

# SPORTS CENTRE'S FIRST OPEN DAY ATTRACTS 5,000



**PUPILS** from Boundstone Comprehensive School, Lancing, provided a demonstration on rock climbing in the main hall of the sports centre for the opening displays on Saturday.

At last, Worthing's £350,000 sports centre at West Park has really come into its own. It was officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor A. E. Dunning, on Saturday, and on Sunday 5,000 people took advantage of the first open day to tour the building.

They were able to watch netball, badminton, table tennis and basketball tournaments, demonstrations of lacrosse, trampolining, weight training, judo and rowing, as well as tournaments of squash, pistol and rifle shooting, hockey and an evening five-a-side soccer match.

## Unveiled plaque

After the Mayor had unveiled a plaque in the foyer, invited guests went into the main hall for Saturday's opening.

Said Councillor D. H. P. Morey, chairman of the parade and open spaces committee, "It is a dream come true to all associated with

the project. The idea we had of a sports centre in 1965 was put into cold storage until 1968 and then finally given the go-ahead in 1970. These centres are things of the future—there are 40 proposed around the country—and we are on the ground floor.

"Every sport is catered for here. Individual membership is making splendid progress and we are off to a fine start."

## Far-seeing

The Mayor recalled that it was as long ago as 1937 that the recreation ground on which the centre stands was purchased by a "far-seeing council."

"We get applauded for some things we do and we get condemned for others, and for some mutiny is incited," he said. "We carry on doing what we think is right, and the council in 1937 made this purchase. When it came to selecting a site for a sports centre this quickly proved to be the right location."

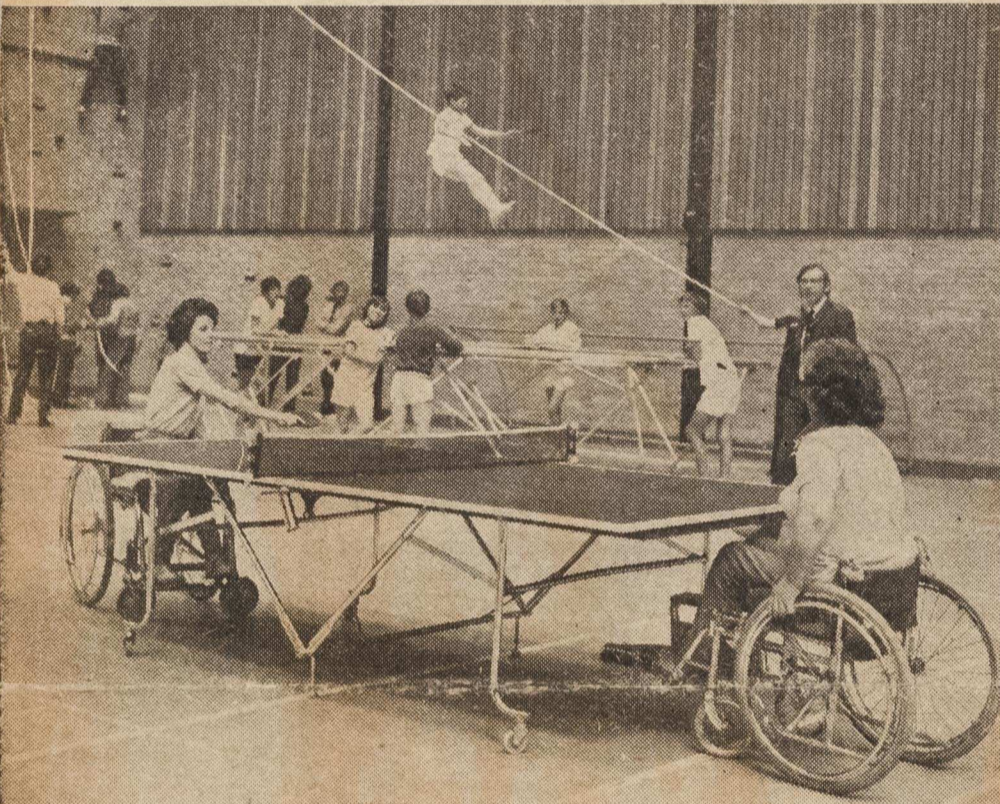
The Mayor said "Much money is invested today by the council on behalf of those fortunate enough to live in this locality. This is an asset of which Worthing and all its residents might well be proud. This is no white elephant but something for the younger people of the town, and the older people can look on and encourage those who have aspirations for sports."

## Olympic winner?

Wouldn't we be proud if we had an Olympic medal winner in future years from among the youngsters using the centre? asked the Mayor, adding, "How many people want to see medals without contributing towards them?"

"This is a day when we exult upon achievement—we may well be proud of this day and of those who use this building."

After a vote of thanks from Councillor F. J. Chapman, Mr David Llewellyn, director of Walter Llewellyn and Sons of Eastbourne, the contractors, presented the Mayor with a pen to commemorate the opening ceremony.



**AFTER THE OFFICIAL** opening of the sports centre on Saturday, guests were able to watch 15 sporting events. Picture above shows, in the foreground, Marion O'Brien and Pam Barnard playing table tennis, and in the background, trampoline work by pupils of Worthing High School for Boys. Below, a large crowd of "official" visitors watch members of Worthing and district Badminton Association in action in the main hall.

