

From: Peter Hooper,
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I'll think about this one.

*This is a possibility.
Could they give us a picture
of the shot to teams lined
up pulling first in a
practice pull. So we could
go into the 8 teams pulling at
once for angle shot etc!
Could we get a gag out of it?*

Policemen, farmers and industrial workers are among those who will be competing in the Tug-of-War Association's National Championships on F. Perkins Ltd.'s sports ground at Peterborough on Saturday (Sep 5).

For the 60 teams in the 100 stone, 104 stone and catchweight events include entries from Birmingham City Police, Derby Police, Essex Police, Metropolitan Police, several young farmers' clubs and a number of industrial firms.

Seven thousand spectators are expected to watch the championships, which were held for the first time last year and were then staged on the Hawker Aircraft Company's sports ground at Kingston-on-Thames.

Although organised by the Tug-of-War Association, the championships this year are sponsored by the Perkins Sports Association and local arrangements have been made by the executive committee led by the chairman, Mr. Tom Bailey, and the secretary, Mr. C.C.V. Samwell. Children's roundabouts and swings have been organised and in charge of these will be Mr. W. Ashwell, an executive committee member.

There will be an admission charge of 1s. and 6d for children.

Mr. Frank Perkins, chairman of F. Perkins Ltd, and a vice-president of the Perkins Sports Association, will present the championship trophies to the winners on behalf of the Tug-of-War Association. Every member of the winning teams will receive the Tug-of-War Association's championship replica cup and the runners-up a specially designed plaque.

Among those attending the championships are Mr. W.N. Collins, president of the Perkins Sports Association, and senior officials of the Tug-of-War Association including Group Captain B.G. Carfoot (patron), Mr. A.N. Spriggs (president), Mr. G. Hutton (chairman), Mr. Matt Herring (secretary), and Mr. A.E. Heitzman (championship secretary).

/ Winning

Winning tickets in a national competition organised by the Tug-of-War Association for its members will be drawn by Miss Perkins Diesel 1959 (Miss Rita Atkins), who will be accompanied by her attendants, Miss Maureen Norton and Miss Christine Stainsby.

The competitions start at 1.30 p.m. with a grand parade by the teams, led by the Peterborough Sea Cadets Band. Eight teams will pull at once.

All classes have attracted divisional and national champions and many famous teams will be paying their first visit to the Midlands. Recent form points to the possibility of all three championships changing hands and competition of a high standard can be expected.

Local teams competing include Whittlesey United, Thorney Toll, Ramsey Rebels and Oundle Young Farmers. Four brothers-- Colin, Alec, George and Les Barnes-- pull for Whittlesey, who are the Fenland Champions. Whittlesey won the 100 stone A.A.A. final in 1957 and recently beat the present holders of the 100 stone A.A.A. championships, Hawker Aircraft, who are also competing.

Among the other famous teams taking part are Metropolitan Police's F. Division, who have won the National Police Championships at 104 stone for four years and are the Tug-of-War Association's 104 stone champions; Bosley Wood Treatment, who won the A.A.A. Catchweight title; and New Haw and Woodham, winners of seven A.A.A. championships.

New Haw and Woodham train on the banks of the Basingstoke Canal. In winter, training is carried out with the aid of hurricane lamps, followed by a plunge in the canal.

A public dance organised by the Perkins Sports Association in the Eastfield Factory canteen will follow the championships.

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