

Burton Manor HQ visit 'thrilled'

Sport Minister

STAFFORD'S Burton Manor Sports Association was "unique" and "way ahead of its time."

"The set-up here is excellent and exactly what we want to see all over the country", said Mr Denis Howell, Minister with special responsibility for sport, after touring the association's headquarters at Hyde Lea, Stafford, on Friday.

Mr. Howell said he was "thrilled" to see at Burton Manor what he had been trying to encourage throughout the country for the last two years. "There is no sport in isolation which is good. It makes little sense to pour money into, say, cricket pitches when they are only used five months a year," he pointed out.

'FAME'

Mr. Howell said that he had not been surprised by what was happening at the association.

"It's fame preceded my visit so I knew more or less what to expect."

The actual form of the club, he continued, was unique in this country.

"It is certainly way ahead of its time, for a special government working party is preparing a report at present which recommends exactly what is already here at Burton Manor."

Mr. Howell said that while he was impressed with the associations big thinking he wanted to see "even bigger thinking."

"I would like to see all-weather outdoor facilities and they should get in touch with the education authority to see facilities are fully used."

"There is such a wide variety of opportunities here, much more than at any school," he continued.

Mr. Howell said that the association's facilities could be opened to schools and individuals in off-peak hours.

IMPRESSED

"I've also been impressed with the calibre of people running the club and the depth of their thinking," he continued.

And for the future, Mr. Howell said that the association should continue to think ahead.

"The important thing is to get a long-term plan and then we will try to assist in development here."

On his arrival at Burton Manor, Mr. Howell talked for over an hour about the development of the association with officials, including the president, Mr. R. Evans, and the secretary, Mr. S. Yarrow.

Then he visited the building, chatting with members and watching them take part in various sports, including badminton, judo and billiards.



Watching members of the karate club in action — Mr Howell and association president, Mr R. Evans.



Mr Howell (sitting, right) looks over a plan of Burton Manor with association officials.



Mr Howell takes his cue and tries out a billiards table.

COUNTY 'MUST NOT LIVE ON PAST ACHIEVEMENTS'

STAFFORDSHIRE must not rest on past achievements, said Sir Charles Wheeler, president of the Staffordshire Society, at the society's annual president's luncheon, held at the Swan Hotel, Stafford, on Saturday.

"We must go on in these modern times," said Sir Charles a former President of the Royal Academy, and with monster progress upon us, maintain the excellence of our goods and work, keep our integrity high and not let progress overcome us."

Copland, the High Sheriff of Staffordshire, Colonel C. Boote, the Mayor of Stafford, Cllr. S. Shep-

pard and the town clerk and chief officer of Stafford, Mr. Derek Almond.

