can demonstrate that this is not the case? Thank you.

Two leagues have already notified me of their intention to enter next season. It would seem that the scheme is bound to be a success, for I would expect a greatly increased number of organisations to enter next season, particularly when a consideration of the points players have attained the status of Club Master, which is bound to occur in March and April of this season.

An interesting thought: At the special general meeting of the E.T.T.A., Tom Blunn read out a list of 80 leagues who had not paid their subscriptions. Only one of these is a member of the M.P.S. This must prove something, and I leave it to the readers to determine what.

The Master Points Committee will be meeting on February 10, when decisions will be taken about the items publicised in the last two issues of TABLE TENNIS. Many helpful and constructive letters have already been received, and this note will serve as a reminder to anyone who was intended to write, that they only have a few days left.

George Yates, that livewire Lancashire official, was quick to take up my point about the length of time for good class players to become Club Masters. He points out that, by Christmas, Bryn Farnworth had already scored 234 points in BOLTON LEAGUE COMPETITIONS ALONE.

LANCS. and CHESHIRE

by GEORGE E. YATES

INGBER DETHRONES FORSHAW

ASSUMING the proportions of a Lancashire and Cheshire Closed, the Manchester and District League's closed championships went off smoothly on January 6-9.

Regrettably not wishing to be considered for the title, Kevin Forsaw have retained a half share in two doubles titles but lost his singles crown in the semi-final to Jeff Cooper who went on to account for Jack Clayton in the final. Diane Fitzgerald retained the women's singles, beating Connie Moore, and together the pair kept the doubles with a win over Marion Sidwell and Barbara Stan. Another to retain his title was Benny Casosky who, with a win over George Beddows, took the veterans' singles for the fifth successive year.

RESULTS


Men's Doubles: Finals: FORSHAW/R.


Manchester hold a one point lead over Bolton at the top of the Lancashire and Cheshire League First Division, while the "A" teams of the two clubs also lead Second Division (East) with Bolton slightly ahead on games average.

Mid-Cheshire hold sway in Division II (West) with but one point dropped to Wirral in four matches, but Chester could be the dark horses in this section.

Holding similar records in the women's First Division, Manchester have a slight edge on Blackpool, while Bolton lead the Junior Division with five successive wins. Liverpool holding second place with a point dropped to Blackpool.

The Cheshire Junior Open is at Byron Avenue Baths, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, on February 22. Entries close to R. S. Basiel, 9, Nurse Road, Thelwall, Warr, Cheshire, on February 12.
LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

Hinckley Join Up

THE Rose Johnson Bowl, the team handicap competition for teams in Leicestershire is already living up to its reputation for shocks and excitement. In the first round, two Loughborough teams -Cottons III and Holy Trinity were involved in the closest match. When the final game was reached Cottons led by two points-691 to 689. In the concluding match, however, D. Oakes (Holy Trinity) beat R. Osbourne 21-10 to put his team into round two.

The Rose Johnson Cup has reached the final stages and two of the "favourites'"-Hinckley Y.M.C.A. and Leicester Y.M.C.A. are drawn to play each other.

In the Leicester Towns League John Brooking (Melton Mowbray) put up an outstanding performance when he beat John Geschke's 100% record and also beat Noel Taiby in their match with Leicester B. Even this fine performance, however, was to no avail, Leicester taking the other eight sets.

The number of affiliated leagues in Leicestershire has been increased to six with the affiliation of the Hinckley Youth League. This league, with two divisions is having an excellent season. Claybrooke Magna, who practised hard all the summer are now reaping their reward.

The Veterans and men's second beating Darlaston 10-0. Both these teams have done well but the juniors are finding the going tough.

North Loughborough John Brunning (Melton Mowbray) put his team into round two. D. Oakes (Holy Trinity) beat R. Osbourne 21-10 to put his team into round two.

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YORKSHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

SINGLES DOUBLE FOR HYDES

The Yorkshire Junior Open, again held at Hull's Madeley Street Baths, provided a good measure of success for the host county, with both major singles, as well as the boys' under-15 singles and boys' doubles, going to White Rose players.

Top seed in both events, Alan Hydes, made steady progress to the under-15 final via Stuart Seabrook, Paul Canham (quarter-finals) and Alan Ransome (semi) before crushing David Brown 21-7, 21-9 in a one-sided final.

Brown had shown his power with victories over No. 2 seed Mike Johns in the last eight, and then overform Brian Burn, who had come through the quarter-final, from which 'flu singles and South Biaths, provided a good measure of success for the host County. Paul Canham (quarters) and Alan Ransome (semi) before cruising over David Brown 21-9, 21-7.

In the under-15, Miss Hemmings fell in the semi-final to Ingrid Sykes, while in the other half, top seed Linda Henwood had to essay Karenza Smith, who in turn went down to Maureen Heppell, Maureen dropped the first game of the final, but she won on top to come through comfortably in three.

A shock win, too, in the boys' doubles, where hotly fancied top seeds, Mike Johns and Alan Ransome, fell in the last hurdle in a tense three-setter to Yorkshire pair, Paul Canham and John Kedge. The Sydney, who had a tough struggle to put out promising Harrogate boy, Dave Shaw, fared little better than Brown in the final.

On the girls' side, Pat Dainty found little difficulty in the final of the under-17. Here, after being in a tight game, she was twice on the list of favourites.

The invincible David Bevan is backed by Pauline Hammonds, who had a tough struggle to win his first game against Pauline Hemmings, she had to fight hard to gain the verdict at 22-20 in the third.

Pauline had previously dismissed Linda Henwood, also in an advantage third game.

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Symonds Regains Singles Crown

When the tumult and shouting died following the pulsating, temperamental semi-final clash between internationals Mike Symonds and Denis Neale, the Lancastrian went on to regain the men’s singles crown of the Lancashire Open, which he lost to Jack Clayton 12 months earlier, by dismissing Jeff Ingber two-straight in the final.

Making full use of the very notable premises of Messrs. Hawker Siddley; Dynamics Ltd., Bolton, a vast entry of 256 players were kept hard at it in the eight events comprising the championships.

Staged finals before a big crowd in the concert hall were run simultaneously with the draging mixed doubles sets in the adjoining canteen without any great detriment to either players or spectators.

Some 188 entrants contested the men’s event which necessitated a 9.15 a.m. start and one was left to marvel at the standard of play which pre vailed in the finals after such a long day’s stint.

Seeded before the new ranking list was available, Ingber and Symonds were the top dogs, followed by Brian Hill and Neale in that order. Only Hill departed this select quartet, being ousted by Londoner N. J. Brabrook, who subsequently fell to Lancashire county player Roy Clayton.

Holder Jack Clayton came through from this quarter, however, with Yorkshire’s Mike Dainty and Peter Duncombe in his wake. Ingber’s passage was relatively smooth with little of renowned opposition barring his approach.

RUGGED PATH

Neale had the rugged path with Scottish international John Reilly, Welsh exile Gerald Cooklin and Derek Baddeley to meet before the quarters. Symonds, on the other hand, found little to trouble him either from the youthful zeal of Glenn Warwick or the experienced craft of Maurice Pitts up to his meeting with Derek Backhouse.

Alan Hydes had a good win over Scotland’s Bertie Kerr as did Roger Hampson of Stockport over Howard Collins. Maurice Billington regained some of the prestige attaching to his junior days with wins over E. L. Briscoe and Vic Ireland who, together with Brabrook and Collins, failed to make any lasting impression as representatives of the Metropolitan.

Taking the opposition by the scruff of the neck, Lesley Proudlock would contribute lavishly to the interior of 21, King Egbert Road, Totley Rise, by her prizes won in the women’s singles and doubles in partnership with Cynthia Blackshaw.

Having a rare day out Lesley shook off the challenge of Manchester’s Rose Bowl player Mary Leigh, Warwickshire’s Doreen Griffiths and Merseyside winner, Jackie Canham before drawing sword to smite yet another ranked head in Miss Blackshaw.

Florence Rolling advanced both Barnsley and Yorkshire stock still further with creditable wins over Di Fitzgerald, Beryl Broad and Mrs. J. Lloyd of Stourbridge.

Neale made up for his disappointment in the singles by taking the men’s doubles with Duncombe, axing such notables as Ireland/Collins and Symonds/Clayton. Warwick, and the weighty Sido-like Ronnie Allock—a scratch pairing—came through from opposition including Kerr/Reilly and the holders, George Livesey and Bryn Farnworth.

JOHNS’ GOOD WIN

A star-studded field of 60 junior boys, including England’s Nos. 4 to 7 inclusively ranked players and Scotland’s John Reilly, battled it out from start to finish with no quarter asked or given. Two excellent semi-finals were followed by a last ditch 25-23 win for Mike Johns over Warwick in a final which was only bettered by the Symonds/Neale affair in arousing the crowd to fever pitch.

In all, Yorkshire plundered six of the eight titles at stake, Pat Dainty weighing in with the junior girls’ and Norman Lusher retaining the veterans’ crown—a hall calling for police escort at the Pennine border.
GERMANS TOO GOOD FOR BARNES

CHESTER BARNES may be England's No. 1, but he still has a way to go before he can conquer Europe. This was all too evident when West Germany beat England 5-3 at Preston.

Barnes lost both his singles, being chopped off the table by Eberhard Schöler, and hit off by Martin Hess. It is a disturbing thought that he could be beaten like this by two direct opposite styles, and it seems he still has a lot to learn.

Bobby Stevens also lost to the same two players, although he did take a game from Schöler, the strongest of the Germans.

It was left to the two weaker members of the team to gain England's successes and most encouraging was the performance of Denis Neale, playing his first international against overseas opposition.

TABLE TENNIS

ANYONE?

IN June, 1954, there appeared on the horizon of the table tennis world a new club, ESTREHAM, and in November of the following year "Table Tennis" (No. 2, Vol. 14) reported upon the activities of the new club at their headquarters at Howland Hall, Sunnyhill Road, Streatham, S.W.16.

The Estreham Club, in its first season, became champions of the South London League and the South Division. The same season Estreham gained promotion to the Premier Division of the South London League and finished runners-up to the strong West Norwood Club.

Ray Murray, Estreham's No. 1, winner of the men's singles in the Walthams' South London League Closed Championships in 1962, Keith Hurlock, the former England International, and Alan Lampe, a trio who secured major honours in the Croydon League in the same year with Croydon Wanderers by winning both the First Division and the Croydon Open Competition Cup, not forgetting the young starlet, Martin Hart, who has been chosen to represent Surrey County Juniors, have proved to be the bulwark behind the playing successes of the Estreham Club.

The South London Closed Championships are held at Howland Hall every November and yet another success came the way of Estreham this year, Miss Hart winning the ladies' singles. At least we do know where this lady goes in the winter time!

The success of both the senior and junior teams is due largely to the Army and Navy Section, and at present there is a membership of 35, with eight teams competing in both the South London and Wandsworth Leagues and a strong membership in the Sunday sessions for coaches and coaching students, so we have a chance to spread the gospel around the smaller areas within reach of Peterborough.

February 14, of the Orchard Street Coaching Centre, with 2 tables permanently at disposal of the local League. The City Youth Officer last year accepted my suggestions for adoption of an old school, provided correct tables and lighting on my advice, but insisted that the local league weighed in with voluntary labour for the decoration.

Fair enough: co-operation all round, and now one more centre, small but it is there, all the time, and showing correct standards all the time.

Mr. Lowe is allowing us to hold regular Sunday sessions in partnership with the coach, students, so we have a chance to spread the gospel around the smaller areas within reach of Peterborough.

Cheshunt students please note! The February meeting will be on Sunday, 23, not 16.

DAVIDS MOVES UP

D. DAVIDS, ex-county junior put up his best ever performance in beating three county players to help Southampton to an unexpected 5-4 win over Bournemouth in the last 16 of the Wilmot Cup.

Davies, at No. 4, is one of four newcomers in the new Hampshire men's ranking list. R. Bassett (Bournemouth) maintains his top position with R. Ellis (Bournemouth) moving from No. 3 to No. 2. They are followed by F. Bradley (Portsmouth), Davies, G. Clay (S.E. Hants), T. Smith (Bournemouth), J. Waterhouse (Southampton), W. Draper (Southampton) and F. Chapman (Basingstoke).

The Hampshire Closed Championships have been provisionally arranged for March 1 at Aldershot. Bournemouth are planning three invitation tournaments. Plans are under way to revive the Southampton Open next season after a break of eight years.

JACK CARRINGTON'S NOTEBOOK

ANOTHER NEW CENTRE

TWO high-spots from the recent welter of coaching events: STEVENAGE: Inter-county co-operation with the National Coaching Scheme brought together 4 teams of 20-a-side, all under 16, from Hertfordshire, Essex, Norfolk, and Buckinghamshire with 16 coaches and senior officials. A rule of these meetings is that at least 5 girls must be included in the team, and I mention this because so often we hear about teams selecting their lack of good girl players, while neglecting to ensure their participation in early training events.

These inter-county "Quadrilaterals" are designed for players emerging from the coaching-class level; the same stipulation for inclusion of girls is made in the E.T.T.A. Best-Trained Youth Group Competition (in which 12 teams of 12 have entered this year).

PETERBOROUGH: A smaller event, but equally significant, was the opening, on January 14, of the Orchard Street Coaching Centre, with 2 tables permanently at disposal of the local League. The City Youth Officer last year accepted my suggestions for adoption of an old school, provided correct tables and lighting on my advice, but insisted that the local league weighed in with voluntary labour for the decoration.

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COACHING DIARY

February 7/8
| Lynmouth | R.A.F. Station R.A.F. Station |
| 9th | 9th |
| 14 | 14 |
| Coventry | Rhoostes |
| 15/16 | 15/16 |
| West Ham F. C. Craineleigh |
| Hereford R.A.F. |
| Walthamstow St. Patrick's |
| Chesterfield Drill Hall |
| 23 | 23 |
| 26 | 26 |
| 28 | 28 |
| Kilburn Mobberley T.C. |
| March | March |
| 6/7 | 6/7 |
| Lowestoft Ald. Woodrow School Teachers and Coaches |
| 8 | 8 |
| Mailbox Lea Green Centre (Under-16 Groups) |
| 9 | 9 |
| Newbury Youth Centre Opening New Centre |
| 15 | 15 |
| Peterborough Orchard St. Centre Coaches' Course | | Coach's Practical |
| 20 | 20 |
| Southend Belfair School |
| 23 | 23 |
| Letchworth Kincard Hall Assessing League coaching candidates |
| 28 | 28 |

Any persons interested in attending, assisting, or organising events to fit into above programme, please contact Director of Coaching, E.T.T.A., 24, Worcester Gardens, Hiford, Essex. (Tel. VAL 6688).

Page Twenty-nine
HARRISON GETS REVENGE

IAN HARRISON came back to form with a bang in the Essex Open at Southend on January 18-19, capturing the men's singles and avenging two previous defeats by Wright in the final. He went through without loss of a game, from a field which included seven nationally ranked players.

Harrison, who had warmed up with a hard-hitting semi-final against Denis Neale, took no chances against Wright, getting on top from the start with a 15-5 lead in the first game which he won 21-14. In the second, Wright wriggled on to his game and that chance to level when he led 20-19, but Harrison, thirsting for revenge, hit back to get it at 23-21.

The big shock of the singles was the giant killing of junior Stuart Gibbs when he beat first Vic Ireland then Bobby Stevens, only to fail to David Creamer, who in turn, lost to Wright in the semi-final.

Wright had a tough section, with wins over Arun Khanna, Ralph Gunnion and Stan Jacobsen. Alan Lindsay had a hard quarter and went down to Neale, who had a tough fight with Connie Warren in the fourth round.

Chester Barnes, England's No. 1, did not enter on the grounds the tables were too slow.

Lesley Bell, the other young Essex star, wanted to scratch from the women's singles because she was included in the group. Eventually she was persuaded to play and won the title at a canter, beating Judy Williams in the final 21-18, 21-14.

Jackie Canham, who had been seeded to meet Miss Bell in the final, upset the seeding order with a 15-7 lead in the first game and went down to Neale, 20-22, 21-19 to Miss Williams in a tough semi-final.

MAJOR SHOCK

The major shock of this event was provided by Beverley Sayer, with a first round win over Betty Cassell, the No. 4 seed. Beverley then lost to Pauline Martin, semi-final victim of Miss Williams.

Johnny Leach and David Creamer, the English Closed champions, took the men's doubles, which featured an abundance of good play. After a semi-final win over Harrison, and going through to the final, they beat Polemio and Martin 21-18, 15-21, 21-16. Final: BELL bt Wright 21-14, 21-10.


The big shock of the singles was Pauline's upset of Vic Ireland last month when he was suffering from an appendix operation. Pauline is somewhat of an enigma, for she is an unranked player and yet reached the final of the under 15's at Southend, beating Beverley Sayer, the No. 3, before losing to Lesley Bell.

Miss Bell took a second title by beating Judy Williams in the semi-final, and went down to Neale, who had a "hat-trick" with the girls' singles.

The boys' singles went to Alan Ransome, of Middlesbrough, who upset the national junior rankings, beating Tony Robinson in the semi-final and Stuart Gibbs in the final.

Due to a record entry and an error of judgement in the tie schedule, the finals were over two hours late and were played on two tables.


