

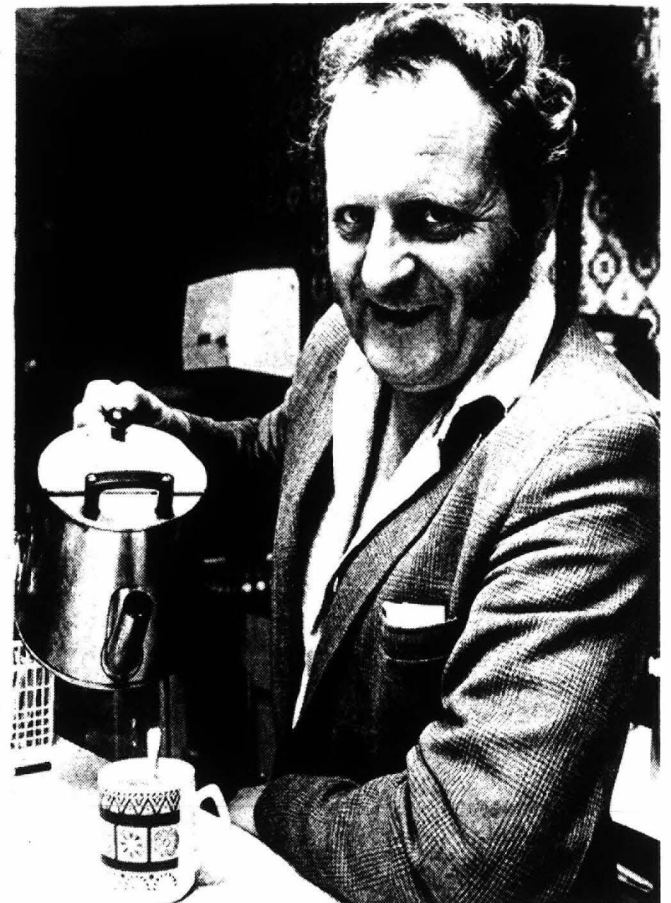
Wednesday is 'quiet' night

in the Rest Cafe



Alan Green, Maidenhead Chess Club's youngest player, receives advice from club champion Don Walsh (left) and junior champion Alan Potts (right) as he ponders on his next move.

Standing behind ready to offer their advice are club stalwarts (left to right) Clem Reynolds, Wilf Wardle, Peter Gutteridge, Graham Collingwood and Graham Craigie.



Rest Cafe proprietor Bill Norris, in whose premises the Maidenhead Chess Club meets, tends to his customers' needs during the day, and on Wednesday evenings relaxes over a chess board with fellow member Mike Mapleton (right).

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SIT in the Rest Cafe in Bridge Rd any day of the week and you can discuss a host of sporting topics from football to racing. But stroll in there on a Wednesday evening and you are likely to be greeted with a stony silence, although the dining room is crowded.

On Wednesday evenings the Cafe becomes the headquarters of Maidenhead Chess Club, and members gather there to play their various competitions and league matches.

The club, which was founded in 1906, has been using the premises since the former headquarters at the old Swan Hotel were demolished 10 years ago. Cafe proprietor Bill Norris is one of the club stalwarts.

Over the past three years the club's membership has expanded at such a rate that they are seeking new premises. "We already have over 30 members," said secretary Dr. Michael Bruton. "And frankly we are bursting at the seams. We



are anxious to find a hall in Maidenhead which can accommodate us."

Last season was the most successful ever. The club entered three teams in the Berkshire League and won all three division titles. In addition they entered for the first time the tougher Thames Valley League, which meant they were competing against teams from the London area—but they still won their division.

FLOURISHING

With a flourishing membership, the club can boast several talented players. Club champion Don Walsh is also the top board player for Berkshire, while junior champion Alan Potts is also highly placed in the British Junior Championships.

Alan is also a member of the Grammar School team which last season won the Berkshire Schools' Trophy, the Berks & Bucks Shield, and were the zone winners of the Sunday Times Schools Chess Championship.

All the members of the school team belong to the Maidenhead club, and last season their individual achievements included the Reading Junior Congress in which P. Storey, A. Stenton and Potts finished equal first. In addition, C. Burrows was first in the under 15 section, and J. Hodgson was a prize winner in a Marlow Congress game.

COUNTY TEAM

Six members of the team are in the county side, and some of their successes have been gained in other areas. Stenton won a grading prize in the Ilford Major Competition, and N. Cooper took the best game prize in the

Brighton under 18 tournament. The successful trend looks like continuing, for three weeks ago Maidenhead entered a team in the Thames Valley League Championship, and they won the Ellam Memorial Trophy as the highest graded team in the event.

With the new season just getting under way, Maidenhead are hoping to better their record. They have entered five teams in the Berkshire League, and two in the Thames Valley League.

In their opening matches in the Berkshire League, four of the teams played each other. The 'B' side had a surprise 3-2 victory over the 'A' team. Although one game has to be adjudicated, it is expected the result will still favour the 'B' team.

In the other match, the 'D' team beat the 'E' team 6-0.

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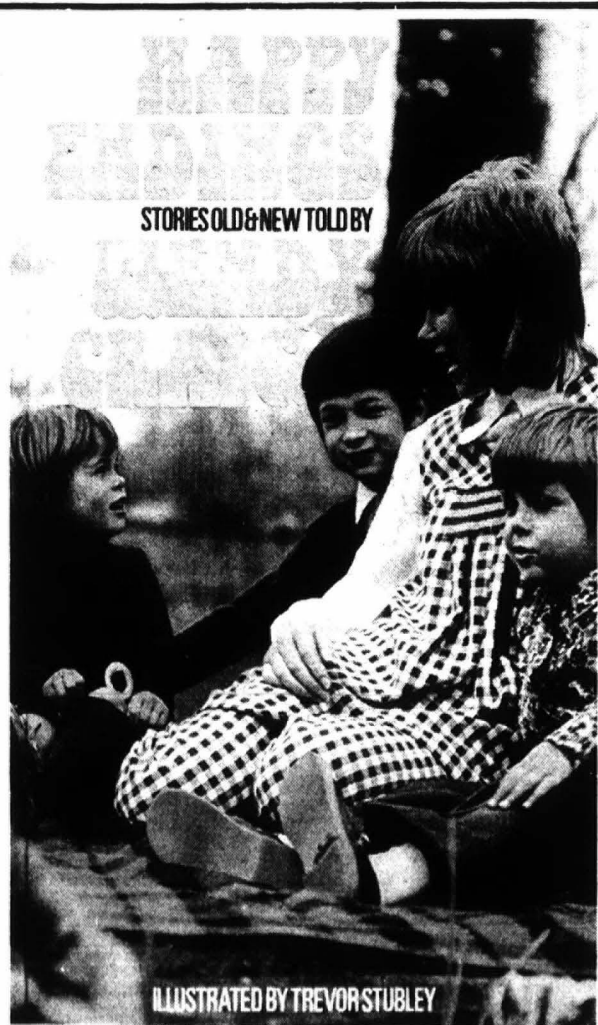
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