PHILIP LEWIS, a member of Britain’s team at the Paraplegic Games, demonstrates Table Tennis from a wheelchair. See page 10.
The Scoop of a Decade

As this issue goes to press news is announced of the biggest event in English table tennis since the staging of the World Championships in London in 1954. The E.T.T.A. has pulled off the scoop of the decade by arranging for a visit to this country of teams from China and Japan in the early part of May. The Association took the initiative months ago in inviting China and since then has heard that not only Japan but also other Asian countries would like to come here in the near future.

Unfortunately, the Association’s resources make it necessary to refuse the other requests on this occasion. All efforts will be bent to make the visit of our Asian friends, who are seen too rarely in Europe, a memorable one. Negotiations and preliminary arrangements for an ambitious programme were put under way within minutes of the end of a six-hour Management Committee meeting to discuss plans.

On present arrangements the Japanese team will be in this country from April 28 to May 5, during which time it is intended that three international matches will be played at venues in London, Birmingham and Leeds. The Chinese arrive on May 7 and it is hoped will play matches at London and Liverpool before returning home a week later.

19 WORLD PLACES

The impending visit prompts speculation about the relative strengths of the two countries. At the World Championships at Prague in 1963 China took the Swatling Cup and provided the Men’s singles and doubles champions. Japan won the Corbillon Cup, the women’s singles and doubles, and the mixed doubles titles. As a result of this players from the two countries occupy no fewer than 12 (China 9, Japan 3) of the 19 places on the Men’s world ranking list issued for the coming championships and 10 (China 7, Japan 3) out of the same number of places of the Women’s list.

Basing their views on the results of recent competition between the two countries, there are those who think that Japan will break the Chinese supremacy which was so overwhelming in Prague two years ago. News that the Japanese Association intends to send its team to Europe well in advance of the championships, notably for an extended spell of training and toning up in Sweden, certainly confirms that they are making a determined effort.

Our own players have been given hitherto unequalled opportunities for international play and training this season as a result of the imaginative and progressive efforts and ideas of the Association’s Secretary and the National Selection Committee. It is thanks to them that the chances of our players in Yugoslavia in April need not be written off. Our men players are capable of improving our world standing in the team classification; as indeed do our ladies, who are excellent prospects for the Corbillon Cup and certainly for the Ladies’ doubles title.

PENHOLDER v. WESTERN

As champions of Europe their main opposition will be from China and Japan and the old controversy of penholder versus western grip will inevitably arise. This will be heightened by the opportunity of actually seeing the players in action when they come here.

Is this really a better grip? Would European players have the same success with it or is it particularly suited to the physical attributes of Asian players? Are there any variations of the penholder grip and how are they employed and to what purpose? These questions and many others but, above all, should English players be encouraged to change?

The discussion will continue long after our visitors have returned home. What is certain, however, is that their visit will provide a spectacle, and sparkle an enthusiasm and enjoyment which has been unparalleled for a long time, writing another chapter in the distinguished history book of achievements in English table tennis over the years.
TRAINING IN JAPAN

SWEDEN'S Kjell Johansson and Hans Alser are leaving nothing to chance in their bid to make a serious challenge to the Asian domination of the world championships. Both have gone to Japan for a final tuning up.

In addition to Johansson and Alser, Sweden's team for the world championships will be: Karl-Johan Bernard, Stellan Bengtsson, Goran Allvin, Christer Johansson, Lenart Oden, Bo Persson, Lena Rundstrom, Eva Johansson, and Birgitta Wallfriidsson.

Bernard won the singles in East Germany, where Swedes won a match. Johansson and Alser, who are runners-up to Hungary in the team event.

HUNGARY

NEW RANKINGS

MEN: 1, Berzick and Roszat; 3, Pignitzky; 4, Harangi; 5, Fahazi; 6, Harcsa; 7, Papp; 8, Kocsis; 9, Belezmai; 10, Borzei.

WOMEN: 1, Foldi; 2, Jurik; 3, Lukacs; 4, Papp; 5, Vosos; 6, Sarvari; 7, Poor; 8, Kafrasi; 9, Maklaf; 10, Hegedus.

CANADIAN ROUND UP from Jose Tomkins

JOHN McLennan, Jnr., and Helen Sabaliauskas emerged as the Canadian doubles champions, when they won their respective League matches in the Canadian round-up from Jose Tomkins.

The four girls are currently playing a series of round robin matches with other top ranked players as part of their preparation.

SCHOLER KEEPS TITLE

by Clem Gruber

All titles except the men's singles, retained by Eberhardt Scholer, changed hands in the German National Championships at Westloch on January 23-24. Scholer lost to five games by Martin Ness before winning — 20, 19, 18, 23, 16.

The big upset was in the women's singles with a first round defeat foragram Kriegelstein, the defending champion, by Lang, the junior champion. The title eventually went to Edit Buchholz, defeating Hildegaard Scholer, 18, 20, 19, 18, 23, 16.


Page Four

Dear Mr. Lowen,

I have been instructed by the Executive Committee of the North Midlands Table Tennis League to protest strongly about the time the above mentioned match was started without having previously notified the respective Leagues in the area. We were asked to advertise this match on your behalf. On going to the match there was no poster on showing that the match had already started, and I must admit that I was one of the people caught on this occasion, entering the hall at 7.40 p.m. as at no point was there only one man's single to be played to conclude an early start.

I have also been asked to enquire about claiming money spent on tickets which in our opinion would have a waste.

Although we must admit the girls put up a wonderful show but I would have to accept tickets to see a complete match.

R. T. SAILES, Hon. Gen. Secretary, North Midlands T.T.L.

Dear Mr. Sailes,

I much appreciate the views expressed by the Executive Committee of your League with reference to the early start which was made in the men's match but this was brought about by the film which the B.B.C. hoped to show early in the afternoon being destroyed by fire which meant them having to utilise our event between 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m.

I appreciate that this fact probably does not interest you to any great extent in view of the fact that we advertised the match to the public and can only give as our answer to this question is that if the B.B.C. are paying us the facility fee to bring the Hungarians to this country then they have the final say as to transmission times, whether we like it or whether we do not. The pure answer to this is that if the B.B.C. are paying we get to do it and at the present time we are unable to do anything else about this matter because the people are acting as the "employers" of us on those particular occasions.

Once our members get it into their heads that we are not a big enough body, nor do we have the capital behind us, to organise such trips as bringing the Hungarians to England ourselves without the help of the B.B.C. then the better it will be for all.

However, I do not present present any argument with the B.B.C. giving us the opportunity to play these matches we must have the final say on transmission times and this is the pure reason why we on that Saturday had to start our match.

Announcing your point on claiming money back spent on tickets, which in your opinion was a waste, you were quite right. I have had it up with the Box Office at Tottenham Town Hall. They staged this match on our behalf and of course they get profits from this match (purely the television fee) but I do not see that our members should take this attitude when our girls put up such a fine show. I hope you will have to take this back spent on tickets, which in your opinion is not interest you to any great extent.

PETER LOWEN, Secretary, E.T.T.A.
PILOT SCHEME A GREAT SUCCESS

by Conrad Jaschke

The pilot scheme under which Surrey and Kent County Associations have collected affiliation fees on behalf of the E.T.T.A. this season has proved an unqualified success.

Surrey county secretary Colin Clement tells me that as a result of the new arrangements Surrey had their county rebate two months earlier than usual, and I understand this has meant that for once county treasurer Fred Joyce has not had to subsidize the county funds in the early part of the season.

Fred Joyce comments: “I found the new idea of paying all fees to the county was very acceptable to the leagues. It got the fees in quicker, and I sincerely hope this method of collection will become standard throughout the country.”

NO PROBLEMS

In Kent the scheme also worked extremely well, and county treasurer Don Mitchell encountered no problems, except that one league still paid direct to the E.T.T.A. in ignorance of the new procedure. The league? Beckenham, in which Don himself plays!

After this season’s experience, Kent and Surrey will certainly again undertake the task of collecting E.T.T.A. fees next season. Other County Associations would do the E.T.T.A. a real service if they would apply to do the same. It really means very little—if any extra work—to collect E.T.T.A. fees together with the county fees; on the other hand the accumulative time saving to the E.T.T.A. would be considerable if all counties were to accept this extra responsibility.

As anyone in touch with the E.T.T.A. office knows, our secretary, Peter Lowen, has a constant battle against time, not just keeping abreast of the routine work, but going after a hundred and one different new ideas and schemes to promote table tennis and to keep the E.T.T.A. flag flying. Here is an opportunity for counties to take a small bit of the load off his shoulders.

And of course the scheme has the full support of E.T.T.A. treasurer Tom Blunn. Counties willing to help should write to him at once, so that arrangements for next season can be made well in advance.

So, you county treasurers, may we have your support? Please write to Tom Blunn, 43 Headlands Drive, Hessle, East Yorkshire, if your county is willing to help.

Three for Piddock

TONY PIDDock maintained the Kent domination of the Civil Service Championships at K.E.B. Hall, London, on January 25-29 when he retained his singles title and went on to complete a triple success.

Barbara Carless, of Warwickshire, last season’s triple champion, retained only one of her titles, the women’s doubles with Mrs. P. Rainsbury. Evergreen Margaret Cherry staged another come-back to outwit Mrs. Carless in the singles final.

There was an increased entry, particularly from outside London.


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Page Six
Michael Maclaren’s Glamour Choice

ANN FRANCES LEACH

Born with a famous surname, ANN FRANCES LEACH, age 21, is this month’s glamour girl choice. But here any resemblance to Johnny Leach ceases... I am glad to say.

Ann, 5 feet 9 inches tall and a shapely 34-24-37, lives in Sutton with her parents and sister Janet. She has been playing table tennis for three years and is just entering the tournament field, having played in the recent South of England Open.

Trained in Classical ballet, her other big interest, Ann took up table tennis through the sports club at the Insurance Office where she is a secretary.

She plays mainly in the lunch time behind England, who won without dropping an event.

Dennis Samuel showed a welcome return to form, beating Jim Dow in a quick hitting game and Wales went out with a 5-0 lead. Then we began to slip but the stop came in time and we won 7-3.

Margaret Phillips, who had beaten Lowry Burrie and won the doubles with Sandra Morgan, confirmed her good form against Ireland, where she was again unbeaten in a 6-4 win.

Samuel, although loving to Jim Langan, the best non-English player, sealed the Welsh victory with a great win over Cliff Thompson.

England were much too strong for Wales but George Evans and Samuel excelled in both taking a game from Chester Barnes, while Miss Morgan and Miss Phillips went to three games against Diane Rowe and Jean McCree.

The Welsh Open is now back on the calendar and will be held at the Dumfries Place Drill Hall, Cardiff, on March 19-20. The West Germans will be there to defend their titles, and on March 19 will meet the combined Welsh-English team at Rogerson.

Another international touch this month is the visit of the Czechoslovakians who come straight from the English Open to visit Swansona on March 8 and Tredgar on March 9. Chester Barnes and Mary Shannon will accompany the Czechs.

Wales make progress

ONE of the best “Quadrangulors” on record. That was the general verdict after England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales had fought out their annual battle at Milford Haven.

The organising of an event so far from Headquarters as Milford Haven is always a problem, but Joe Ackroyd and his team took care of that and with the Esso Club deserves all credit for a job well done.

In keeping with the splendid organisation Wales made a spectacular jump from “wooden-spoonist” to runners-up.

SENIOR AND JUNIOR DOUBLE

D. BROWN (Lloyds) scored a senior and junior double in the singles and also won the mixed doubles at the Insurance Offices Championships on February 5. Miss D. Simpson, his mixed partner, just failed to emulate him, losing the senior singles final to Mrs. A. Hewitt.


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A Clean Sweep for England
by RON CRAYDEN

The Sixth International Quadrangular Tournament at the well appointed recreational club of Esso's, Milford Haven, on the second weekend of February resulted in a clean sweep for England. In most cases the English players were clearly better than the opposition but many interesting and entertaining games took place.

OPENING MATCHES

The tournament officially opened on the Friday evening and the arena was courted for the progress of two separate matches. In one court the host country, Wales, with their new captain, John Corrall, took on Ireland, while on the other England dealt severely with the green-shirted Irish.

The anticipated Caffrey v Merrett battle came up to expectations and delivered the kind of classic that everyone was waiting for. Not only the unquenchable spirit and determination of Bryan prevented him from going under.

The afternoon session on the Saturday brought joy and jubilation to the Welsh contingent, when, after a dear struggle, they got home against the favoured Irish team. For Ireland, little Jim Langan played with much skill and enterprise to take both his singles and then paired with Caffrey to win the men's doubles... but all to no avail. He got no support and Ireland crumbled and crashed.

England had a comfortable afternoon at the expense of Scotland, chalking up another ten-nil victory.

The final session got underway to a full house and although there were some fine games, there were no sensations. Ireland recovered their composure and form to trounce Scotland, while England preserved their unblemished record by "white-washing" the gallant and improved Welsh team.

From the Welsh point of view this was a successful weekend, one to give them hope for the future. They finally finished in the second position and their organising of the whole event was outstandingly efficient and beyond criticism.

Perhaps the saddest note of the weekend was struck when Bryan Merrett announced that he was shortly retiring from the international scene, which he has graced for so many years. It seemed fitting, therefore, that in honour of his great number of England appearances the Milford Haven T.T. Club had decided to present him with a handsome commemorative gift. Although it was coincidental, this dovetailed with what no doubt was Bryan's farewell performance.

Merrett's successful career spans some 13 years, during which he has been an inspiration and an example to all.

LEICESTERSHIRE

A Family Affair

by PHILIP REID

Husband and wife, Mick and Rita Brith, were among the honours in the Y.M.C.A. Open Championships. Rita won the women's singles, while Mick partnered Ernest McLeish to take the men's doubles. Singles winner was Colin Truman, while Charlie Jacques and Pauline Jackson collected the mixed doubles.

John Corrall won the junior singles and Robin Spring the Under-15's title. COALVILLE LEAGUE: The Closed championships provided five games finals for both men's singles won by R. Stevens (Eagle Works) against Mick Saunders, and the doubles where Doleman (War Memorial)/Waters (Cavendish) scraped home at 21-16, 19-21, 22 against Carter (Ravensholt)/Bates (Nethersol).

Grievses, who have dropped only one point, are favourites for the First Division title. Whitwick Colliery should take the Second Division.

ROSE JOHNSON BOWL: The semi-final draw is: Leicester Y.M.C.A. or Holy Trinity (Loughborough) v Knighton Park; Vaduc II v Nazarenes.

John Corrall (Nazarenes) has been the outstanding player of the competition.

MIDLAND LEAGUE: Against Wahall the Intermediates drew 5-5 but the Juniors, for whom Corrall made an impressive debut, won 6-4.

LEICESTER and DISTRICT LEAGUE: There is tremendous keenness in the lower divisions. Post Office 11 look certain to win Division 5A, and A.E.I. Lambs II lead in 5B. John Crouch has 100 per cent record for Ind Cope, leader of 6A.

Custom and Kemp, newcomers to the league, have the championship luck in 7A, while 7B looks like going to Syston W.M.C. II.

The Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl national team competitions have reached the quarter-final stages with Gloucester and Sutton, the respective holders, making most of the running.

Gloucester, able to call on Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett, swept aside Wembley’s challenge at 8-1 and now face Staines for a semi-final place.

The availability of star players can have a big effect on a team’s progress as Harrogate discovered when they had to face Sunderland without Denis Neale and were beaten 7-2. Had Neale, who was on international duty, played he would possibly have just tipped the scales.

**FACTS TO FACE**

But these are the facts that leagues have to face when they enter the competition. To hold back dates until the stars were available would lead to chaos and it is doubtful if matches would ever be finished to the dead line.

Manchester and East London appear the strongest challengers to Gloucester, although Manchester first have a tough quarter-final with Bolton.

Sutton, whose star is Mary Shannon, made short work of Staines, while Manchester and Birmingham had one-sided wins over Great Yarmouth and Liverpool respectively.

Sutton now meet Wembley, who include Irene Ogus, while Manchester are at home to North Herts, and Birmingham visit Bletchley. The remaining tie brings together Plymouth and Romford.

Plymouth received a walk over when East London were scratched for failing to fulfil their match in time.

**WILMOTT CUP RESULTS**

**THIRD ROUND**

Sunderland bt H'roagare 7-2.

**FOURTH ROUND**

Bolton bt Oxford 6-3; Manchester bt Bedford 9-0; Willelson bt Southampton 5-3; East London bt Brighton 5-4; Gloucester bt Wembley 8-1; Staines bt Woolwich 5-3; Chesterfield bt Cambridge 8-1.

**QUARTER-FINALS—DRAW**

Chesterfield v Sunderland or Leamington; Bolton v Manchester; Willelson v East London; Gloucester v Staines.

R. Lush and Mrs. D. Henderson each won two titles in the Worcestershire Closed at Malvern on January 31. Lush won the men’s singles, and men’s doubles with R. Prece, while Mrs. Henderson partnered Mrs. D. Edwards to win the women’s doubles, and M. Richard to take the mixed title.

**RESULTS**


**Worcestershire Closed**

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Paraplegic Table Tennis
by WILLIAM PRESTON

A GLANCE at the heading to this article and I can well imagine many readers asking, what are Paraplegics? Well, they are fit people, just like you or I with the exception that their lower limbs are paralysed due to some unfortunate accident or illness and they are confined to a wheelchair.

But they are people of tremendous determination who refuse to let such a handicap prevent them taking part in a wide range of sports. Yes, even table tennis, and they produce a quality of play which is unbelievable, and a style unique in the game.

Each year paralysed sportsmen and women from all over Britain gather at Stoke Mandeville Hospital for the Paraplegic Championships. Competitors are grouped into four classes, depending upon their degrees of disability. Thus there are four singles titles for both men and women.

DOUBLES MODIFICATION

Doubles are also played but here, because of their restricted mobility, there has to be a slight modification of the normal rules. Partners are not restricted to playing the ball alternately and the service instead of being delivered from the right hand side is played through both diagonals of the table, with the competitors' chairs remaining stationary at the four corners.

Paraplegics bring a surprising amount of movement into their game and do not just sit and use one arm. They use the non-striking arm to lift, turn and bend so as to return all that gets over the net.

The game, obviously, is played at a lower level. This, in many ways, is an advantage, for balls which we would consider too low to hit hard, can be winning shots from a wheelchair by a simple pushing forward stroke of the bat.

Ninety per cent of the table surface can be covered, and this includes the area just in front of the net, for all paraplegics are flexible enough to touch the net with their bats, providing they have average length of arms.

Spin is utilised to the same degree of precision, and as they sit close to the table, their reflexes are accelerated so as to produce an attractive, fast, attacking game, with all the thrills and tensions, which make table tennis a sport equal to none.

OWN OLYMPICS

Paraplegic sport has now become international. In Tokyo last year they took over the Olympic Stadium for their own Games. Unlike the Olympics, the Paraplegic Games included table tennis, and Britain led the way with six gold and six silver medals.

In Class “A” Tommy Taylor and Michael Beek, who trained at Chas­ley Home, Eastbourne, completed the double by both reaching the singles final and winning the doubles. Victory was again ours in Class “B” with Paul Lyall beating Romero, of Argentina, while George Swindlehurst and Jimmy Gibson were runners-up to a Japanese pair in Class “C”.

Susan Masham, playing as well as ever, reached the Class “B” final, losing to Kuhnel, of Austria, and was successful in the doubles with Gwen Buck.

Incidentally, Susan Masham, in addition to her table tennis honours, won three silver medals in the swimming events at breast-stroke, back-stroke and free-style.

Margery Cooper and Diana Thompson were runners-up in Class “C” doubles.

Most of these players, and many others, play in normal league pro­grammes to gain more experience and practice during the winter months. Philip Lewis, who has solely trained at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, plays for the hospital team in the Aylesbury League, and so far this year has a 75 per cent success record.

The Paraplegics succeeded in Tokyo because the British authorities appreciate the courage of paralysed people and have accepted them in fit persons’ leagues and clubs. Please continue to accept their challenge so that in the future we can continue to lead the world in Paraplegic table tennis.
Rumanians boost T.T.
Says GEOFF HARROWER

BRENTWOOD and Newbury enjoyed some great table tennis when the Rumanians followed up their match against England with two successful fixtures against the Internationals Club. The good done for the sport far outweighed who won or lost and the games were neither pure exhibitions nor dour internationals. Although everyone tried to win they did so attractively.

The Rumanian party, which included their chairman, Mr. Stanciu, and famous pre-war star Paneth, now their trainer, were lavishly entertained. Top executives of Selo Ltd. attended the Brentwood match while the Mayor, Councillor R. H. Burgess and Mrs. Burgess entertained the Rumanians to tea at Newbury Town Hall before watching the match.

LESLEY’S WIN
On the playing side the scintillating performance of Lesley Bell in beating Maria Alexandru will be remembered as will the match between Diane Rowe and Ella Constantinescu. Dorin Giurgiuca, strangely out of touch in the preceding Saturday’s international, was terrific. He attacked like a man possessed and neither Brian Wright nor Denis Neale could contain him.

Giurgiuca was again in top form at Newbury, beating both Wright and Ian Harrison. It seemed impossible to keep him off the attack. Harrison tried everything but stood no chance.

Mrs. Alexandru, fully recovered from a nasty cold, beat Mary Shannon in an excellent match, while Mrs. Constantinescu prevented Lesley Bell obtaining a great double in another fine singles.

Miss Bell and Irene Ogus had two fine doubles matches with the Rumanians, taking a game each night. And both matches were well worth watching.

At Brentwood: I.C. 2, Rumania 4: B. D. Wright lost to D. Giurgiuca -11, -9; D. Neale lost to Giurgiuca -15, -17.

Miss L. Bell bt Mrs. M. Alexandru 20, 20; Miss D. Rowe bt Mrs. E. Constantinescu 13, -19, 13.

Neale/Rowe lost to Giurgiuca/Constantinescu -17, -17; Bell/Ogus lost to Alexandru/Constantinescu 22, -16, -15.


Miss M. Shannon lost to Mrs. M. Alex­

andru -19, 17, -16; Miss L. Bell lost to Mrs. E. Constantinescu -18, -21.

Wright/Shannon bt Giurgiuca/Alexandru 18, 16; Bell/Ogus lost to Alexandru/Con­

stantinescu 18, -14, -17.
**Challenge to Young Britain**

by David Redhead

AGAIN this year the *Daily Sketch* will issue its "Challenge to Young Britain." This scheme was launched last year for the first time, when young Britons in their late teens and early twenties were invited to show the general public that the youth of this country was the exact opposite of the image created by the "Mods and Rockers" riots. They were asked to demonstrate their sense of responsibility, toughness and moral fibre by carrying out a series of tests.

These tests, requiring physical and mental alertness, combined with a social conscience, were set in the *Daily Sketch* and culminated in the finalists being brought together for arduous tasks which were carried out under expert surveillance and the public eye.

This again will be the basis of the scheme. All young people in the age group of 16 to 21 years will receive the challenge. They will be asked to form themselves into teams of three.

There is no prize of a personal nature but the winning teams will earn the right to give away £1,000 to a worthy cause which they will nominate before entering the final tests.

**IMPORTANT BACKING**

The scheme had the practical backing last year of the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, Sir John Hunt, Sir Charles Maclean, Christopher Chataway, M.P., Denis Law and the Rev. David Sheppard. These personalities were enthusiastic about the scheme, and that date for one week.

To the following, which were used in Sheppard. These personalities were forthcoming.

Pard, Sir Charles Maclean and Jeffrey Chataway, M.P., Rev. David Sheppard, Sir John Hunt, Christopher Ogilvy, Sir John Hunt, Sir Charles Maclean, Christopher Chataway, M.P., Rev. David Sheppard, Sir Charles Maclean and Jeffrey Smith have expressed their support.

Many more outstanding people will already this year the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, Sir John Hunt, Christopher Chataway, M.P., Rev. David Sheppard, Sir Charles Maclean and Jeffrey Smith have expressed their support. Many more outstanding people will be forthcoming.

The Challenge will start in the *Daily Sketch* on Monday, April 26. Registration forms will appear from that date for one week.

Details of the 1965 tests are not yet available, but they will be similar to the following, which were used in 1964:

1. Imagine an appeal for help has been received from a local charity. You are required to devise and carry out a scheme to raise not less than £2.

The method used must not involve the direct collection of money, but must be the selling of a service or a commodity to the general public.

2. Obtain the original signature of a well-known personality, and send it in for inclusion in a giant autograph book which will be auctioned for charity.

3. Travel as a team as far as you can inside 8 consecutive hours. The team must not
   (a) spend more than 3s.
   (b) leave the British Isles
   (c) use school passes, season tests, aircraft, cars, motorcycles, scooters, mopeds;
   (d) hitchhike.

Send confirmation in writing of distance travelled.

These are just a sample of tests which covered a wide range of activities. The *Daily Sketch* want young people from every walk in life to enter and prove their worth to their seniors. Will you try?

**LANCS. and CHESHIRE**

by GEORGE R. YATES

**GRAVEYARD REVISITED**

M ANCHESTER revisited Burnley, the scene of the 1362-3 di a ter, which ended their nine years' reign as first division champions, and won again from the grave-yard in their hopes of regaining their lost crown.

They were beaten 6-4. Jack Keppie led the demolition squad, his treble being supported by a brace from Douglas Hodgson and an all-important solo from Peter Crags.

Champions Stockport also received a setback when, lacking the service of Roger Hampson and Alan Crossley, they yielded a pint to doomed Liverpool.

Stunng by the shock passing of Liverpool's Rene Crafter, in hospital on February 3, the sorrow en Merryde was shared by friends and acquaintances throughout the two counties. Sympathy is extended Mrs. Ivy Crafter, son Bill, and daughter Judith, by all who came into contact with Rene, staunch member of the Liverpool League's management committee and tower of strength at Croydon without Warren. No.7 in national ranks, will not be considered for internationals because of possible lack of control at the table. He must conquer that irritating habit of carrying out a running commentary during play, which is surely just as big a handicap to him as it is annoying to opponents.

**SURREY SHORTAGE OF YOUNG GIRLS**

The shortage of young girl players in Surrey has been illustrated in the Under-17 Inter-League tournament. Due to illness Leatherhead had to face Wandsworth with just two boys, while Wandsworth in their turn opposed Croydon without a girl in the side and did well to force a draw in the six match event.

There are strong suggestions that Connie Warren, No. 7 in national ranking, will not be considered for internationals because of possible lack of control at the table. He must conquer that irritating habit of carrying out a running commentary during play, which is surely just as big a handicap to him as it is annoying to opponents.

**DEVELOPING GROUND**

Geoff Solter, winner of the South of England boys' singles, is Surrey's most successful junior tournament player. He is finding the Bernard Crouch matches a valuable developing ground and next season could find him in a higher bracket.

Despite the brilliance of Mary Marshall, Surrey have been unable to find an outstanding doubles pair. They are now trying David Lowe as Mary's partner and hope this will be the answer.

**MARCH - 1965**

**MARY SHANNON**

**EXHIBITIONS BY BRIAN WRIGHT**

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YORKSHIRE NOTES

Hull’s History Making Final

HISTORY is not every boy’s cup of tea. But the table tennis teenagers of Hull Y.P.I. think it’s great — when they are making it themselves.

They carved their own niche in the annals of the Yorkshire game when both first and second teams reached the final of the youth’s county inter-club championship to make sure of the trophy for the fourth year running and sixth time in all.

In the semi-finals the first team (Paul Canham, Graham Birch, Ian Middleton) trounced Harrogate Wanderers 8-1 and the second team (David Hider, Michael Addy, Stewart Pickering) knocked out Barnsley North End 5-4.

Results of the all-Y.P.I. final was 8-1, Hider taking the odd set for the second-teamers.

Dewsbury Nelson (Pam Bodrog, Kathleen Sykes, Barbara Hodgson) reached the women’s final by defeating Abbeydale Park 9-0 but Barnsley North End are odds-on favourites for their eighth success.

Two hat-tricks and a double hat-trick were recorded in the Huddersfield Closed.

Mavis Dyson was crowned women’s champion for the sixth year running (and 11th time); John Kedge swept to his third successive youths’ title (beating Les Crowe in the final); and David Hirst completed his third men’s singles triumph with a 22-20, 21-18 victory over Raymond Hinchliffe after emerging from a gripping semi-final with Kedge by 22-20 (from 15-19), 24-22 (from 16-20).

Hinchliffe/Kedge defeated Hirst/Malcolm Mear 22-20 in the third game of the men’s doubles final; Hirst and Margaret Seiramuzza overcame Stuart Sykes and Yvonne Jessop to take the mixed; and Dyson/Seiramuzza were women’s doubles champions.

Jim Cockburn ceded his veterans’ title to Frank Townsend.

Y.M.C.A. (Hirst-Mear-Kedge) stopped the Yorkshire inter-league Division I championship. John Kedge was unbeaten in the 7-3 success against improved Hull.

Sheffield’s second team have been outclassed and have mustered only four sets out of 60. Three of those were against Leeds, whose victory made them site for another season. Len Brownings and Ray Swain each earned two singles.

York became the first team to take a point from Hull “B,” leaders of Division II. David Lamb and Francis Gregor were both in good form and accounted for all York’s sets. Harrogate are still hoping to overhaul Hull for they clash in the final fixture.

Dewsbury’s Barry Lightowler won three titles at the British Railways North-Eastern area Championships at York; Irene Pollard carried off the women’s title.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CLOSED RETURNS

The Gloucestershire Closed makes a welcome re-appearance after two years, on April 3. It should be well supported.

The County Junior side have not done as well as expected and a contributing factor could well be the lack of continuity in the provision of a home venue.

The Premier Division side maintain their steady progress and the 6-3 win over Lancashire should strengthen their position in the table.

J. P. Rowe.

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**The Girls Carry England Again**

England met with somewhat mixed success on the recent tour of Russia and Czechoslovakia, which emphasised certain weaknesses that must be overcome if we are to do well in the World Championships.

Dane Rowe and Mary Shannon, as usual, had to carry the main burden and provided our only success in Russia, winning the women's doubles. But even they were upset in the team event, taking second place to Russia's first team who had beaten them 3-0.

The men fared badly and it was only with the help of the girls that they made a showing in the mixed doubles, where Denis Neale and Mary Shannon were runners-up to the Hungarians Pinitski and Jurik, who had accounted for Chyster Barnes and Diane Rowe in the semi-final.

It should have been an all-English final for Barnes and Rowe led 18-14 in the fifth. But the fact is that Barnes only rarely reveals himself as a good doubles player.

He is something of an enigma, brilliant at times yet on other occasions so poor that it is unbelievable. Several Russian opponents, surprised by his Jekyll and Hyde display, expressed disbelief that he could be the English champion. And who can blame them when he fell to the lesser known Russian players?

It was the same in Czechoslovakia where he went out in the first round to Dvorak over five games, then lost in the first round of the consolation singles to Jirman, another little known player.

**EASILY STOPPED**

Denis Neale did not live up to the form he had shown earlier in the season and was easily stopped in both Russia and Czechoslovakia by Hans Alser, of Sweden. Although he took a game in Czechoslovakia, Neale has lost the sparkling speed which characterised his European performances.

A return to his physical training programme is essential if he is to produce a consistently high standard.

Mike Symonds won through to the second round in Russia, beating the conqueror of Berekz, then, after a first round in the Czech event, had two wins in the consolation.

Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon were off colour and did not start too well, with Mary suffering four defeats. Her loop was often a weakness against the quick hitters. Nevertheless, she reached the semi-final of the women's singles, losing to Rudnova in straight games. She then beat Jurik of Hungary in the play-off for third place.

Miss Rowe lost in the second round to Grinberg, who produced a spell of wonder hitting when 14-16 down in the fifth. She eventually lost in the final to Rudnova in three close games.

These two Russians inflicted a double defeat on Miss Rowe in the team events, but it was an unsatisfactory match in which a strong protest was made about the serving of the Russian girls. Too often at vital points they served from outside the edge of the table.

Give the Russians their due they were prepared to replay the match, but the point had sunk home and it paid dividends when our ladies beat Rudnova and Grinberg in the semi-final of the doubles event.

**OLD FIRE**

Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon had found much of their old fire by the time they arrived in Czechoslovakia and, with the exception of the mixed doubles, they swept all before them, winning the team event, fighting out the final of the singles and once again winning the doubles.

Surprise opponents in the team final were the Czech team, who had accounted for both Czech I and Hungary. And what is more they took the English girls to 3-2; Mary losing both singles.

Miss Shannon had little serious opposition in the singles until she came up against Luzova, of Czechoslovakia, in the semi-final. This was a fluctuating match, going the full distance with Miss Shannon winning 23-21 in the fifth after being 19-16 up and 19-20 down.

Miss Rowe also had a five-setter against Bosa in the quarters but beat Lukas in straight games in the semi-final and lost to Shannon in straight games.

They had no serious problems in the doubles, where their final victims were the West Germans Kriegalstein and Buchholz.

**RUSSIAN and CZECH TOUR**

**TABLE TENNIS**

**MARCH . 1965**

**From LEN ADAMS**
beaten Alser in straight games in Russia but was taken to five games in the Czech final.

The Russians Averin and Brodski, who had beaten Berzick and Pignitski in the semi-final, made little impression on the Swedes in Moscow, but it was at the Czech meeting where Johansson and Alser had their best win, beating the European champions Miko and Stanek of Czechoslovakia.

The Czech mixed doubles provided another success for Hungary, Harcsar and Lukacs winning in straight games against Fahnrich and Hovestadt. Earlier Neale and Shannon should have disposed of the Hungarians in straight games, being two up and 19-17. They were also 19-all in the fourth.

This was Russia's first big international tournament and they were able to show how much progress they have made. The characteristic of their play is a good spin service (when legal) and a strong two-wing attack.

Table tennis has become extremely popular in Russia and they now boast over two million players, of whom 800,000 are schoolchildren.

RUSSIAN INVITATION

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: ALSER (Sweden) bt Vartanian (U.S.S.R.) 3-2. JOHANSSON (Sweden) bt Novikov (U.S.S.R.) 3-0. JOHANSSON (Sweden) bt Novikov (U.S.S.R.) 3-0. JOHANSSON (Sweden) bt Novikov (U.S.S.R.) 3-0.


MEN'S TEAM


ENGLISH RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES:
Symons bt Kallin 17, 10, 19, 17, 18; bt Shannon 19, 17, 17; lost to Var­
dalin 20, 10.

Barnes bt Boothan 10, 17, 17; lost to
Dinlevy 12, 10, 19, 14.

NEVER PLAY WITH YOUR WIFE

by Bill Edwards

If you want to enjoy your table tennis don't play with your wife. That was the advice given to Peter Duncombe before he married Cynthia Black­sheath last September. And he is now beginning to find out how sound that was.

The Duncombes of Doncaster, have been one of the most successful mixed doubles partnerships in the country: but now they are considering breaking up . . . for table tennis that is.

"We argue and natter at one another when things don't go just right, which is something we never did before we were married," said Peter. "And we carry on the arguments at home."

Here Cynthia chipped in to suggest, "It is because we are emotionally attached."

"I wouldn't believe Stuart Dyson when he told me this would happen," said Peter, "but there is one thing, we didn't notice a difference until we married. They are engaged to be married and have already been warned what to expect. It worked so well that Peter and Jackie beat Maurice and Cynthia in the final."

Look through the records and it is rare that there is a reference to husband-and-wife partnerships in top class play. Indeed, I cannot recollect any, although there are plenty of instances of table tennis players marrying one another.

ONLY IN CLUBS

In the lower standards of club play it is a different matter. There are plenty of married partnerships and the reason here is that pressure is not so great. They are playing for fun, rather than the serious side of championship honours.

Table tennis is not unique in this respect. Turn to lawn tennis and the position is very similar, with the married players in most cases wisely choosing other partners for on the courts.

NORTH WALES

RHYL STRONGLY PLACED

Following a 7-2 win over Llan­dudno's Rhyl are in a strong position to retain the Inter-League First Division Championship.

Wrexham easily beat East Flintshire 8-1, while Llandudno's "B" just beat Rhyl "B". Llandudno avenged an early season defeat by "A" and "B", winning 8-1. Wrexham Juniors had to fight hard all the way for their odd set win over East Flintshire. Wrexham best East Flintshire 5-4 in the Women's section where they share the lead with Rhyl. North Wales made a second visit to Chester, but were beaten this time, although Ray Richard's (Wrexham) and Max Shone (Llandudno) won their matches.

The Welsh Club Championship has attracted a record entry of 29. The following players have reached the County Umpire test: K. Vickery, G. Silver, J. Order, G. Needham, H. M. McEvor (all of Rhyl); E. Thomas, G. Tiley, S. Wyatt, H. Maddison (all East Flintshire).

The League Cup semi-finals are: East Flintshire: 1. E. P. Sneydcroft "A" v John Summers; I. E. P. Sneydcroft "B" v Mon Y.C.

Rhyl: Gwyd "A" v Town; Rhyl Youth "A" v Methodist.

Twenty seven players complete the North Wales club tour of Holland, which takes in matches in Amsterdam and Dordrecht.

R. Williams.
The South of England Open now attracts a much more modest entry than a few years ago but what it lacked in class it made up for in excitement at Croydon on February 12-14.

Roy Morley, of Gloucestershire, won the men's singles, but he was the only seed to survive the quarters.

Derek Basden, of Kent, was the losing finalist, but for a long time he threatened to upset even this last hope of the seeding committee's original choice.

Basden, who had already accounted for Terry Densham and Vic Ireland (semi-final), took the initiative from the start with a determined and varied attack to win the first game. Morley levelled at game-all and the decidier see-sawed wildly to 20-all, with both players missing match points before Morley edged out at 27-25.

It was an example of the modern game at its best; both players deserve praise for their sustained aggression, their flexibility in switching between attack and defence, and Basden in particular for his high top spin defence.

Neville Braybrook had a good run, putting out Dave Lowe and Les Haslam before falling to Morley in the semi-final.

The women's singles final brought the South of England Closed, while Geoff Salter and Pauline Hemmings won the junior singles.


Two Fine Wins for Mary

Mary Shannon enhanced her world championship prospects by beating Maria Alexandru, world's No. 1 seed, and Ella Constantinescu in England's 6-2 win over Rumunia at Tottenham on February 20. They were two workmanlike wins to follow up her success in the Czechoslovakian Open.

Denis Neale added to his list of wins over top continental stars by beating Dan Giurgiuca in straight games. Chester Byrnes also beat the Rumanian holder of the English Open but he needed three games.

Ella Constantinescu figured in both Rumanian successes, beating Diane Rowe and pairing with Giurgiuca to overcome Wright and Miss Shannon.

Results: D. Neale bt D. Giurgiuca 21, 18, G. C. Barnes bt Giurgiuca -20, 16, 12; M. Shannon bt E. Constantinescu 17, 19, bt M. Alexandru 18, -16, 10, D. Rowe bt Alexkus 13, 10; lost to Constantinescu -19, -18.

HIS very many friends will have heard with the deepest regret of the death last month of Mr. W. H. “Bill” Mildenhall after several months’ illness. One of the gentlest, kindest and most jovial of men, Bill endeared himself to all with whom he came into contact for his qualities of character and the warmth of friendship he extended so freely and readily. He was a man—and there are few—who may be truly said that he was never known to speak ill of anyone.

His greatest love, after his devoted wife Betty, was table tennis. It is perhaps fitting, therefore, that the last thing he read was the January issue of “Table Tennis.” A player of very modest performance he devoted his time and energy to administration at all levels of the game.

He was a tireless worker for over twenty-five years for the Wembley and Harrow League, of which he was Chairman until he moved from the district into retirement a few years ago.

A Vice-President of the Middlesex Table Tennis Association, he was for many years a member of the Middlesex County Committee and hardly a national event passed without Bill being there. And there too, always was Betty: both ever ready to take on any task however tough, tedious or menial, without regard to personal inconvenience or cost.

The first helpers to arrive at any event and the last to leave: and, meanwhile, the most hardworking and reliable. The London circuit has already felt their absence since they moved down to the coast, but it is hard to realise that we shall not be seeing Bill again at even the major events. His countless friends will wish to extend their deepest sympathy to Betty, for someone for whose friendship and acquaintance so many were richer and for whose passing so many—including table tennis—are the poorer.

NORMAN REEVE.

FAMILIES LINKED

TWO prominent Kent table tennis families are linked with the engagement of DEREK BASDEN and CHRISTINE CARTER, regular members of the county team, seen here. Both are Woolwich players and figure in the county rankings, Derek at No. 2 and Christine at No. 3.

Derek’s father, Stan Basden, is a Kent selector and a coach, while Christine’s father, Len Carter, is a former chairman of Woolwich and District T.T.A.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

NO LACK OF GIRLS

by LAURIE LANDRY

ENGLAND will not be lacking for girls in the junior international team over the next few years. They are already around. Karenza Smith, of Essex, and Judy Heans, of Berkshire, who made their debuts against West Germany this month, still have another three seasons as juniors, while two more of the newcomers, Linda Henwood (Essex) and Maureen Hepworth (Northumberland) have another two years before entering the senior ranks.

Karenza and Linda were picked to play Germany at Belvedere on March 3, while Maureen and Judy were due to meet them the following night at Crawley.

Pauline Hemmings (Herts), the No. 1 girl, was picked for both matches. There were no newcomers among the boys for these matches, Stuart Gibbs (Essex), Michael Johns (Cheshire) and Alan Hydes (Yorkshire) playing in both.

Waiting on the sidelines as reserves were Geoff Saltier (Surrey), who may well win his badge before the end of the season, and Diane Simpson (Essex).

Salter, after some indifferent performances early in the season, has settled down to really good play. He followed up his Essex Open Junior win, where he beat Gibbs in the final, by taking the boys’ title in the South of England Open. He has been Surrey’s most successful tournament player this season.

Another eye catching youngster is Ingrid Sykes, of Warwickshire, who beat Lesley Proudlock, No. 8 in the senior ranking, in the recent Midland Open.

BECONTREE CLOSES

Table Tennis Centres Limited regret to announce that they have been forced to close down their Becontree Table Tennis Centre due to circumstances beyond their control. They apologise for any inconvenience caused through this action.
ONE HUNDRED UP

PAT TAYLOR created Nottingham table tennis history on January 8 when she made her 100th representative appearance for the Nottingham and District Association.

She reached her century in the Midland League match against Worcester and celebrated by winning both her games.

No other Nottingham player, man or woman, has reached the 100 before, although several players have approached the mark only to leave the district or retire from the game.

Mrs. Hammond, who is the women’s team captain, started playing competitive table tennis in 1947 with the Saviour’s Club, and made her first appearance for Nottingham against Wolverhampton in 1949. With the exception of 1955 and 1957 she has been in the team ever since.

With only four breaks, Mrs. Hammond has been Nottingham women’s champion since 1951.

Mrs. Hammond’s table tennis interests spread beyond playing. She plays her part in the administrative side; serves on the management committee; has been a selector; and is match secretary of the Youth League.

R.A.F. BEAT BATH

BRILLIANT play by Dick Clode and Brian Mayfield, both of whom were unbeaten in singles and doubles, paved the way for the R.A.F. to beat Bath City 6-4 on January 30.

Both beat Bob House and Don Morris in the singles, then Clode paired with Fred Clayton and Mayfield with Neville Sherrick for successful doubles partnerships.

There was little between the two sides and it was the doubles which tipped the balance to the R.A.F. However, it was the Wiltshire-based Clode who had the final say when he beat House, an old rival, in the last match.

The match was part of the R.A.F. build-up for their tour of Cyprus.


**AROUND EAST ANGLIA**

**FIELDS MAKES NORFOLK HISTORY**

CHRIS Fields made Norfolk table tennis history when he became the first player from Great Yarmouth to win the County Closed championships at the Norwich Civic Defences Headquarters. He defeated the defending champion Alan Coby in a deciding set in the semi-final at 22-20, 13-21, 21-10.

Fields then went on to beat Tony Cooper, of Norwich CEYMS, in the final 21-17, 19-21, 21-17.

Betty Cassell marked up her tenth win in the women's singles, and in winning the women's doubles with Mary Turner and the mixed with Coy, completed the treble for the eighth time.

Coby gained a second title in the men's doubles with D. Skegg.

**TWINS TAKE OVER**

JEANNE and Diane Youngs, the 14-year-old Lowestoft twins, are taking over as Suffolk's top women's players. Jeanne started the big break-through by winning the Lowestoft singles and quickly followed up as top scorer in the second of the Leading Lady tournament.

The twins were also runners-up in the women's doubles with her sister, held at Great Moulton.

Surprises in this event were the exit of Vic Kebbie, David Mann and Brian Buckle, the top seeds at the quarter-final stage.

Philip Clarke gave an encouraging display in the boys' singles.

**SUFFOLK**

The Suffolk table tennis season has been well under way with the teams from Great Yarmouth emerging from the 14-year-old Yarmouth Juniors to win their first title, and are as popular as ever.

Another Diane and Mary Youngs, are now in full swing and are making life somewhat hectic.

For preparation for the Suffolk Indoor Tournament, held at Wymondham, Norfolk, the pair have lost 0-9 to Manchester at Great Yarmouth. The tournament was stopped in the last 10 when they lost 19, 22.

**NEW men's singles champion**

A NEW men's singles champion emerged from the Cambridgeshire Closed championship at Cambridge Corn Exchange on January 24 when Martin White beat John Thurston over three close games. His bold attacking role proved too good for Thurston's defence.

Valerie Gillam kept her hold on last year's singles and also the mixed doubles, which she shared with Mrs. Cornwell. They were beaten in the final by Carol Chapman and Mrs. S. Grainger.

Ron Nunn and Keith Chapman retained the men's doubles and Alan Procter kept the boys' cup.

The Suffolk Tournament at Great Moulton was won by John Youngs, and the women's singles, and also the mixed doubles, which she shared with Mrs. Cornwell. They were beaten in the final by Carol Chapman and Mrs. S. Grainger.

 roaming for the Epping Forest in the 14-year-old Epping Forest tournament at Great Moulton.

**FINGLAND**

They were finalists for the Under-17's event in the Huntingdonshire championships, the title going to Diane and Mary and so have Steet's in the 14-year-old Maxfield twins. There is no suggestion of them emulating Diane Rowe and Mary Shannon, but they are already making a name for themselves locally.

For the Under-17's event in the Huntingdonshire championships, the title going to Diane and Mary who also went on to win the girls' Under-21's final, beating Barbara Webb, of Huntingdon.

Harry Pearce, a promising youngsters from Ramsey, won the Boys' Under-17's, but lost narrowly in the Under-21's final to Eddy Haslop of St. Neots. Haslop proved just too little for the better backhand attack.

With teams from each of the county league sides taking part the East Midlands League offer a good guide to the county selection committee.
LAURIE LANDRY had a taste of past glories when he won the Midland Open at Birmingham on February 6. It was his first major success since sacrificing a brilliant future with a courageous act in saving the life of his nephew in a car accident in 1961.

It will be recalled that when Landry was taken to hospital he was given only 30 minutes to live but after being unconscious for 10 days made a miraculous recovery from multiple injuries which included a triple fracture of the skull and a double fracture of the leg.

It was a miracle that he was ever able to play again, but he has persevered and the Midland title is the reward.

Among Landry's victims in this return to championship status were Brian Hill, Derek Wall, and in the final Roy Morley, England's tenth ranking player.

Landry has not produced form like this since his accident and it was certain good to see him moving so fluently.

His courage in fighting his way back like this is an outstanding example to all those youngsters who want to give up when the going is hard.

Partnered by Alan Cornish, Landry reached the quarter-finals of the men's doubles before losing to the eventual winners, Glen Warwick, of Staffordshire, and Roger Hampshire, of Cheshire.

He partnered Doreen Schofield in the mixed doubles, losing in the third round to David Lowe and Judy Williams.

BIG UPSET

The big upset of the men's singles was the quarter-final defeat of Mike Symonds, the top seed, by Derek Wall at 19 and 18. David Lowe was upset by Louis Kerekes, while Derek Schofield crashed in the first round to Peter Eaton.

Glen Warwick had a good run with wins over Kerekes and Peter Duncombe to reach the semi-final.

Juniors were prominent in the women's singles, with Ingrid Sykes beating eighth ranked Lesley Proudlock, and Linda Henwood bringing down Jackie Canham. Both were stopped by the eventual finalists. Linda lost to Cynthia Duncombe, while Ingrid found Judy Williams too strong in the semi-final. Miss Williams went on to collect the title.

Mrs. Duncome and Miss Proudlock joined forces to win the women's doubles while Miss Canham and they, too, reached the final.

LINCOLNSHIRE

SKERRATT'S SHOCK RETURN

PETER SKERRATT, champion of the early fifties, created a new sensation by beating Brian Hill in the first of the Lincolnshire Closed on February 14. Few people gave Skerratt a chance before the meeting and he thrilled a crowd of more than 200 with this shock upset.

Hill had been champion for three years and fought grimly to keep his title, taking 11 points out of 15 when trailing 1-10. Skerratt was obviously feeling the effects but found a new lease of life and threw everything into an all out attack.

Skerratt, who was first winner of the title in 1950, went into semi-retirement in 1960. He returned at the end of the 1963-64 season to find the game completely changed with the advent of sponge. This great win confirms that he is at last settling down to sponge.

Mrs. W. Eaton was the most successful competitor, winning the women's singles, women's doubles with Mrs. M. Waton, and the mixed with G. Stanley.


Junior Singles: P. GEESON.


SKERRATT'S BIG UPSET
MARCH - 1965

CHESHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

JUDY'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN

MAKING a triumphant return to her native county, Reading resident Judith Heaps captured both the girls' under-15s and 17s titles of the Cheshire Junior Open, held at Birkenhead's Byrne Avenue Baths on February 13, with all the aplomb of a seasoned big game hunter.

RESULTS

UNDER-17s

Boys' Singles: Quarter-Finals: M. Johns (Shropshire) bt E. Todd (Durham) 21-14, 6-21, 21-13; J. Clarke (Lancs.) bt J. Nevin (Cheshire) 21-19, 17-21, 21-17; K. Lawrence (Essex) bt R. Kelly (Lancs.) 19-21, 21-11, 21-14; J. W. Frankland (Lancs.) bt R. Judd (Warwks.) 21-19, 21-10.

Finals: JOHNS bt Clarke 21-14, 21-11; FRANKLAND bt Lawrence 21-14, 21-16.


Finals: HEAPS bt Simpson 22-20, 16-21, 21-18.


Finals: SIMPSON/SMITH bt Heaps 21-15, 10-21, 21-16.


UNDER-15s


Finals: HARMER bt HARMER 21-12, 16-21, 21-17.


Finals: HEAPS bt Simpson 21-17, 21-18.

SUSSEX FOLLOWS

JUST a few hours after the cheers for the English Open have died away, Brighton will again be the scene of table tennis activity... but of a more local nature. The Sussex Closed takes toes over on Sunday, March 7. Graham Whalley and Ann Wootton are definite singles titles against tough opposition.

Whalley has dropped to No. 4 in the country, whereas Raymond Chandler, who recently received a national rating at No. 11, features for the men's title. Jill Williams and San Cundidup are also serious challengers, both being ranked jointly at No. 2 behind Chandler in the country list.

Joyce Sheppard, who now lives at Tonbridge, may be having her final crack at the women's title. She recently scored a win over Mrs. Woodford in the Inter-League Championship.

The new Sussex Junior champions are Terry Riley (Crawley) and Diane Gard (Eastbourne). They are too good for all opposition.

John Woodford.

by George R. Yates

Displaying a range of strokes, the mastery of which belied her tender years, this resolute daughter of former Cheshire county player Derek S. Heaps, was not to be side-tracked by the wiles of Diane Simpson and Karenza Smith.

Only together did the Essex pair succeed against Miss Heaps, partnered by Ingrid Sykes, for in single combat the glory was reflected in having contested the two finals with so competent a champion.

CHESHIRE'S DAY

It was indeed Cheshire's day throughout, for back on the winning trail from out of the jungle of sundry defeats was home internationals Mike Johns with his first ever junior triumph over Frankland.

Not without a struggle, however, did he succeed in the major event, being extended to the very limit by the Preston League's closed champion, Jack W. Frankland, of St. Annes, a bonny fighter if ever I saw one.

Together these two neighbouring county players gave West Lancashire's Peter Eaton and Brian Keates, of Walsall, a head start and then proceeded to beat them by a "field."

Once more opposed in the mixed, John with Miss Sykes had the edge over Frankland with Miss Simpson.

A second success to be credited to Essex was in the boys' under-15s won by Keith Lawrence in a fluctuating encounter with Paul Harmer of Leighton Buzzard.

Before going down to Frankland in the under-17s semis, Lawrence was given an initial fright by Robert Kelly of Bolton, whose chief representative, John Clarke, failed to repeat his victory over Johns in the Midland Open in the other semi.

Organised by the Wirral League, who were slow on this occasion to get into their usual stride, grumbles at the Open Tournaments Committee in allowing the South Yorkshire, embarking junior events, to run in conjunction seemed justified more especially with the South of England Restricted also running at Croydon.

Much fewer, comparative with the South, it should never be that two Northern tournaments should share the same day.

YORKSHIRE OPEN

BOBBY STEVENS, after a season among the a'bo-rans, came back to something like his old form to win the Yorkshire Open at York on February 20 (writes Laurie Landry). Moving well he staged a great recovery to beat his young Essex colleague, Stuart Gibbs, 21-14, 15-21, 22-20 in the final.

Gibbs should have made the title safe when he led 15-10 and 19-16, but Stevens refused to be beaten. Gibbs had staked a somewhat similar come-back in winning his semi-final against Les Haslam, who had led a game and 19-17 only to fall away.

Haslam had previously beaten Laurie Landry.

Gibbs and Stevens teamed up to win the men's doubles, the final of which was the best of the tournament, when they beat Landry and Alan Cornish 21-18, 9-21, 21-19.

Gibbs was also successful in the mixed doubles with the Northumberland junior Maureen Heppell. They were too good for George Livesey and Diane Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson won the women's singles, producing a good solid game to beat Betty Cassell, who in the semi-final had volleyed her way past Pat Dainty. The women's doubles went to Connie Moore and Doreen Schofield.


Page Twenty-one

TABLE TENNIS
## Table Tennis

**WEST OF SCOTLAND**

**INVASION REPELLED**

The West of Scotland Open found a new lease of life and a new crop of champions this season, with the best of the Scots generally repelling a strong challenge from across the border.

Maureen H. Heppell, the 14-year-old Newcastle lass, was the only successful invader, defeating Olive Hawkins in the final of the women’s singles. But for the rest of the events the Scots were on top.

All holders were defending but the only one to be successful was Jimmy Dow who kept his half share of the men’s doubles, which he won this time with Malcolm Sugden. Dow collected a second title in the mixed with Mrs. Hawkins.

Twice champion Tommy McMichael lost his men’s singles in the first round, where he found Ian Barclay too strong for him. Barclay, however, failed to consolidate his success and bowed out to Jim Carswell, who in turn fell to Sugden in the final.

Sugden held his own in the ladies challenge by beating Derek Schofield in the quarters and Roger Hammony in the semi, thus securing his first West of Scotland title, while Carswell also made the final for the first time.

Little Maureen Heppell gave an outstanding display in the women’s singles, lifting the title without loss of a game. Mrs. Hawkins could make little impression on this talented youngster who was equally dominant against Miss Coombs and Doreen Robertson in the quarters and semi respectively.

Mrs. Hawkins never found the going easy, for she was taken to three games by Bristol, who also beat Exeter and Cardiff, winning over Exeter and Cardiff, pun right away in the men’s division, while Exeter lead the ladies division on games aggregate from Weston and Newport.

Exeter Ladies suffered their first defeat at the hands of Bristol, who also beat Plymouth 3-4 and Swindon 9-0. Mrs. Golding tipped the scales for Bristol when she beat Mrs. Crosby in the deciding rubber. An 8-1 win over Swindon, however, boosted Exeter’s aggregate.

Six rubbers went to three games in Bristol’s 7-2 win over Exeter, but their win over Cardiff was remarkable in that they won the first five games then lost the next four.

Newport, the previous leaders, were also passed by Weston who scored two fine wins at against Cheltenham and 6-3 against Bath.

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**NEW LEADERS**

The leadership of both the men’s and women’s sections of the Western Counties League have changed hands. Bristol, with wins over Exeter and Cardiff, pull right away in the men’s division, while Exeter lead the ladies’ division on games aggregate from Weston and Newport.

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**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title and Venue</th>
<th>Extra Events</th>
<th>Organising Secretary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>WELSH OPEN Dumfries Pace, J.B.S.</td>
<td>Drill Hall, Cardiff</td>
<td>Mrs. Roy Evans, 1, Iqwyn-Grant Road, Cardiff. Tel. 34744.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Stevenage Open Youth Centre, J.B.S.</td>
<td>New Town Centre, Stevenage, V.S.</td>
<td>E. Dickenson, 6, Edwards House, Stevenage, Herts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Great Open Standard Telephones, J.B.S.</td>
<td>Corporation Road, Newport, Mon. Closing date: April 10</td>
<td>Growe Mottle, 29, Carriebrooke Road, Newport, Mon.</td>
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**MARCH - 1965**
MAUREEN HEPPELL

Arthur Chivers continued to show improvement with shock wins over Stuart Lennie and Peter Hoyles. Lennie is considering a move to London when his apprenticeship terminates this year. He is maintaining a tight hold on the First Division championship, but no doubt his game would benefit from increased top-class competition.

Local players are certainly thriving on Open tournaments this year. Two dozen participants travelled to Bolton for the Lancashire and at York we were represented by almost three dozen.

North Shields Y.M.C.A. "A" are still one of Northumberland's leading competitors, and sets a fine example in organisation and deportment on and off the table.

As expected, Wright collected a second title in the mixed doubles, partnering Irene Ogus for a straight games win over Harrison and Miss Bell.

Men's Singles: Quarter-Finals: H. Wright (Essex) bt G. Godling (Essex) 20, 17. C. Warren (Surrey) bt D. Baden (Kent) 19, 14. A. Lindsay (Middlesex) bt R. Metcalfe (Kent) 13, 14, 1. Harrison (Gloucester) bt A. Piddock (Kent) 9, 3, 15.


Final: HARRISON bt Wright 15, -17, 15.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: L. Bell (Essex) bt I. Ogus (Middlesex) 10, 15, J. McCreedy (Essex) bt J. Beadey (Middlesex) 14, 13.

Final: BELL bt McCreedy 5, 16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: WARREN/WRIGHT bt R. Baker (Essex)/G. Slater (Surrey) 22, 13, M. Ormrod (Middlesex)/D. Brown (Essex) bt S. Hill/D. Whittaker (Kent) 18, 16.

Final: WARREN/WRIGHT bt Creamer/Brown 19, 15.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: M. Piper (Surrey)/McCree bt J. Beadey/K. Stokes (Kent) 20, 16, 17. BELL/P. Martin (Essex) bt L. Henwood (Essex)/P. Hemmings (Hertford) 18, 16.

Final: PIPER/McCree bt Bell/Martin 19, 16.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: WRIGHT/Ogus bt K. Baker (Essex)/G. Slater (Essex) 13, 21, 17. HARRISON/Bell bt Piddock/Piper 19, 9.

Final: WRIGHT/Ogus bt Harrison/Bell 19, 19.

Youth Singles (Boys): Semi-Finals: S. Gibbs (Essex) bt R. Morgan (Gloucester) 13, 14. B. Hill (Surrey) bt K. Barratt (Essex) 15, 12.

Final: Gibbs bt Hill 21, 19, 13.

Youth Singles (Girls): Semi-Finals: HEMMINGSEssex) bt S. Ogus (Essex) 10, 19, R. Etheridge (Kent) bt J. Sibley (Essex) 15, 19.

Final: Venner bt Etheridge 12, 19.
CONVINCING wins over both Surrey and Kent have taken Gloucestershire to the top of the Premier Division on games aggregate over Middlesex, who narrowly beat Essex in a strange match. Essex are in third place but with a match in hand, Everything is, therefore, boiling up to an exciting finish with March 20 the key date. That is when Gloucestershire meet Middlesex and Essex entertain Surrey, in the vital fixture. Should Essex win, as expected, they will be as good as home for their one remaining fixture is against pointless Staffordshire which should give them a sufficiently wide margin to collect the title for the first time.

But should Essex lose to Surrey, then the winners of the Gloucestershire-Middlesex clash will be champions.

Ian Harrison and Bryan Merritt, who have dropped only four sets between them this season, were in great form for Gloucestershire, although Harrison fell a victim to Connie Warren in the Surrey match.

Warren also beat Denis Neale in Surrey's 5-4 win over Yorkshire, but lost to Peter Duncombe.

The challengers from this division entertain Somerset, who safely disposed of Cornwall to win the Second West for the first time.

Cornwall actually led 3-1, only to lose five of the next six. Wiltshire and Devon drew, a fair result for two teams separated by only two games over the whole season.

MauriceBillingham was most impressive in Warwickshire's 10-0 win over Nottinghamshire at Mansfield, where such high standards of play were something new.

John Spencer, who beat Welsh No, 1, Graham Gear, and Stella Jones, who overcame Sandra Morgan, scored Monmouthshire's only successes against Glamorgan. Buckinghamshire, although held to a draw by Hampshire, have won the Southern Division, where Suffolk proved too strong for Huntingdonshire.
maintained their challenge to War­
wickshire in the Midland Division by
beating Oxfordshire.

Kent, battered by an 8-2 win over
Sussex, have won the Junior South,
where Surrey slipped in being held to
a draw by Hampshire, despite an un­
beaten effort from Geoff Salter. The
Hampshire girls were too strong.

Judy Heap made a successful début
for Cheshire against Durham, but
Mike Johns, whose senior record
is better, lost to Todd and was taken
close by Neal.

Margaret Cole won both singles
and mixed doubles for Dorset against
Lancashire, who scored an easy win
over Cambridgeshire.

Royden Halfpenny won both sin­
gle &s at his debut for Worcestershire
in the Midland Division by

Bletchley

Lancashire

Yorkshire

Staffordshire

Hampshire

Bedfordshire

Nottinghamshire

Warwickshire

Southampton

Bedford

Hants

St. Neots

Men’s Section

BEDFORD'S DOUBLE

LEAD

BEDFORD'S men's and women’s teams
have identical records as they make
the pace in the South East Midland
League. Both are unbeaten from five
matches with games aggregates of 42-8.

Northampton appear to be the only
side with any real chance of making a
challenge in the men's section, while
they checked Cambridge City, their
nearest rivals in the Women’s section, 7-3.

Cambridge City had their revenge in
the Junior win over the Bedford to edge Peterborough out of the leadership.

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**PREMIER DIVISION**

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<th>DIVISIONAL TABLES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P. W. D. L. F. A. P.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloucestershire ..... 6 5 0 1 24 18 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middlesex ..... 6 5 0 1 36 19 10</td>
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<td>Essex ..... 6 3 0 3 16 19 10</td>
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<td>Surrey ..... 5 3 0 2 26 19 6</td>
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<td>Kent ..... 5 2 0 2 19 26 6</td>
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<td>Hampshire ..... 5 1 0 4 13 23 3</td>
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<td>Yorkshire ..... 5 0 0 5 17 26 0</td>
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<td>Staffordshire ..... 4 0 0 4 37 0</td>
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| **SECOND DIVISION SOUTH** |
| **SOUTHERN DIVISION** |
| **MIDLAND DIVISION** |
| **Final Table** |
| **BEDFORD'S DOUBLE LEAD** |

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**T A B L E TENNIS**

**DETAILED RESULTS**

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<th>PREMIER DIVISION</th>
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<td>Middlesex 5, Essex 4</td>
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| **SECOND DIVISION SOUTH** |
| **SECOND DIVISION NORTH** |
| **SOUTH-WEST** |
| **SOUTHERN DIVISION** |
| **MIDLAND DIVISION** |
| **Final Table** |

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**BEDFORD’S DOUBLE LEAD**

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OFFICIAL NEWS

A.G.M. The venue for the E.T.T.A. annual general meeting has been changed, and this will now be at the Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham (on Saturday July 3, 1965). Maurice Goldstein is making all relevant arrangements on behalf of the E.T.T.A.

National Umpires. At their meeting on January 30, 1965, the National Council ratified the recommendation by the National Umpires' and Referees' Committee that the following two county umpires be made national umpires: A. HORN (Kent) and J. WRIGHT (Middlesex).

Master Points Scheme. The National Council have accepted the resignation of Mr. G. R. Harrower as administrator of the scheme, and have conveyed to him their thanks for all the work he has done in connection with the scheme. Walter Mitton, of Yorkshire, very kindly agreed to act as administrator of the Master Points Scheme for the rest of this season.

London Boroughs. The National Council have agreed allocation of the new London boroughs in accordance with the following recommendation of the E.T.T.A. Boundaries Committee:

The boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham, Bexley and Bromley to be part of Kent.

Barking, Havering, Redbridge, Newham, Waltham Forest and Hackney to be part of Essex.

Croydon, Sutton, Merton, Kingston, Wandsworth, Lambeth, Southwark Richmond-on-Thames to be part of Surrey.

Hounslow, Hillingdon, Ealing, Harrow, Brent, Hammersmith, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Camden, Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Islington, City and Tower Hamlets to constitute the County of Middlesex.

* These boroughs are subject to further discussion between the counties concerned, and may be re-allocated.

Money Raising Scheme. The National Council have approved the running of an E.T.T.A. draw for next season, proceeds to be shared between the E.T.T.A. and the participating counties and leagues. Conrad Jaschke, of Kent, has kindly agreed to run this draw for the E.T.T.A. Details will be circulated in the near future.

Team Selections

v. W. German Juniors, at Bevedere, March 3: S. Gibbs (Essex), M. Johns (Cheshire), A. Hydes (Yorkshire). Miss P. Hemmings (Herts.), Miss L. Henwood (Essex), Miss K. Smith (Essex), Non-playing captain: L. F. Landry (Middlesex).

v. W. German Juniors, at Crawley, March 4: S. Gibbs (Essex), M. Johns (Cheshire), A. Hydes (Yorkshire), Miss P. Hemmings (Herts.), Miss M. Heppell (Northumberland), Miss J. Heaps (Berkshire).

v. Romania, at Tottenham Municipal Hall, February 20: G. C. Barnes (Essex), B. D. Wright (Middlesex), Miss M. Shannon (Surrey), Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex).

Non-playing captains: R. J. Craydon (Surrey), J. A. Leach (Essex), V. Czechoslovakia, at Harlow, March 2: G. C. Barnes (Essex), B. D. Wright (Middlesex), I. O. Harrison (Gloucestershire), Miss M. Shannon (Surrey), Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex). Non-playing captain: R. J. Craydon (Surrey).

MASTER POINTS SCHEME

Please note that the new Administrator of the Scheme is: Mr. W. Mitton, 16, The Whins, Newby, Scarborough, Yorkshire (Phone Scalby 202), to whom all correspondence regarding the Scheme should be addressed in future.

ILFORD GET TOUGH

ILFORD League are taking a firm stand with players failing to turn up for representative matches. One boy has been suspended from the League, another suspended for the remainder of the season, and a third cautioned. This has seriously weakened their junior side which earlier looked like running East London, the leaders, close for the Inter-League title.

East London and Ilford share the number of points at the top of the First Division which will probably be decided when they clash on March 11.

"Pip" Gallagher, former Barking League secretary, returns to the administrative field as Basildon League secretary following the resignation of Stan Olton. Romford's Peter Smith is the newest County Umpire, while Karenza Smith and Linda Henwood stepped forward as junior internationals in the match against West Germany.

Tony Condon returned to the Chelmsford League Championships to regain the men's singles he last held in 1959. Charlie Wheeler marked up his 13th successive win in the veteran singles, and also won the consolation.

C. Carroll won the men's doubles with R. Caldwell and the mixed with Mrs. Carroll, who also won the women's doubles with S. Orrin. Mrs. J. Grozier won the women's singles.

Nominations for the Cori Woodcock Memorial Award are due in March and should be sent to Harry Walker, 80, Derham Gardens, Upminster.

Roy Hayes.