

# County competitors in the throws of success

THE strong-arm men and women of Stroud were celebrating yesterday after their best success for years in the international brick and rolling pin throwing contest.

They beat their rivals in Stroud, Australia and Stroud, Oklahoma, to take the team trophies in both the men's brick throwing and the ladies' rolling pin hurling.

## Separate

Gloucestershire competitors also won the gold medals in both events – with Tony Constant throwing a brick 113 feet and Michelle Thevenin hurling her rolling pin 119 feet.

The home team's only failure was in the separate "champion of champions" competitions for past gold medallists.

An American won the brick throwing contest but Suzanne Peart from Gloucestershire was first in the rolling pin contest with a distance of 136 feet three inches.

The bizarre international competition started 34 years ago when a Mayor of Stroud, Oklahoma, visited the town's Gloucestershire namesake.

The American Stroud already had a brick throwing competition and when the Mayor discovered that the Gloucestershire town had a brick-making industry he suggested an international contest.

The Strouds in Australia and Canada heard about it and joined in – and two years later the Australian Stroud suggested the rolling pin competition for women... using 2lb pins made from local hardwood.

Canada's Stroud had to drop out of the competition two years ago because of problems insuring the throwers in a public park.

But Gloucestershire organiser Eunice Guy said yesterday the Canadians may rejoin next year if they can arrange to use an airfield.



■ Champions all... Glenys, David and Suzie Peart prepare for the competition.