

# Sports hall rumpus

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little conservative." "We were told that the New Mills swimming pool would be self-financing, but every year we subsidise it with £80,000," he added.

Councillor Bingham explained that High Peak's rate support grant from the Government has been axed by £250,000 and spending is going to be stringent over the next two years.

The usual statutory commitments, such as refuse collection, have to be financed from High Peak's purse and in addition the authority is struggling to maintain the facilities it has in the area, he claimed.

Councillor Bingham pointed out that the swimming pool at Buxton needs around £250,000 spending on it and the one at Glossop also needs attention.

Again he stressed that the councillors who are pushing for the project are acting irresponsibly when the borough council's debts stand at £32 million.

"Looking at the buildings we own and the disrepair of some of them, it would be an absolute folly for the council to put new buildings up when we cannot look after the ones we have got," he added.

"I have always insisted that to a large degree the proposed leisure centre is

wanted really because of a lack of facilities for New Mills School," Councillor Bingham continued. "No wonder Derbyshire County Council have offered £100,000. For them to have a facility for the school for a one-off payment would be a great feather in their cap."

But once again Councillor Martin Huddleston, a borough and town member, was adamant that High Peak could have afforded to proceed this year with the sports hall.

"After asking the town council and other bodies for the extra money they turned round and said that the money from New Mills Town Council and NEWSPA could not be used at once because it was classed as a capital receipt and only 30 per cent of it could be used," he explained.

He claimed that the argument is "completely wrong" and was a ploy by the council to avoid starting building the hall in 1985.

Furthermore he declared that High Peak had never entered in serious negotiations with Derbyshire County Council to find out how much money was available from the education department which he again believes shows a general unwillingness to go ahead with the scheme.

But Councillor Bingham said on Tuesday that he had once again checked with the borough treasurer about using capital receipts and claims that his original argument stands.

County Councillor Martin Doughty also claimed that it was untrue that all the cash contributions from outside bodies could be used at once.

Confirmed in a letter from the county treasurer Mr Eric Cobb, he was told that any contribution made by one council towards the capital cost of another council should not be counted as a capital receipt irrespective of the sum.

In response to Councillor Bingham's suggestions that the county council have more financial involvement

in the sports hall, Councillor Doughty said there had been opportunities to discuss this for the last two years but claimed that High Peak has never even approached Derbyshire to talk about cash allocation over the past 12 months.

He explained that there was £300,000 in the education capital contingency fund for the whole county from which the New Mills sports hall cash could have been taken. "But no-one ever came along," Councillor Doughty added.

High Peak's chief executive Mr Glynne Jones agreed that perhaps the £35,000 from the town council could have been used in its entirety but said he would still have reservations about what monies could be used from the county council, particularly as High Peak have not received any formal information from Derbyshire on how much cash is available.

Stressing that High Peak were considering the revenue implications in rejecting the scheme, he claimed that the council had consulted industrialists throughout the borough when discussing the rates and they felt the authority was in no position to tackle the sports hall this year.

## 'Resign' call

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two members should be asked to resign it should be Councillors Huddleston and Fernley

"It is their policy to go into a penalty situation and they applaud authorities that have done that," Councillor Bingham went on. "They think they should provide the services that they think we should provide regardless of expense"

However, he claimed he is a great believer in democracy and believes there is room for all thoughts and feelings on the council

"Every council should have a good opposition but they should respect what other members of the council feel," Councillor Bingham added "You will never hear me asking for a Labour member to resign

Once again he emphasised that both councillors Livesley and Brennand, in his opinion, have shown a very responsible attitude in realising that finance is not available for the scheme

"That is the type of attitude that should be applauded, and people in New Mills with their feet on the ground will not slate them," he added. "I think they will appreciate their courage"

## 200 children in concert

All the primary schools in New Mills took part in a concert on Saturday to raise money for the proposed New Mills swimming pool.

Arranged by the New Mills Swimming Pool Association, the concert featured 200 children from St. George's Church of England, Spring Bank County Primary, Thornsett County Primary, Saint Mary's Roman Catholic and Hague Bar County Primary Schools.

Twelve songs were sung, and in between each one a different school put on their own item. The conductor was Mr. J. Johnson, headmaster of St. George's School, and the concert, held in the Youth Centre at Longlands Road, New Mills, was due to be repeated on Monday evening.

The New Mills Swimming Pool Association has already raised £5,000, including £100 from a dance held on Saturday week at New Mills Town Hall.

## 'Overwhelming support' for sports hall campaign

MORE than 30 organisations have so far pledged their support for the New Mills sports hall campaign and the organisers of the fight to persuade High Peak Council to build the complex next year say the list is growing daily.

Mr Charlie Winterbottom, chairman of the NEWSPA group who battled for the town's swimming pool and is now involved in the Central Area Sports hall appeal (CASH), said that campaigners are driving for such overwhelming support that the borough can not ignore it.

"We in New Mills have already demonstrated that we are prepared to contribute £65,000 already raised through voluntary contributions," he said.

"We have also proved that we use the facility we already have at the swimming pool. If anyone doubts that, try to book the swimming pool for private hire and see how little time is available."

Mr Winterbottom claims that the argument for a joint use facility is still very strong and believes that "extra money from the county council should be grabbed by the borough with both hands."

"It would be folly to let go an opportunity like this when you consider that the public time available would exceed school use by about 4 to 1," he added.

CASH have calculated that the sports hall would be available to the schools about 25 hours per week in term time with the rest for

public use.

They also point out that the county council owns the land, which CASH feels is another saving for High Peak Council.

"I would like to appeal to all local organisations who have not already pledged their support to do so and help us in our campaign," Mr Winterbottom urged. "This way surely we cannot fail."

After just three weeks of petitioning, CASH have gathered about 2,000 signatures from all over the central area of the borough.

In addition Mr Winterbottom said they are delighted to see that members of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal/SDP parties plus many other groups are all actively petitioning.



# COLLECTIONS MAKE £600

## CARNIVAL A 'ROARING SUCCESS'

THE FIRST New Mills carnival for over 25 years was a roaring success on Saturday.

The town was packed with visitors and residents attending the event, which was organized by the New Mills Swimming Pool Association.

Mrs. Daisy Jacques, of the Association, who has been a resident of New Mills for 22 years said: "The town has never been as full while I've lived there."

The first Carnival Queen in that time is Miss Anne Barrow, and she was crowned on the open-air stage by Mrs. S. Matlow, wife of the President of the Association, and a director of the Swizzles Company, Mr. Trevor Matlow, of Cheadle.

Anne said she was "very proud" to have been chosen as the first Queen for 27 years. "May we continue and have a carnival every year," she added.

The Queen's attendants were Miss Alison Payne (17), Miss Joan Potts (18), and the small attendants were their sisters, Miss Sally Payne and Miss Lynn Potts, together with Miss Gail Barrow.

Joan attends New Mills School, and Alison works at a florists in Stockport.

Also present at the crowning was the Chairman of New Mills Parish Council, Coun. Ellis Oldfield, J.P., and Mrs. M. Vonachten, of Derbyshire County Council.

Responsible for the organization of the event was Mr. Fred Ricketts, Chairman of the Carnival Committee, and the commentator for the day was Mr. Richard Tirrell, Chairman of the Swimming Pool Committee.

"Well over £600 was raised in the street collections," said Mrs. Jacques. "In fact we ran out of bags when we were counting the money. It was really good, and any profit, when we have met the expenses of the carnival, will go towards the swimming pool."

The carnival dance was also a great success, with an attendance of 350 who enjoyed the music of Crystals All Steel Band and Chicago Teddy Bears.

"It was tremendous," said Mrs. Jacques. "We hope to hold another carnival next year—it made such a lot of people so happy. It all went very well and the weather couldn't have been better."

Mr. Ricketts said next year the carnival will be "three times as big, provided we can get the helpers."



At the carnival field, which was packed with between 2,000 and 3,000 people, events were organized by Mr. Charles Winterbottom and Mr. Brian Austin.

The results of the float competition were:

1 New Mills Playgroup, 2 County Primary School, Spring Bank, New Mills, 3 Buxton Chamber of Commerce.

Cookery competition: Biscuits, children under 11: Karen Rogers (New Mills); 11-14 years: Anthony Scattergood (New Mills); small cakes: 1 Jane Hockey, aged 11 (New Mills); adults: Fruit loaf competition: Mrs. D. Brennan, New Mills; jam competition: Mrs. L. Timms, Buxton; marmalade competition, Mrs. M. Jones, New Mills.

The cookery competition was judged by Mrs. H. Garrioch, of the High Peak College, Harpur Hill.

"Guess the doll's birthday" was won by Mrs. D. Brennan (doll), Mrs. E. Parker (teddy bear) and Miss Carol Howe (teddy bear), all from New Mills.

Shop window spotting: 1 Ellen Crossland (£6), 2 Tracy Robinson (£4) and 3 Sandra Smith (£2).

Mr. Spencer Le Marchant, M.P. for the High Peak, and Mr. Jack Conner, an ex-Stockport County centre-forward, presented trophies and medals to the winners of the seven-a-side football competition, in which over 80 teams took part.

Semi-finals, under 12: Juno beat New Mills Juniors Football Club; West End Rovers beat St. Mary's; final: Juno beat West End Rovers 4-0.

Semi-final, under 13: West End Rovers beat Disley, and Bredbury Secondary School beat Juno; final, Bredbury beat West End Rovers 5-1.

Semi-finals, under 15: Harpur Hill beat Ley Hey, and Junior Supporters Club beat West End Rovers; final: Junior Supporters Club won 2-1.

Semi-finals, open: Masons (Hadfield) beat Davis and Met-

calfe, and Dilke Celtic beat Heaton Moor; final, Dilke Celtic won 1-0.

This event was organized by Mr. M. A. Taylor.

A cycle race, organized by Mr. Harry Hall, of New Mills, on behalf of the Tame Valley Racing Club, Manchester, was also held over a 1.2 mile circuit in the centre of New Mills. The proceeds plus £40 donated by the riders go to the Swimming Pool Association.

The first New Mills Carnival Queen for over a quarter of a century, Miss Anne Barrow, is crowned by Mrs. S. Matlow.



# Oh, what a smashing carnival!

NEW MILLS Swimming Pool Association's carnival on Saturday was a record-breaker in every sense — record street collection, record crowds and record procession in fine weather. With the dream of a town swimming pool looking more like a reality, the carnival committee's hard work to make it a better-than-ever attraction was well worth the effort.

For 16-year-old Penny Wells, of Parkway, crowned carnival queen by the retiring queen, Karen Morris — who takes over the Queen of the Peak's duties — it was a dream come true, as the sun shone for the highlight of her life.

Carnival committee chairman, Mr Brian Austin, happy with the response to the association's fifth carnival, said "The carnival committee and NEWSPA owe a great debt to the town for the marvellous way in which they have supported the carnival and the fund-raising for a swim pool.

"Their generous sheet donations this year leaves me in no doubt that they want another carnival next year. We will endeavour to follow this year's record-breaker with another as good or even better.

"People may ask how does one follow an event so successful as this, and the best answer is in the continued support of the town."

Leading the procession was Greater Manchester Police Band and other bands taking part were 3rd Reddish Scout and Guide Band, Preston St. David's Trumpet and Drum

Corps, Norwest Co-op New Mills Band, Thornsett Band and Bredbury, Romiley and Marple Air Training Corps (1196 squadron).

There were floats and tableaux from many organisations, which provided colourful and entertaining. Thornsett County Primary School won the schools and play-group class for the fourth year running.

A good number of visiting queens took part and their cars reflected hours of effort taken to decorate them.

Carnival day for Penny began with the Canal journey from Bowater's to New Mills

## Spelling out the news

Coyles, New Mills news-agents, made their own news on Saturday — with a novel display in honour of carnival queen Penny Wells.

Featuring 421 pennies, spelling out the message "Good Luck, Penny," their entry won first prize and silver shield for the best dressed shop window. Mr and Mrs P. Coyle took over the Market Street shop last year and this was the first time they had entered the competition.

Marina from their she was taken to join the procession at its starting point on Watburn Road.

Penny wore a full-length classical style polyester suede white dress, decorated with an inlaid butterfly pattern and pearl drops on the front and the carnival queen's cape.

Ladies-in-waiting were Beverley Quest and Elaine Martin, and young attendants were Claire Ratcliffe, Johanna Mather and Samantha Leath.

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The Pineapple Inn punk rockers. (78.6.198).



A sunny smile from Carnival Queen Penny Wells as she rides through the town. (78.6.197).



# Lively interest in £400,000 swim pool and squash courts

FOR eight years a group of men and women have been working towards what will happen today — the opening of the swimming pool and squash courts. New Mills and District Swimming Pool Association (NEWSPA) has raised £30,000 towards the £400,000 project, the main source of income being the carnivals held in New Mills over the last seven years. The Sports Council has chipped in with a grant of £20,000 and the rest of the money has been provided by High Peak Borough Council.

A preview of the facilities was given on Tuesday evening to NEWSPA members and local councillors, when they took part in the first swim in the pool.

The new complex, in Hyde Bank Road, New Mills, comprises a 25-metre pool, two squash courts, a solarium, a bar, an area for refreshments and viewing, and all the necessary changing facilities.

The manager, Mr Nigel Smith, trained in physical education, has worked in two recreation facilities in Bolton. Before being appointed at New Mills, he was assistant manager at Glossop Leisure Centre.

He is keen to develop all kinds of activities at the pool. There will be swimming lessons for all age groups and he says: "There have already been a lot of inquiries. Demand was so great that we've decided to run the summer courses on a six-week basis, and we have now got 170 names for the courses."

Bookings for the squash courts began on Monday and will be made on an eight-day basis in the future, i.e. book on

Monday for the following Monday. Season tickets for the pool were also made available on Monday.

Mr Smith says: "We wouldn't like to see the squash courts booked on a club basis. There are only two courts, and I'd like to keep away from club and block bookings so that the public has a greater chance of using the facility. We hope to start a squash ladder soon after opening."

The pool, however, lends itself more readily to bookings by organisations, especially during the quiet daytime period.

"If we find we've got quiet periods," says Mr Smith, "we'd look into having bookings from schools or for housewives. I'm open to applications from any private organisation — if a club wants to hire it they can by all means."

"Obviously in winter I'll look into block bookings more. During the day, from Monday to Friday, from September onwards, the pool will be in use by schools."

"But we don't want the pool to be stood there doing nothing — the more it's used, the better."

The pool is cleaned and chlorinated on a 24-hour drip feed system. The water is circulated constantly and Mr Smith says the system is the most up-to-date which could be had.

The pool's full-time staff comprises Mr Smith, two assistants, a receptionist and two attendants. During the busy summer months they will be augmented by two part-time receptionists and two part-time attendants.

Mr Smith says: "I've been able to get the staff I wanted. I'm pleased and confident in them — they are of the right calibre so I haven't had to take up the offers of voluntary help from the local services."

The public's response to the complex, he says, has been "phenomenal." "Since the building was handed over to us in June we've been inundated with visits from people wanting to look round and

general inquiries about the use of the pool and the courts."

The bar licence was granted on Friday, with the stipulation that it should not open until after the pool had been closed. "But that has been our intention all along," says Mr Smith, "so there are no problems on that score."

He is full of praise for the way in which NEWSPA members have helped and shown interest in the project, by distributing leaflets and keeping up to date with developments on the site.

Tuesday's invitation swim was an acknowledgment of the work done by NEWSPA and a thank you gesture. "They have been marvellous," says Mr Smith, "very helpful indeed."

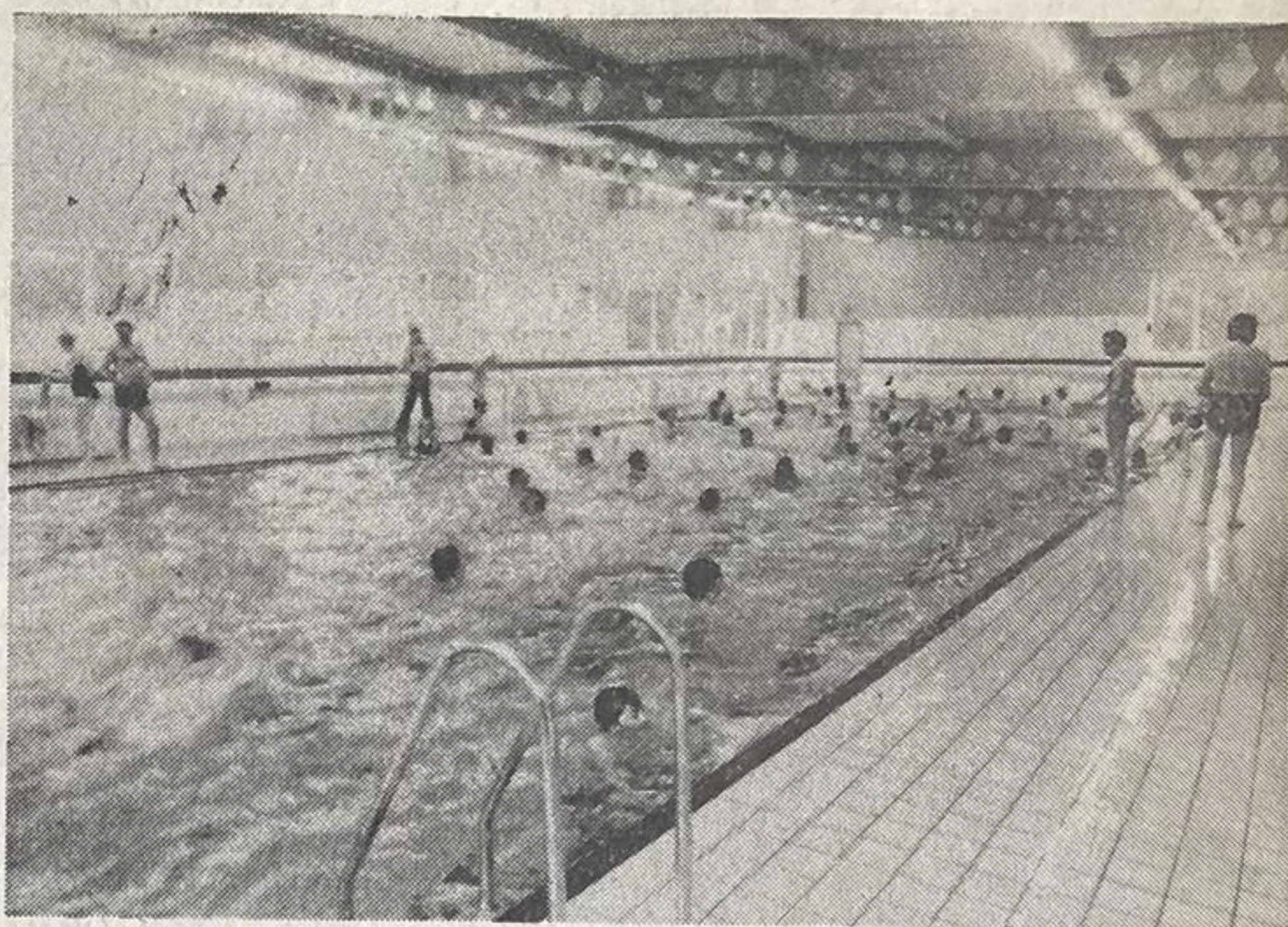
The running of the pool will be augmented by an advisory committee, made up of Mr Smith, borough and town council representatives and NEWSPA members. It cannot make decisions about the running of the complex, but will make recommendations to High Peak Amenities Committee. "It could prove to have a very relevant role," says Mr Smith.

As well as the pool and squash courts, there is a solarium for those who want to have a sun-tan all the year round. Advance bookings will have to be made in the same way as for the squash courts, for a 40-minute period: 30 minutes on the solarium and ten for showering and changing.

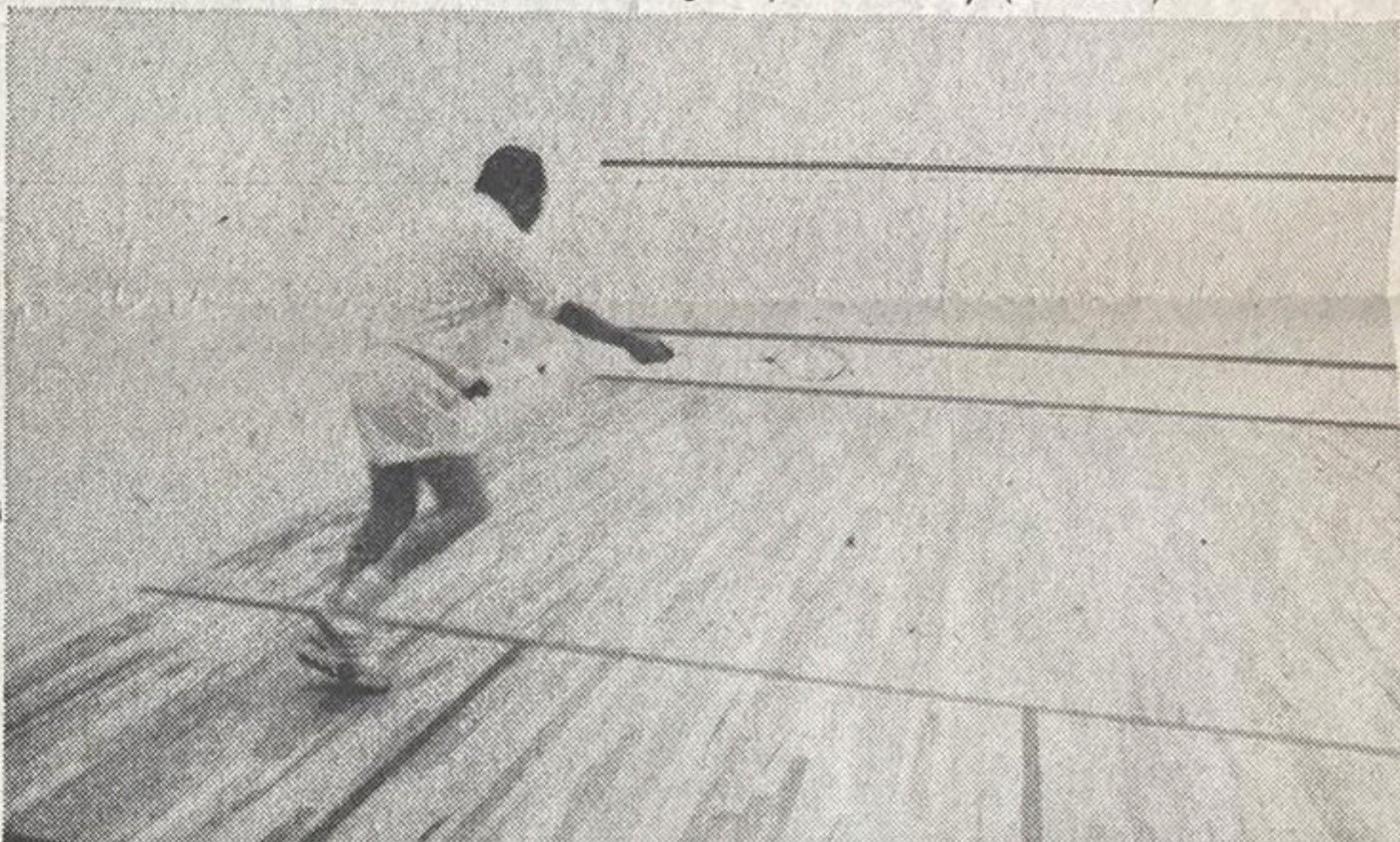
The solarium gives out ultra-violet A rays — the same as those from the sun which give the tan. Harmful B and C rays are eliminated.

Mr Smith says: "It definitely works — I've tried it for two reasons. One, to get a tan, and two, to make sure that it's completely safe. I find it very relaxing as well."

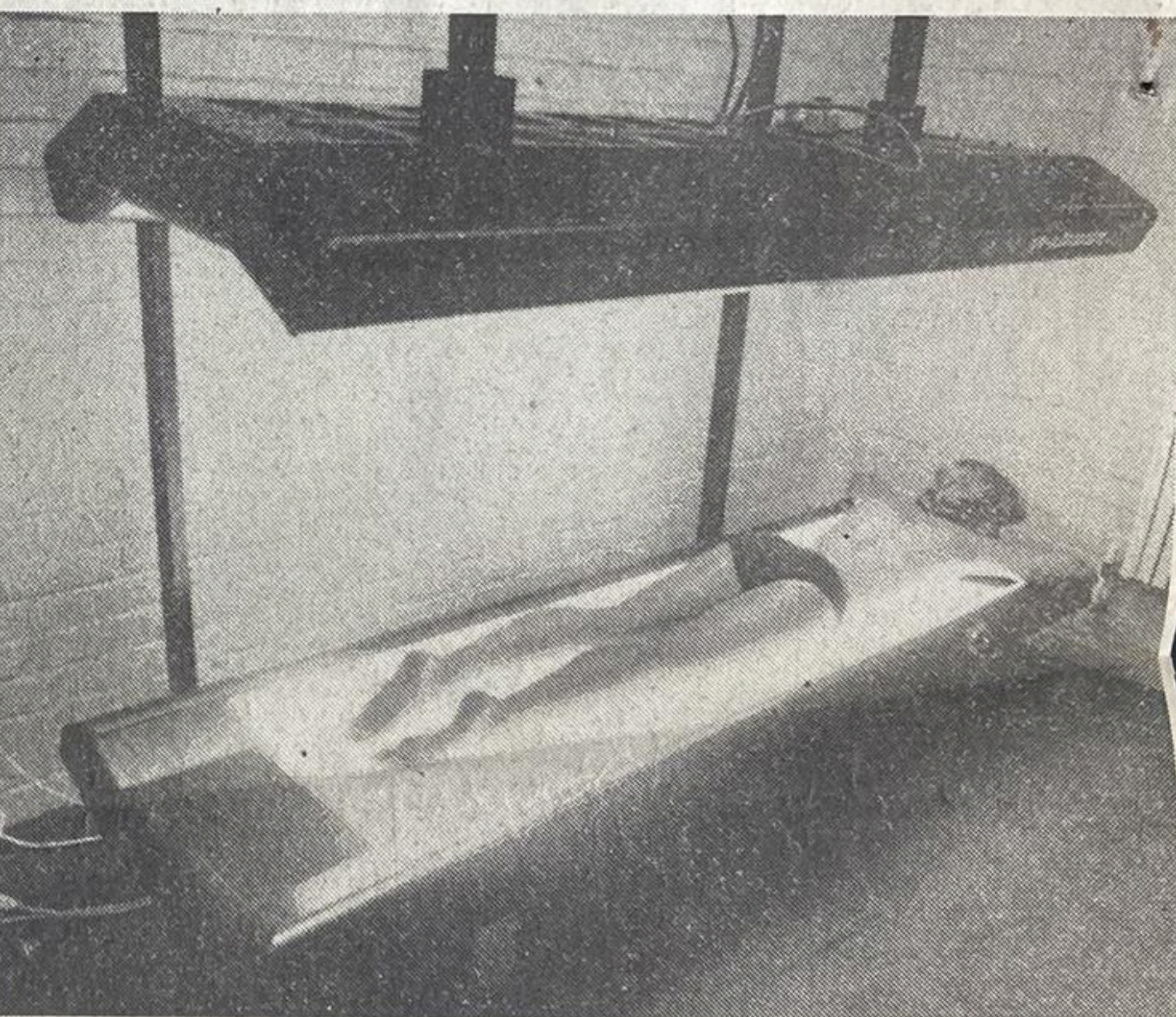
■ The swimming pool will open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The squash courts will open 9 a.m. to 10.20 p.m. seven days a week.



Members of NEWSPA taking a dip on Tuesday. (80.7.277).



Councillor Frank Bullough in the squash court. (80.7.275).



Susan Gardner, a member of the pool staff, relaxes on the solarium. (80.7.276).



The bar and club room. (80.7.274).



# Pool's splash start

**ATTENDANCES** at New Mills swimming pool and squash courts have been "incredible" in the first week of opening, says manager Mr Nigel Smith.

"There have been about 600 a day in the pool and at least 100 spectators every day. The squash courts are getting used as well," he said.

"But there are still some people who are under the impression that they are for a private club and there are some silly rumours going around that we're booked up for the next three years."

"I'm really, really pleased and a little bit stunned by it all," said Mr Smith.

Councillor Ray Walter, Deputy Mayor of High Peak and former chairman of High Peak Amenities Committee, gave the complex a champagne send-off on Friday, the opening day.

In the presence of the Mayor, Councillor Eddie Leney, the Mayoress, Councillor Keith Allman, other members of the council and members of New Mills Swimming Pool Association led by the chairman Mr Charles Winterbottom, he praised the persistence of NEWSPA and the enthusiasm of individual councillors, which had brought the project to fruition.

He said he was proud to have been personally involved in the success story and reminded those present that nothing could have happened without the support of the people of New Mills and the finance provided by the ratepayers of High Peak.

ON ADVERTISER, THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1980



## PREVIEW OF NEW POOL

**NEW MILLS** swimming pool opened to the public on Friday, but members of the Swimming Pool Association were given a preview last Wednesday — and these young members declared it a great success.

The 25-metre pool, which is open every day, also includes two squash courts in the same building. Bookings for the squash courts open eight days in advance — Telephone New Mills 45424.

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**New Mills swimming pool and squash courts will open to the public this Friday at 10 a.m.**

The new complex comprises a 25-metre pool, two squash courts and a solarium, together with a committee and club room, refreshments/viewing area and all the necessary changing facilities.

Manager, Nigel Smith, is keen to develop all kinds of activities at the pool. There will be lessons for all age groups throughout the year, special sessions for mums and babies, and for the over 60's.

## New Mills complex opens its doors

The pool will also be available for club use both for training and galas.

The two squash courts are expected to be in heavy demand as New Mills' first facility. The courts will be open every day and bookings may be made up to eight days in advance. Squash rackets and balls will be on sale or available for hire at the courts.

Getting a sun tan in New Mills will be a lot easier now as the new centre has a solarium to bring back reminders of summer!

The swimming pool will open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. yearly tickets will be available at £11 for adults, £5.50 for juniors and family tickets start at £12.50.

Group rates are available, and the staff at the pool will gladly quote a rate for your gala or club training session.

The squash courts will open 9 a.m. to 10.20 p.m. seven days a week, at £1.50 per 40-minute session. Telephone New Mills 45424 for bookings.

● New Mills swimming pool and squash courts have been provided by High Peak Borough Council in co-operation with the New Mills Swimming Pool Association, who have contributed £30,000 towards the cost. The Sports Council (East Midlands Region) has provided a grant of £20,000.



# Centre opens with a bounce



The Mayor works out on a Uni-gym, serenaded by, left to right, Claire Thompson, Barry Jefcoate and Simon Taylor.

**THE versatility of New Mills's prestigious leisure centre was displayed for all to see at Friday's opening.**

An impressive floorshow, illustrating a range of the sports and activities which the Hyde Bank Road centre caters for, was staged in the lofty sports hall after the speeches and thank-yous.

This was a proud moment for New Mills and a time to show off what the town has campaigned for so vigorously.

Mr Mick Owen, from the leisure centre's management team, introduced the exhibition of sports as they unfolded from behind the green nets as one by one they were rolled back.

Nora, Alice and Peggy, from the 50-plus Group, demonstrated the more sedate sport of bowls on one of the special mats which people can hire.

All the bowling equipment can be booked by the public, although for the more seriously inclined it is hoped to start an indoor winter league.

Bouncing into the spotlight next was the trampolining display led by fully-qualified instructor Gail Heathcote.

She deftly demonstrated some twists and turns before handing local girls to have a go.

**I ♥ NEW MILLS  
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Road  
New Mills

**Telephone:  
0663 45424**

Four members of Glossop Volleyball Club showed their skills before another quartet proved that the high ceilings at New Mills are ideal for those lofty lob shots in badminton.

With a blast of music from Rick Astley, New Mills School pupils put on some basketball. With these youngsters the under-14s Derbyshire Schools champions it was hardly surprising that this display was most impressive.

It was certainly an entertaining evening for those who had been invited to the official opening, performed by the Mayor of High Peak, Councillor Dorothy Brennand, from New Mills.

During refreshments in the main hall, everyone was serenaded by New Mills School Orchestra.

Leisure centre manager Heather Mather was thrilled with the opening and was full of praise for her team.

"I would like to say a big thank-you to all my staff who have worked so hard," she said.

## How the money was raised

**CHEQUES** were handed over and speeches said in the new-look foyer at the New Mills Leisure Centre - a dual-use project from which both the community and schools will benefit.

It was down to Councillor Mike Loader, chairman of High Peak Council's community and leisure committee, to make the introductions and explain that it was due to group effort between the local authorities and town organisations that got the scheme off the ground.

First on the podium was Mr Charlie Winterbottom, from New Mills Swimming Pool Association, who presented a cheque for £45,000 - the fruits of fund-raising at the town's carnivals.

This was a follow-up to the £30,000 which NEWSPA injected into the swimming pool scheme at Hyde Bank Road when that was built.

He said: "This for us is the culmination of 15 years of hard work. Our original aim was to build a swimming pool in New Mills. I think we have hit the jackpot."

He remarked that the dreams had been transformed into realities and praised the Mayor, Councillor Dorothy Brennand, who has worked so hard for NEWSPA over the years. Mr Winterbottom said it

was fitting that she should open the centre.

He added: "This complex is an example of what can be achieved. We had a hard-working committee, the overwhelming support of the local people and co-operation of the authorities."

County Councillor Martin Doughty handed over a giant cheque for £154,836 - Derbyshire County Council's contribution towards the project.

He pointed out that each of the three tiers of local government - Derbyshire, High Peak and New Mills councils - had made a massive contribution

towards the project, managing to overcome the spending barriers which are often placed on authorities.

Derbyshire's main interest in the scheme is educational. The sports hall will be used during the day for schools to broaden their sporting horizons.

County Councillor Geoff Lennox, Derbyshire's education committee chairman, realised that New Mills School was in need of these facilities and acknowledged that the leisure centre was the ideal way to get a joint community/education amenity.

The Mayor stepped up to unveil the plaque before

delivering her speech and outlining how the germ of an idea for a swimming pool for the town started 15 years ago with a public meeting in the town hall.

The carnival was revived, the cash quickly raised and NEWSPA was faced with the question of what New Mills people wanted next. A sports hall, of course.

The local authorities were talked to, sounded out, cajoled, petitioned - you name it - as the town fought for its precious leisure centre.

Councillor Brennand said that the project was value for money thanks to the efforts of High Peak's housing director Mr Peter Harrison and the conscientiousness of contractors Tarmac, who not only completed the work within 26 weeks, on schedule, but who donated £16,000 for equipment.

Councillor Brennand referred to the cash which New Mills Town Council contributed, some £35,000, and mentioned the £31,000 donation from the Sports Council.

High Peak Council's share amounts to some £168,000 and she thanked the borough's director of environmental health and leisure services, Mr Richard Tomlinson, for his support.

Finally the Mayor said: "Heather Mather and her staff's enthusiasm for getting things done has been rewarded by the popularity achieved by the sports hall. We are sure it will go from strength to strength."



Councillor Brennand unveils the plaque.





● Contributors to the cost of New Mills Leisure Centre pictured with cheques they presented to High Peak Mayor Dorothy Brennand (centre) at Friday's opening are (left to right) Cllr Martin Doughty, for Derbyshire County Council; Cllr Mike Loader, Chairman of the High Peak Borough Council's Community and Leisure Services Committee; Cllr Marion Williams, New Mills Town Council; and New Mills Swimming Pool Association Chairman Charles Winterbottom and Treasurer Frank Fish.

# Sports centre launch ends 15-year fight

**Fifteen years of campaigning and fund-raising for better sporting facilities in New Mills came to a fitting conclusion with the opening of the town's new leisure complex on Friday.**

An air of euphoria filled the sports centre as High Peak Mayor Dorothy Brennand marked the official opening by unveiling a commemorative plaque in the reception area.

Townfolk and representatives from the various groups and organisations who had fought unceasingly for the centre since 1973 joined in the celebrations.

Staff at the centre put on an impressive display of some of the numerous sporting activities that can be enjoyed in the multi-purpose sports hall in Hyde Bank Road.

New Mills School Band played as curtains swished back to reveal the new trampolining class, followed by an indoor bowling demon-

stration by ladies from a 50-plus group, who previously practised in Glossop.

Members of Glossop volleyball team — who hail from New Mills, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Chinley and Birch Vale — were next to show off their skills.

Britain's most popular indoor game, badminton, was also being played and New Mills School Basketball Club rounded off the display.

Special guests, including representatives from Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council and New Mills Town Council, were also given the opportunity to try out the latest in body-conditioning technology in the new weights room — though many preferred to save themselves for the more genteel finale by joining hands for the floral dance.

Charles Winterbottom, Chairman of New Mills Swimming Pool Association, who spearheaded the campaign for the leisure centre and raised £75,000 towards its facilities, said:

"It's marvellous." He added that the complex was "beyond their wildest dreams."

## Sports hall 'compromise'

A WATERED-DOWN version of the proposed New Mills Sports Hall may have to be a compromise for the original £1 million complex planned at Hyde Bank Road, which High Peak Council now feels is not practical.

But there are fears in the town that the scheme could be axed to such a degree that it would narrow down the joint education/community use and leave the public with a facility which, in a few years' time, might seem inadequate.

On Monday night High Peak Council's policy

sub-committee suggested that the authority should explore the various options available and visit other sports centres in the area, which might be expected to cost between £500,000 and £7,000.

The borough has decided that to go ahead with the full £1 million scheme at the moment would be too big an impact on the rates and, by increasing the council budget, the authority would lose out on its rate support grant from the Government.

But a smaller scheme, minus the bowls hall and lounge and bar, could reduce the complex's

income and the yearly running costs would escalate.

Councillor Martin Huddleston, who in the Reporter last week accused the borough of using "delaying tactics" over the sports hall, claimed that there was a big danger of the scheme being watered down too far.

"Once again nothing has been firmed up and time is running out," he said. "We have been taking about the present scheme for over three years and there has been talk of a leisure facility for well over 15 years and we are still not getting any nearer. What it is lacking is a real commitment to get it done."



# 'Sabotage' claim over sports complex

**DERBYSHIRE** County Council may be asked to shoulder half the running costs for the New Mills Swimming Pool — a facility funded by High Peak Council — as part of the latest inter-authority negotiations to build a much-called-for sports hall in the town.

Some members from the borough feel that as pool staff would be doubling up for the sports complex, and because High Peak Council is pushing for a 50/50 deal in building the hall, this would be a fair and logical suggestion.

But certain sceptics in New Mills, who are campaigning for the twice-abandoned project to start next year, believe that such financial demands are an attempt to sabotage chances of getting the scheme through.

The sports hall negotiations are scheduled for early next month and the leader of High Peak Council's Conservatives, Councillor George Bingham, claims the borough is waiting for Derbyshire to fix a date.

"The discussions at this stage will be whether the sports hall will be built provided it is on a 50/50 basis for capital and revenue implications," he explained, claiming that sharing the cost of running the swimming pool could feature in future debates.

Councillor Bingham said that costs would be cut by using staff from the swimming pool and unless Derbyshire council contributed, almost £80,000 wages would be subsidised by the borough.

He claims that only £8,000 has been earmarked

for staffing in the recent sports hall feasibility study — a figure which he feels is unrealistic but has been quoted because of the proposed swimming pool staff double-up.

Councillor Bingham still disputes the campaigning Central Area Sports Hall (CASH) action group's claim that the scheme will cost only about £400,000. He is sticking to estimates of nearer £1 million.

"If it was £400,000 I don't think there would be any problem of us giving half that amount," he continued. "And since the county council's education budget is £300 million, I don't think they would have any worries either."

But this week CASH chairman Mr Charlie Winterbottom claimed the latest suggestion for sharing the swimming pool running costs "is an attempt to sabotage the sports hall scheme."

"I don't believe there has been any discussion in High Peak Council along these lines," he told the Reporter. "What has George Bingham got against New Mills? He seems hell bent on destroying the scheme."

"What he is proposing is outrageous," he said, explaining that while the borough built and operate the swimming pool, the county council pays the going rate when it is hired for school lessons.

● Councillor Bingham also said this week that he is still waiting for an invitation from CASH to discuss the sports hall project. But his claims were strongly refuted by Mr Winterbottom.

"Through the New Mills Swimming Pool Association and CASH we have been asking to meet the borough for over five years and have not received a letter of acknowledgement or a date," Mr Winterbottom claimed.

"All we get is a curt reply that our comments are being noted," he added. "They are fighting shy of meeting us."



# Council decides on interest-free loan

PLANS to build a sports hall next to New Mills Swimming Pool should not receive the financial support of the town council, it was argued last week.

Following their success at raising about £30,000 towards the cost of the pool, members of New Mills Swimming Pool Association have turned their attention to collecting money for a multi-purpose hall.

But it looks as though they may have to do without the town council's help.

The subject arose at the council meeting after councillors heard that Newspa had refused to help New Mills Juniors AFC furnish the Newtown recreation ground changing rooms.

In a letter to the council, Newspa secretary Mrs D. Jacques explained why they had turned down this request for financial assistance.

"When our organisation was formed, and after months of correspondence, personal interviews and several re-writes of our constitution, we were eventually registered as a charity, but only after the Charity Commission had inserted irreversible clauses within that constitution.

"These basically state that we can only dispose of funds to other organisation in the event of our disbandment, and then only under the strict supervision of the Commissioners. Any alteration to this clause and its requirements, or failure to comply with these requirements, renders us immediately no longer a charity-at-law.

"As you can imagine, we jealously guard this status, for the first result of our losing it would be to make us liable for income tax."

But at the council meeting, Councillor Stephen Dearden asked: "One assumes that Newspa makes payments to the borough council for the running of the swimming pool, so why can't they make contributions to other sporting bodies?"

He added: "Is this refusal to help the football club a statement of their desired objectives rather than a constraint under which they are operating?"

"If it is their preference, I would be happy if they made that clear to this council. It would make it clear to us that we should not make any contribution to Newspa projects, because we would have to consider contributing to other needs they are not prepared to consider."

Councillor David Brown said that a charity, such as Newspa, could not make a contribution to another charity. "But they could give us the money to do the work on the changing rooms," he added.

Faced by Newspa's decision, the town council had to decide whether to help the football club.

Councillor Brown thought it should: "We are not talking about giving money to a body.

We are talking about spending money on a building that we own, and I think that is a legitimate use that public money should be put to," he said.

"The building is also to be used by the cycle speedway club. We are providing the public with a facility and not a private thing for one club."

Councillor Gordon Allen agreed: "Some time ago we looked at the possibility of building a sports pavilion, but decided against it when the price went up.

"The amount we have spent on that pavilion over the past few years is far less than this council might have been committed to had we had to build a pavilion.

"If the football club go tomorrow we still have a very good pavilion there at very low cost."

But Councillor Martin Doughty felt that the town council was in danger of "opening the floodgates.

"Many amateur sporting

clubs in the area are going to be none too happy when they see us dispersing funds in one direction," he said.

This view was backed by Councillor Frank Bullough, a member of New Mills Cricket Club.

He said: "It leaves you in a difficult position if you are associated with a sporting club. Birch Vale Football Club are in need of a considerable amount, for instance. We have got to be realistic, it is very easy to give out people's money.

"I am not against the junior football club. I think they have done a terrific job, but we have got to be seen to be fair to everyone, and not only sporting organisations."

The council agreed to grant New Mills Juniors an interest-free loan of £1,500 over three years, to allow them to fit out the changing rooms.

An amendment by Councillor Doughty to cut the loan to £750 was defeated by one vote.



## Council drag their feet

High Peak Council has been accused of dragging their feet over the proposed sports hall project at New Mills, the action group campaigning for its completion heard at a meeting on Wednesday.

A recent council meeting had been told that as the scheme would cost over £1 million, the borough could not afford it.

This was rubbish said Mr Charles Winterbottom, chairman of C.A.S.H. The most recent estimate of building and equipment cost was just over £500,000.

There was every possibility that substantial financial help would be given if only the borough Council would get its act together and talk to those prepared to help.

NEWSPA, the Swimming Pool Association, was prepared to give £40,000 to the project, which was a reflection of the tremen-

dous support given by New Mills people to provide better facilities in the town.

Running costs of the Sports Hall would be minimal overall, as it was confidently expected that the hall would be used by a wide range of people, generating a substantial income which could equal the running costs.

# £350,000 SPORTS PROJECT IS PLANNED

TOWNSFOLK could be enjoying new indoor sports facilities in New Mills before long, High Peak Council is likely to support a scheme, scheduled for next year, to build an extension to the pool and squash complex on Hyde Bank Road.

At a meeting of the borough's amenities committee on Tuesday, officers recommended a shelving of the project until 1985/86 while financial details were established.

But these proposals, while supported by the leader of High Peak Council, Councillor George Bingham, were overruled by a majority of members.

They urged that the scheme should be pursued immediately and talks between Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Council and the Sports Council are likely to begin in the next few weeks.

Early speculation is that the county council will be keen to inject about

£100,000 into the complex, which will link in with the pool and squash courts building.

This is largely because the sports extension would be community education facilities and available to schools as well as the public. The chairman of Derbyshire County Council Education Committee, Mr Frank Revell, has already expressed considerable interest in the project.

Speaking in favour of an early start to the programme, Councillor Martin Huddleston, although not a member of the amenities committee, explained that no real discussions had been held with the county council as to how much cash might be available.

The lack of sports facilities at New Mills School in particular is becoming more apparent and the governors, along with New Mills Youth Club's management committee, have been pressing Derbyshire for the hall.

In view of the possibilities for a new leisure complex, an assessment has been carried out in High Peak to determine the areas starved of any facilities.

The report concluded that an indoor sports centre in New Mills, involving a main hall and an ancillary hall, a bar area and changing accommodation, would help to solve the deficiencies.

Also keen to make a £25,000 contribution to the scheme are the New Mills

Swimming Pool Association, which successfully campaigned and collected to donate £25,000 towards the building of the town's pool and squash facilities.

Rough estimates show that the building will cost around £350,000 with annual expenditure of almost £30,000. However, it is predicted that the income would more than cancel this out.

The borough council

made it clear that they have made no allowance for this project in their capital budget. Officers said that the scale of finance required would very much depend on what contributions are forthcoming from other bodies, especially the county council.

This development is likely to be considered by the Sports Council as "meeting a local deficiency in the central area."



# Sports hall project back in capital programme

**THE twice-abandoned New Mills sports hall project is back in High Peak Council's capital programme for next year, thanks to some pushing from two borough councillors.**

High Peak's amenities committee discussed items for the programme at its Tuesday night meeting, and both Councillors John Fernley and Martin Huddleston said they were surprised to see the sports hall scheme missing from the programme and urged that it be written in.

Now the committee has agreed that chairman Councillor Brian Colley should start negotiations with Derbyshire County Council to see what financial assistance is available.

In addition High Peak Council is applying to the Sports Council, New Mills Town Council and the New Mills Swimming Pool Association to see if the offers they made previously, which amounted to almost £100,000 still stand.

Councillor Martin Huddleston said he was surprised that the project was missing in view of the support shown by the majority of the amenities committee of previous occasions.

He stressed: "Only once we have thoroughly explored all avenues of financing the programme, and only when we have a clear indication of the commitment of the council as a whole, and only when we

know the extent of financial restrictions placed on us by the Government, then that should be the time that we make a final decision and not before."

He went on: "It is not some kind of luxury. It is required to cater for an ever-growing social need in an area of the borough void of such a provision."

Councillor Huddleston also felt that members should acknowledge the hard work and determination of the town's pressure group, the Central Area Sports Hall group (CASH), who are struggling to persuade High Peak to proceed with the scheme next year.

He explained that the group has had a tremendous response from a multitude of clubs and organisations all over the borough. Not all members were keen to see the project back in the programme, claiming it could raise people's expectations when the sports hall might not stand a chance of being built.

But the majority felt that the people of New Mills and the central area have been "let down" and that the council should make a bigger commitment to get the scheme through.

## That's the spirit!

COMMUNITY spirit in New Mills is a force to be reckoned with, it was declared this week, as the local swimming pool association plans its strategy for reviving the town's sports hall project abandoned some weeks ago by High Peak Council.

School, parents, youth organisations, sports clubs and councillors will be gathering at a meeting on Wednesday in the library lecture room at 8 pm to present a strong pressure group.

Hoping to call a public meeting soon, NEWSPA point out that their fierce campaign over the swimming pool paid off some years ago, so there is every reason to be optimistic about the future.

As with the swimming pool, NEWSPA are putting £35,000 of locally-raised cash into the sports hall project which in total has attracted about £200,000 in donations from other outside bodies.

NEW MILLS people are being urged to support a mass publicity campaign, organised by a newly-formed pressure group known as CASH, to try to persuade the High Peak Borough Council to rethink its decision to abandon the New Mills sports hall project, work on which should have started this year.

Although the campaign organisers will be known as CASH this is not a money-raising venture but one to raise support to pressurise the council to reverse the decision taken earlier this year.

CASH, or the Central Area Sports Hall Action Group, was officially launched at the second of two meetings, instigated by New Mills Swimming Pool Association, to enlist the support of local sports organisations, schools and other groups in their campaign.

A campaign petition has been drawn up which, when complete, will be placed before the council at what the group considers will be the right time to have maximum impact. In addition car stickers are being issued and flag badges handed out.

### Accurate

Mrs. Daisy Jacques, secretary of both NEWSPA and the newly-launched group, told the Courier that the campaign would try to point out that the Borough Council was not correct in its claim that the scheme would cost £1,000,000. In quoting this figure the council was including loan charges, and the action group believed a figure of £800,000 would be more accurate.

In addition the council already had a 999 years' lease on the sports hall's proposed site adjacent to New Mills swimming pool. The hall would become part of a sports complex and this would mean that only one additional member of staff would be necessary. The council would not be starting from scratch with the scheme, and running costs would not be as high as they would have been otherwise.

The action group are also contacting Derbyshire

## Sports hall rethink plea

County Council, who have already agreed to make a £100,000 donation to the scheme so that New Mills School may have the use of the hall, New Mills Town Council who have agreed to give £35,000, and the Sports Council which agreed to donate £25,000. NEWSPA has also raised £35,000 towards the sports hall scheme since New Mills swimming pool opened.

In addition the action group would like to see a meeting between High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council who may, perhaps, be persuaded to make a larger contribution as New Mills School would have the use of the hall during the day in term time.

### Support

Mrs. Jacques pointed out: "I think the hall should be for community use. We should not have the school needing it all through the holidays, and the money is not available to duplicate these things. They should be used to everyone's advantage".

She added that the group was also seeking the support of other areas in its campaign such as Hayfield, Furness Vale, Whaley Bridge and Chapel-en-le-Frith whose residents would also benefit from the hall.

NEWSPA has raised £35,000 in New Mills towards the scheme and Mrs. Jacques said that the group felt that the town had done its share financially and were now hoping for as much public support as possible.



# Sports hall: '£ for £ deal' the only hope

THE only hope of New Mills getting its sports hall next year is if Derbyshire County Council agrees to match High Peak Council pound for pound in building and running the centre, it was claimed this week.

Councillor George Bingham, the leader of High Peak's Conservatives, says it is likely the borough will have to make even more spending cuts next year to avoid Government rate-capping and only a "50/50" deal may get the project through.

"That seems fair when the leisure centre will be primarily for educational use," he said. "I think it would be a very good deal for the county."

On Monday campaigners for the sports hall accused the borough council of avoiding having a meeting with the town's pressure group and claimed they have been pushing for a get-together to discuss the project for six years.

Furthermore, members of the Central Area Sports Hall group (CASH) are furious that certain High Peak councillors have suggested at a recent amenities committee meeting that the cost of the twice-abandoned Hyde Bank Road scheme is likely to be nearer £1 million — double the original estimates.

Mrs Daisy Jacques, a member of the New Mills Swimming Pool Association and now secretary of CASH, said: "How they arrive at that figure, I don't know."

But High Peak and town councillor Mrs Dorothy Brennand claimed the figures quoted is nearer £750,000. "It is not so much the money, it is what we have got to pay for borrowing that cash," she said.

But Mrs Jacques challenged: "You don't quote that when it comes to schemes in Glossop or Buxton."

# Grant bid: too late or too soon?

HIGH PEAK Council has once again been accused of "delaying tactics" over the proposed New Mills sports hall, as campaigners for the project point out that the borough has missed the closing date for applications for grant aid from the Sports Council.

Members of New Mills and District Swimming Pool Association (NEWSPA) and the Central Area Sports Hall action group (CASH) also have several other grouses about progress on the scheme, which they are hoping will be started next year.

In a strong letter to High Peak's chief executive Mr Glynn Jones, NEWSPA secretary Mrs Daisy Jacques makes a bitter attack on the authority whom she claims the campaigning organisations have been trying to meet for the last six years.

But Mr Jones claims that Mrs Jacques has missed the point in her argument and says that all the amenities committee did was to put a bid in for money to proceed with the New Mills centre. "It has a number of hurdles to go through in council yet," he added.

He explained that when the amenities committee

minute got to the council through the policy committee it was altered to include discussing the possibility of a 50/50 financed sports hall with Derbyshire County Council and sharing the costs of the existing swimming pool.

"We want that meeting first before we meet with anyone else," Mr Jones said.

Furthermore Mr Jones claims he was given an instruction to make an application for a grant to the Sports Council but points out that at this stage he has not yet got a project.

"I think, in everyone's interest, it would not be a good thing to go to them until we have a committed project. We have made applications before and got grants which we have had to dish back in again," said Mr Jones, referring to two previous attempts to get the sports hall built. "I want to keep the credibility of this council as high as I can."

But Mrs Jacques is adamant and says: "New Mills people feel very aggrieved that after 15 years of fund-raising, resulting in profits of £70,000, all of which they are prepared to put into the completion of the project at Hyde Bank Road, council-

lors will not even let us discuss the problems.

"It would appear timely to remind councillors who elected them and that the next elections are not a million light years away," Mrs Jacques added.

There are still arguments about how much the sports hall will cost — some say around £1 million, which includes loan repayments, but others put the figure at nearer £500,000.

Mrs Jacques claims that many councillors at High Peak who are against the project going ahead seem to forget that there is over £200,000 available to the scheme in grant aid.

Mrs Jacques also claims that the borough's amenities committee in each of the last two years set aside a provisional £50,000 for the sports hall. "So £100,000 is either sitting as unused balance or has been used for something else — could it be in Buxton?," she added. "A quick glance at their annual report shows that half its annual budget is spent there."

"New Mills, a town of 10,000 residents, has a high unemployment figure and its main industry has been decimated, and yet its people have given so generously in the belief that they are helping to provide much needed indoor sporting accommodation in the community," Mrs Jacques continued.

"A borough councillor told me in the days of NEWSPA that unless we were able to show the measure of our support in hard cash, no-one would listen to us, because 'money talks'," Mrs Jacques claimed.



# 'GOODWILL' POOL AT NEW MILLS

THE OFFICIAL opening of New Mills swimming pool and squash courts, took place on Tuesday week when the Mayor of High Peak, Coun. Eddie Leney, unveiled a commemorative plaque. Guest of honour at the ceremony was Mr. David Wilkie, Olympic gold medallist.

Opening the ceremony, Coun. George Bingham, Chairman of the High Peak Council's Amenities Committee said: "It is my pleasant duty this evening to extend a warm welcome to you all to this ceremony which has a special significance for the people of New Mills and adjacent areas, but particularly for those who are members of or have worked hard for the New Mills and District Swimming Pool Association."

Coun. Bingham said that the council and NEWSPA had met many frustrations and setbacks during the planning and construction of the pool, but the objective had been reached with goodwill and mutual understanding.

"More pleasing has been response from the public

to use the facilities which the building provides," he added.

"It is our hope that this public interest will continue and that the provision of the facilities will continue to be fully justified.

"It would be wrong of me to let this occasion go by without recording on behalf of the council, a sincere thanks to NEWSPA for the contribution which they are to make towards the cost of the project.

## Generous

"This action is a very generous one and is an excellent example of a community assisting in the provision of a facility in which they believe.

"Our thanks should also be extended to the East Midlands Sports Council for the grant received from that body."

Mr. John Winterbottom, chairman of NEWSPA, handed over a cheque for £25,000 to complete the contribution of £30,000 made by NEWSPA towards the cost of the project.

Mr. Winterbottom said: "I would like to pay tribute to the support given to this project by the people of New Mills, and we are delighted but not surprised that the support is continuing now the pool is open."

The grant from the East Midlands Sports Council was for £20,000. Coun. Bingham explained that the Principal Regional Officer, Mr. R. Logan, could not be present at the opening ceremony but he sent his congratulations to all concerned.

## Two others

When asked to say a few words David Wilkie replied: "I would like to express my congratulations to everyone involved with the building of this pool.

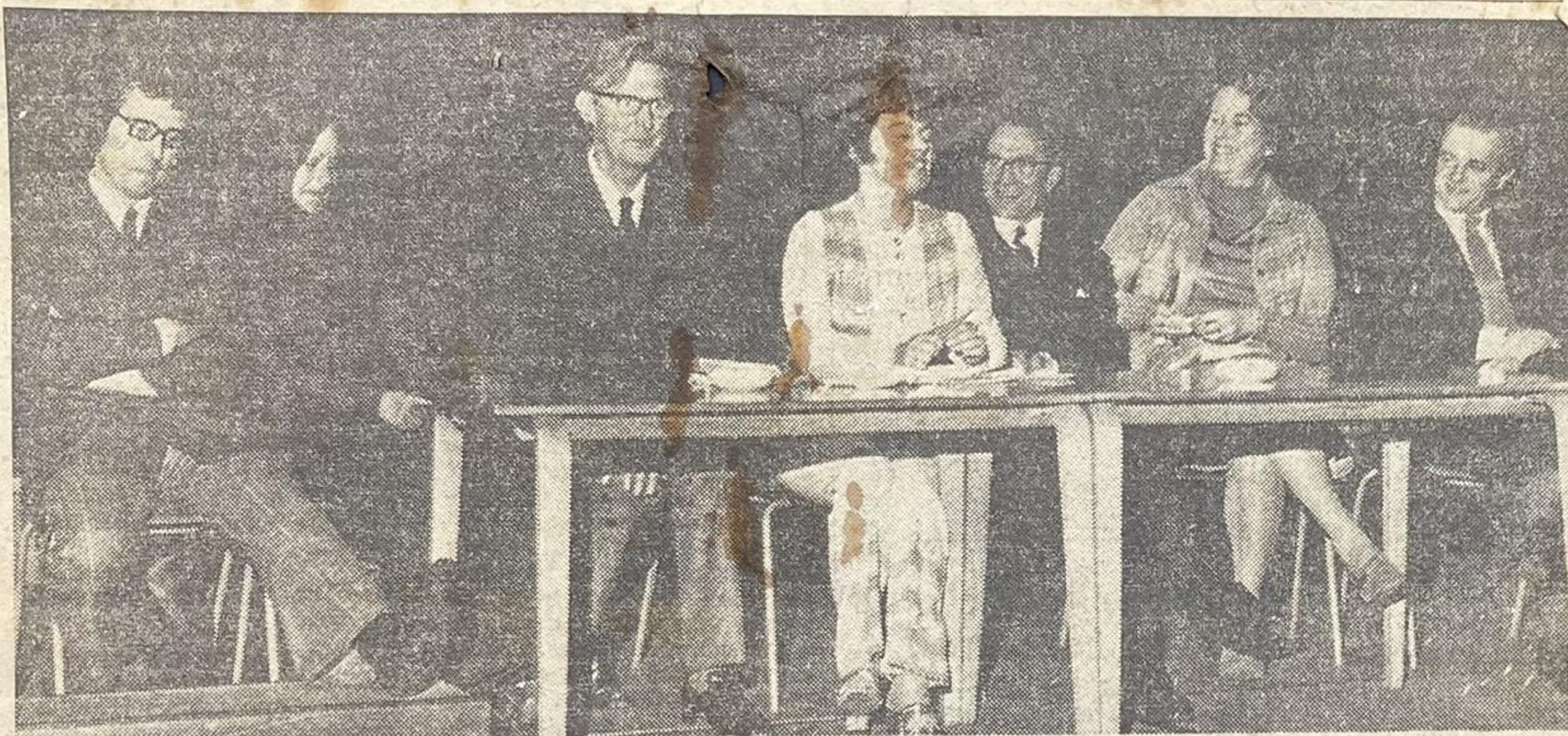
"I know that £30,000 has been raised. I know of only two other pools in the country where public subscriptions has played such a part."

"In this pool you have something which is not often seen in this country. I hope that all the children in the area will learn to swim, and who knows, one day we may have an Olympic swimmer."



David Wilkie obliges the autograph hunters after the official opening of New Mills swimming pool. High Peak Borough Council officials pictured are Chief Executive Mr. Glynne D. Jones, and Mrs. Mary Pedlow, Amenities and recreation Manager.





The panel (left to right): Mr Seddon, Mrs Agnew, Mr Read, Mrs Davies, Mr Ayres, Mrs Jacques and Mr Large. (73.3.337).

## New Mills School's 'any questions' session

A PANEL of staff and parents at New Mills School on Tuesday night, answered questions put by the audience.

Mrs T. Davies, deputy headmistress, presided and the panel consisted of Mr A. E.

Read (headmaster), Mr D. Seddon (head of English), Mrs B. Agnew (fashion/textile department), Mr W. J. Ayres (PTA secretary), Mrs D. L. Jacques (PTA assistant secretary) and Mr Large (PTA vice-chairman).

Questions covered a wide range of subjects including crime prevention, cruelty to children, marriage, advice to teenagers, and such light hearted topics as desert island luxury and platform shows. The discussion had depth and

sincerity, but also lightness and good humour.

Refreshments were served and a desire expressed for a repeat performance involving other members of the PTA and possibly sixth formers.



## John starts mayoral run

Cllr Dorothy Brennand has retired as Mayor of the High Peak and is succeeded by Independent Cllr John Pritchard, who has represented Whaley Bridge for 16 years.

Acknowledging at the annual meeting of the Borough Council that Mrs Brennand would be a hard act to follow, Cllr Pritchard pledged to do his best as ambassador of the High Peak in the coming year and introduced his mayoress, Mrs Barbara Fletcher.

Computer consultant, author and lecturer, Cllr Pritchard has lived in the High Peak for more than 20 years, although he was born in Oxford and is a freeman of the city whose university he attended.

The health-conscious councillor, who chairs the Environmental Services Committee, is also a keen long-distance runner, with nearly 50 marathons under his belt.

● ABOVE: Cllr Brennand hands over the mayoral chain to Cllr Pritchard at the council's annual meeting.



# Sports hall: 1987 start on the cards

**HOPES** are pinned on a 1987 start for the long-awaited New Mills sports hall, and officers from both High Peak and Derbyshire Councils are now getting together to draw up a scheme for the leisure project which is likely to take two years to build.

Officers will now be deciding what proportion of time at the sports hall that each authority will be using for the joint public and educational scheme, and this will influence the amount of cash which each puts up for the project.

High Peak and Derbyshire Councils will be calling another meeting in April to see what progress has been made on the package. But all seem fairly confident that a 1987 start is on the cards.

This news has delighted members of the New Mills Swimming Pool Association who have been pressing for the sports hall for some time. If the project goes ahead next year, it is likely they will be able to make a £44,000 contribution towards the scheme — the fruits of their carnival fund-raising efforts.

Added to this will be the £35,000 that New Mills Town Council has agreed to raise through a loan plus any grants that might be available from the Sports Council.

Councillor George Bingham, the leader of High Peak Council's Conservatives, said he is much happier after having recent discussions with Derbyshire County Council.

"I was always against the fact that High Peak would be providing a facility for the school," he said. "For Derbyshire County Council's £100,000 contribution, they expected to use the premises between 9 am and 5 pm five

days a week and I thought that was unfair.

"I thought they should carry at least 50 per cent of the capital and the on-going commitments."

Looking optimistically towards a 1987 start, Councillor Bingham remarked: "If there is a will of both authorities, of course it will happen. I never felt that High Peak by itself could ever envisage going ahead with this."

"We would have had to have found around £500,000 immediately. We would have had to borrow that," he added, claiming it would have swallowed up the borough's capital programme for the next two years.

"With the county council coming in on a shared scheme I believe that the project might happen," Councillor Bingham said. "I don't know what 1987/88 will bring and I don't think anybody does."

County Councillor Martin Doughty, who is also a New Mills town councillor, was also pleased with the progress. He said: "We have finally cleared up many of the misunderstandings that have been flying about recently."

"The cost of the scheme is likely to be about £1½ million and the borough have accepted that the county's contribution will be based on the educational use. This is clearly the proper way to go forward and hopefully we can make substantial progress and bring the scheme to fruition in 1987."

## Call for better sports facilities

**GOVERNORS** at New Mills School feel that if community education is to be extended within the town, new sports facilities are called for.

They feel that the best place to develop a recreation centre would be next to New Mills swimming pool — a suggestion which links with previous proposals by High Peak to build up a leisure complex on the Hyde Bank Road site.

In discussing a recent report issued by Derbyshire County Council, who are promoting community education in the area, the governors from the school felt that current facilities in the town could not cope with such plans.

Their chairman David Swinburne explained that all the educational buildings are fully occupied during the day and that furthermore the sports hall at New Mills School was somewhat limited.

"It is not really in keeping with many of the secondary schools in Derbyshire," he continued. "Other places have much better sporting facilities."

The governors considered that the swimming pool complex lent itself to further development, as was the borough's original intention, and that High Peak may like to sponsor

the sports hall for joint use between the school and the general community.

"In the days of such high unemployment where there are a lot of young people about, additional recreational facilities in the town would be very valuable," said Mr Swinburne.

If the scheme could be initiated by High Peak Council, the governors hoped that grant assistance might be forthcoming from the sports council and possibly even Derbyshire County Council.

High Peak Council, having received these suggestions, have asked for more information about the governors ideas.





## A COLOURFUL CARNIVAL AT NEW MILLS

THE DRENCHING rain of Friday gave way to sunshine and skittish breezes on Saturday, the day when New Mills was en fete for their annual carnival. A procession wended its way through roads bedecked with bunting, past houses and shops decorated with gay flowers, to the carnival field for the crowning of brunette Miss Penny Wells.

Supporting attractions included the daring Don Lindbergh plunging on fire into a flaming six feet deep tank of water, from a 60-foot tower.

Prettier aspects of carnival in the shape of scores of pretty girls in summery dresses, and displays by teams of young Morris dancers presented an attractive scene, and the whole event was well supported by visiting queens and the public.

Penny is pictured left being crowned by her predecessor, Miss Karen Havery, who wished her well and assured her she would find the experience fun.

### BEAUTIFUL SETTING

The event was opened by Deputy Mayor of the High Peak, Coun. Guy Dickenson, who referred to the beautiful setting for the field events and to the wit, colour and humour contained in the procession.

He complimented the NEWSPA Committee and New Mills residents on their determination to have a swimming pool and said, as a representative of the High Peak Borough Council, that it was a pleasure to help people who helped themselves.

Good wishes were also expressed by Coun. Stuart Merson, chairman of New Mills Parish Council, who with other members of the Parish Council, took part in the procession collections. He said that when the swimming pool funds had been raised, in perhaps two years time, he hoped that efforts would be made to continue the annual carnival event, because in that way it would be possible to raise funds for other worthy causes.

### PRESENTATIONS

Procession float prizes were presented by Mr. T. Matlow and included the following: Schools — 1, Thornsett Primary; 2, New Mills County Primary; 3, New Mills School. Youth organizations — 1, Disley Brownies; 2, New Mills Youth Centre; 3, New Mills Cubs. Trade — 1, Messrs. Matlow. Groups — 1, New Mills Arts and Crafts; 2, Art Theatre; 3, Messrs. Watson and Hyde. Best decorated pubs — 1, The Beehive; 2, The Crescent; 3, Pineapple Inn.

The I. Gwillam Memorial Trophy for the most entertaining item in the procession went again to Mr. Eddie Mone, who this year was dressed in a green majorette costume with a fetching wig. He performed typical majorette movements along the route wearing roller skates.



# ROW OVER £ $\frac{1}{2}$ M CASH SHARE-OUT

THE £ $\frac{1}{2}$ M surprise package for amenities in the High Peak — announced by the controlling Conservative group — has been branded as "a handout for voting Conservative," by Labour councillors, who claim that wards which elected Labour councillors received less than their fair share.

At the council meeting, Councillor D. Holtom (Hadfield) called the Conservatives "arrogant" in the way they announced the spending spree, and Councillor R. Cooke (Hadfield) attacked the decision to give Chisworth and Charlesworth £12,000, while Gamesley and Hadfield received less than £5,000.

Councillor F. Stubbs (Hadfield) asked the leader of the Conservatives, Councillor A. K. Allman (Buxton) where the money for this scheme had come from, as there had been no money readily available for an increase in concessionary bus fares.

Councillor Allman replied,

"Owing to the extremely good housekeeping of the present administration, we've accumulated this money.

"One important criteria was in the spending of this money as far as possible not to have violent revenue implications. We've tried to do the best by people without affecting next year's rate. This is one of the things we looked at."

As reported previously, the Conservatives announced that they would be spending up to half a million pounds on amenities in the borough. Of this £145,000 is planned for New Mills swimming pool, £170,000 for sports in Glosop, along with £9,000 on amenities in Tintwistle and £15,000 toward the improved bus/rail interchange in Glosop.

Hadfield Social Centre is to get a grant, along with £2,500 for playground equipment in Gamesley and £2,000 for football and playground equipment at Hadfield.

A Press release issued by the Conservatives said that "Help towards community projects in Chisworth attracts grants of £4,000" and also "£8,000 has been allocated for projects in Charlesworth."

It has not yet been specified what these are.

This has angered Labour councillors, particularly those at Hadfield.

Councillor Cooke claimed: "This is very much like a handout for voting Conservative. I represent the largest ward, population wise, within the borough. It would seem that because people in that ward voted Labour, they got very little.

"Look at Gamesley, it works out at 75p per elector, while at Chisworth and Charlesworth they are getting about £12 per elector," he claimed.

This angered Charlesworth's Conservative councillor, Mrs B. Tetlow, who pointed out that this was the first money of its kind paid out to Charlesworth and Chisworth for nearly 25 years.

"Chisworth hasn't even got

a room where people can meet," she said.

She pointed out that there had always been good relations between Chisworth, Charlesworth and Gamesley, and that it was work through the church at Charlesworth that had helped provide many of the present amenities in Gamesley.

Councillor Mrs Tetlow felt so incensed about Councillor Cooke's attack in the council meeting that the following day she issued a statement:

"I think it would be as well if Councillor Cooke took account of the services and amenities in his ward — three community centres, two nursery schools, clinics, doctors' surgeries and a proposed new health centre, etc.

"Charlesworth and Chisworth have none of these. We have to manage with two local schools for youth work, etc. Chisworth doesn't even have a room to meet in.

"We have been patient, and willing, over the past 20 years to pay for any small amenities and lighting of our street, roads and lanes through our parish rate, so I think we should have a contribution when money is available."

Councillor Holtom complained at what he called the "arrogance" of the Conservatives, and the "undemocratic" way they announced the spending plans. He pointed to the Press statement, which begins, "The leadership of the council has decided to introduce an important programme..."

Councillor Holtom said, "This is sheer arrogance. You'd have thought it was the majority party's money, and not the council's."

Councillor A. Hitchins (Buxton) also spoke out against the method of announcing the spending spree.

He said that the Press, and many of the bodies who are to receive money, knew of the proposals before the other parties on the council. These councillors were just presented with the details at the policy committee meeting, he added.

Councillor Allman said there would be more time for discussion when the individual schemes came before the committees concerned.

It is expected that the schemes will be dealt with over the next 12 months.