MARTA LUZOVÁ has a big smile for our photographer as she relaxed with a copy of "Table Tennis" after winning the English Open title.
Apathy is Retarding Table Tennis

Says

MAURICE KRIS

I HAVE just returned from the English Open Championships. For three nostalgic days, after a long absence from my favourite sporting arenas, I have been completely absorbed in watching thrilling Table Tennis, renewing numerous old friendships, and recapturing once again the excitement and fervour of International competition.

All the old characteristics and tensions were still there from the devastating precision and speed of the new European stars to the hubbub of criticism which encircled our own No. 1 player; from the analytical approach of the Continental team captains to a Finals night which will long be remembered for the finest Ladies' singles match that I have seen.

After such a tonic I should have returned home with a feeling of elation and pride that Table Tennis continues to boom and that in spite of vast changes still has that magic power to enthral and captivate an audience.

DISILLUSIONED

Regretfully, I must admit, I was disappointed, disillusioned and somewhat angry at the way the game is held back.

I found that the basic problem which has hamstrung the E.T.T.A. for as long as I can remember remains unsolved. Wonderful opportunities of helping all who play the game are being lost in an apathy, which, if allowed to continue, can only further retard table tennis from taking its rightful place in the world of sport. I detected an undertone of frustration among many of the officials who give so much of their time and energy in administering the sport.

Twenty-seven years ago, at the early age of 13, I had the privilege of playing for the Birmingham Senior side. This was followed by a not unsuccessful career spanning a period of over 20 years. Naturally I have grown up with a sentimental attachment to the game and feel justly entitled, therefore, to ponder a few pertinent questions.

Where for instance, are the outstanding signs of progress after the three decades since I was a youth? Why is the E.T.T.A. with its huge and increasing following of players not rolling in money instead of being constantly financially embarrassed?

And why, in 1965, after the lead we have always set to the rest of the world, should it be necessary for a famous sports columnist like Peter Wilson, in his report following the Finals night, state, "Although Table Tennis is not a major sport..."

Without fear of contradiction I claim what I have argued many times in the past, that Table Tennis is far too cheap.

Year after year we allow ourselves to degenerate into a participants-only sport, without due attention to the paying public at large. Compared with many other sports, which cannot boast anything like our playing numbers, our public image is still that of the game played on the old dining room table.

Our vast programme of provincial tournaments throughout the length and breadth of the country often bursts at the seams with entrants, yet some of our outmoded playing conditions do not alter from one season to the next. How can we expect to reach the status of a major sport when our presentation is so poor?

It is ludicrous that in this day and age, with an affiliation of nigh on 100,000 players we should have to depend on television fees to import a top Continental side to these shores!

THE REMEDY

From whichever angle you argue these problems, the remedy lies in one word—money. If every affiliated player pays a national levy of just £1 per annum, just think what the Association could do for the game in general.

It could afford to gradually establish first-class playing centres in all the main provincial towns of the country, with permanent coaching facilities.

It could make grants to local associations, establish a network of professional coaching throughout the entire country, and could ensure that standards of playing conditions are raised wherever table tennis is played.

Every local tournament could be transformed into a "minor" English Open—where each table is sited in its own spacious court, and the onlooker can witness the game as it should really be seen in action.

And it could comfortably bring to this country the outstanding teams of the world, while we could export the finest players we can produce as dignified representatives, without the need to resort to fund-raising tactics.
Yet I am informed on good authority that the E.T.T.A. would be only too happy at this stage to receive an affiliation fee of 2s. 6d. per head! Surely they cannot be denied this meagre sum to allow them to compete with the other sporting nations of the world.

For years now our affiliation fees have been completely out of touch with the times, and desperately need overhauling if progress is to be made. If you doubt my views that the sport is too cheap then try playing ten-pin bowling, or join a golf, tennis, squash or badminton club.

Who is to blame for this stalemate? I cannot believe that the vast majority of players, who get such a tremendous kick out of playing table tennis throughout the season, would refuse an extra bob or two to help the Association to run efficiently, and foster the game generally. After all, the affluent youngsters of Britain today think nothing of buying new “pop” records each week, and seem well able to afford a new sponge rubber which sells upwards of 30s.!

OFFICIALS TO BLAME

The responsibility rests with all those league officials and management committees whose duty it is to put across to the players under their jurisdiction the need to give full support to the national body. If their sport is to remain healthy and vigorous. So far they have not only failed to take the necessary bold step forward of applying a little sound common sense and business acumen to what should be a straightforward and clear cut issue.

I started my table tennis career in an era when there were no weekend coaching schemes, county representation or even junior internationals. But it is high time that youngsters coming into the sport—and for that matter, all players—are encouraged to realise that just the provision of a bat, shoes, and shorts are insufficient if ever we hope to see a sports columnist refer to table tennis as a “major” sport.

HARRY VENNER
Coach to the Champions:
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JACK CARRINGTON’S NOTEBOOK

E.T.T.A. TRAINING CENTRES
A NEW VENTURE

THE need for training centres where regular programmes of player-development can be carried out, where experiments can be made, and where table tennis can be seen in a proper sports setting, has long been felt. It is of obvious benefit that advances being made by our international rivals, and by the fact that our own players living in convenient centres of top-class play, reach much better standards than those less favourably situated.

We shall never overcome this problem entirely, but new plans for regular Training Centres, designed to offer facilities to a far wider circle of ambitious players than has previously been possible, as now materialising.

By long-term co-operation with the splendid new Sports Centres now existing, we are setting up:
E.T.T.A. EASTERN TRAINING CENTRE:
at the Sportcentre, Hammarskjold Road, Harlow, Essex, and
E.T.T.A. NORTHERN TRAINING CENTRE:
at the Sports Centre, Parkside Road, off Manchester Road, Bradford, Yorks.

Plans are also afoot to have a Western Centre in the near future.

We expect the demand to be such that we shall eventually have to limit membership to 2 sections of about 40 each, namely:

A. TRAINING CLUB MEMBERS: Players of inter-club standard who will have a programme of mutual organised practice, varied with match-play practice etc.

B. COACHING CLUB MEMBERS: Mainly for school-age juniors.

There will obviously be special sessions for Coaches’ Study, official trials etc., but before making precise arrangements we would like keen players and pupils and coaches to meet at the Centres and discuss with us the most practical types of programme.

We are, therefore, inviting all serious applicants for any section to attend on the “Trial Days” as shown: when 12 tables will be available at each Centre:

Harlow: Sundays from 2 to 6.45 p.m.
April 4th, May 2nd, May 30th, June 27th.
Bradford: Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
May 9th, June 13th, July 11th, August 8th.

There will be a period allowed for parents or escorts (car drivers, etc.) to have a game on these days, provided they have plimsolls and sports shirt.


DESTINED FOR THE TOP

A BACKROOM boy who could well be destined for one of the top offices in table tennis administration when the national elections come round later this month is Tony Wickens, of Slough.

A 30-year-old solicitor, he may not be so widely known as some candidates, but his administrative abilities are held in high regard. At a national level he is secretary of the E.T.T.A. Rules Committee and member of the Standing Orders Committee. He was also chairman of the committee that heard Chester Barnes’ appeal.

There are few people who have had a wider experience of organising table tennis than Wickens, who first showed his abilities in running his school team at the age of 15.

He progressed to London University, where he became treasurer of Kings College, and later took over as treasurer and captain of Norwich Y.M.C.A.

Business then took him to Buckinghamshire and he was quickly found a place in their administration, being appointed the county treasurer in 1958. From 1957 to 1961 he was secretary of Buckingham League and in 1960-1 chairman of Bletchley League. For the past three years he has served on the committee of the Slough League and he is also chairman of the Slough Community Centre T.T.C.

But it is not only in the administrative side that Wickens has figured in table tennis. As a player he represented London University and achieved county status with Buckinghamshire. He has also been a county umpire since 1956.

Undoubtedly, Wickens could be a valuable asset to the E.T.T.A.
BARNES IN TROUBLE AGAIN

CHESTER BARNES has a habit of getting himself into hot water with officialdom. And his performances at the English Open were no exception (Writets Harrison Edwards).

Twice, in the team final against Rumania, and in the singles against Stellan Bengston, of Sweden, he lost with such little effort that the impression grew that he had thrown his matches. Certainly they were not performances in keeping with a country's No. 1 player, and it upset the whole business as officials.

After fighting back then losing the first game against Dorin Giurgiuca, when the Rumanian had a spot of luck with a couple of shots, Barnes served wildly off the table and appeared to lose all interest, slumping to defeat which spelled the end of any hopes England might have cherished how it was described by E.T.T.A. chairman Ivor Eyles, who added, "It may be one thing for him to do that when playing for himself in singles but he should remember he is playing for England."

The next day came a repeat performance, this time when playing for himself. But the damage had been done. He was accused of having no heart to fight and if some folk could have had their way he would have been drawn from the World Championship team.

There was much discussion over the weekend, and before the championships ended the following official statement was issued:

"To prevent further speculation about the team to represent the Association at the World Championships at Yugoslavia in April the E.T.T.A. wish to confirm that the teams to take part will be that already announced: G. C. Barnes, I. O. Harrison, D. Neale, B. D. Wright, Miss L. Bell, Miss D. Rowe, Miss M. Shannon. Non-playing captains: J. Leach, R. J. Crayden.

"At the same time the Association wishes it to be clear beyond all doubt that a serious view will be taken of any misbehaviour by any player either on or off the table. Any such actions are contrary to the high standards expected to be observed by those representing the Association and will be flown home immediately."

Although a copy of this was given to every member of the team, it was undoubtedly an indirect warning to Barnes. It seems almost certain however, that this is a final warning and that unless Barnes mends his ways, his international career will be finished.

CHESTER BARNES

Picture by Dennis Offer

DUE TO JEKYLL AND HYDE TEMPERAMENT

Says Johnny Leach

CHESTER BARNES is in trouble with everyone, from the chairman of the English Table Tennis Association down, because he appeared to throw away vital matches in the recent English Open.

Certainly cannot condone Chester's behaviour at Brighton. A lesser performer might have been axed altogether for such an act.

But everyone knows that Chester Barnes is England's best player and, at his best, a potential world champion, so surely his case deserves special study.

The rest of the trouble is Chester's Jekyll and Hyde temperament which, at present, he's unable to control.

"No one could feel worse about the Brighton episodes than I do," Chester told me. "I just don't know what comes over me. I'm tensed up, something snaps inside and I become a different person."

There have been flare-ups from 18-year-old Chester before, but now, for the first time, he has admitted to me that he does sometimes lose control of himself during an important game and this is the first step towards a cure.

Chester has shot to fame too fast perhaps for his temperament to keep pace, but he and I are already working on a plan to harness these outbursts.

If Chester Barnes is to reach the heights of which his ability makes him capable, then perhaps the sympathy and understanding of officials and onlookers would be more effective at this stage than over-harsh criticism.

They say that Chester lacks fight. As I see it, he is fighting too hard and fighting with himself.

He is far too good a player for England to throw overboard because of an unreliable temperament which could be cured.

Reprinted from the

SOUTHAMPTON PRODIGY

SOUTHAMPTON predict a great future for Wendy Tunnah, who recently made her début for the county senior team while still a junior. With only two seasons of competitive play she already has the beating of most of the Hampshire seniors.

She is a product of the Mount Pleasant Coaching Centre.

Provisional arrangements are in hand for a school coaching rally at Portsmouth in May.

St. Mary's "A" have retained the Southampton School League with an unbeaten record. They have dropped only one point in two years. Two of their players C. Burden and M. Wilkes headed the averages with hundred per cent records.

D. Davies beat J. Fogwill 16 and 14 to win the singles in the Hampshire Association of Youth Clubs one day tournament at Winchester. Christine Holes won the girls' singles, beating D. Hoskins 4 and 9 in the final.

NEWS OF THE WORLD
It’s Easy to be Well Dressed
by MARY SHANNON

In a tape-recorded interview

MARY SHANNON and Diane Rowe are a team in more senses than one. Their skills on the table not only blend to make them the most formidable doubles combination in the world, but they are also as one in dress. The dress sense of these great champions is an example to follower.

Many spectators commented on their smart turn out in the English Open Championships at Brighton so shortly after their latest success of winning the doubles for the fourth successive season. "Table Tennis" had a fashion talk with Miss Shannon.

Table Tennis: Mary, the neat appearance of Diane and yourself always draws the most appreciative comments from the women as well as the men. Do you always make a habit of dressing alike?

Mary Shannon: Oh, yes, definitely for doubles. Di and I have the same clothes so we always decide which outfit we will wear. It is so much better to be dressed alike; it makes you feel better and when you feel good then you can expect to play well.

All players should aim at a smart appearance. It takes so little extra with these modern materials to be smart and clean. Far too many players neglect their dress, and all too little attention is paid to clean shoes.

T.T.: Do Di and yourself make a point of getting your outfits together and from the same place?

M.S.: Our clothes always come from the same supplier so that we always draw the most appreciative comments from the women as well as the men.

T.T.: What type of outfit do you recommend for women players?

MARY SHANNON

NEW CHAMPIONS

R.O.P.S.A. (Woolwich) defeated Kings Park (Eltham), winners for the past two years, 6-3 in the final of the Kent women's club championship for the Teresa Holmes Trophy. Christine Carter won all three of her singles for Kings Park.

Chris Laming, Chairman of Canterbury, is the newest addition to Kent's umpires' list of County Umpires.

Chris Laming, Chairman of Canterbury, is the newest addition to Kent's umpires' list of County Umpires.

RED FACES FOR KENT'S JUNIORS

After including Miss M. West (Shinum) in the revised junior ranking list, they have discovered she is a senior.
Michael Macclaren’s Glamour Choice

An extra share of glamour this month from the camera of Michael Macclaren. He lined up his sights on the six local beauties, all from the Vogue Model Agency, who acted as programme sellers for the finals of the English Open at Brighton.

All six were superbly dressed in emerald green table tennis outfits, provided by Louis Hoffman. And very nice they looked, too.

It was a touch of genius, which certainly sent the programme sales soaring. But how much nicer it would have been had they been allowed to move freely in the aisles where everyone could see them. Instead they were restricted to the gangway surrounding the auditorium. They were not even allowed to come into the arena for a picture. It seems that some officials have mistaken ideas on etiquette for this was something of an insult to the young ladies to try and hide them like this.

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the Best Players
are still wearing
LOUIS HOFFMAN CLOTHING

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PROFILE OF A CHAMPION

EBERHARDT SCHOLER

EBERHARDT SCHOLER, the new holder of the English Open title, was born into table tennis. Both his parents were players and so were his two brothers, Reinhard and Carlheinz, both of whom are considerably older.

His father was the equivalent of a regional champion back in Germany, while Reinhard, the middle brother, was one time champion of West Germany, a title that Ebby has held for the past four years.

With such a background Ebby was destined to become the champion mantle and he has gone the farthest of any German by winning the English title.

Ebby did not rush into table tennis. Soccer was his big interest, and it still ranks next to his table tennis. He was 13 before he started to play seriously and it took two years for him to reach any standard. Thus he missed the main junior programme. But he quickly overhauled the junior internationals to become the dominant figure of his country.

Once the table tennis bug had bitten everything had to take a back seat, including lawn tennis, another sport where he had considerable skill, because "The table tennis season lasts too long to think about lawn tennis."

He does however play football in the Summer for TUSA, Dusseldorf, his table tennis club.

The bespectacled Scholer, a 24-year-old economics student, is a deceptive player. He looks somewhat slow at first with his tight defensive game, but he quickly overhauled the junior internationals to become the dominant figure of his country.

The explanation of this is his wonderful footwork... a keen eye... good temperament, which that expert Johnny Leach describes as "the best in the game." Scholer is poker-faced, completely unperturbed, no matter what the state of a match. It is as though he plays each point as a match on its own, completely oblivious to anything else. His face never betrays whether he is on top or struggling.

Scholer is completely dedicated and asked what he considers are the main assets of a champion lists:

- Ball control . . . a keen eye . . . good footwork (this is the failing of too many youngster) . . . a fighting spirit. "You must always be ready to fight for every point," was his parting shot.

honours

ENGLAND juniors met with mixed fortunes in their two matches with West Germany, winning 6-3 at Belvedere on March 3 and losing 4-5 at Crawley the following night.

A change in the line-up of the girls on the two nights was partly responsible for the reverse, but much of the responsibility falls on Michael Johns, who was off colour in the second match, lost the singles which he would normally have been expected to win against Bernd Jansen, and also fell in the doubles with Alan Hydes.

Of the four new girls introduced in the two matches Karenza Smith, of Essex, and Maureen Heppell both made convincing debuts, Karenza showed superb temperament in beating Jutta Fedderson 21-11, 21-16 in Belvedere. It was a most convincing performance as she kept the German girl away from the table and was always ready to counterhit. Maureen, playing as steadily as possible yet varying her returns extremely well, beat Christel Lang in straight games at Crawley, after trailing 17-20 in second.

Linda Henwood (Essex) and Judith Heaps (Cheshire), the other two new arrivals, were a little overawed and affected by nerves. Miss Henwood lost to Jutta Kruger at Erith while Miss Heaps fell to Miss Fedderson at Crawley. Miss Henwood played only as well as she was allowed to, while Miss Heaps, who was beaten over three games, might well have won in two with a little more steadiness.

Miss Heaps also lost with Pauline Hemmings in the doubles to Christel Lang and Jutta Kruger. She was the only England player in the two matches who did not figure in a win, Miss Henwood having the consolation of winning a mixed doubles with Stuart Gibbs, who went through both matches without defeat and was the outstanding player.

He beat Willi Grobe, a defensive player, both nights.

Alan Hydes maintained an unbeaten international record when he beat Jansen at Belvedere and Kocher at Crawley.

Against Jansen, Hydes lost the first game then changed his tactics and mixed his game more, making good use of the half volley and the counterhit. He was even more brilliant against Kocher, playing much more of an attacking role than he has ever done before.

At Belvedere: England 6, West Germany 3: Gibbs bt W. Grobe 19, 13, A. Hydes bt B. Jansen 21, 15, 10; M. Johns lost to G. Kocher 16, 10, 19.

Miss P. Hemmings bt Miss C. Lang 12, 15, 16; Miss L. Henwood lost to J. Kruger 15, 13, Miss K. Smith bt Miss J. Pedderson 11, 16.

At Crawley: England 4, West Germany 5: Gibbs bt Grobe 9, 14; Hydes bt Kocher 15, 16; Johns lost to Jansen 23, 19; Hemmings lost to Kruger 16, 19, 18; Heppell bt Lang 14, 22; Miss J. Heaps lost to Pedderson 17, 20, 16.

Hemmings/Heaps lost to Lang/Kruger 13, — 8; Johns/Hydes lost to Grobe/Kocher 16, — 17; Gibbs/Heppell bt Jansen/Pedderson 21, 19, 13.

shared

A CHANGE IN THE LINE-UP OF THE GIRLS ON THE TWO NIGHTS WAS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REVERSE, BUT MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FALLS ON MICHAEL JOHNNS, WHO WAS OFF COLOUR IN THE SECOND MATCH, AND HE QUICKLY OVERHAUL THE JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS TO BECOME THE DOMINANT FIGURE OF HIS COUNTRY.

THE EXPLANATION OF THIS IS HIS WONDERFUL FOOTWORK... A KEEN EYE... GOOD TEMPERAMENT, WHICH THAT EXPERT JOHNNY LEACH DESCRIBES AS "THE BEST IN THE GAME." SCHOLER IS POKER-FACED, COMPLETELY UNPERTURBED, NO MATTER WHAT THE STATE OF A MATCH. IT IS AS THOUGH HE PLAYS EACH POINT AS A MATCH ON ITS OWN, COMPLETELY OBVIOUS TO ANYTHING ELSE. HIS FACE NEVER BETRAY WHAT IS ON Top OR STRUGGLING.

SCHOLER IS COMPLETELY DEDICATED AND ASKED WHAT HE CONSIDERS ARE THE MAIN ASSETS OF A CHAMPION LIST:

- BALL CONTROL . . . A KEEN EYE . . . GOOD FOOTWORK (THIS IS THE FAILING OF TOO MANY YOUNGSTERS) . . . A FIGHTING SPIRIT. "YOU MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO FIGHT FOR EVERY POINT," WAS HIS PARTING SHOT.
Di and Mary Show the Way

LUZOVA'S WINNING WAY

TAKE away Diane Rowe and Mary Shannon and English table tennis would be in a sorry state. This was emphasised once again in the English Open at Brighton on March 4-6 when they held off the challenge of the best in Europe to win the women's team event and the women's doubles.

These were England's only senior successes and in the doubles they were the only defending champions to retain a title.

Eberhardt Scholer provided West Germany with their first ever win in the men's singles, while Czechoslovakia emerged as the leading nation by winning the women's singles with Marta Luzova, the men's doubles with Vladimir Miko and Jaroslav Stanek and the mixed doubles with Miko and Miss Luzova. Rumania exchanged both singles titles for the men's team, when they beat England in the final.

West Germany captured two of the junior titles, the girl's singles with Jutta Krüger and the mixed doubles with Gunter Kocher and Miss Krüger. Jim Langan won the boy's singles for Ireland and shared in the boy's doubles with Stuart Gibbs, of Essex, while Diane Simpson and Karenza Smith, also of Essex won the girl's doubles.

Veteran winners were Harry Venner, of Surrey, and Margaret Horn, of Kent.

Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon have firmly established themselves as the finest doubles combination in Europe and probably the world for that matter. There appears no stopping their run of successes which this season included the European championship and the titles of Russia, West Germany, Czechoslovakia. They blend as the perfect team, always pulling out their best when the stakes are highest.

The team championship provided an indication of what was to come and after a first round skirmish with twins Christine and Pauline Holes, they swept aside the Hungarians Livia Banhegyi, a former world doubles champion, and Sarolta Lukacs; the Czechs Marta Luzova and Irena Blösa (semi-final), and the Rumanians Maria Alexandru and Ella Constantinescu (final) all in straight games. Only the Czech pair came close to taking a game from them and here the score was 22-20, 21-11, 21-10.

Miss Luzova was accorded the greatest ovation I have seen given to a woman after her success in the singles. And she thoroughly deserved it, as she did her title for she came through unseeded and in successive rounds she beat Erzsebet Jurik, the No. 2 seed, Mrs. Constantinescu, the No. 6 seed, Mary Shannon, the No. 3 seed, and Mrs. Alexandru, the defending champion and No. 4 seed. It was a tremendous performance.

Miss Luzova brought a sparkling
freshest to the game, with her bold attacking play, and somewhat boyish personality. Frequently it was a question of fighting back from behind for she would never give up and eventually wore down her more experienced opponents.

This was particularly so in the final against Mrs. Alexandru, who did not take too kindly to her defeat. At times her manner indicated that she resented that the young Czech teenager should be there countering in magnificent style.

Miss Luzova lost the first game at 11, narrowly scraped home in the second 22-21, and lost the third at 16. It looked as though she would then be beaten in four games and then in five but each time she hit her way out of trouble to win 18-21, 24-22, 16-21, 22-20, 19-11.

The atmosphere was electric as they crept up point for point in that crucial fifth game, where the Expedite Rule was invoked.

Miss Luzova whose game is being modelled by seven experts, each in a different aspect of the game, ended England's hopes when she beat Mary Shannon 21-17, 8-21, 21-16, 21-13 in the semi-final. Mary tried hard against this young tearaway, but as she freely admitted afterwards: "She was much too quick for me. I never had a chance; I was being forced to hit on the retreat."

Diane Rowe went down to Mrs. Alexandru in a tremendously tense quarter-final, which extended over 100 minutes, with the Expedite rule operating in each of the five games. It was a tough battle and there was promise that Di would repeat her success of the team event. But it was not to be. She was troubled with blistered feet and fought gallantly but to no avail.

LIKE CHESS

Tactically, this was the outstanding match of the whole meeting. It was almost like chess as each worked out their moves to try and win the vital points. Rallies became longer and longer and the first one of the fifth game extended over 408 strokes. And when the ten minutes was up for the Expedite rule to come in Di lead by the handsome margin of 1-0!

She then swept right into the attack and quickly went to 5-0, only to have her lead steadily whittled away, leaving Mrs. Alexandru to win 20-22, 21-13, 21-16, 17-21, 18-18.

Alma Taft scored a great first round win over Edith Buchholz, of Germany, then after beating Sandra Morgan, of Wales, fell to Mrs. Lukacs, of Hungary. Irene Ogus beat Mrs. Banbegyi, but was no match for Mrs. Alexandru, while Doreen Sheppard, of Sussex, provided a national ranking upset in the second round with a win over Lesley Proudlock.

Lesley Bell lost in straight games to Agnes Simon, of West Germany, who then went out to European champion Eva Foldi, the quarter final victim of Mrs. Alexandru.

Scholer, regarded as possibly the greatest defensive player in the world, was a worthy winner of the men's singles although his final with defending champion Dorin Giurgiucu was something of an anti-climax after the thrill of the women's final.

This was a battle of wits, with the Rumanian, who only the previous weekend had won the West Germany title, trying to hit through, but finding his best shots coming back. With his long arms, brilliant footwork and uncanny anticipation Scholer always managed to move into the right position. For all that it was a close tussle, until Giurgiucu some-
Lesley Proudlock reached the great wins over the Hungarians first match to the Hungarians Shannon, and Mike Symonds and Miko and Miss Luzova had a narrow brush with defeat in the semi-finals before the Yugoslav-Hungarian partnership of Vecko and Mrs. Foldi at 22-20 in the fifth. In comparison their final win over Pavlovic and Mrs. Jurik was much more simple affair, although they lost the opening game.

TOUGH SECOND ROUND

Barnes did not find it at all easy to get through to the second round against Bobby Stevens, who took a two games lead before being pulled back. Home players fared little better in the men's doubles, the only home pair getting to the last eight being Derek Wright and Roy Morley. They lost to get through to the second round winners.

Miss Rowe acted as a steady influence on Barnes and they had two great wins over the Hungarians

Harcsar and Mrs. Lukacs and the Czech Stanek and Miss Boss. Harcsar and Miss Bell offered some stubborn resistance to Negulescu and Mrs. Luzova had to rely upon Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon to have any success against the Continentals. They are consistent, which is more than can be said for our other leading players, who appear to flatter only to deceive.

DETAILED RESULTS

First Round: L. Harcsar (Hungary) bt R. Hampton (Cork) 15, 17, 12. O. Haslau (Middlesbrough) bt M. Cremer (Middlesbrough) 14, 20. S. M. Symonds (England) bt. E. Jacobson (Middlesbrough) 10, 0.17, 12. T. Caffrey (Ireland) bt A. Gibson (Essex) 16, 20, 20, 20, 13. G. Barnes (England) bt I. Korps (Yugo) 16, 0, 11, 14. R. Shapiro (Israel) bt W. Grobe (Warwick) 18, 16, 17. G. Whalley (Bexley) w.o. V. Miko (Czechoslovakia) bt R. Eley (Evesham) 9, 0, 16. G. Barnes (England) bt I. Korps (Yugo) 16, 0, 11, 14. R. Shapiro (Israel) bt W. Grobe (Warwick) 18, 16, 17. G. Whalley (Bexley) w.o. V. Miko (Czechoslovakia) bt R. Eley (Evesham) 9, 0, 16. G. Barnes (England) bt I. Korps (Yugo) 16, 0, 11, 14. R. Shapiro (Israel) bt W. Grobe (Warwick) 18, 16, 17. G. Whalley (Bexley) w.o. V. Miko (Czechoslovakia) bt R. Eley (Evesham) 9, 0, 16.


Third Round: Harcsar bt Caffrey 16, 10. Haslau bt Symonds 19, 14, 14. Haslau bt Symonds 19, 14, 14. Miss Rowe acted as a steady influence on Barnes and they had two great wins over the Hungarians

Harcsar and Mrs. Lukacs and the Czech Stanek and Miss Boss. Harcsar and Miss Bell offered some stubborn resistance to Negulescu and Mrs. Luzova had to rely upon Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon to have any success against the Continentals. They are consistent, which is more than can be said for our other leading players, who appear to flatter only to deceive.

DETAILED RESULTS

First Round: L. Harcsar (Hungary) bt R. Hampton (Cork) 15, 17, 12. O. Haslau (Middlesbrough) bt M. Cremer (Middlesbrough) 14, 20. S. M. Symonds (England) bt. E. Jacobson (Middlesbrough) 10, 0.17, 12. T. Caffrey (Ireland) bt A. Gibson (Essex) 16, 20, 20, 20, 13. G. Barnes (England) bt I. Korps (Yugo) 16, 0, 11, 14. R. Shapiro (Israel) bt W. Grobe (Warwick) 18, 16, 17. G. Whalley (Bexley) w.o. V. Miko (Czechoslovakia) bt R. Eley (Evesham) 9, 0, 16. G. Barnes (England) bt I. Korps (Yugo) 16, 0, 11, 14. R. Shapiro (Israel) bt W. Grobe (Warwick) 18, 16, 17. G. Whalley (Bexley) w.o. V. Miko (Czechoslovakia) bt R. Eley (Evesham) 9, 0, 16.


## Table Tennis

### English Open Special

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>18, 12, 17</td>
<td>LUCSOVA bt Shannon</td>
<td>17, 10, 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 10, 19</td>
<td>MISOVA bt Alexander</td>
<td>18, 22, 12</td>
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</tbody>
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### Men's Doubles
First Round: M. Holm/P. Schröder (Nordrhein-Westfalen) bt M. Bojan/P. Höfner (Nordrhein-Westfalen) 9, 11, -10, 11, 13.
Second Round: M. Holm/P. Schröder bt G. Allvin/M. Bengtsson (Sverige) 15, 13, -11, 13, 11.
Quarter-Finals: M. Holm/P. Schröder bt L. Cooper/D. Whittaker (Kent) 11, 6, -19, 15, 19.
Semi-Finals: M. Holm/P. Schröder bt J. Waterhouse/Miss A. Mills (England) 19, 12, 11.
Final: M. Holm/P. Schröder bt L. Cooper/D. Whittaker 13, 15, 13.

### Women's Doubles
First Round: N. Isbell/M. Moore (Kent) bt C. Holes/G. Gafney (Wales) 11, 10.
Second Round: N. Isbell/M. Moore bt P. Martin/P. Holes (Essex) 13, 12, -21, -23, 10.
Quarter-Finals: N. Isbell/M. Moore bt J. Waterhouse/Miss A. Mills (England) 19, 12, 11.

### Men's Veterans Singles
First Round: Mrs. A. Horn (Kent) bt Mrs. C. Whitehouse (Hertfordshire) 10, 8.
Second Round: Mrs. A. Horn bt R. C. L. Chervin (Middx.) 15, 13, 12, 14.
Quarter-Finals: Mrs. A. Horn bt Miss J. Rees (Cheshire) 13, 15, 13.
Final: Mrs. A. Horn bt R. C. L. Chervin 13, 15, 13.
ENGLISH OPEN PICTURE PARADE
by Michael Maclaren and Peter Madge

Above: MARTA LUZOVA, the new women's singles champion.

Right: Champagne celebration for MARY SHANON, DIANE ROWE and RON CRAYDEN.

Below: Doubles champions VLADIMIR MIKO and JAROSLAV STANEK.


Left: The moment of triumph for MARTA LUZOVA.

Below: MARIA ALEXANDRU and ELLA CONSTANTINESCU, team and doubles runners-up.
CHINA

World Champions for England

TABLE Tennis fans who cannot get to the World Table Tennis Championships in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, from April 15 to 22 are being offered a unique opportunity of seeing the prospective world champions when the Chinese and Japanese teams tour here in May.

There seems little doubt that these two Asian countries will between them collect the lion's share of honours and in anticipation of a rash to see them, their matches are being staged at the largest venues in England's major cities.

China took over as the major table tennis nation at the last two world's meetings and it is open to speculation whether or not they can hold that dominance, particularly among the men. This will be the first time that the Chinese world team has visited England. The last time we had a visit from that nation it was in the nature of a preparatory programme before their onslaught on the world titles.

Among the party on that first trip was Li Fu-jung, who has been runner-up to his fellow countryman Chiang Tse-tung at the last two world's meetings.

The exact composition of the Chinese party is not yet known but it is expected that these two players will be included along with Chiang Shih-fu and Wang Chih-lung, the reigning holders of the world doubles title.

It is fitting that the Empire Pool, Wembley, should be the major venue for this auspicious occasion and it could mean the resurrection of table tennis as a big spectacular.

Ever since the first hints that the kings and queens of the world will be coming to England there has been a steady stream of enquiries, as enthusiasm mounts.

Venues and booking arrangements are:

LONDON: Wembley Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Tuesday, May 11, 1965, at 7.30 p.m.

BIRMINGHAM: Central Hall, Birmingham, Thursday, May 13, 1965, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER: King's Hall, Belle Vue, Manchester.

LEEDS: Town Hall, Leeds.

CHICHESTER: Town Hall, Chichester.


Confirmation of the Japanese tour was still awaited at the time of going to press, but the plans are for them to open at Leeds on April 29, then move on to Cheltenham.

Enthusiasm for the Japanese is no less than that for the Chinese and organisers are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping for the final go-ahead as advance orders roll in by every post.

Japanese players, who revolutionised the game after the 1952 World championships with the introduction of sponge and the pen holder grip have always been popular over here and none more so than Ichiro Ogimura, twice world champion. He has always been a great favourite with the English crowds.

It is expected that the Japanese team will be around ten strong and will include Koji Kimura, world mixed doubles champion, and Manako Seki, world women's doubles champion. As far as the women's side of the game is concerned Japan are the world leaders.

There is much speculation about the relative strengths in the game. So BOOK NOW and avoid being disappointed.

LEEDS: Details from venue (Sydenham 0131) or E.T.T.A. Office (Langham 6312).

CHICHESTER: Details from F. C. Newell, Esq., 202, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham. (Cheltenham 25674).

LONDON: Details from N. Cook, Esq., 7, Luttrell Place, Leeds, 16. (Leeds 671226).
ENGLISH OPEN SPECIAL

**FIRST HOME WIN IN TEAM EVENTS**

HOME players enjoyed their biggest success yet in the team events at the English Open. Diane Rowe and Mary Shannon won the women's title for the first time, while Chester Barnes and Ian Harrison unexpectedly reached the men's final, won by Rumania.

In the two previous years of the team championships England's girls have found Rumania a stumbling block in the semi-finals. This time they were in opposite halves, clashing in the final.

**TEAM RESULTS**

**MEN**
- First Round: Sweden bt Ireland 3-0.
  England bt Finland 3-0.
  England II bt West Germany 3-0.
  Yugoslavia bt Bulgaria 3-2.
  Rumania bt Czechoslovakia 3-0.
- Semi-Finals: ENGLAND bt Yugoslavia 3-1. RUMANIA bt Czechoslovakia 3-0.

**WOMEN**
- First Round: Czechoslovakia bt West Germany 3-0. Rumania bt Wales 3-0. Hungary bt England II 2-0.
- Semi-Finals: ENGLAND bt Czechoslovakia 3-0. RUMANIA bt Hungary 3-0.

**ENGLAND RESULTS**


**TEAM EVENTS**

- England men's team: Chester Barnes and Ian Harrison scored a 3-1 win over the Rumanian second team and followed with a 3-2 win over Hungary, each losing a singles to Pintiitski.
- Their great moment was reserved for the semi-final with a shattering 3-1 win over Yugoslavia, the defending champions. Barnes struck a purple patch to hit Markovic off the table in the opening rubber. He has never played more brilliantly, which made his later failures in the final so much more puzzling. Unfortunately Barnes has talents but he cannot harness them for any great length of time.
- His win over Markovic somewhat deflated the Yugoslavs, for Korpa lost to Harrison and, despite a doubles success with Vecko, never found confidence in his own singles game, falling also to Barnes.
- The final against Rumania, who had crushed Czechoslovakia 3-0, was an anti-climax. There was a complete feeling of being let down. It was not so much that England were beaten but the way they were beaten.

**A TONIC**

It was a tonic for British hopes, which wavered a little when Mary lost the first game to Constantinescu. But we need not have worried. Mary took complete command and went through the next two games like a whirlwind.

There were some tense moments in the doubles, but generally the two English girls had the situation under control winning 21-16, 15-21, 21-16.

In the previous round Miss Rowe and Miss Shannon had dealt equally severely with the Czechs Marta Luzova and Irena Bosa, although they had a close call in the doubles where they scraped home at 23-21 in the third.

England's second team of Lesley Bell and Jean M. Oree put up a stubborn fight against Hungary, losing narrowly at 23-21.

For a long time England's men have been overshadowed by the performances of the ladies and this time they were determined to have their share of the limelight.

The second pair of Denis Neale and Brian Wright shocked everyone with a first round win over Germany. Neale laid the foundation when he brought down Ebby Scholer, who was later to become the new singles champion.

It is remarkable how Neale can break through Scholer's immaculate defence, but it is a pity he is not more consistent. Neale's win put his side in with a chance and Wright made no mistake by beating Michaeloff.

Neale and Wright were unable to pull out the same effort in the next round and crashed to Rumania (Giurgiuca and Negulescu) without mustering a game between them.

Meanwhile, England's first team of Chester Barnes and Ian Harrison scored a 3-1 win over the Rumanian second team and followed with a 3-2 win over Hungary, each losing a singles to Pintiitski.

**BARNES CRITICISED**

Barnes came in for tremendous criticism for alleged throwing of points, when losing to Giurgiuca. It was a poor effort on his part, and any chance that England may have had at that moment.

The team championships have been a great innovation and provided some of the finest play of the English Open. What a pity they do not receive more support from the public, for the Dome was only sparsely filled.

This could be the fault of the organisers for not publicising them enough. Too many of the public, I am sure, classify the team events along with the preliminaries leading up to the individual finals. Yet here was a chance to see the pick of Europe.
Two for Germany
by LAURIE LANDRY

AFTER their performances in the internationals with West Germany, home juniors might have expected more than a mere one and a half titles from the junior events at the English Open. But that was the full score, the Essex pair of DIANE SIMPSON and KARENZA SMITH winning the girls' doubles, and STUART GIBBS sharing in the boys' doubles with JIM LANGAN, of Ireland, who also won the singles.

The other two titles went to the Germans, Jutta Kruger winning the singles, and gaining a second title in the mixed doubles with Gunter Kocher.

It was perhaps fitting that Langan and Gibbs should fight out the boys' singles final, for at the beginning of the season they shared the boys' doubles title with Jim Langan (Essex) and Karenza Smith, Pauline Hemmings and Maureen Reppell.

Close...24-22 in the third. A lot of doubles, and their county colleague STUART GIBBS sharing in the boys' singles final, for at the beginning of the season they shared the "Boy of the Year" title in the News of the World Coaching scheme. While they could not be separated on that occasion, Langman made certain of coming out tops this time.

It was a psychological victory, for I am convinced that Gibbs lost because he thought he could not win. Yet on performance and results over the season Gibbs should have had as good a chance as anyone of beating this promising young Irish lad, who also reached the last 16 of the senior title.

Alan Hydes went down to Kocher in the quarter-final, a disappointing result, for he had beaten the German in the international. However, it was close...24-22 in the third. A lot was required as anyone of beating this rising junior, who also reached the quarter-finals, but he was not steady enough for Willi Grobe.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Both semi-finals went to three games, Grobe beating Kocher 21-14, 16-21, 21-17, and Gibbs dismissing Grobe 21-18, 19-21, 21-17.

The biggest disappointment was in the girls' singles, but this must not detract from the performance of Jutta Kruger. The young German girl, who uses a rubber bat, went from strength to strength and in successive rounds beat Judy Heaps, Karenza Smith, Pauline Hemmings and Maureen Heppell.

The only one of England's top juniors to avoid Miss Kruger was Linda Henwood, who figured in a ranking upset when she lost to Miss Heppell in the semi-final.

The boys' doubles went more or less as expected with Gibbs and Langan sweeping through without loss of a game. It was good to see Hydes and Johns come through to the final at the expense of Kocher and Grobe, whom they beat in straight games in the semi-final. It was the third encounter between these two pairs in as many days, the previous matches having been shared.

Karenza Smith and Diane Simpson, who are not our top pair were the surprise of the girls' doubles. Playing wonderfully well they beat Linda Henwood and Ingrid Sykes, the German Jutta Kruger and Christel Lang in the final, the Anglo-German pair of M. Campbell and Jutta Fedderson, who had previously beaten the top home combination of Eva Canham and Pauline Hemmings.

Kruger and Lang were unbeaten in the international series and in consequence were strong favourites for the title. They should have beaten Smith and Simpson in straight games but the Essex girls hung on grimly and took the initiative in the decider.

There was never any doubt about the supremacy of Kocher and Miss Kruger in winning the mixed doubles, even though they were taken to three games by Hydes and Miss Heppell and Gibbs and Miss Henwood.

BOYS' SINGLES

First Round: G. Davies (Wales) bt B. Petch (Middx.) 15, 15.
Second Round: J. Langan (Ireland) bt C. Hard (Bury) 19, 10, K. Lawrence (Essex) bt E. Coaker (Herts) 14, 14, S. Cook (Bury) bt R. Davis (Surrey) 18, 19, M. Johns (Ches.) bt M. Seymour (Kent) 15, 10.
G. Grobe (W. Ger.) bt P. Harnar (Herts) 11, 13, K. Allen (Middx.) bt M. Lazzano (Essex) 19, 14. T. Riley (Essex) bt R. Harper (Kent) 15, 13, A. Hydes (Yorks.) bt R. Heath (Kent) 15, 19, 12.
W. Grobe (W. Ger.) bt S. Seaholme (Herts) 19, 11, C. Hughes (Middx.) bt D. Corbett (Kent) 14, 16, 17, D. Bysouth (Herts) bt M. Mojsoud (Herts) 17, 14.
G. Kocher (W. Ger.) bt G. Ross (Surrey) 9, 10, R. Jansen (W. Ger.) bt S. Garrington (Warwks.) 16, 7, A. Mills (Herts).

BOYS' DOUBLES

First Round: J. Langan (Ireland) /G. Davies (Wales) bt B. Petch (Middx.) 15, 15.
Second Round: J. Langan (Ireland) /G. Davies (Wales) bt C. Hard (Bury) 19, 10, K. Lawrence (Essex) /E. Coaker (Herts) 14, 14, S. Cook (Bury) /R. Davis (Surrey) 18, 19, M. Johns (Ches.) /M. Seymour (Kent) 15, 10.
G. Grobe (W. Ger.) /P. Harnar (Herts) 11, 13, K. Allen (Middx.) /M. Lazzano (Essex) 19, 14. T. Riley (Essex) /R. Harper (Kent) 15, 13, A. Hydes (Yorks.) /R. Heath (Kent) 15, 19, 12.
W. Grobe (W. Ger.) /S. Seaholme (Herts) 19, 11, C. Hughes (Middx.) /D. Corbett (Kent) 14, 16, 17, D. Bysouth (Herts) /M. Mojsoud (Herts) 17, 14.
G. Kocher (W. Ger.) /G. Ross (Surrey) 9, 10, R. Jansen (W. Ger.) /S. Garrington (Warwks.) 16, 7, A. Mills (Herts).

ENGLISH OPEN SPECIAL

APRIL - 1965

Page Seventeen
THE EXPEDITE RULE

By HARRY SPRAGGS

Umpire Explains

The repeated use of the EXPEDITE RULE during the English Open, caused confusion in the minds of spectators and viewers who watched the meeting on television. Some instances even led to arguments in matches, notably in Diane Rowe’s losing semi-final with Maria Alexandru.

Harry Spraggs, the Essex National Umpire, who was timekeeper and counter for this match, had had a longer experience than most of the “Expedite Rule” so “Table Tennis” asked him to give a fuller explanation.

Table Tennis: Harry, we believe you have had experience of the “Expedite Rule” for a considerably longer period than it has officially been in force in this country.

Harry Spraggs: That is so. We started using it in the East London League in the early 1950’s and subsequently in Essex because we had so many pushing type of players. In those days the referee decided when to enforce the rule and it was usually when two players were trying to wear each other down. Under the new system it automatically comes in after 15 minutes in the first instance and after ten minutes in subsequent games.

While the rule is in force the players serve alternatively and the server has to win the point within 12 strokes other than the service or lose the point, which is what happened in this particular case. She couldn’t get the ball away and on her 13th stroke hit a tremendous smash just as the umpire and myself both called fault. To the crowd, who were a little way back, it looked a marvellous point. So there was an uproar when the point was given the other way. I don’t think the crowd quite knew why she had lost the point.

I have been asked why fault was not called before she hit the 13th stroke but had Alexandru not returned the shot on to the table it would have been Di’s point.

T.T.: It is obvious that spectators were too lost in the excitement of the game to be aware of the number of strokes played. Surely it would be better to count the strokes out aloud.

H.S.: I am not in favour of this. The players get themselves into this kind of game and it is up to them to know where they are. Most or the Continentals do. They appear to play Expedite much better. Take Eva Foldi. Unlike most home players she would not attempt to kill the first ball after the service but would wait, six, seven or eight strokes, working up for the right ball to hit.

A New Tactical Sense

By DIANE ROWE

The advent of the Expedite Rule has brought a new tactical sense to table tennis. The English public saw it fully exploited for the first time in the English Open and my own matches with Maria Alexandru have led to many people asking if I deliberately go out to play for Expedite.

In the case of Alexandru the answer, according to the opposition, I would play Expedite against Eva Foldi, but would not for instance think of playing for Expedite as it was administered at Brighton. Our umpires should follow the German example and call the strokes aloud.

I have had two complaints about Expedite as it was administered at Brighton. Our umpires should follow the Continental example and call the strokes aloud.

It is important that the players, the team captains and the public should be aware of the exact position.

Audible calling would have avoided the arguments that arose in the final between Luzova and Alexandru.

It has been suggested that loud calling would disturb the player. I consider it more upsetting not knowing the exact state of the game. After all it is difficult enough trying to win points without counting strokes at the same time.

My experience in Germany was that clear calling was a big help. I always knew the exact stage of the expedite, and whether or not to start attacking at the vital moments.
THE selection of John Kedge for England juniors against Wales crowned a fine season for the Huddersfield 16-year-old.

His leg of achievements reads: first open tournament titles; Yorkshire Closed men's singles runner-up; member of successful Yorkshire junior team; played for county's senior second team; member of Huddersfield inter-league championship side; member of Huddersfield League champions Y.M.C.A.

An older player who will look back on 1964-5 with pleasure is Norman Lusher. He was presented with a silver tankard on his 19th inter-league appearance for Harrogate since 1948 and the team celebrated with a 10-0 triumph over Halifax.

Then they overhauled Hull's second team to earn promotion to Division One by beating them 8-2 in the final fixture. Denis Neil and Eric Hall were unbeaten while Norman and David Shaw added one each.

Sad to see Halifax, such a power in the immediate post-war seasons, facing relegation to Division Three. And next season they will probably be without Denis Norburn, who has represented the town over 70 times but has now moved to York.

Bradford women's team made their first change in two-and-a-half seasons when Muriel Haley was not available against Sheffield Works and Carol Goodwin made a successful début in a 9-1 win.

Barnsley North End carried off the N. WALES STANDARD

A. S. TAYLOR

MUST IMPROVE

The standard of play in North Wales must improve. This was emphasised during the visit to Worcester when the two teams that made the trip were given a real mauling by Worcestershire. Plans must be formulated to raise the standard if any impression is to be made beyond the local area.

Rhyll won the Inter-Leagues First Division for the third time, finishing up by beating Wrexham 6-3 and East Flintshire 7-2.

Llandudno took the Second Division honours with an unbeaten record, while Rhyll have topped the Ladies' Division. Rhyll and Llandudno are rivals for the Junior Division, which has still to be completed.

Ken Griege, the North Wales champion, collected a brace of titles in the East Flintshire Closed Championship. He beat R. Pickering in the finals and won the men's doubles with Beth only to lose the mixed doubles, where he partnered Mrs. Meech, to Brian Wright in the third to Thompson and Mrs. Thompson.


NORTH MIDDLESEX EXPERIMENT

North Middlesex League are always ready to try something new, and their latest experiment of running an invitation tournament to boost their closed final proved a big success. The major changes they will probably be made to include the excitement of the two teams that made the trip to London was a blow, but this was overcome by making up the numbers with some of the leading ladies who were given five points start. And that proved too much for Connie Warren when he came up against Lesley Bell. Everyone went in a straight draw with no seeding, which all added to the excitement, with Ian Harrison tumbling to Stuart Gibbs in the first round.

Young Gibbons excelled himself, also beating Roger Chandler and Roy Meech before his giant killing was ended by Brian Wright in the final.

Even here the Essex junior threatened an upset when he won the first game, 22-20. Wright came back to win the next two 21-14, 21-17. The doubles went to Morley and David Lowe, who beat Mike McLean and Peter Duncombe in the final.

TABLE TENNIS PHOTOGRAph

Copies of the pictures taken in this magazine by Michael Maclaren can be obtained at new reduced prices: 6in. x 4in. size at 3/-.

Photographs can also be taken specially.

Contact MICHAEL MACLAREN at the major tournaments or write to:

Studio 4, 9 Woodcote Avenue, Wellington, Surrey.
Best Performance Yet

Says Ron Crayden

If a points tally had been kept for the most successful team in the West German Open in the magnificent Jahrhunderthalle, Frankfurt, on February 27-28, England may well have been the winners.

Just look at the performances. We won the women’s singles and doubles, had the runner-up for the women’s singles and semi-finalists for the men’s doubles. Unfortunately there were no team event otherwise Mary Shannon and Diane Rowe would have won this as well.

This was the best performance yet from our girls. They swept aside the pick of the Continental stars, including the top two girls in the world list and the top two in the European list.

On their way to fight out the singles final Di beat Jurik and Alexandru, while Mary accounted for Constantinescu and Foldi. Apart from a win over Alexandru the Romanian tour of England, Di had found her a continuous stumbling block for some five years, and it had been the same with Jurik.

Mary was the master of Di in the final, winning in straight games. In the women’s doubles the English girls beat Jurik and Foldi, of Hungary, in the semi-final and the Czechs, Luzova and Bosa, in the final 3 games to 1.

Chester Barnes put up a spirited fight from two down losing 2-3 to the German Ness, who was in turn hopelessly beaten by Giurgiuca, the eventual winner, who claimed Scholer as another victim in the semi-final.

Barnes and Neale scored a great win over the Yugoslav Korpa and Vecko in the men’s doubles by 3 games to 2, but they were stopped in the semi-final by Scholer and Gomolla, who went on to beat European champions Stanek and Mikol.

Miko and Luzova won the mixed doubles at the expense of Scholer and Simons.

W. GERMANY CHAMPIONSHIPS


ENGLISH RESULTS

Barnes bt Arndt (W. Germ.) 12, 10, 12; bt Ramberg (Denmark) 15, 16, 14; lost to Neele (W. Germ.) 20, 14, 11.

Neele lost to Korpa (Yugoslav) 15, -19, 12, 14.

Rowe bt Mannor 7, 10, -12, 14; bt Siewert (W. Germ) 9, 6, 12; bt Jurik (Hungary) -17, 10, 19; bt Alexandru (Romania) 18, 20, 16; lost to Shannon (England) -14, -15, -18 (final). Shannon bt Schmichegger (W. Germ) 14, 11, 12; bt Bats (Belgium) 12, 11, 15; bt Constantinescu (Romania) 14, 15, 18; bt Foldi/Jurik (Hungary) 7, -15, 13, 11; bt Rowe (England) 14, 15, 18.

Barnes/Neele bt Schoo/Weber (Holland) 19, 15, 15; bt Yecke/Korpa (Yugos.) -10, 20, 16, 15; bt Freunfer/Michaeloff (W. Germ.) 17, 16, 16; lost to Shannon/Gomolla (W. Germ) -19, -11, 10.

Shannon bt Schmichegger/Lang (W. Germ) 16, 19, 18; bt Siewert/Schmichegger (W. Germ) 11, 13, 19; bt Foldi/Jurik (Hungary) -19, 6, 10, 15; bt Yecke/Luzova (Czech) 18, 18, 17, 10 (final). Barnes/Rowe lost Michaeloff/Lang (W. Germ) 20, 19, 19, -18, -13.

Neele/Shannon bt Jullien/Trias (Belgium) 17, 11, 13; lost Negelescu/Alexandru (Romania) 20, -15, -19.
WEMBLEY DETHRONED SUTTON

There will be new holders for the Rose Bowl but it looks as though Gloucester will maintain their hold on the Wilmott Cup in the national team championships this season.

Wembley moved into line as favourites for the women's trophy when they dethroned Sutton, last year's winners, 5-4 in the quarter-final, then went on to beat Romford 6-3 in the semi-final.

Both Sutton, with Mary Shannon, and Romford, with Lesley Bell, had the higher ranked players, but Wembley had the over-all strength in Irene Ogus, Alma Taft and Jackie Redfern. This was the key to their victories, for they were virtually starting three down in each match.

Meanwhile, North Hertfordshire came into the provinces to beat Manchester and then Birmingham.

FORD WINS SINGLES

Mike Ford, defending superbly with a rubber, captured the Northumberland Closed men's singles crown at Longbenton on March 6.

In a disappointing final Ford was not troubled by the fast top-spin attack of Peter Hoyles, who had smoothly disposed of Jimmy Nelson, Roland Earl and holder Stuart Lennie.

Ford's victims included Ram Bhalla, conqueror of fourth seed Harry Dignan, and Arthur Chivers, who had vanished the much fancied Brian Burn in the quarter-final.

Stuart Lennie somewhat atoned for the singles by retaining his men's and mixed doubles titles, while Hoyles, Dignan and Burn consolated themselves with the youths, veterans and junior singles.


Mixed Doubles: M. P. N. I. colleague Norma Robson in the quarters.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. M. Miles/Mrs. B. Bell/Mrs. Gafney -19, 16, 12. Veterans' Singles: D. Ignan bt M. P. N. I. colleague Norma Robson in the quarters.

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FORD WINS SINGLES

Mike Ford, defending superbly with a rubber, captured the Northumberland Closed men's singles crown at Longbenton on March 6.

In a disappointing final Ford was not troubled by the fast top-spin attack of Peter Hoyles, who had smoothly disposed of Jimmy Nelson, Roland Earl and holder Stuart Lennie.

Ford's victims included Ram Bhalla, conqueror of fourth seed Harry Dignan, and Arthur Chivers, who had vanished the much fancied Brian Burn in the quarter-final.

Stuart Lennie somewhat atoned for the singles by retaining his men's and mixed doubles titles, while Hoyles, Dignan and Burn consolated themselves with the youths, veterans and junior singles.


Mixed Doubles: M. P. N. I. colleague Norma Robson in the quarters.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. M. Miles/Mrs. B. Bell/Mrs. Gafney -19, 16, 12. Veterans' Singles: D. Ignan bt M. P. N. I. colleague Norma Robson in the quarters.
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

ESSEX ARE NEW CHAMPIONS

ESSEX, with a narrow 5-4 win over Surrey, took the Premier Division Championship for the first time and broke a Middlesex run of five successive titles. Surrey put up a great fight with George Muranyi fully extending Chester Barnes, and a men's doubles far too close for comfort for Barnes and Bobby Stevens. Muranyi had a good match as he also beat Stuart C. Pin in a tight finish, Mary Shannon beat Lesley Bell over three games.

The Gloucestershire - Middlesex clash for second place produced some excellent table tennis but only in the first set of the evening was a deciding game needed. Bryan Murrett had a set point against Brian Wright in the second and then put a hit off at 19-all in the third. Wright was the Middlesex star as he also beat Ian Harrison, in an encounter which produced some magnificent shots, and took the mixed doubles with Irene Ogus, deputising for Diane Rowe. Irene also won her singles, but Middlesex could manage no more.

Kent introduced Ken Baker against Lancahsire and although unsuccessful he showed much promise. Derek Baden scored a notable win over Mike Symonds. England selector Jeff Ingber's first set was umpired by Bernadette McGrory, at 12 the youngest county umpire in the country. Kent have drawn large crowds to their home matches and with attractive home fixtures next season against Essex, Middlesex and Surrey should improve on these excellent performances.

Lancashire's defeat leaves Yorkshire, who duly crushed Staffordshire 9-0, in with a chance of avoiding relegation. All depended on the Roses battle on April 3 at Bradford, with the loser to make the big drop with luckless Staffordshire, who have players who have gained experience but little else from their season with the giants.

Although beaten 4-6 by Surrey II, Essex are the promotion challengers from Second South. The challenge match with Somerset will be played at North Mundham, near Chichester, on Saturday, May 1 (4.00 p.m.). Roger Chandler needed a deciding game for the first time this season against Jimmy Moore, but slaughtered Neville Brabrook. Hampshire beat Kent II 6-4 and have finished third in this division, an excellent result for Jean McCree made her debut for Bedfordshire but could not carry the side to success against Hertfordshire although they led 4-3. Bedfordshire finished without a point but hope to stay in the division as they should be stronger next season.

Cheshire look like winning the Second North for the sixth season as they should collect three points from their remaining fixtures with Cumberland and Northumberland.

Seven of eight fixtures this weekend have been played out with Bedfordshire finishing runners-up, proving far too strong for Northumberland in a one-sided match and also disposing of Yorkshire II by 6-4.

DEPENDS ON FIRST TEAM

Warwickshire II played Derek Wall for the first time and were too good for Derbyshire in this Division, but their promotion to Second Midland depends on their first team winning this division and the promotion challenge.

Alan Coby, back for Norfolk, won both singles and the mixed doubles but Norfolk could do no more against an improved Cambridgeshire. Also in the Southern Division Hampshire II beat Hertfordshire II and this young side may finish runners-up.

Yorkshire, who should win the Junior North for the fourth consecutive season, did well to beat Northumberland. Against Lancashire, Northumberland trailed 1-3 but the match turned with a fine win by Joe McLeod over Jack Frankland. Brian Burn justified his England selection by winning both singles and Northumberland ran out 5-3 victors.

Essex allowed Middlesex one game only, David Brown dropping the second to Brian Petch. They have won this division for the four years it has been in existence. If Essex challenge, as they are likely to, they have the chance of a notable "double top."

R. Geary was the only unbeaten player on either side when Leicester- shire, after trailing 2-4, recovered to beat Oxfordshire 6-4 in the Junior Midland, where Warwickshire, with one match outstanding, are as good as champions.
# WELSH CORNER

**Chinese to Visit Cardiff**

**March** was a month of mixed fortunes, when the success of the Glangarn Open and the brilliance of the Czech visit gave way to the disappointment of our junior match with England. Indeed, we should finish well in the Midland League, with the odds mainly in favour of Wiltshire.

The Glangarn Open, which would normally end with the Gwent and Milford tournament, was backed to May by the appearance of the Chinese World Championship team at Dunmores Drill Hall, Cardiff. Details of the tournament are provided by the Internationals Club, who are expected to include at least one Welsh player. Seats will be priced £1.50, £1.10, and £1.00, and will be on offer to all clubs before being put in the hands of the agencies.

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**WELSH OPEN**

**Margaret and Sandra Save the Day**

The Welsh Open was ill-fated from the start. Postponed from the original date because of changing weather, the tournament proved better with a series of county championships ties, leading to the semi-finals. The West Germans were also absent as their best players were not available.

Despite the lower standards of play for the most part played badly and all the senior titles, with the exception of the women's doubles won by Sandra Morgan and Margaret Phillips, went across the border.

Middlesex players had a field day with Mike Croucher beating the 4-year-old champion, E. Gray, in the final of the boys' singles; the two combining to win the men's doubles; Alma Taft taking the women's singles; and sharing the mixed doubles with Mike Maclean, of Surrey.

Bullingham Gear, the Welsh No. 1, crashed to the North Midlands League player Jack Render. 'Surely it was a surprise to Tredgar. Graham Gear showed top class form, and if Chester Barnes had been as good as he is usually, then Graham Gear would have had the better of it to win. Although England had not selected their top players for the Junior international, Wales once more met with heavy defeat. Dennis Samuel was put to the test by the Welsh players. However, he played well enough to retain our only victory.

There was some consolation in the Sussex Junior Open on the following day.

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**Bedsford's Title**

**Bedsford** are the new South East Midland League champions. They made certain of the title with a 140 win over Huntingdon Central, thus going through the whole programme without defeat. Indeed they dropped only eight games in their seven matches a remarkable record. Northampton last year's champions, lost in the semi-final to the title: Ely and District scoring a big surprise with a 7-3 win over Cambridge City and with two matches still to play they should finish well up, a good start to their first season in the League.

Bedsford, Bletchley and Cambridge are all in the running for the senior's section, but Bedford is odds mainly in favour of Bletchley.

Although Peterborough lead the Junior Division this month with two far unbeaten and with two matches still to play, they are almost certain to be the champions.
SHOCK FOR CAMBRIDGE

The emphasis has been on youth where opportunities for Cambridge City are concerned for the South East Midland League. Although they have not managed to win the men’s division, several youngsters have been brought to the fore and it augurs well for the future.

Biggest shock for the City was to lose to Ely and District, newcomers to the league. But this is an encouraging sign for other areas of the county.

Meanwhile City have a wealth of junior talent which almost certainly assures them of winning the junior section, which normally always proves popular. Two 14-year-olds, Ken Muir and David Ash were supported by Alan Ponder, Stephen Andrews and Tony Gee. City crashed 1-8 to Chesterfield in the opening game. He also beat R. Bishop 15, 12. J. Kedge (Yorkshire) bt J. Rooney (Y.M.C.A.) 9, 20. Veteran Singles: R. MORLEY (Gothic) bt E. James 17-19, 15.


Brian Hill, of Lincolnshire, once more won the Men’s Singles at the Corn Exchange on April 4, and did not allow J. Morgan and R. Bishop to get to double figures. But it was a close affair, going to three games after 20-all. His opponent was David Rrown (Essex) to Samuel. But it was convincingly in the third game each time. They combined brilliantly in the doubles and did not allow J. Morgan and R. Bishop to set to double figures. England’s only loss was suffered by David Brown to Samuel. But it was a close affair, going to three games with both those won by Samuel being after 20-all. Although the Welsh juniors were well beaten they could not have expected a much different result. However, it says something for their spirited opposition that at least half the games went the full distance.

ENGLAND’S three new junior internationals, Geoff Salter (Surrey), Johnny Kedge (Yorkshire) and Brian Burn (Northumberland) acquitted themselves well in the 9-1 win over the Welsh juniors at St. Luke’s, Canning Town, on March 17. Laurie Landry. They won all their matches and Salter was particularly outstanding. Playing at No. 1 he beat Denis Samuel, the best Welsh prospect for a number of years, comfortably in the third after losing the opening game. He also beat R. Bishop in straight games.

Kedge and Burn the two juniors from the North, performed very well. Although three out of their four singles won the full distance they were convincingly in the third game each time. They combined brilliantly in the doubles and did not allow J. Morgan and R. Bishop to set to double figures.

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England beat Wales 8-4 (English names first): G. Salter (Bury) bt D. Stimson 19, 11, 13; bt R. Bishop 14, 8; D. Brown (Essex) lost to Rambel 21-10. 20-21; bt Bishop 15. J. Kedge (Yorkshire) bt J. Morgan 18, 31, 14; bt W. Smith 10, 15. B. Burn (Northumberland) bt Morgan 17, 14, 13; bt Smith 22-9, 14; S. Allen bt Samuel Smith 12, 17. Kedge/Burn bt Bishop/Morgan 9, 7. 

ENGLAND JUNIORS CRUSH WALES

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PAULINE AND GEOFF CLEAN UP

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SUSSEX JUNIOR OPEN

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SUSSEX JUNIOR OPEN

W. MITTON

SWINDON'S FIRST WIN

SWINDON Ladies broke their duck in the Western Counties League with a 5-4 win over Plymouth. Gwen Hazell tipped the balance with a straight set victory. The Swindon team are unbeaten for Plymouth.

FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., M.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>15-17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS</td>
<td>(Ljubljana, Yugoslavia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>North East of England</td>
<td>J.B.S. Open</td>
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<td>Closing date: April 7, 1965</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>French Open</td>
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<td>May 1-2</td>
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<td>Milford Haven</td>
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<td>Only age</td>
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R.A.F. TOUR

THE R.A.F. shared the honours with Malta in their February tour of the George Cross Island. The R.A.F. won the first match 8-2 less than an hour after landing, but lost 4-6 in the return a few days later when the Maltese were able to include their champion, Alfred Scriberras.

Originally the R.A.F. were also to have visited Cyprus, but this part of the tour was cancelled. The Maltese Association saved the tour by arranging a full programme which included an Invitation Tournament won by Cpl. Brian Mayfield, who beat the hard-hitting left-handed Scriberras in straight games.

Scriberras had his revenge in the international, but here Jnr. Tech. Dick Clode proved his master. Clode suffered only one defeat on the tour ... to his colleague Mayfield in the Invitation tournament.

NEW JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

BOB HARPER beat Derek Corbet in the final of the Kent Junior Closed and now succeeds him as the county No. 1. Margaret Campbell retains her No. 1 spot among the girls on the strength of county performances, but the new girls' singles champion is Ruth Wilson, who has moved up to No. 2.


double win over Manchester

CHESHIRE'S 9-1 victory over Durham at Stockport on March 13 virtually affords them the Division II (North) championship and the right to challenge for a place in the Premier Division although they still had Cumberland and Northumberland to play.

Fruition of the foregoing expectations will deny Lancs, II of a third consecutive title for, despite their fine win over Yorks II, they have had a lax season. Their hopes are virtually nil and the championship will probably go to the Cheshire League, however, the Red Rose banner has been borne to some effect by Bolton who struck a purple patch during the last week of February.

Visits to Manchester on two consecutive nights saw them defeat the Manchester juniors 7-3 in the league and 6-3 in the Wilmott Cup and to complete a glorious treble they devoured Mid-Cheshire 9-1 to take over the leadership from the Northwich trio.

Subsequently defeating a not-to-proud Preston 9-1 on March 12 puts the 'Troters' in line for the title - last won 11 years ago - should they account for Blackpool in their final match. Present positions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Draws</th>
<th>Losses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolton</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackpool</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnley</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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</table>

In line for relegation are Wirral, a West Lancashire club whose senior players have made their mark in the past but who seem to have thrown in the sponge, and either Liverpool or Preston.

Liverpool's last match is away to Manchester and Preston have a final commitment across the Mersey to where they will ferry in high hopes of salvation at Wirral's expense.

Bolton "A" with a completed programme have won the championship of Div II (East), half way to their target.

Between the Lancashire Junior Open and the Lancashire Closed, the Manchester Open is planned for May 1-2.

Lancs. and Cheshire

by GEORGE R. YATES

DOUBLE WIN OVER MANCHESTER

Hampson as the men's singles champion of the Stockport League when he accounted for Brian Hurst in the final of the Lancashire Open at Stockport on March 13. This was his eighth title of the season and he now has 15 domestic titles to his name, including both the Lancashire Cup and the Lancashire Indoor Championship.

In the boys' singles final, 15-year-old John Nevin won the championship of the Wirral Junior Open with a fine display of tennis against his local rival, John Harper. John won 6-4, 6-3 in the final, having defeated the third-placed player, Peter Harper, in the semi-finals.

The Cheshire County Championship was won by Brian Wilson, who beat the hard-hitting left-hander Clode in the final.

THE CRESCENT INVITATION

THE Crescent Invitation, a girls only tournament which is widely regarded as one of the premier events in the English junior tennis calendar, has been cancelled due to the current restrictions on indoor gatherings.

The tournament was originally scheduled for May 1-2 but has been postponed until further notice.

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