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PLAY BETTER**

Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 22

MARCH, 1969

Price 1/-

ENGLISH OPEN

by George R. Yates

SOVIET DOMINANCE NEAR COMPLETE

ROLL OF HONOUR

Men's Singles
STANISLAV GOMOZKOV
(U.S.S.R.)

Men's Doubles
ANATOLIY AMELIN and
STANISLAV GOMOZKOV
(U.S.S.R.)

Mixed Doubles
EBERHARD and DIANE SCHOLER
(Federal Germany)

Veteran Men's Singles
STAN NORTON
(Essex)

Women's Singles
ZOYA RUDNOVA
(U.S.S.R.)

Women's Doubles
SVETLANA GRINBERG
and ZOYA RUDNOVA
(U.S.S.R.)

Veteran Women's Singles
JEAN WILLIAMS
(Buckinghamsh.re)

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men
SWEDEN

Women
U.S.S.R.

BEATEN SEMI-FINALISTS



England's main contenders for the women's doubles title, MARY WRIGHT and KARENZA MATHEWS, bowed out to Maria Alexandru and Eleanora Mihalca of Rumania. Pictured above, is Mary waiting to come in following a backhand return by Karenza.

Photos' by Denis Offer.

SELDOM has the final of a mixed doubles event been of such significance as it was on Saturday, March 1 when, in Brighton's Dome Theatre, the very real threat of complete Soviet dominance was averted in the final set of the 42nd English Open Championships.

Had not "Ebby" and Diane Schöler brought off their well-merited victory, over Anatoliy Amelin and Svetlana Grinberg, the clock would have been put back a decade, for it was in season 1958-59 that the board was last swept clean, by Japan.

Prior to this last-ditch Federal German victory, the hammer and sickle emblem of the Soviet Union had been firmly "welded" onto four trophies, two by retention and two by successful take-over bids.

Not a final to appeal to other than the connoisseur, the challenge of European champion Drugutin Surbek for the men's singles title, held by Stanislav Gomozkov, fell lamentably short.

Very rarely was the Yugoslavian's concrete-breaking forehand brought to bear simply because Gomozkov could not be forced back from the table but all credit to the Russian who spiked the Championships' biggest gun so effectively.

The afternoon's programme commenced with the women's doubles final in which Zoya Rudnova and Svetlana Grinberg successfully retained their title against a gradually

"WORLD BEATERS"



Soviet champions, STANISLAV GOMOZKOV and ANATOLIY AMELIN (depicted above in the European Championships at Lyons) beat reigning world title holders, Hans Alser and Kjell Johansson of Sweden, to win the men's doubles title at Brighton.

weakening Maria Alexandru and Eleanora Mihalca of Rumania.

Also effectively suppressed, by Gomozkov and Amelin, was the challenge of Hans Alser and Kjell Johansson of Sweden for the men's doubles title.

What glitter was attaching to the world title for this event, held by the Scandinavian pair, was tarnished beyond refurbishing as the Soviet duo were found wanting in only one game out of four.

Seldom inspiring real enthusiasm, the women's singles title went slowly but assuredly to Zoya Rudnova with a three-straight win over her compatriot Svetlana Grinberg.

EVIDENT

These were to have been the championships in which England's new image was to have been very evident and it was Denis Neale who made it so when he became the first Englishman to reach the semi-final of the men's singles for seven years.

How well he played and how near he came to success. If only he could have taken that fourth game from Gomozkov which went to the Russian to afford him his penultimate 3-1 success.

ENGLISH OPEN cont. on page 10

RUSSIAN CONQUEST AT EASTBOURNE

AVENGING their European League defeat of last season at Birmingham, the Soviet Union virtually assured themselves of retaining their Premier Division title by beating England 4-3 at Eastbourne on Mar. 4.

Also starring in the avenging role was Mary Wright who played the set of her life in accounting for No. 3 world-ranked Zoya Rudnova in straight games and shared with Neale in a mixed doubles success over Amelin and Miss Grinberg.

England's only other success came in the final set of the evening when Neale beat Amelin subsequent to the Russians having established a winning lead.

Individual scores in match order were:—

D. Neale lost to S. Gomozkov -19, -15;
C. Barnes lost to A. Amelin -19, -15;
M. Wright bt Z. Rudnova 17, 19;
Neale/Barnes lost to Gomozkov/Amelin -13, -12;
Neale/Mrs. Wright bt Gomozkov/Miss Rudnova -20, 17, 21;
Barnes lost to Gomozkov -18, -18;
Neale bt Amelin -20, 19, 15.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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'FLOODLIGHT'

There is no doubt, no matter what the outcome of our efforts in Munich next month, that the 1968-69 season has been one of tremendous achievement.

No longer should the plaintive cry be heard "What do we get out of our affiliation to the E.T.T.A.?" This season, at least, county and league secretaries should be only too well aware of what is being done by the national body.

In contention, on an output basis, with H.M. Stationery Office, the E.T.T.A. Secretariat has been working full blast from the season's outset and long may their brows perspire.

National Council minutes now have a wider distribution than ever before and the introduction of regular news bulletins, covering the more important aspects of the Association's work, should leave no one "in the dark" as to what is going on.

A mammoth and varied home international programme has brought to widely separated venues the national teams of Federal Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Rumania and the Soviet Union—with Japan yet to come, in May.

The Association's finances, for so long nursed like an ailing child by Tom Blunn, have been boosted considerably as a result of the keen business acumen brought to bear by Conrad Jaschke.

In handing over the co-ordination of the pre-set home international programme to deputy Walter Mitton, the chairman turned his attentions to the securing of beneficial agreements with "the trade" which should stand the Association in good stead for many years to come.

Coaching and Schools, Publicity and Sponsorship are but three of the sub-committees to have kept in step with the new momentum. And the latter's contributory brochure "Spotlight on Table Tennis" has only been outshone by the overall "Floodlight" of the new administration.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

President: T. Austin Harrison.

Chairman: Conrad Jaschke.

Deputy Chairman: Walter Mitton.

Hon. Treasurer: Tom Blunn

Management Committee:

Maurice Goldstein, Malcolm E. Scott, Keith Watts and George R. Yates.

INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

by Conrad Jaschke

CHAIRMAN OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

LATEST results to hand in the European League are as follows:—

Premier Division

Federal Germany 4 Sweden 3

Hungary 2 U.S.S.R. 5

England 6 Rumania 1

England 3 U.S.S.R. 4

	P	W	L	F	A	Ps
U.S.S.R.	4	4	0	21	7	8
England	6	3	3	24	18	6
Sweden	4	3	1	16	12	6
Czechoslovakia	3	2	1	12	9	4
Federal Germany	4	2	2	13	15	4
Hungary	4	0	4	9	19	0
Rumania	3	0	3	3	18	0

for the second time when she defeated Veronique van der Laan (16) -11, 13, 13, -18, 12. Twenty-years-old Bert van der Helm won his fourth singles title by beating Frans Schoofs 15, 17, 12.

Irish Corner

Big surprise of the recent Irish Open Championships was the semi-final defeat of Czech. No. 1 Jaroslav Stanek in straight games by Ireland's Jim Langan (writes Kevin Drum).

Langan lost to Stefan Kollarovits in the final, after the Czech had earlier beaten Ireland's No. 2 Tommy Caffrey.

The women's singles title went to Martha Luzova-Hemova who had an easy win over Judy Heaps, and these two girls combined to beat Joan Fitzsimons and Marie Martin in the women's doubles final. Mrs. Luzova-Hemova completed a hat-trick by winning also the mixed doubles partnered by Australian Paul Pinke-wich and the two Czechs. won the men's doubles beating Langan and Caffrey in the final.

Australian junior champion P. Powell won the boys' singles beating Tony Langan and the promising Ballymena player Kyra Stewart took the girls' singles beating Dublin's Ellen Towell.

Jim Langan and Joy Geary had victories over their close rivals Tommy Caffrey and Joan Mahony to win the singles titles in the East of Ireland Championships.

Czechs tour Scotland

THE two-day stay in Scotland of the Czech team on their first visit north of the border was most successful, although it is now realised that the itinerary was too ambitious and allowed for no rest periods (writes Jimmie McCormack).

The first day was spent in Edinburgh where, following a civic lunch given by the Lord Provost's deputy, the Czech. party and the Scottish team were taken on a conducted tour of the city.

The first match, held in the Music Hall, was a triumph for the Edinburgh League. Their organisation and drive had ensured a capacity crowd of some 700 many of whom had to be content with "standing room only".

The match itself, smoothly and efficiently conducted, produced some excellent play and although Malcolm Sugden, hopefully expected by the local crowd to win a game, could not stop Kollarovits or Stanek. The Scots. girls, however, Lesley Barrie and Kathleen Angus secured a game against the formidable Ilona Vostova and Alicia Grofova.

A suitable ending to the evening was provided by a reception given by the Edinburgh League at which the visitors entertained by harmoniously



singing a few of their country's folk songs.

On the following night, after a civic lunch in Ayr and a civic reception by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, the teams met to do battle once more within the Glasgow Sports Centre.

This time Sugden, playing exceptionally well, beat Kollarovits and partnered by new 'cap' Eric Sutherland won the men's doubles against Stanek and Turai.

Only the match result was an improvement on the previous night as the crowd was less than 200 and the organisation, almost non-existent, will require to be much improved if future matches of this nature are to be held in Glasgow.

After match hospitality was provided on this occasion by Messrs. Hepburn and Ross, proprietors of "Red Hackle" Scotch Whisky, within their Kelvin House premises where the visitors were shown round the private collection of antiques housed in a museum which forms part of the premises.

Detailed results:

Edinburgh, February 24.

Scotland 1 Czechoslovakia 9

M. Sugden lost to S. Kollarovits 19, -16, -14; lost to Stanek -17, -19.

B. Kean lost to Stanek -17, -10; lost to G. Turai 23, -16, -14.

E. Sutherland lost to Turai -13, -11; lost to Kollarovits -13, -11.

Miss L. Barrie lost to Miss I. Vostova -10, -17.

Miss K. Angus lost to Miss A. Grofova -13, -7.

Sugden/Kean lost to Stanek/Turai -14, -14.

Barrie/Angus bt Vostova/Grofova 15, 16.

Glasgow, February 25.

Scotland 2 Czechoslovakia 8

Sugden bt Kollarovits 11, -16, 17; lost to Stanek -15, -19.

Sutherland lost to Turai 18, -14, -13; lost to Kollarovits -11, -17.

J. Hawkins lost to Stanek -9, -11; lost to Turai -8, -16.

Barrie lost to Vostova -15, 12, -13. Angus lost to Grofova -18, -4.

Sugden/Sutherland bt Stanek/Turai -16, 13, 21.

Barrie/Angus lost to Vostova/Grofova -9, -12.

HONOUR IN DEFEAT

by Johnny Leach

IS it going to be a case of 'so near and yet so far' where England's bid to win the European League Championship is concerned? I'm sorry, but that is how it began to look after our most recent engagement in the Dunjska Strada, Bratislava on January 29.

England began her campaign with heartening victories by 4-3 over West Germany, and 5-2 over Hungary, before losing 3-4 to Sweden. Then came this 3-4 defeat in a see-saw battle with Czechoslovakia.

Our team made a near-disastrous start by losing their first three sets in straight games—Neale to Stanek, 14 and 12, Barnes to Kollarovits, 19 and 10, and Karenza Mathews to Vostova 9 and 12. It seemed all over bar the shouting.

Denis Neale had a bad throat infection for which he received medical treatment before the match. This obviously affected his mobility and playing form.

Chester pulled up from 14-20 to 19-20 in his first game, and led 9-5 in his second only to lose 10-21. He was not seen at his best. As for Karenza she never had a chance against Vostova, because the European champion was in such devastating form. Her captain, Ivan Andreadis, agrees with me that this 14-year-old prodigy is playing even better now than when she won the European title at Lyons.

As so often happens with the England team, just as it looks as if all the stuffing has been knocked out of them they start to fight back. It happened on this occasion. Chester and Denis produced their most brilliant table tennis to win the men's doubles from Stanek and Miko by 17-21, 21-12 and 22-20, and then Chester and Karenza followed with an equally impressive victory over Stanek and Vostova by 21-16, 13-21 and 21-18.

The score was 2-3 when Denis gained one of his greatest victories by beating Kollarovits to 18 and 19. I record this in such glowing terms not only because of Denis's play, which was dazzling at times, but for the way he hung on and fought when feeling ill, and looking ready to collapse.

With the score level on sets, Chester went on full of fight to face Stanek, and what a fight those first two games proved to be! Chester lost the first 20-22, recovering three times after trailing 10-15, 11-16 and 18-20, but just failing to do so at the most vital stage. Chester won the second 23-21 after saving a match point against him at 19-20. In the third and deciding game, Stanek seemed to get all the breaks, with netcords and edges galore in his favour, and several services of doubtful fairness about which I was obliged to register a protest with the umpire. All this was a bit too much for Chester who went down 10-21, and with his defeat England lost the match 3-4.

Defeat yes, but not without honour, I think.

Scots Defeated

by Derek Schofield

ENGLAND'S international encounter against Scotland at Motherwell on Feb. 15 provided a good outing for Essex players Diane Simpson and David Brown.

England triumphed 7-3 and although Brown lost his first set to Malcolm Sugden, he then settled down to show he had the right temperament for the big occasion.

Sugden's tenacious play was a feature of the match for not only did he beat Brown but also accounted for "Connie" Warren and paired with Brian Kean to win the men's doubles against Warren and Tony Piddock.

Individual scores in match order were:—

A. Piddock bt E. Sutherland 9, 16; C. Warren bt B. Kean 15, 13; D. Brown lost to M. Sugden -11, -16; Miss D. Simpson/Miss J. Williams bt Miss L. Barrie/Miss K. Angus, 15, 8; Warren/Piddock lost to Sugden/Kean -11, -15; Miss Simpson bt Miss Angus 13, 15; Brown bt Sutherland 12, 16; Miss Williams bt Miss Barrie -14, 15, 10; Piddock bt Kean 16, 15; Warren lost to Sugden -9, -19.

AND AGAIN AT WISHAW

The South Lanarkshire Open, played at Wishaw on Feb. 16, got off to a bad start due to inclement weather.

"Connie" Warren was at his verbal and playing best, accounting for Piddock in his semi and gaining revenge over Sugden in the final, actually leading the Scottish championship 12-0 in the deciding game.

Results:—

Men's singles: Semi-finals:

C. Warren bt A. Piddock 18, 5; M. Sugden bt B. Kean 12, 13.

Final:

WARREN bt Sugden 15, -18, 10.

Women's Singles:

M. Heppell bt L. Barrie 16, 14; J. Williams bt K. Angus 16, 17.

Final:

WILLIAMS bt Heppell 8, 14.

The ladies' doubles was taken very comfortably by Judy and Diane but, with time pressing, the men's doubles was inconclusive with the title uncontested and shared by Warren/Brown and Sugden/Kean. Durham's Paul Freeman won the boys' singles beating D. Barr of Lanark.

YOUNGEST WINNER

SIMON HEAPS, who has already represented England Juniors against the Netherlands and Federal Germany, became, at 13, the youngest player ever to win the Men's Singles title of the Reading and District League Closed Championships which were started in 1931.

In the final, young Simon beat his elder brother Nicholas—a Berkshire county player. Youth was also at the helm in the counterpart women's event which was won by 14-years-old Wendy Slade.

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TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary:
Mar. 23	1st Lancashire Junior Open Bolton Institute of Technology, Sports Hall, Deane Road, Bolton	U-17 BS, GS, BD, GD, XD. U-15 BS, GS, BD, GD. U-13 BS, GS	A. F. Jones, 13, Moss Bank Close, Astley Bridge, Bolton. 'Phone: Bolton 53276 (H)
Mar. 29/30	Stevenage Open Taylor Instruments Companies (Europe) Ltd., Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts.	U-21 YS, GS, VS.	J. Jermyn, 191, Baldock Road, Letchworth, Herts. 'Phone: Baldock 3118 (B)
Apr. 12-13	Cambridgeshire Open, Corn Exchange, Cambridge.	JBS and JGS.	Mrs. M. A. Cornwell, 28, Harding Way, Cambridge. 'Phone: Cambridge 59168 (H)
„ 13	12th Sussex Junior Open, Assembly Hall, Worthing.	Events as for Lancs. Jnr. Open (above).	F. Rayner, 32, Frobisher Way, Worthing, Sussex. 'Phone: Worthing 46370 (H)
„ 17-27	30th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, Eissporthalle, Munich, Germany.	17-22 Team Championships Finals: W. 21/4 M. 22/4 24-27 Individual Events Finals, 2-30 p.m., Sunday, Apr. 27.	Three sessions daily at 10 a.m. 2-30 & 7-30p.m.
„ 19	Gwent Open, Standard Telephones and Cables Canteen, Corporation Road, Newport, Mon.	JBS and JGS.	G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon. NPT 8NX. 'Phone: Newport 71964 (H)
„ 19-20	Slough Junior Open.	Events as for Lancs. and Sussex Junior Opens plus U-11 B.S. and G.S.	J. A. Pacitto, 73, Bexley Street, Windsor, Berks. Closing date: 5.4.69.

Teesside's Three-Ring Circus

European League

Easy, Easy

by THE EDITOR

FROM the word go, the European League encounter against Rumania, which opened the proceedings in the magnificent £250,000 sports stadium at Eston on Feb. 21, was in England's pocket.

In the opening set, Chester Barnes accounted for Silviu Dumitriu in convincing style and no less bothered was Denis Neale with a similar 2-straight win over Rumania's top junior Serban Dubosi.

Only Maria Alexandru broke this sequence of events when she levelled with Mary Wright but, having done so, allowed the initiative to pass back to Mary who hit her way through a defence of no mean repute with remarkable ease.

Neale and Barnes then combined to take the men's doubles, the Yorkshireman returning for an encore with Mrs. Wright in the mixed.

A 5-0 lead possibly caused the relaxation which then became evident in the latter play. Barnes allowed himself to be taken to a decider by Dubosi, and Neale appeared even more hospitable when losing, in straight games, to Dumitriu.

Taken overall, this was not a match to enthuse about except perhaps in the superiority of the England team who are now a force to be reckoned with in Europe.

Result: ENGLAND 6, RUMANIA 1.

Individual scores (in match order): G. C. Barnes bt S. Dumitriu 14, 16; D. Neale bt S. Dubosi 18, 15; Mrs. M. Wright bt Mrs. M. Alexandru 17, -14, 12; Neale/Barnes bt Dubosi/Dumitriu 10, 13; Neale/Mrs. Wright bt Dubosi/Mrs. Alexandru 17, 17; Barnes bt Dubosi 15, -15, 17; Neale lost to Dumitriu -16, -17.

Team Championships Brilliant Barnes Double

by ALBERT SHIPLEY

THE daring innovation of holding an international team event at the Teesside Open paid handsome dividends, for the final provided the finest team match seen in this country for many years.

Of the sixteen teams in this event, seven were national teams and nine were County sides, composed of two men and one woman playing the best of five singles. The early rounds provided no shocks in the overall results but amongst the individual results, were wins by John Kedde of Yorkshire over Silviu Dumitriu of

Rumania, Judy Heaps beating Mary Wright and Scotland's Eric Sutherland beating Serban Dobosi of Rumania. England's first team of Neale, Barnes and Mary Wright progressed to the final with a win over Rumania, there to meet the powerful Czechs, who had swiftly ousted England II by 3-0.

And so the scene was set for the final, splendidly staged before a most enthusiastic audience of over 600 in the brand-new Eston Sports Centre. In the opening match Kollarovits faced Denis Neale, and with Denis struggling to find his real form with a new bat, the Czech, romped home at 21-9 in the third. Then came the match that was to set light to the whole proceedings, Chester Barnes versus the experienced Jaroslav Stanek. After the first few points, Barnes started to play with an air of exhibitionism and whatever shot he attempted, even the seemingly impossible ones, each became a winner, and he took the first game 21-12 with Stanek shaking his head in disbelief. The Czech, renowned for his fighting qualities set out to contain this brilliance from Barnes, but well as Stanek fought, Chester produced every shot in the book to storm home at 21-19. The tremendous ovation given to the players was never more worthily earned.

Mary Wright now had to tackle the quick-silver play of 14 year-old European Champion Ilona Vostova and after losing the first game to 12, a lengthy consultation with Johnny Leach produced a 21-18 win in the second. Although Mary created openings for herself in the third, her match-tightness was not yet ready for a win over a player of Vostova's class, and England were 2-1 down.

Into the arena stepped Denis Neale for his attempt to prevent Czechoslovakia gaining a 3-1 win, and to do it he had to beat Jaroslav Stanek for the first time in his life. No scores can tell the story of this match but this was table tennis at its highest quality and the Teesside crowd cheered Denis home all the way to a fantastic 20-22, 21-18, 21-16 win. The ovation given to Chester Barnes earlier was well and truly eclipsed by the acclaim earned by this win of Neale's that saved England from defeat and wrote his own name in the record book.

Thus Chester Barnes was given the chance to clinch the match for England, and although he shook our confidence that he would by virtually making a present of the second game to Kollarovits, he once again produced his magic brand of table tennis to provide a story book ending to an evening which will be the talk of Teesside and all who were privileged to witness, it, for a long time to come.

Results:

1st Round:

Czechoslovakia beat Northumberland 3-0
Kent beat Lincs. 3-0.
England II beat Middx. 3-1
Scotland I beat Australia 3-1
Rumania beat Scotland II 3-1

Yorks. beat Hunts. 3-0
Warwicks. beat Staffs. 3-0
England I beat Cheshire 3-1

2nd Round:

Czechoslovakia beat Kent 3-0
England II beat Scotland I 3-0
Rumania beat Yorks. 3-1
England I beat Warwicks. 3-0

Semi-finals:

Czechoslovakia beat England II 3-0
England I beat Rumania 3-1

Final:

England I beat Czechoslovakia 3-2

Details:

D. Neale lost to S. Kollarovits -17, 16, -9.
C. Barnes beat J. Stanek 12, 19.
M. Wright lost to I. Vostova -12, 18, -12.
D. Neale beat J. Stanek -20, 18, 16.
C. Barnes beat S. Kollarovits 18, -8, 12.

Individual Events

Neale Supreme at Eston

by GEORGE FACKRELL
and LAURIE LANDRY

IT was a case of "local boy makes good" on the final day of the star-studded Teesside Open when Middlesbrough-born Denis Neale brought off his second success of the weekend over Czechoslovakia's Jaroslav Stanek to win the men's singles event.

Local hearts were down in their boots when, in the semis against Stefan Kollarovits, Neale lost the first game -5 in attempting to slow the Czech. No. 2 down. Without going wild, however, the English champion quickened his game just sufficiently to allow his opponent enough rope to hang himself. And this he proceeded to do to become a beaten man after Neale had squared the issue.

Chester Barnes had departed to win the Essex Open at Harlow but Englishmen, nevertheless, were four strong in the quarters but only Neale achieved the breakthrough.

Earlier in the proceedings, Northumberland's Arthur Chilvers had made a name for himself by overcoming Silviu Dumitriu, the Rumanian who had beaten Neale in the European League match. Subsequently the Northumbrian went out to Alan Hydes -5, -13 and Brian Burn, the holder, lost to Kollarovits.

In the women's singles won by that level-headed young Czech. lady, Ilona Vostova, England's Mary Wright suffered her second defeat of the weekend at the hands of Judy Heaps when, in the second round, she lost 14, -15, -18.

Miss Heaps went on to beat Pauline Piddock and gave an exceptionally good account of herself before losing to the redoubtable Maria Alexandru in the semis.

Completely outclassed on the day was Judy Williams, the English Closed champion, who took a hammering from Eleonora Mihalca to the tune of 5 and 7! Maureen Heppell lost to Lesley Radford 12, -17, -14 who, in turn, was seen off by Mrs. Alexandru 6 and 10.

continued on page 5

AT THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR



Scarborough's Mayor, Councillor N. Fuller, is here seen with E.T.T.A. officials (from left to right) President T. Austin Harrison, Hon. Treasurer Tom Blunn, Deputy Chairman Walter Mitton and Chairman Conrad Jaschke.

Photo' by courtesy of Scarborough and District Newspapers Ltd.

Teesside continued

In the absence of seeded "Les" Haslam/Trevor Taylor, the Warwks./Lancs. combine of Pat Glynn/Bob Kelly reached the semis of the men's doubles, losing to Stanek and George Turai.

Hydes/Wright had a good win over Neale/Kollarovits and could have won the final in two-straight for, after winning the first game, they led 20-17 in the second, and at one stage were 14-all in the decider.

The mixed event was not contested by players engaged in the team championships which allowed the "less famous" to claim a little of the lime-light. Also doing a spot of basking was Benny Casofsky in the veteran singles, making one of his rare excursions to play outside his native Manchester and accounting for former Leeds United footballer Len Browning in the final.

Results:

Men's singles: Quarter-finals:
 J. Stanek (Czecho.) bt A. Hydes (Yorks.) 19, 13;
 G. Turai (Czecho.) bt B. Wright (Middx.) 14, 11;
 S. Kollarovits (Czecho.) bt B. Burn (Northld.) 9, 16;
 D. Neale (Yorks.) bt A. Piddock (Kent) 15, 11.

Semi-finals:
STANEK bt Turai 19, -15, 16;
NEALE bt Kollarovits -5, 17, 9.

Final:
NEALE bt Stanek 13, 21.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
 I. Vostova (Czecho.) bt K. Mathews (Middx.) 13, -15;
 E. Mihalca (Rum.) bt J. Williams (Sussex) 5, 7;
 M. Alexandru (Rum.) bt A. Grofova (Czecho.) 16, 13;
 J. Heaps (Ches.) bt P. Piddock (Kent) 16, 21.

Semi-finals:
VOSTOVA bt Mihalca 22, -18, 18;
ALEXANDRU bt Heap 17, 18.

Final:
VOSTOVA bt Alexandru 16, -12, 16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
STANEK/TURAI bt P. Glynn/Warwks./R. Kelly (Lancs.) 11, 15;
HYDES/WRIGHT bt Neale/Kollarovits 19, -11, 17.

Final:
STANEK/TURAI bt Hydes/Wright -11, 21, 16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
GROFOVA/VOSTOVA bt Mathews/M. Wright (Surrey) 20, -18, 15;
ALEXANDRU/MIHALCA bt L. Radford/D. Simpson (Essex) 20, 17.

Final:
ALEXANDRU / MIHALCA bt Grofova/Vostova 10, 9.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
P. BECK (Surrey)/S. Hession (Essex) bt P. Freeman (Durham)/S. Lee (Yorks.) 12, -10, 16;
P. RADFORD (Essex)/RADFORD bt P. Hoyles/P. Jackson (Northld.) 14, 18.
RADFORD/RADFORD bt Beck/Hession 15, -15, 11.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
L. BROWNING (Yorks.) bt H. Dignam (Northld.) 16, 20;
B. CASOFSKY (Lancs.) bt T. S. Harker (Yorks.) 17, 12.

Final:
CASOFSKY bt Browning 14, 17.

AN APOLOGY

THE President of the U.S.S.R. Table Tennis Federation, Mr. Leonid Makarov, has protested to the E.T.T.A. about criticisms made by Brian Mitchell in the October issue of TABLE TENNIS NEWS concerning the European Junior Meeting in Leningrad last summer.

I wish to make it clear that the criticisms were Brian Mitchell's own personal views, not the views of the E.T.T.A., as indeed is the case with all signed articles in this publication.

It is, of course, regretted if the remarks referred to have caused offence.

The Editor.

NO VENUE FOR NORTH-EAST OPEN

REGRET at Scarborough's loss of the North-East of England Open, for many years staged at Wallis's Holiday Camp, Cauton Bay, was expressed by the Mayor of Scarborough, Councillor N. Fuller at a reception given to ETTA officials in the Mayor's parlour on February 22.

Staged by the town from the 1930's, the hall is booked at Easter when the tournament normally takes place. Despite the search for a new venue, led by Organiser Walter Mitton, it now looks as though the championships will have to lapse for this season at least.

English Junior Open

1968-69

Entry forms for the 2nd English Junior Open Championships to be held in the Marine Pavilion, Folkestone on May 3-4, are now available from the E.T.T.A. Secretariat, 26-29, Park Crescent, London, WIN 4HA. The closing date for entries is Monday, April 7.

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Tournament Survey

by Rea Balmford and Laurie Landry

ALAN HYDES became the "Trans-Pennine" champion when, on Feb. 16 at Hull, he added the men's singles title of the Yorkshire Open to that of the Lancashire Open which he won at Bolton on Jan. 18.

Hydes was a worthy winner on Humberside when he celebrated his selection for England's squad bound for Munich with a sparkling two-straight win over top-seeded Denis Neale.

The Barnsley boy, who obviously benefitted from his solo trip to Sweden, was razor-sharp and did not concede a game throughout the event. His dismissal of former junior international Tony Clayton gave the Pontefract Open winner much food for thought.

Clayton was in good form himself and gained his semi-final place at the expense of Warwickshire's Pat Glynn. Neale's opponent in the other semi was another of last season's juniors out to make his way in the senior ranks—Stephen Kaufman of Bolton who, in the absence of seeded Brian Burn, shot out such experienced men as Malcolm Mear and Jim Yeats.

Pat Bassano (nee Dainty) gave a stern warning, to those who may be inclined to underrate her, by sweeping to success in the women's singles in the same fashion as Hydes who she partnered to a mixed doubles win.

Playing in her first tournament, since becoming a mother, Mary Wright confirmed her position in the seeding list by winning the Bucks. Open, on Feb. 1-2, without dropping a game.

At Slough, husband Brian made it a double with his victory over Tony Piddock in the final of the men's event. Both Hydes and Mike Johns lost in the semis, the Yorkshireman having previously beaten "Les" Haslam in a repeat of their Lancs. Open final.

Johns has some consolation in his two doubles victories with Haslam and Diane Simpson. "Connie" Warren found himself on the losing side in both finals but Diane also brought off a double when, with Lesley Radford, the Essex pair secured the women's doubles title.

Marred by adverse weather conditions—as was the Yorkshire Open—the Midland Counties Open, played at Warley on Feb. 8, suffered by the loss of such star entries as Wright, Johns and Haslam.

It left the way clear for the visiting Hungarians to avenge their defeat by England at Bracknell on the previous night. Janos Borzsei and Matyas Beleznai contested the final with the latter successful.

Maureen Heppell, the beaten finalist at Slough, defeated Maria Nemeth for the ladies' crown and partnered the Hungarian for a doubles win after being given quite a shock by Kath Perry and Jenny Cornock in the semis.

YORKSHIRE OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Neale (Yorks.) bt D. Sykes (Yorks.) 10, 20;
S. Kaufman (Lancs.) bt J. Yeats (Yorks.) 20, 21;
A. Clayton (Yorks.) bt P. Glynn (Warwks.) 12, -15, 5;
A. Hydes (Yorks.) bt P. Hoyles (Northld.) 8, 20.

Semi-finals:

NEALE bt Kaufman 10, 11;
HYDES bt Clayton 11, 10.
Final: HYDES bt Neale 17, 17.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

P. BASSANO (Yorks.) bt V. King (Yorks.) 12, 16;
L. BASHFORD (Yorks.) bt S. Lee (Yorks.) 15, 16.
Final: BASSANO bt Bashford 19, 13.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HYDES/NEALE bt M. Corking/A. Fletcher (Yorks.) 16, 20;
D. BARTLETT/C. POLLARD (Yorks.) bt G. Allison/M. Dainty (Yorks.) 21, 7.
Final: HYDES/NEALE bt Bartlett/Pollard 12, 16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

KING/LEE bt P. Hamlett/H. Reverchon (Yorks.) 16, 17;
BASSANO/A. WATERS (Yorks.) bt M. Green/J. White (Lincs.) -12, 14, 13.
Final: KING/LEE bt Bassano/Waters 12, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

HYDES/BASSANO bt Clayton/King 25, -19, 12;
P. BOWSLEY/B. WHITFIELD (Yorks.) bt I. Robertson (Northld)/P. Richmond (Yorks.) -7, 18, 15.
Final: HYDES/BASSANO bt Bowsley/Whitfield 13, 11.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

L. BROWNING (Yorks.) bt K. Mitchelmore (Yorks.) -19, 16, 10;
W. DEVINE (Yorks.) bt N. Lusher (Yorks.) 11, 9.
Final: BROWNING bt Devine -17, 18, 17.

BUCKS. OPEN RESULTS

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

B. Wright (Middx.) bt R. Chandler (Sussex) 14, 12;
A. Hydes (Yorks.) bt O. Haslam (Middx.) 16, 10;
M. Johns (Ches.) bt P. Williams (Sussex) 15, 17;
A. Piddock (Kent) bt C. Warren (Surrey) 7, -19, 19.

Semi-finals:

WRIGHT bt Hydes 16, 16.
PIDDOCK bt Johns 18, 11.
Final: WRIGHT bt Piddock -20, 19, 16.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

M. WRIGHT (Surrey) bt P. Piddock (Kent) 14, 17;
M. HEPELL (Nthland.) bt J. Heap (Ches.) 16, 11.
Final: WRIGHT bt Heppell 17, 19.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HASLAM/JOHNS bt R. Stevens (Essex)/Wright -13, 12, 12;
R. GUNNION (Warwks.)/WARREN bt M. Creamer (Surrey)/P. Pinkewich (Australia) 16, 16.

Final: HASLAM/JOHNS bt Gunnion/Warren 14, 20.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

L. RADFORD/D. SIMPSON (Essex) bt Heppell/S. Howard (Surrey) 20, 12; HEAPS/PIDDOCK bt A. Taft (Middx.)/Wright 16, -18, 18.
Final: RADFORD/SIMPSON bt Heaps/Piddock -13, 14, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

JOHNS/SIMPSON bt Williams/Taft -15, 17, 18;
WARREN / J. FITZSIMONS (Ireland) bt L. Landry (Middx.)/Howard -20, 21, 20.
Final: JOHNS/SIMPSON bt Warren/Fitzsimons 20, 20.

MIDLAND COUNTIES OPEN

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

J. Borzsei (Hungary) bt B. Burn (Northld.) 12, 21;
P. Williams (Sussex) bt D. Munt (Warwks.) 18, 12;
R. Gunnion (Warwks.) bt L. Landry (Middx.) 21, -19, 11;
M. Beleznai (Hungary) bt P. Pinkewich (Australia) 15, 9.

Semi-finals:

BORZSEI bt Williams 19, 11;
BELEZNAI bt Gunnion 7, 17.
Final: BELEZNAI bt Borsei 18, 18.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

M. HEPELL (Northld.) bt K. Perry (Warwks.) 9, 9;
M. NEMETH (Hungary) bt J. Cornock (Warwks.) 17, 15.
Final: HEPELL bt Nemeth 16, 12.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

BELEZNAI/BORZSEI bt Landry/I. Robertson (Northld.) 15, 8;
GUNNION / PINKEWICH bt G. Binney (Warwks.)/Munt 15, 20.
Final: BELEZNAI/BORZSEI bt Gunnion/Pinkewich 18, 14.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HEPELL/NEMETH bt Cornock/Perry -11, 18, 19;
D. GRIFFITHS/J. ROBERTS (Warwks.) bt A. Jones/M. Rose (Warwks.) 12, 11.
Final: HEPELL/NEMETH bt Griffiths/Roberts 14, 13.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

BELEZNAI/NEMETH bt B. Hill (Surrey)/Cornock 9, 10;
BURN/HEPELL bt P. Glynn (Warwks.)/Perry 9, 14.
Final: BELEZNAI/NEMETH bt Burn/Heppell 19, 13.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

N. JARVIS (Yorks.) bt F. Gunning (Warwks.) 17, 17;
A. GRIFFITHS (Wales) bt P. Freeman (Durham) -13, 17, 15.
Final: JARVIS bt Griffiths 20, 16.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

CORNOCK bt J. Roe (Yorks.) 10, 8;
S. CLARK (Warwks.) bt J. Walshaw (Yorks.) 7, -15, 15.
Final: CORNOCK bt Clarke 6, 10.

Junior Doubles: Semi-finals:

R. BROADMORE/M. DAVIES (Warwks.) bt D. Bradley/J. Walker (Yorks.) 17, -21, 18;
FREEMAN / ROBERTSON bt Gunning/M. Hall (Warwks.) 16, -18, 13.

Final:

FREEMAN/ROBERTSON bt Broadmore/Davies -13, 15, 19.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

L. BROWNING (Yorks.) bt R. Buncle (Warwks.) 12, 21; B. GRIFFITHS (Warwks.) bt F. Briggs (Yorks.) 14, 16.
Final: BROWNING bt Griffiths 8, 14.

BURFORD JUNIOR OPEN

by M. J. Chalk

"MOONLIGHT SONATA" IN OXON

THE first Open Tournament held at the Grammar School, Burford proved a tremendous success with nation-wide interest. Entrants came from Lancashire to Kent and Essex to Glamorgan and included 15 of the nationally seeded players. Around 300 entries were accepted and over 50 had to be returned due to the necessity of finishing by 10 p.m.

The first players from Essex and Sussex arrived in bright moonlight soon after 7 a.m., and by 8 o'clock 11 tables were in use.

The Under-13 Girls' progressed as expected in the Main Hall whilst the boys' battled away in the Sports Hall and the possible 'match of the day' was taking place before a dense crowd between Simon Heaps and P. Guttormsen.

Meanwhile, news came through that John Dabin's car had broken down. Fortunately his events were not due to start until mid-day and he arrived just in time.

He was rewarded by winning the U-17 singles beating Peter Taylor in the final. The last final ended with ten minutes to spare before the deadline. However, drama had not finished as two cars would not start and a local garage had to be opened up before their wheels were set rolling back to Kent.

Final Results:

U-17:

B.S.: J. DABIN bt P. Taylor 14, 12.
G.S.: L. CHESSON bt P. Brenchley 13, 10.
B.D.: HEAPS/TAYLOR bt Major/Norton 18, 12.
G.D.: BRENCHLEY/CHESSON bt S. Hamilton/L. Pacitto -19, 18, 14.

U-15:

B.S.: R. HELLABY bt S. Heaps 15, 10.
G.S.: CHESSON bt J. Hellaby 26, 10.
B.D.: HEAPS/TAYLOR bt R. Broadmore/T. Hayward 12, 18.
G.D.: BRENCHLEY/CHESSON bt Hamilton/L. Pacitto -24, 9, 16.

U-13:

B.S.: P. GUTTORMSEN bt S. Heaps 18, -9, 19.
G.S.: L. JONES bt A. Chesson 14, -17, 12.

**CAMBS. AND ISLE OF ELY
CLOSED**

by Leslie Constable

LITTLECHILD CAUSES UPSET

A record entry of over 120 in the men's singles provided for keen competition in the Cambs. Closed Championships.

Tony Littlechild caused a major upset by beating former champion John Thurston in the semis but then lost to Alan Ponder in the final.

Carol Chapman captured three titles including the women's singles with a victory over the energetic Sandra Grainger.

Results:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

A. LITTLECHILD bt J. A. Thurston 19, 17;

A. M. PONDER bt K. Muhr 19, 18.

Final: PONDER bt Littlechild -14, 15, 19.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

Miss C. CHAPMAN bt Miss D. Bonner 12, 17;

Mrs. S. GRAINGER bt Mrs. M. Cornell 15, -17, 19.

Final: CHAPMAN bt Grainger 20, 13.

Men's Doubles: Final:

S. ANDREWS/THURSTON bt P. Chisnall/Ponder 20, 16.

Women's Doubles: Final:

CHAPMAN/GRAINGER bt Cornell/ Miss S. Wakefield 15, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

ANDREWS/CHAPMAN bt J. Corral /Bonner 15, 18.

Boys' Singles: Final:

G. COTEMAN bt A. Jugg 5, 9.

Girls' Singles: Final:

J. STOKES bt J. Ferguson (2-1).

Veteran Singles: Final:

A. C. ADAMS bt B. P. Adams 17, 20.

**NORTH BOURNEMOUTH
CLUB**

RESTRICTED OPEN

AN attractive entry with players from as far afield as Birmingham, Worcester, Oxford and London made for a good standard of play at the North Bournemouth Club on February 2 (writes C. B. Cashell!).

Results:—

M.S. S. Smith (Essex) bt C. Edwards (Hants.) 24, 13.

W.S. J. Coop (Hants.) bt P. Edwards (Hants.) 14, 19.

M.D. D. Davies (Hants.)/W. Moulding (Wilts.) bt B. and C. Pickard (Hants.) -18, 12, 20.

W.D. C. Davies/P. Edwards (Hants.) bt J. Hudson/J. Smith (Hants.) 8, 16.

J.S. J. Holton (Essex) bt K. Summerfield (Hants.) 19, 18.

X.D. D. and C. Davies bt T. Smith (Hants.)/Coop 9, -17, 15.

SMITH "SKIMS" TO VICTORY

Pete Smith (Southampton) won the men's singles at the British Hovercraft T.T. Club's open tournament at East Cowes, Isle of Wight beating N. Badcock (Shanklin) 6, 14 in the final. There were 97 entries and other events resulted:—

W.S. K. Pierce (Sandown) bt V. Cherriman (Soton) 14, 15.

M.D. Smith/R. Hayter (Newport Vics.) bt Badcock/D. Ferguson (Shanklin) 18, 14.

W.D. Cherriman/Pierce bt J. Attrill /J. Stone (Shanklin) 17, 17.

CHALLENGE ISSUED

ON behalf of 4 members of the Pulford School Table Tennis Club, all under 8, Mrs. Dolly Harmer of 84, Brooklands Drive, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. (Phone: Leighton Buzzard 3578) would like to challenge a team of 4 players of similar age either at Leighton Buzzard or away on a convenient Saturday.

Fitness

WE learnt with great regret that Ken Baker's piece in the December Table Tennis News, which was intended to be a humorous send-up on the question of keeping fit, has caused some embarrassment to George Muranyi.

Mr. Baker has asked us to stress that his article was intended purely humorously and that it should not be taken seriously in any way whatever.

We join him in apologising for any embarrassment which may have been caused by anyone reading it differently.

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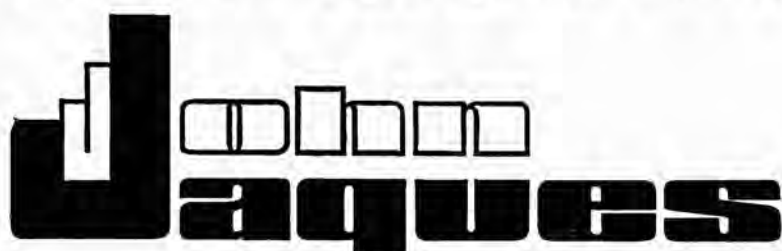
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ESSEX SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by David Lomas
Hon. Gen. Secretary.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS 1969

THERE was a record total of 57 teams from 40 secondary schools involved in the fifth Annual Essex Schools' Championships at Great Baddow Comprehensive School, Chelmsford, on Sunday, Feb. 16.

There were many changes from the well-established routines of the past; the Essex Schools' Association's decision to organise events for Under-19, 17 and 15 meant there were six events to be decided. Twelve of the 14 local Authorities were represented and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Havering and Newham almost swept the board.

Even though play started at 10 a.m. and fifteen tables were in constant use, it was necessary to arrange the tournament on a strict knock-out basis; the group system had always been used in the past. Matches consisted of eight singles, there being four players per team.

With heavy snow falling early on Sunday morning it was extremely creditable for the number of 'defaulters' to be a single school.

The Association were fortunate enough to be assisted by over thirty County Officials and teachers without whose voluntary help it would be impossible to stage such championships. Particular thanks are due to Fred Sheldrake who took on the new post of Competition Secretary, and national coach, Jack Carrington who formerly organised the National Championships.

After many hours of keen competition, toil, tears and sweat, the handsome trophies were presented to the finalists by Mr. David Bungey, Chief Education Officer of Essex.

CHELMSFORD RESULTS:

Boys:

Under-19: COLCHESTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL (holders) bt Burke School, Newham.

Under-17: PLAISTOW GRAMMAR SCHOOL bt Davenant Grammar School (West Essex).

Under-15: S. W. HAM TECHNICAL SCHOOL bt Davenant Grammar School.

Girls:

Under-19: PALMER'S SCHOOL, THURROCK (holders) bt William Morris Senior High School (Waltham Forest).

Under-17: RECTORY MANOR SCHOOL, NEWHAM bt Palmer's School, Thurrock (holders).

Under-15: RAINHAM SECONDARY, HAVERING bt Plaistow Grammar School.

The Under-13 events had taken place at Debden Youth Centre, Loughton the previous week when the Association were greatly indebted to Bob Gingell of the West Essex Table Tennis League for providing the facilities.

The 'stranglehold' of the London Boroughs was prised open in the Boys' event by a strong all-round performance from St. Helena Secondary School, Colchester whose efforts to reach the venue through ice and snow were rewarded with a fine win over a younger Plaistow Grammar School side.

LOUGHTON RESULTS:

Boys:

Under-13: ST. HELENA, COLCHESTER, bt Plaistow Grammar School.

Girls:

Under-13: PLAISTOW GRAMMAR SCHOOL bt Palmer's School, Thurrock.

In both events, the Under-19 winners played off against the Under-17 winners to determine the County's U-18 entry for the South-East Quarter Finals at Stanmore, Middlesex on March 8th. The younger teams won!

RESULTS:

Boys:

PLAISTOW GRAMMAR SCHOOL bt Colchester Royal Grammar School 5-2.

Girls:

RECTORY MANOR SCHOOL bt Palmer's School, Thurrock 8-0.

Czech Invitation Tournament, Bratislava.

A GAMBLE THAT JUST HAD TO BE

(as reported to the Editor)

by Denis Neale and Trevor Taylor

PLAYED in the P.K.O. Hall, Bratislava from January 31—February 2, this invitation tournament proved a very successful one for the Czechs who were favoured by their home conditions. They won four titles out of seven and were beaten finalists in the other three.

It was not a very successful affair for England whose gamble in playing Trevor Taylor in the team events did not come off. It was a justified gamble, however, as Taylor was in need of the necessary experience in his senior apprenticeship.

England's women came third in their team event losing to Czechoslovakia and Rumania.

MEN'S TEAM EVENT

There were three groups of three with Sweden and Czech, winning the first two without any great difficulty. The third group consisted of Sweden II, Czechoslovakia II and England.

The first match resulted in a 3-2 win for Sweden II over the Czech second string, England then being called upon to meet the winners. Resting Denis Neale from the singles, Taylor lost to both Persson and Andersson although, against the former, young Trevor had a great chance of winning when he led 19-16 in the second after winning the first game at 19.

Barnes had a comfortable win over Andersson (12, 16) and paired with Neale to take the doubles (-11, 13, 12) but then the plan went awry when he lost to Persson (-14, -13) the match going to Sweden II 3-2.

Switching Neale for Chester, against Czech. II, England won 3-1 Neale beating Dvorak (9, 15) and Turai (12, -16, 13) and the Neale/Barnes combination accounting for Turai/Orlowski (11, 13). Taylor lost his one set to Turai (-19, -11).

Sweden I won the event beating Czech. I 3-1, the losers accounting for Sweden II for second place by a similar score.

WOMEN'S TEAM EVENT

Again there were three groups with Czechoslovakia I and Rumania winning the first two and England topping the third with a 3-1 win over Czech. II and a 3-0 success over Slovakia 'B'.

Jill Shirley was unbeaten in these two encounters and had good wins over Karlikova (18, -15, 18) and Pauknerova (-22, 16, 17). Karenza Mathews also played well to beat Pauknerova (20, -18, 18), the doubles being our only loss.

In the play-offs, England finished third, losing 0-3 to Czechoslovakia's Vostova and Grofova, and 1-3 to Rumania after putting up a much better showing.

Again Jill played very well only to lose to Rumania's Crisan (European Junior champion) after leading 20-16 in the decider. Only partial revenge was gained in the doubles with a 17, 16 win over Crisan/Alexandru.

Czechoslovakia won the event by beating Rumania 3-0, Alicia Grofova causing a surprise in beating Alexandru 2-0.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Jaroslav Stanek played brilliantly to win the men's singles and Maria Alexandru disposed of all opposition, in straight games, to win the women's singles.

Neale was unlucky to be drawn in the same quarter as Stanek, his 'bogey', being beaten (20, -15, -9, -11) after the Yorkshireman had disposed of such highly-ranked Czechs as Stepanek and Benda both by 3-0 margins.

Stanek then, surprisingly, found himself opposed by his compatriot Vlado Miko who had disposed of top seed Kjell Johansson (Sweden) 3-2 in the quarters.

In the final, Stanek cruised home against Turai, the European Junior champion, 3-0 after the youngster had beaten Stefan Kollarovits in the semis after trailing 8-15 in the fifth! Earlier, Kollarovits had beaten Taylor (3-1) and Hans Alser (3-0) with surprising ease. Chester had a tough first round match against Bo Persson losing (0-3) in a fast and furious encounter which, really, could have gone either way.



Depicted here, in thoughtful mood, Hertfordshire's young international, TREVOR TAYLOR, will doubtless benefit from his experiences in Bratislava, bitter though they might be.

Photo by John O'Sullivan

Surprise finalist in the women's singles was Alicia Grofova who reached the last hurdle only to lose 3-0 to Maria Alexandru who she had beaten in the team event. European champion, Ilona Vostova, went out in the quarters to ex-international Irena Bosa-Mikocziova who had earlier accounted for Karenza Mathews in a 5-game set. Jill Shirley lost in the second round to Jitka Karlikova who played very well.

The winners of the men's doubles were Alser and Johansson who beat Neale/Barnes in a close semi-final, the Englishmen led 2-1 and 18-17 against the world champions only to lose. In the final the Swedes beat Stanek/Miko (3-1).

Taylor, playing with Rastislav Michl, a Czech, played well to reach the quarters losing -18 in the fifth to the Swedes, Persson and Andersson.

The women's doubles proved disappointing when Karenza and Jill had every chance of reaching the semis but went down (0-3) to the Swedish pair Andersson and Neidert.

In the mixed doubles we fared badly. Barnes and Karenza, who were thought to have a reasonable chance, lost to Dvorak/Pauknerova in the second round, and Taylor and Jill fought hard against finalists Dobosi/Alexandru but lost 0-3. Miko/Karlikova won the event without the loss of a single game.

NEW MARATHON RECORD

by Ian Crickmer

AT the very moment that the National Council decided at its meeting of February 1st to recognise marathon table tennis attempts, three students of the Worcester College of Education were on the way to setting up a new record for a three men team of 73 hours, 2 minutes non-stop play.

As part of the College's annual Charity Week, which raised nearly £2,000 for disabled and handicapped children of the Worcester area, Fred Hardman (Bolton), Bill Gordon (Belfast) and Brian Simpson (Chesterfield) began their stint at midnight on January 30th, and passed the previous record of 72 hours amidst tumultuous applause from many of the College's 960 students at midnight on February 2nd. Playing on a 'two games on, one game off' basis, the trio notched up a total of 473 games before calling a halt.

HONOURS SHARED AT SHEFFIELD

by The Editor

DESPITE taking the lead on three occasions England finally had to settle for a 4-all draw with Rumania in a friendly mixed international played at the City Hall, Sheffield on February 24.

By special request Chester Barnes journeyed north once more and although successful against Dumitriu in singles combat failed to win the match in the final set when partnered by Pauline Piddock.

Both Eleanora Mihalca and Maria Alexandru exposed the limitations of our women, just as our men had it much their own way against the youthful Dumitriu and Dobosi.

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

by Les Davis

BOLTON BACK AMONG THE GREATS

AFTER Chesterfield's marvellous display against Hull in Round 3 of the Wilmott Cup, their defeat by Bolton proved somewhat of an anticlimax. So Bolton — after being ignominiously beaten by Hull, at this stage last season—are once again among the giants.

Incidentally, apart from last season's lapse, this Lancashire team has reached each of the last five season's quarter-finals.

In this vein it must be recorded that Gloucester have the best record of all having reached the quarter-finals each season for at least ten years.

In the London Civil Service v. Acton clash, it was noticeable that though the Service won 5-2, it was Stuart Gibbs who lost both sets. R. Lahiri and M. Creamer were the victors although each set went to three.

Rose Bowl

Again reviewing the records, Doncaster seem to be the most consistent quarter-finalists having reached this stage three times in the

last five seasons. Unfortunately, for them, they have not won the Bowl on any of these occasions.

Eastbourne were well beaten by a very good Guildford team containing the Howard sisters. Miss Woodford, nevertheless, played well for the losers.

Against Central London, North Middlesex's Diane Simpson beat both Judy Williams and Shelagh Hession.

The only bright spot in Bristol's defeat by Southampton was Mrs. Golding's single game success against Mrs. C. Davies.

Carter Cup

The Junior Team Competitions were commenced in 1965. Since then Birmingham have been represented in every semi-final. A very good record considering the age limit contingency.

National Club Competition

Will county secretaries remember that I must have entry details by Mar. 9.

Draw and results:—

WILMOTT CUP - 5th ROUND

Watford v. Bolton
Huddersfield v. Birmingham
Southampton v. London Civil Service
Willesden v. Gloucester

Results of Round 4:

Chesterfield 2 Bolton 5.
Cambridge 3 Watford 6.
London C.S. 5 Acton 2.
Eastbourne 2 Guildford 7.

Oxford 1 Birmingham 5.
Bromley 1 Willesden 8.
Newbury 2 Southampton 5.
Huddersfield 5 Stockport 4.

J.M. ROSE BOWL

Huddersfield v. Birmingham
Lowestoft v. Northumberland
Guildford v. London Civil Service
Central London v. Southampton

Results of Round 4:

Northumberland w.o. Manchester.
Lowestoft 8 Bedford 1.
London C.S. 6 Southend 3.
Eastbourne 2 Guildford 7
Harlow 1 Birmingham 8
Cent. London 5 N. Middlesex 2
Southampton 9 Bristol 0.
Huddersfield (Bye).

CARTER CUP (Semi-finals)

Birmingham v. North Herts.
Barking v. N. Middlesex

Results of Round 4:

N. Herts 5 N. Yorks. 4.
Barking 6 Southampton 3.
Birmingham 6 Manchester 3.
Bromley 3 N. Middlesex 6.

All the foregoing fifth round ties are to be completed by Mar. 16. The Bromfield Trophy 4th round period was extended to Mar. 2, leagues concerned being Bournemouth v. Slough and Sittingbourne v. Hull.

GOOD "POLICY" FOR ESSEX

by A. J. Robinson

ESSEX county players David Brown and Diane Simpson claimed the major awards in this season's Insurance Offices' T.T.A. Championships played at the premises of the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society on February 4. Results:—

M.S.: D. Brown (Lloyds) bt D. Basden (H.R.G.M.) 14, 10.

W.S. Miss D. Simpson (Sebrof) bt Miss B. Peters (Ibis) 15, 7.

M.D. A. Candy/M. Scudder (Lloyds) bt B. Halliday/M. Leighton (Ibis) -7, 17, 14.

W.D. Miss V. Johnson (Ibis)/Peters bt Mrs. A. Knowles (Unicit)/Simpson -13, 20, 20.

X.D. Brown/Simpson bt B. Meisel (Coop)/Peters 14, 14.

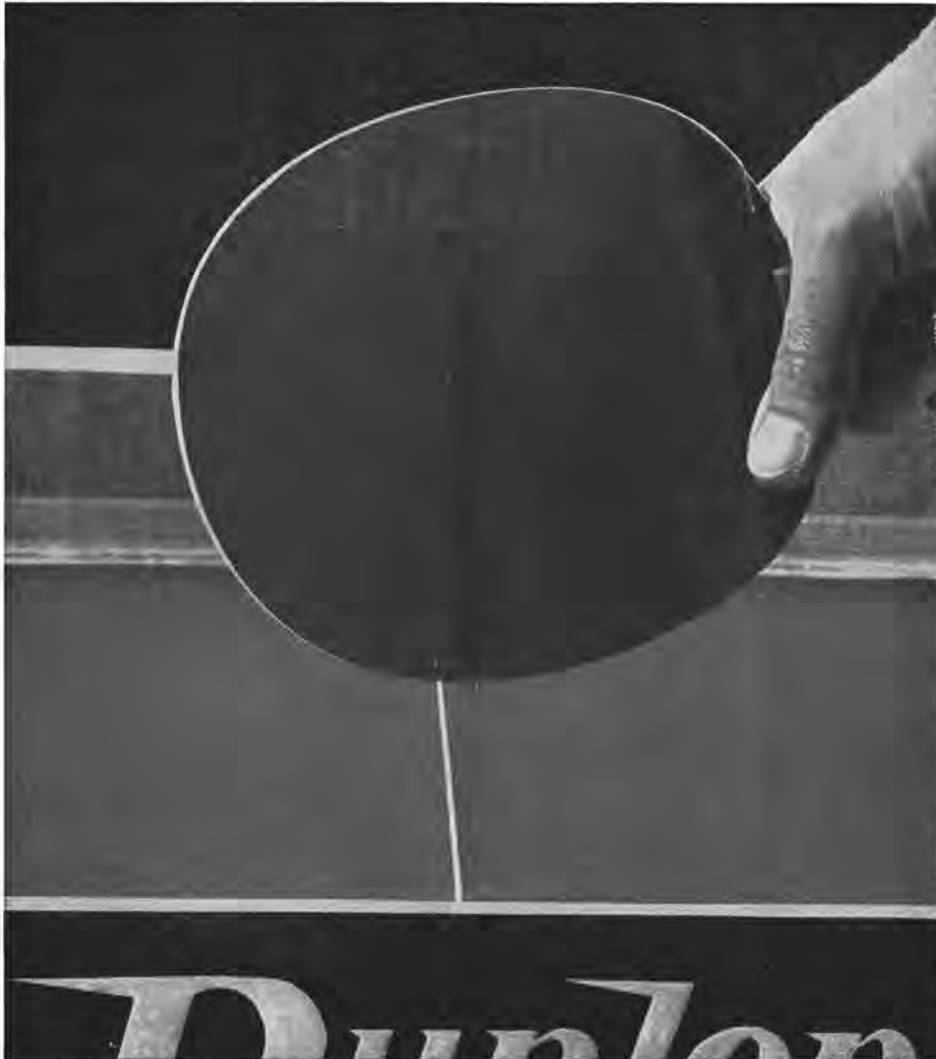
V.M. G. Welsh (C.M.G.) bt J. Tuttle (Pearl).

V.W. Miss V. Palmer (Eagle Star) bt Miss V. Lumsden (Liverpool Vic.).

JBS. R. Meer (Bardhill) bt D. Hendle (Reco).

JGS. Miss Peters bt Miss Johnson.

Minor Singles: A. Cooke (Ukap) bt E. Prowen (Eagle Star).



**Where are the '69 world championships being held?
On the Dunlop Barna Table in Munich!**

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The table is compact, easy to store, speedy to erect—and built of sturdy seasoned wood. There are recessed side rails for net fixing, and also wheel-away castors as a useful optional extra.



Ask about the Dunlop Barna range of tables at your local dealer now.

You'll do better with Dunlop

ENGLISH OPEN

continued from page one

Earlier, the Yorkshireman had figured in an epic quarter-final struggle with his Hungarian bogeyman Janos Borzsei.

The chips were down 0-2 when Neale took a firm grip on the situation to level at 2-all and he held a 14-10 lead in the decider when his opponent had the "towel thrown in" and limped from the arena with a pulled muscle.

In the previous round, against the rising French star, Jacques Secretin, the English Closed champion had shown his mettle when hammering home the spectacular lobbed returns of the left-handed Frenchman.

Enteritis was the cause of Chester Barnes' withdrawal from the singles event otherwise he too, on the evidence of his later showing in the men's doubles, could have been a force to be reckoned with.

Sickness also took its toll of Scotland's hopes when both Malcolm Sugden and Brian Kean went down with tummy upsets, but it was the malady inflicted by Gomozkov that struck down Ireland's only challenger Jim Langan.

Of the ten Englishmen to advance from the first round only Neale "made it" over the second fence.

David Brown had a good 3-1 win over Dumitriu of Rumania before losing to Amelin, and Alan Hydes cruised home against Australian Paul Pinkewich only to lose 1-3 (20-22 in the fourth) to the Czech. George Turai.

Ralph Gunnion took a 3-0 blasting from Johansson and more so was the punishment inflicted on Maurice Billington by Stephan Kollarovits who next accounted for Alser.

Kent's Clive Morris, after beating young Aussie Peter Powell, had the dubious honour of meeting Neale and Roger Chandler fell without disgrace to Borzsei.

Stuart Gibbs looked to be in with a chance when he equated a 2-0 lead established by Federal Germany's Martin Ness only to fade in the decider.

Brian Wright fell to Schöler after winning the first game and losing the fourth 20-22. Not to be outdone Cheshire's Derek Schofield gave a good account of himself before losing to Stanek.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

Four International Squad members failed to emerge from the first round including Trevor Taylor who suffered a 3-1 defeat (-6 in the fourth) by Klampar. The Hungarian went on to give further evidence of his prowess by disposing of Anton Stipancic—Tony Piddock's conqueror—and only lost -19 in the fifth to Johansson.

Mike Johns, despite fighting every inch of the way, went down with guns blazing -18, -19, 17, 18, -20 to Secretin but "Les" Haslam, after beating Karakasevic in the first game, fell away to lose 1-3.

In the counterpart women's event, Mary Wright also reached the semis having taken, 47 minutes to account for her former doubles partner Diane Schöler.

It was a triumph that Mary could not really relish but one that had to be against the former Di Rowe whose newly-styled blonde coiffeur matched her remarkable fitness.

Remarkable indeed, considering that it was in season 1949-50 that Di, partnered by her twin sister Rosalind, won the first of her 18 English Open titles.

But alas, Mary failed to contain the hard-hitting Rudnova despite the morale booster of an opening game success.

Another to feel the draught of the Russian's power play was Jill Shirley who, having accounted for Hungary's Beatrix Kishazi and Olive Hawkins of Scotland, was swept from the quarters as though in the path of a Siberian blizzard.

LOST IN FIRST ROUND

Displaying better form than in recent months, Karenza Mathews succumbed in the second round to European champion, Ilona Vostova after beating Scotland's Lesley Barrie.

Both Judy Williams and Pauline Piddock, who with the foregoing trio have been named for Munich, next month, lost in the first round to Erzsebet Jurik (-16, -8, -7) and Gabriella Voros (-12, 12, 16, -8, -16) respectively.

Of the remaining members of the International Squad, Maureen Heppell was a non-starter with 'flu, Judy Heaps beat Diane Simpson and then lost to Di Schöler 0-3, and Lesley Radford fought pluckily but to no avail against Rudnova.

Mary and Karenza had an exceptionally good 3-1 doubles win over Sweden's Marita Neidert and Eva Johansson and advanced to the semis with a 3-0 victory over the French pair Yveline Lecler and Sonia Moriceau.

At this stage Alexandru/Mihalca barred their path and eventually knocked them from it but only after five fluctuating games.

No other English pair passed beyond the first round although Williams/Shirley held a 2-1 lead over Vostova/Grofova before losing.



STANISLAV GOMOZKOV, here seen from where he could not be budged, and who retained his men's singles title with a three-straight win.

Photo' by Denis Offer.

TWICE LEVELLED

Barnes was sufficiently recovered to partner Neale in the men's doubles and they advanced from the quarters with a 3-straight win over Stanek/Turai, having previously accounted for Pinkewich/Powell and Brown/Stevens.

In the semis, against Gomozkov/Amelin, the English pair twice levelled Soviet leads only to lose -18 in the decider.

Wright/Hydes were the next most successful pair, against home opposition, but Taylor/Gibbs lost to Ransome/Ness who were immediately thumped off by Surbek/Stipancic.

Karenza had young Stipancic as her mixed doubles partner when Barnes was withdrawn. And well they played to oust Johns/Simpson, Secretin/Moriceau and Jansen/Buchholz before losing to Amelin/Grinberg.

Neale and Mary Wright had an exceptionally good win over Surbek/Mihalca anti-climaxed by their 0-3 downfall at the hands of Stanek/Vostova.

In conclusion, a word of thanks to the umpires at Brighton would not be amiss, for they kept going tide-strong on an extremely tight schedule. They join me in wishing would-be Assistant Referee, Stuart Dane, a speedy recovery from illness and trust that his stay in hospital will only be of sufficient duration for him to decide how to spend £100. Such was the first prize, at the "100 Club" dinner, won by "Stew" and draw out by Eddie Minn, the Guest of Honour, from Halex.

ENGLISH OPEN: RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Round 3:

D. Surbek (Yugo.) bt A. Amelin (U.S.S.R.) 21, 14, 20; J. Stanek (Fed. Ger.) bt W. Lieck (Fed. Ger.) 10, 16, 19; E. Schöler (Fed. Ger.) bt G. Turai (Czecho.) 17, 15, 16; K. Johansson (Sweden) bt T. Klampar (Hungary) -14, 13, -18, 15, 19; S. Kollarovits (Czecho.) bt H. Alser (Sweden) -9, 16, -16, 12, 10; S. Gomozkov (U.S.S.R.) bt M. Karaakasevic (Yugo.) 17, 20, -15, 15; D. Neale (Yorks.) bt J. Secretin (France) 12, 15, -22, 12; J. Borzsei (Hungary) bt M. Ness (Fed. Ger.) -18, -18, 22, 18, 15.

Quarter-finals:

SURBEK bt Stanek 17, -18, 15, 9; SCHOLER bt Johansson 15, 14, 18; GOMOZKOV bt Kollarovits -21, -18, 19, 13, 13; NEALE bt Borzsei -11, -19, 12, 18 and 14-10.

Semi-finals:

SURBEK bt Schöler -18, 12, 11, 15; GOMOZKOV bt Neale 14, -14, 15, 19.

Final:

GOMOZKOV bt Surbek 17, 17, 12.

Women's Singles: Round 2:

Z. Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) bt M. Neidert (Sweden) 14, 18, 17; J. Shirley (Bucks.) bt O. Hawkins (Scot.) 14, 12, 10; D. Schöler (Fed. Ger.) bt J. Heaps (Ches.) 9, 19, 16; M. Wright (Surrey) bt A. Grofova (Czecho.) 19, -17, -17, 16, 17; S. Grinberg (U.S.S.R.) bt E. Johansson (Sweden) 19, 18, 6; E. Jurik (Hungary) bt Y. Lecler (France) -23, 15, 17, -16, 15; M. Alexandru (Rum.) bt G. Voros (Hungary) 21, -23, 6, 12; I. Vostova (Czecho.) bt K. Mathews (Middx.) 22, 10, -14, 16.

Quarter-finals:

RUDNOVA bt Shirley 9, 13, 15; WRIGHT bt Schöler -14, 18, 13, -21, 12; GRINBERG bt Jurik 13, 22, 12; ALEXANDRU bt Voros 10, 16, 8.

Semi-finals:

RUDNOVA bt Wright -23, 10, 13, 17; GRINBERG bt Alexandru 16, -14, 9, 16.

Final:

RUDNOVA bt Grinberg 18, 11, 18.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Alser/Johansson bt A. Hydes (Yorks.)/B. Wright (Middx.) 15, -18, 9, 19; A. Stipancic (Yugo.)/Surbek walk-over Borzsei/Schöler (scr.); C. Barnes (Essex)/Neale bt Stanek/Turai 19, 20, 16; Amelin/Gomozkov bt K. J. Bernhardt/B. Persson (Sweden) 11, -15, 16, -15, 15.

Semi-finals:

ALSER/JOHANSSON bt Stipancic/Surbek 12, 12, -18, 21; AMELIN/GOMOZKOV bt Barnes/Neale 20, -18, 14, -17, 18.

Final:

AMELIN/GOMOZKOV bt Alser/Johansson 16, 14, -13, 18.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Alexandru/E. Mihalca (Rum.) bt Jurik/B. Kishazi (Hungary) 21, 12, 13; Mathews/Wright bt Leclar/S. Moriceau (Fr.) 14, 10, 15; E. Buchholz (Fed. Ger.)/Schöler bt Grofova/Vostova 17, -14, 20, 14; Grinberg/Rudnova bt L. Barrie (Scot.)/Hawkins 13, 17, 15.

Semi-finals:

ALEXANDRU / MIHALCA bt Mathews/Wright 12, -11, 19, -22, 12; GRINBERG/RUDNOVA bt Buchholz/Schöler 16, 15, 21.

Final:

GRINBERG / RUDNOVA bt Alexandru/Mihalca 17, 15, 11.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Stipancic/Mathews bt B. Jansen (Fed. Ger.)/Buchholz 13, -21, 8, 13; Amelin/Grinberg bt Persson/Neidert 17, 19, 11; Stanek/Voros bt Neale/Wright 17, 10, 18; Schöler/Schöler bt Gomozkov/Rudnova 16, 16, 15.

Semi-finals:

AMELIN/GRINBERG bt Stipancic/Mathews 11, 20, -6, 15; SCHOLER/SCHOLER bt Stanek/Voros -14, 10, 20, 17.

Final:

SCHOLER/SCHOLER bt Amelin/Grinberg 11, 11, 15.

Men's Veteran Singles: Quarter-finals:

R. Etheridge (Kent) bt Z. Schramm (Surrey) 16, 15; C. Bush (Hants.) bt L. Hoffman (Middx.) -17, 12, 14; S. Norton (Essex.) bt J. Nixon (Kent) 16, 25; K. Snaith (Kent) bt L. Laza (Lancs.) 19, -22, 15.

Semi-finals:

ETHERIDGE bt Bush 17, 10; NORTON bt Snaith 19, 21.

Final:

NORTON bt Etheridge -11, 17, 19.

Women's Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

J. WILLIAMS (Bucks.) bt M. Whitehouse (Surrey) 17, 15; M. CUMBERBATCH (Staffs.) bt V. Cherriman (Hants.) 9, 17.

Final:

WILLIAMS bt Cumberbatch 15, 14.

Men's Consolation Singles: Quarter-finals:

T. Taylor (Herts.) bt B. Meisel (Kent) 20, 8; J. Langan (Ireland) bt Z. Cordas (Yugo.) 11, 19; F. Timar (Hungary) bt M. Johns (Ches.) -14, 13, 13; P. Pinkewich (Aust.) bt S. Marley (Sussex) 18, 18.

Semi-finals:

TAYLOR bt Langan 16, 15; TIMAR bt Pinkewich 11, 15.

Final:

TAYLOR bt Timar 14, 17.

Women's Consolation Singles: Semi-finals:

B. KISHAZI bt Y. Leclar 13, 15; P. EDWARDS (Hants.) bt J. Williams (Bucks.) 16, 16.

Final:

KISHAZI bt Edwards 10, 16.

ENGLISH OPEN

Team Championships

by JOHN WOODFORD

A TRIUMPH FOR THE "BLUES"

THE bright red shirts of the Soviet teams were once again prominent in the team championship finals played in The Dome, Brighton, on Thursday, Feb. 28. When the finals started, there seemed to be an even chance of a dual Russian victory.

Former European champion, Kjell Johansson, had other ideas, and opened the match by thrashing his way past Amelin, but then Gomozkov levelled with a close win over Alser. The Russians did not combine well in the doubles and were easily beaten and then Johansson completed victory for the Scandinavian team when he overcame Gomozkov.

It was a different story in the women's final however, where the Russian girls Rudnova and Grinberg ran out 3-1 winners over Czechoslovakia. Youthful Ilona Vostova completed a fine win in the opening set against Rudnova but then Grinberg put the Soviet team on level terms with a comfortable victory over Alicia Grofova. With the score at 1-1 and the tension mounting, powerful penholder-hitting by the blonde Rudnova took Russia into the lead when the Czechs were beaten in the doubles.

Lack of experience in world-class play by Grofova was then fully exposed as she fell to Rudnova giving the Russians an indisputable victory.

BIGGER STRUGGLE

The Soviet girls did, in fact, have a bigger struggle to beat Rumania in the semis, recovering from 0-2 down to triumph 3-2. Alexandru took Grinberg, 10 in the third, and Mihalca also won, 17 in the third, over Rudnova.

A doubles victory put Russia back into the picture and this was followed by two more third-game deciders by which the Soviet pair well and truly turned the tables by reversing the result of the earlier singles.

This time Rudnova managed to beat Alexandru and, surprisingly perhaps, Grinberg captured the honours of the night by stopping Mihalca.

ENGLAND CRASH

England's run in the men's event came to an abrupt end at 5-50 p.m., when they were well and truly beaten 3-0 by Russia in the semis. The Soviet pair faltered at one or two junctures but overall they were too strong for Neale and Barnes.

Chester came close to both abject failure and a big victory in the opening clash with Amelin being 1-10 in arrears and 4-16, losing 6-21. In the second, the Essex player turned the tables 23-21, and, in the decider, had a great chance to open up the match when he held leads of 6-0 and 14-10. But then Amelin came back to level at 15-all and took the set 18.

Denis Neale took Gomozkov to three and was always in with a chance but the Russian champion made fewer mistakes in the later stages of the third and won 21-15. England finished the day when they were beaten in the doubles.

Another rough, tough and close semi-final occurred in the women's semi-finals when Czechoslovakia put out Sweden 3-2. Marita Neidert commenced with a fine win over Grofova -18, 21, 14 but this was countered by the young European champion, Vostova, beating Eva Johansson 19, 18.

A doubles win to Sweden put them in the lead but then the Czech pair reached the final with two fine singles successes by Vostova over Neidert and Grofova against Johansson.

The men's semi-final clash between the Czechs, and Sweden proved to be a great struggle too. Kollarovits squared the match at 2-2 with a great win over Johansson -19, 17, 18. The stage was then set for a grandstand finish between Stanek and Alser. The Swede powered his way through the first game to win, at 12, and did nearly as well to win 17 in the second to take the world's doubles champions into the final.

PERFECT ENGLISH

Stanek was the victim of a "net" to Sweden in the penultimate point. Alser, seeing Stanek visibly shaken, turned to the crowd and, in perfect English, said "It's not my fault!" The amused crowd were soon afterwards applauding the Swedish victory.

In the first round of the men's team event, there was a shock when Gomozkov fell to the French champion, Secretin -10, 24, -19. In the final few points, the Frenchman used balloon-type defence with returns eight feet high. Several of these so surprised the Russian that he hit two of the highest into the net to lose the set. The loss did not prevent the Russians from beating France 3-1 and Sweden II by the same score.

A clash of two very strong teams also occurred in the first round when Czechoslovakia beat Yugoslavia 3-2. Stanek brought off a great win over Surbek 19, -10, 4! The match was won by the same Czech player when he beat Stipancic 10, 19.

England I started off with a 3-0 win over Wales which brought them up against Federal Germany. Here Chester stepped into the limelight with a cracking win over "Ebby" Schöler. Denis followed by beating Bernt Jansen and a doubles victory completed the glittering win.

Brian Wright came close to starring for England II when he only just lost -19 on an "edge" and a "net" in the third to Johansson. But England II still went down to mighty Sweden.



Without the loss of a single game, ZOYA RUDNOVA and SVETLANA GRINBERG retained their women's doubles title. Beyond the broad back of Rumania's Eleanora Mihalca, in the picture above, is Miss Grinberg about to smash one of her many "kills".

Photo' by Denis Offer.

Men's Championship:

Round 1:

U.S.S.R. 3 France 1.

Sweden II 3 Yugoslavia II 2.

Federal Germany I 3 Australia 0.

England I 3 Wales 0.

D. Neale bt R. Bishop 13, 19; C. Barnes bt G. Davies 11, 17; Neale/Barnes bt Davies/Bishop 9, 11.

Yugoslavia I 3 Scotland 0.

M. Sugden lost to D. Surbek -20, -20; B. Kean lost to A. Stipancic -19, -13; Sugden/Kean lost to Surbek/Stipancic -14, -7.

Federal Germany II 3 Rumania 1.

Sweden I 3 England II 0.

B. Wright lost to K. Johansson 15, -12, -19; T. Taylor lost to H. Alser -12, -6; Wright/A. Hydes lost to Alser/Johansson -13, -19.

Czechoslovakia walk-over Ireland.

Round 2:

U.S.S.R. 3 Sweden II 0.

England I 3 Federal Germany I 0. Barnes bt E. Schöler 17, -19, 19; Neale bt B. Jansen 19, 14; Neale/Barnes bt Schöler/Jansen 18, 16.

Sweden I 3 Federal Germany II 0.

Czechoslovakia 3 Yugoslavia I 2.

Semi-finals:

U.S.S.R. 3 England I 0.

Barnes lost to A. Amelin -6, 12, -18; Neale lost to S. Gomozkov -15, 18, -15; Neale/Barnes lost to Gomozkov/Amelin -13, -14.

Sweden I 3 Czechoslovakia 2.

Final:

SWEDEN 3 U.S.S.R. 1.

K. Johansson bt Amelin 18, 20; H. Alser lost to Gomozkov -18, -19; Alser/Johansson bt Gomozkov/Amelin 15, 10; Johansson bt Gomozkov 16, -18, 16.

Women's Championship.

Round 1:

Scotland walk-over Hungary.

Rumania walk-over Federal Germany II.

England II 3 France 0.

J. Williams bt S. Moriceau 11, 15; J. Shirley bt Y. Lecler 10, 19; Williams/Shirley bt Lecler/Moriceau 16, 14.

Round 2:

U.S.S.R. 3 Scotland 0.

O. Hawkins lost to S. Grinberg -9, -12; L. Barrie lost to Z. Rudnova -14, -15; Barrie/Hawkins lost to Rudnova/Grinberg -14, -7.

Rumania 3 England I 1.

M. Wright lost to M. Alexandru -20, -14; P. Piddock lost to E. Mihalca 21, -10, -12; Wright/K. Mathews bt Alexandru/Mihalca 21, -13, 15; Piddock lost to Alexandru -18, -18.

Czechoslovakia 3 England II 1.

Shirley lost to I. Vostova -18, -12; Williams lost to A. Grofova 19, -9, -12; Williams/Shirley beat Vostova/Grofova -18, 14, 15; Shirley lost to Grofova 8, -19, -10.

Sweden 3 Federal Germany I 2.

Semi-finals:

U.S.S.R. 3 Rumania 2.

Czechoslovakia 3 Sweden 2.

Final:

U.S.S.R. 3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1.

Rudnova lost to Vostova -17, -17; Grinberg bt Grofova 7, 16; Rudnova/Grinberg bt Vostova/Grofova 20, 11; Rudnova bt Grofova 13, 18.

JOINT AFFAIR

JOINING T. Austin Harrison and Conrad Jaschke, President and Chairman respectively of the E.T.T.A., in the presentation of trophies at Brighton were Leonid Makarov, President of the Table Tennis Federation of the U.S.S.R., Vaclav Vebr, Secretary of the Central T.T. Section of Czechoslovakia and Tibor Bihari, Secretary of the Hungarian T.T. Association.

In conjunction with the last awards, Mr. Makarov made the presentation gift of a cut glass vase to the E.T.T.A., which was accepted by Mr. Harrison.

1969 B.U.S.F. CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Brian Mitchell

STUDENT POWER

THE remarkable power and fluency of Alan Heap (Hull University) carried him to the Gold Medal in the men's singles at the 1969 British Universities Sports Federation Table Tennis Championships on January 24-25 at Liverpool University.

After a close quarter-final win over Derek Holman of Sussex, Heap confidently hit his way through the writer (Birmingham) and, in the final, Don Berry of Salford University who had beaten the holder, Manchester University's John Clarke.

A big surprise was the defeat of Welsh international, Graham Davies, by Morgan of Aberdeen. Another Aberdeen player to have a claim to fame was Kathleen Angus, who won the women's singles.

Miss Angus dethroned Linda Reid of Birmingham University in the final and also took a half share of the women's doubles title.

The London pairings of Davies/Ponder and Davies/Dalton won the men's and mixed doubles respectively.

Results:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

A. HEAP (Hull) bt B. Mitchell (Birmingham) 12, -15, 15;

D. J. BERRY (Salford) bt S. Morgan (Aberdeen) -16, 7, 6.

Final: HEAP bt Berry 16, 17.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

L. REID (Birmingham) bt J. Dalton (London) 11, 19;

K. ANGUS (Aberdeen) bt C. Shergold (London) 17, 20.

Final: ANGUS bt Reid 19, 12.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

G. DAVIES/A. PONDER (London) bt G. Bowman/A. Strong (Queens College) 18, 14;

J. K. CLARKE/W. HOWARTH (Manchester) bt A. Miller/A. Turnbull (Edinburgh) 11, 20.

Final: DAVIES/PONDER bt Clarke/Howarth 14, -14, 8.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

ANGUS/G. KERR (Aberdeen) bt D. Grewcock (Birmingham)/Reid -22, 20, 18;

DALTON/SHERGOLD bt S. Chambers/J. Griffiths (Bangor) 15, 12.

Final: ANGUS/KERR bt Dalton/Shergold 15, 10.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

DAVIES/DALTON bt P. Fox/H. K. Toh (London) 5, 19;

HEAP/P. KELF (Hull) bt Ponder/Shergold -14, 14, 19.

Final: DAVIES/DALTON bt Heap/Kelf 9, -20, 13.

REPEAT VICTORY OVER HUNGARY

MARY WRIGHT made a splendid return to the international scene in the friendly engagement against Hungary at the Bracknell Sports Centre on February 7.

In defeating Maria Nemeth, Mary showed that she has lost none of her skill and looked to be playing even better.

Denis Neale fought hard and played well, but was not at his personal best whereas Chester Barnes was in good fighting trim.

Result: ENGLAND 5, HUNGARY 2.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

BOGEY STILL THERE

HAMPSHIRE'S first team gained their expected win against Dorset by 8/2. Pete Smith, however, lost to Cyril Bush and Christine Davies again lost to her bogey player Joyce Coop. Each time they have met this season Mrs. Coop has won by the closest of margins. Hampshire second's hopes of retaining the Southern Division title ended with their crushing defeat by Surrey. The visitors' play showed up the inexperience of some of the young Hampshire team but the policy of including up-and-coming players in this second string must pay off in long-term team building. In the junior match against Berkshire, Hampshire were without Stuart Tannahill and Nicky Chulk but Philip Crane and Colin Seargeant deputised successfully and not a set was lost.

In the inter-town league Bournemouth's hopes of wresting the mixed or junior titles from Southampton have virtually ended for the season. In the mixed division they were beaten 4/8 by a re-vitalized Portsmouth team. Ray Lush won his two singles and defeats of Brian Pickard by both Mike Borshell and Cliff Jacobs show that Portsmouth at full strength are a force to be reckoned with. Daphne Gray, herself unbeaten this season, ended Joyce Coop's 100% record. Bournemouth junior team were beaten 6/4 by Basingstoke, whose all-round strength in the boys' events is shown by five wins out of the six singles. Julie Hudson won her singles and two mixed doubles for Bournemouth. In the Hampshire Club Knock-out Competition to decide the counties' entries in the National Tournament, Merton (Bournemouth) are to meet Snows (Southampton) and Jukes (Southampton) visit Bournemouth Y.M.C.A. in the men's semi-finals. In the women's competition Four T's (Southampton) will play the winners of Bitterne Park (Southampton) and Merton in the final. A pity that only three towns, Basingstoke, Bournemouth and Southampton entered teams in these events.

In the National Cup competitions, Hampshire's hopes rest on a Southampton team in the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl and Bournemouth in the Bromfield Trophy. The county's interest in the Carter Cup ended with Southampton's 3/6 defeat by Barking in the quarter-final. Two wins by Stuart Tannahill and one for Keith Summerfield in a disappointing match, in which Michael Read was outstanding for the winners. Southampton enter the last eight of the Wilmott Cup with a good 5/2 win over Newbury with Chris Edwards winning three sets. A surprisingly easy passage for Southampton ladies into the last eight of the Rose Bowl with a 9/0 win over Bristol in which only the last set extended to a third game.

In Bournemouth, although the Y.M.C.A. Club dominate the Premier Division, Merton won both the major events in the Closed tournament. Trevor Smith turned the tables on Brian Pickard to take the men's title. Beryl Brown knocked out the favourite for the women's singles, Joyce Coop, in the semi-final and went on to beat junior, Celia Hutchings, in a close final. Southampton's Keith Summerfield beat Philip Crane in the junior singles. This win spotlights the fact that many keen players are now entering more than one league. This has given rise to some criticism from the more parochial players who claim that locals are being deprived of positions in top teams and closed titles can go to non-residents. Surely this is a short sighted viewpoint! The presence of top players in a town's league, whether they are residents or not, can only improve the standard of table tennis in the area. As the ease of transport improves between the large towns it is to be hoped that this trend will continue and one can visualise in the future super leagues with top players from even further afield participating.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ralph Gunnion

IN the Premier Division of the County Championships, Warwickshire were given a 9-0 thrashing by Essex, but the second team continued their winning ways in Division 2 (Midland) with victory over Leicestershire.

Derek Munt and Glenn Warwick starred in Birmingham's 5-1 win over Oxford in the Wilmott Cup and the ladies too were successful against Harlow. But the really outstanding result was the 6-3 win obtained by the boys in the Carter Cup against Manchester.

Gunning was Birmingham's hero claiming a treble which took in the defeat of junior international Tony Boasman, thus advancing his claims for junior recognition on a national basis.

In the Warwickshire Inter-Town League, four teams have six points from four matches, two of them, West Birmingham and Leamington having the same sets average, sharing the top spot.

It is pleasing to note that Stratford have gained four points in their first season of this competition. North Birmingham, with the easiest programme, would appear to be the favourites.

Fourteen teams entered the Warwickshire (Club) Cup competition and the semi-final stage has been reached with Birmingham Mica and Central Y.M.C.A. the likely finalists.

Ironically, should Mica win, they will be the club to represent Warwickshire in the National Club Competition with Staffordshire players one and all!

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by "Trawler"

TOTTERING TIME AT GRIMSBY

IN one way or another top seeds had a tottering time in the Grimsby and District Closed. Those who did not find someone playing too well for them were knocked out by illness.

One of those who passed comfortably into the later rounds, only to be confined to bed on Finals night, was Connie Moran, confidently expected to take the Women's Singles title for the fourth year running. She was also top seed with Bernard Finneran for the Mixed — and the number two seeds were also eliminated because Pauline Hale was under doctor's orders.

The Men's Singles ran strictly to form to the semi-finals, leaving title-holder Bernard Finneran to meet Bill Moran in a repeat of last year's final, and Derek Smith to play club-mate Geoff Plaskitt.

The Finneran-Moran clash anticlimaxed everything that was to follow with three absorbing games all going to "deuce" before Moran found sweet revenge for last season's defeat. He built up a big lead in the first game—and scraped through 23-21. In the second, the lead changed repeatedly before Finneran stole away to 22-20. The third game was a fitting decider and some superb hitting by Moran climaxed tremendous rallies. He deservedly took the match 23-21.

After easily losing the first game of his semi against Plaskitt, Smith fought back well to take the match 11-21, 21-18, 21-12.

The final was a somewhat disappointing with Smith starting in promising fashion but later falling victim to his own mistakes and the sharper attack of Moran who took the title 21-18, 21-13.

With Connie Moran out of the competition the way looked clear for Pat Chadwick to take over the Women's crown. But in a shock quarter-final reverse she went down to Second Division player Jennie Warwick. This left the way clear for Nora Locking to take the title by beating Mrs. Warwick 21-12, 21-17 in the Final.

The Men's Doubles Final had top seeds Finneran and Moran against the Highgate pair Plaskitt and Mike Bridge, who had been seeded No. 2. True to the tournament trend Plaskitt and Bridge took the title in an absorbing game by 21-12, 20-22, 21-15.

The Women's Doubles, again with the enforced absence of Connie Moran, was left at the mercy of Pat Chadwick and her partner Helen Wilmore who beat N. Locking and M. Lilley 15-21, 21-11, 21-13.

The junior boys and girls' events, which aroused plenty of appreciation from the spectators, were won by S. Morley and L. Hallberg respectively.

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MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

TREBLES FOR MALCOLM AND KARENZA

MAIN activity last month was the Middlesex Closed in which Malcolm Sugden and Karenza Mathews took three titles each. Brian Wright and "Les" Haslam did not play. Final results were:—

- M.S.: **M. Sugden** bt J. Bender 15, 10.
W.S.: **K. Mathews** bt A. Taft 13, 16.
M.D.: **A. Lindsay/Sugden** bt Bender/B. Petch 15, 16.
W.D.: **Mathews/Taft** bt P. Barnes/J. Redfean -17, 15, 14.
X.D.: **Sugden/Mathews** bt Landry/Taft 3, 17.
B.S.: **N. Santon** bt D. Jemmett 13, 14.
G.S.: **C. Mann** bt S. Hamilton 11, 9.

In the inter-league competition, North Middlesex 2nds sprang quite a surprise by defeating Acton 7-2. This means that a win over Wembley will put them on top, equal with Willesden who have completed their fixtures, and a 6-3 or better score will give them a better sets average. The amusing thing is that if Wembley win this match, North Middlesex 1st team will be relegated.

Big surprise was the victory of Middlesex 2nd county team over a Surrey side without "Connie" Warren. We hope that this win will not prevent our friends from across the river taking part in the promotion challenge matches.

Middlesex will be well represented at the World Championships in Munich next month for apart from Brian Wright and Karenza Mathews, who are in the team, Les Gresswell goes as the trainer and myself as a member of the International Youth Commission.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Pike

NEIGHBOURS THE ONLY BARRIER

WITH all three county teams winning, the Staffordshire success story continues, and now only Warwickshire can prevent the first team from reaching the play-off next month.

It takes two sides to make a good match and that is why we would like to thank Glamorgan for their fine performance at the Woodfield Club, Wolverhampton. The Welshmen went back to the valleys with their first defeat of the season, but if it is any consolation to them, the match was rated the best for many years.

The county second team took a step nearer the Midland Division championship with their win over Shropshire, but while no comment is needed on this game, we do congratulate our neighbours on getting their first win in the championships against Denbighshire.

Even the juniors appear to have turned the corner for they got their first win of the season at Oxfordshire's expense.

As I am writing these notes, the Midlands has been hit by heavy snow, and the three players representing the county at the Teesside International Tournament, Glenn Warwick, Peter Eaton and Dorothy Deeley, will find the going tough motoring to the North of England. The competition will also be tough when they get there, but against top class internationals, it should put this

trio in the right mood for that vital game with Warwickshire.

From the Surrey notes in last month's issue, it would appear they have the same umpire problem as Staffordshire. If we do make the premier division next season, a summer drive will be needed to get more county umpires or we could be in trouble come next October. Cyril Plimmer, Mac Evans, he is in charge of the second team, and Gordon Rose, did a good job at the Glamorgan match.

In the January issue I referred to

some bad sportsmanship during one of the finals of the Woodfield tournament. A. H. McIlreath, Wolverhampton Chairman, has asked me to point out, that the offenders were not local players and in fact came from another county.

With thanks to Malcolm Scott, Wolverhampton have now got a venue for their annual closed championships. They will be held this month at H. M. Hobsons at Fordhouses and the man at the helm again will be A. H. McIlreath. He will also be in charge of the Staffordshire closed tournament to be held a week later at Stoke.



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SURREY NOTES

by John Zenthon

HOWARD SISTERS MONOPOLISE

NO apologies for giving over my space this month to the Surrey Closed which took place too late for inclusion in February's T.T. News. I appreciate that some of you may already have read something of it in the papers, but generally the local press are extremely parochial in their outlook.

It turned out to be one of the most interesting Championships for years with every name on the winners' scroll a new one, the men's singles seeds falling like ninepins, and the Howard Sisters taking everything for which they were eligible. Entries were well up on last year, possibly due to the change of date, and this, together with excellent refreshments and facilities afforded by Goblins, at their Ermyn Way Works, Leatherhead, combined to make it a memorable weekend.

It was unforgettable for the Howards, with Susan and younger sister Linda being winner and runner-up respectively in the Ladies' and Girls' Singles, combining well to take the Ladies' Doubles and then Susan pairing up with Peter Brennan to take the mixed.

Linda only just managed to beat Joan Fitzsimons over three games

in the Ladies' semi-final but a tremendous future is possible for both girls. Susan is ranked No. 2 in the England Junior list and equal No. 10 in the Ladies', and Linda, although only 11-years-old, has already, with Susan, represented England in a Junior International match.

On form, "Connie" Warren should have walked the men's singles, for he had a comparatively easy draw to a likely semi-final meeting with either Salter or Penfold. Not having been seen around for some time, although shortly to represent the County in a Bernard Crouch match, Salter had earlier disposed of Schramm in two quick games, the latter needing particularly spacious playing conditions to give of his best, but could not settle against Penfold whose direct game took him through without much trouble. Warren, having a first round bye, looked most unhappy against the renowned Charlie Davis, but came back after losing the first game to take the next two 12 and 14. The next set saw Warren still unsettled and unable to provide an answer to Penfold who was hitting harder and harder to win in straight games 15 and 13. In the other half Michael Creamer, last year's title holder, had been put out by Tony Miller (21 and 13) who, in turn, succumbed to John Garland, the eventual runner-up. Paul Bishop (who the day before had won the Boys' Singles over Stephen Francis) provided

another upset. Having beaten Beck (19 and 17) he then went on to put out second team player Gordon Chapman (17 and 8) but found the experience of Garland too much with the latter going through to the final. The big question now, was whether Ron Penfold could maintain his winning run, but Garland didn't really stand a chance and went down in straight games.

A new combination of Brennan and Kercher took the men's doubles over Emecz and Schramm.

"Connie", out for revenge and partnered by Joan Fitzsimons, met Peter Brennan and Susan Howard in the final of the mixed but it just wasn't "Connie's" day. Having lost the first -14, they made a tremendous recovery to pull back from 7-15 down to 16-all and with "Connie" looking a little happier went on to take the second game 21-16. The excitement was maintained throughout the third with both sides scoring evenly. "Connie" and Joan changed ends 10-8 up and took the lead at 18-17 but faded to lose 21-18.

Congratulations to the Surrey Junior Table Tennis Club who in effect took practically all the medals.

FINALS

Men's Singles:

R. Penfold bt J. Garland 16, 18.

Men's Doubles:

M. Kercher/P. Brennan bt E. Emecz /Z. Schramm 13, 18.

Ladies' Singles:

Miss S. Howard bt Miss L. Howard 19, 14.

Ladies' Doubles:

S. Howard/L. Howard bt Mrs. P. George/Mrs. Hayden 9, 7.

Mixed Doubles:

P. Brennan/S. Howard bt C. Warren /Miss J. Fitzsimons 14, -16, 18.

Boys' Singles:

P. Bishop bt S. Francis 7, 20.

Girls' Singles:

S. Howard bt L. Howard 9, -14, 15.

Little activity has taken place in the Lancs. and Ches. League because of adverse weather conditions and snowbound roads. The same went for the county matches against Lincs. and Denbighshire although the Lancs. v. Ches. junior match duly took place at Gatley Y.M.C.A.

SUSSEX NOTES

by John Woodford

"HOME CURED" FILLING

SANDWICHED in between two world-class events, the English Open and the England v. Russia clash, Sussex players and supporters have their own biggest event of the season, the Sussex Closed on March 2, at Brighton Corn Exchange.

Still unchallenged as the biggest one-day event in the U.K.—with its 16 tables all in line making an impressive sight. Run as always, by the Brighton and District League, this year's secretary is David Woosnam.

Roger Chandler (Brighton Y.M.C.A.) will be making his usual bid to win the title and if he does it this time, it will be for the seventh occasion. The only man capable of making a real challenge to Roger will be England No. 12 Peter Williams, who recently spent several months in the England squad.

Last year with Williams the favourite, Chandler raised his game to great heights in the final and brilliantly defeated his opponent in two sets 21-19, 21-18.

Current form this time suggests that the odds return to even and another great final is expected. Sam Ogunpide is the only other player capable of stopping Roger or Peter on current showings, but Sam's chop has not been biting so heavily of late.

On the premier division scene, three defeats in a row for Sussex makes the early season wins over Warwickshire and Gloucestershire seem more important than ever and should Warwicks. surprise any of their opponents in the late matches, Sussex could be in relegation trouble once again.

Find a good angle for a national or provincial daily newspaper (you press men) and on most occasions you will be well rewarded! A classic case has occurred recently here in Sussex where a Littlehampton R.C. priest, Father B. J. Rowley has entered for the English Open. Father Rowley is well known as a great supporter of juniors in the West Sussex area and has started a coaching school. Using this as the "lead angle" I supplied the story of the Sussex entry (14 players) to the 100,000 circulation "Evening Argus" which based on Brighton circulates throughout Sussex.

The "Argus" sports editor responded in an excellent manner with the brilliant head-line "PRIEST TAKES ON THE WORLD — at Table Tennis!" The "World" refers of course, to the world-class entry in the English Open.

I am looking forward to reporting on my first World's Championships and the progress of the Sussex champion Judy Williams from Munich next month and look forward to meeting any county press officers and other England supporters who may be able to make the journey to the "Tichtennis" Stadium.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

REGRETABLELY Manchester had to concede their Rose Bowl inter-zone final to Northumberland and against Birmingham, in the Carter Cup, the young Mancunians surrendered their early initiative to lose 3-6.

Sole survivors in the national team competitions from the County Palatine are Bolton who, in the Wilmott Cup, accounted for Chesterfield 5-2. John Clarke was a treble winner with Bob Kelly successful in the two sets he contested. For the losers both John Wallhead and Tony Hunt beat Bryn Farnworth.

Stockport are firm favourites to win the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy in succession to Manchester and Bolton.

As last season, the semi-finals and final will take place at Oldham's Clegg Street Community Centre on Saturday, March 29.

The semi-final draw will be made on the day and accompanying Stockport into the hat will be Blackpool (shock 5-1 winners over Burnley), Bolton (whose second team this is—by rule previous winners cannot call on members of last season's winning team) and Wirral.

Quarter-final results were:—
Bolton 8 Macclesfield 1
Blackpool 5 Burnley 1
Stockport 8 Liverpool 1
Bury 3 Wirral 6

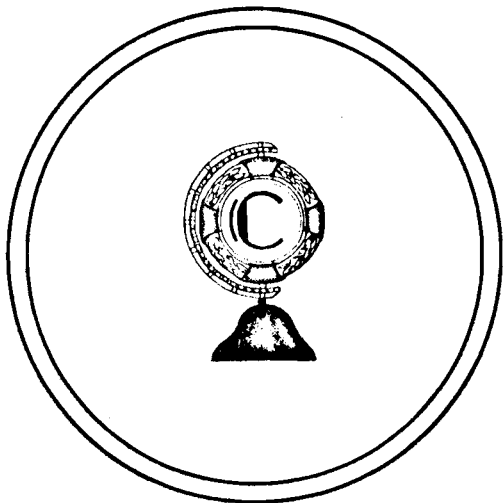
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HUNTINGDON AND PETERBOROUGH NOTES

by David Obee

SUPER STADIUM FOR COUNTY TOURNAMENT

ONLY 18 months since its completion, the 'WIRIRINA' Stadium at Peterborough will be the venue for this season's county championships. The sports hall in this magnificent stadium is large enough to hold 16 tables with ease in its 120ft. x 60ft. playing area. The date for the tournament is March 23 and the finals will be held at 7 p.m.

A week earlier, the Peterborough League holds its own closed championships in the same hall.

Following fine fighting performances against Herts. II (4-6), Suffolk (4-6) and Cambs. (5-5), the county side visited Bedford in February with high hopes despite the apparent equality on paper. The match, in fact, was surprisingly one-sided, Beds. registering a 10-0 win, with only 3 sets going to a deciding game.

In the South-East Midlands League, the rivalry between St. Neots and Peterborough was as keen as ever, with honours exactly even under the scoring system used (one point for each set won). The men's match resulted in a 5-5 draw, St. Neots took the ladies' and junior sections 7-3 and 6-4 respectively while Peterborough ran out 8-2 winners in the veterans' encounter. Each town scored 20 points, a just result after some exciting fare.

Prospects certainly are looking brighter now for Hunts. in the not too distant future. St. Neots are bringing juniors along under the dedicated guidance of Cliff Olver and Len Saywell and at Ramsey, a small outpost in the country, there is a nucleus of at least half a dozen promising young players who are making rapid progress at the game.

It is these youngsters who, given the right encouragement, could put the county on the table tennis map within a very few seasons.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Gwyn Powell

TSOW IN GRAND FORM

WHAT an exciting tussle the County match against Cambridgeshire turned out to be with the lead changing hands several times. George Tsow was in good form and gave Northants an excellent start by beating Alan Ponder in straight games. John Goodall and Roger Steward kept up the good work to increase the home lead to 3-0 but Cambridge fought back well with wins in the ladies' singles, ladies' doubles and men's doubles. Ponder then outthit John Goodall to give his side the lead, but the new mixed pairing of John Goodall and Emily Twisleton had an unexpected win to once more level the score. Roger Steward, although rather erratic in his first game with Eve Andrews, recovered well to win 21-16 in the third. The last and deciding set between George Tsow and Barry Wilson was very exciting with Tsow attacking strongly down the wings and Wilson, although being constantly driven back from the table, retrieving well. Tsow took the first game 21-17 but was made to

work very hard in the second and just scraped home at 27-25 to retain his unbeaten record in County Championship matches and win the day for Northants.

Mr. J. G. Bignell, the Managing Director of Weatherby's, who has shown great interest in table tennis in the Wellingborough area and on several occasions has made his Sports Centre available for County matches, has been unanimously elected as President of the Northants County Association. One of his first duties will be to present the prizes at the County Closed tournament to be held at the Northampton College of Technology's Sports Hall on March 22nd.

A new trophy has been kindly donated for this tournament by Mrs. C. A. Spencer in memory of her hus-

band, Cyril. As he was deeply interested in the younger players it has been decided to award the cup to the winner of the Junior Boys' Singles.

In the Kettering Closed tournament, the men's singles title went to Terry Sutton who beat Dick Cole in the final. John Harrison, who last year won three titles, was out of luck this year losing in all three events. The ladies' singles was won by Mrs. Anne Lenton.

The holder was also deposed in the Northampton Closed when Colin Hogg was beaten by the promising Y.M.C.A. player, Steve Lyon. Peter Wingrove also had a good tournament beating the County champion Doug Gwillim, and Bryan Bond, before losing to Roger Steward in the semi-final. Bond and Hogg reached

the final of the men's doubles for the seventeenth time where they met Lyon and Tony Rowson.

David Berridge gave County junior Ray Kingston a shock in the Boys' singles beating him comfortably in straight games. Berridge has improved considerably this season and should soon be representing the county. Kingston has since shown that he has regained his form however by beating Wellingborough's Roderick Marchant, the county No. 1 for two seasons, in a South-East Midlands league match.

The Northampton veterans are the only team in the S.E.M. League with a 100% record and now look virtually certain to win the title for the first time since the inauguration of the veterans section.



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NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

"HONOR"-ABLE WIN

NORFOLK Closed Champion for 1968-69 is Stan Honor, who also holds the East Anglian League Championship. It was, however, Yarmouth's Mrs. Edna Allen, who beat Mrs. Betty Cassell of King's Lynn for the Women's title, and also won the Women's Doubles with Mrs. Joan Rodwell, who took the major award, the Victor Ludorum, presented by Douglas Craske for the best overall achievement. This season, the Championships were held for the first time at Wensum Lodge, King Street, Norwich, by kind permission of Norfolk Education Committee.

Speculation was rife as to who would take over Alan Coby's title. No. 1 seed, Neville Graver, was put out by John Turner of Norwich, and his brother Phillip was eliminated by Gordon Wood, who fell to Honor. David Skedge beat Turner before losing to Yarmouth's Paul Gilbertson in the semi-finals. The other losing semi-finalist was Tony Hipperson, who had beaten Chris Fields, Tony Atkins and David Blanch before falling to Honor.

M.S.: S. Honor (N) bt P. Gilbertson (Y) -18, 21, 15.

W.S.: Mrs. E. Allen (Y) bt Mrs. B. Cassell (K.L.) -15, 14, 19.

V.S.: R. Cooper (Y) bt J. Fuller (Y) 9, -15, 13.

M.D.: P. Graver (N)/C. Fields (Y) bt T. Atkins (N)/M. Rooney (N) 19, 16.

W.D.: Mrs. E. Allen/Mrs. J. Rodwell (Y) bt Mrs. B. Cassell/Miss M. Turner (N) 10, 17.

X.D.: N. Graver (N)/Mrs. Cassell bt P. Gilbertson/Mrs. Allen 19, 18.

Earlier, the Norfolk Junior Closed, the "Senior Junior", for the Under-17's to Under-15's, had been held at Thorpe Youth Centre, whom we have to thank. Peter Vertigan of Fakenham beat the younger but most promising John Fuller to take the Boys' title, and Penny Melton of Swaffham Y.C. defeated Jean Allen, daughter of Edna, to win the Girls' crown. John Fuller ousted Chris Bensley in the Under-15 event, and these two combined for an excellent victory over Vertigan and John Swainson, the County Junior pair, in the Boys' Doubles. Yvonne Rose of Denton School won the Under-15 Girls' title for the third time.

U-17 Boys: P. Vertigan (F) bt J. Fuller (Y) 19, -22, 17.

U-17 Girls: P. Melton (K.L.) bt J. Allen (Y) 17, 18.

U-15 Boys: J. Fuller (Y) bt C. Bensley (N) 16, 20.

U-15 Girls: Y. Rose (D) bt L. Read (Y) 13, 15.

Boys' Doubles: Fuller/Bensley bt Vertigan/Swainson 17, 17.

X.D.: Vertigan/P. Melton bt P. Whitley/J. Allen 12, 18.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

by Grove Motlow

DAVIES STOPS RATTUE'S RUN

PLYMOUTH won their away match against Swindon 6-3 with A. Wright unbeaten but both A. Wolff (Jnr. and Sr.) took him to deciding games. For Swindon, only the Wolff family of father and son were successful, Junior winning two against Cliff Hollywood and R. Parkins.

Plymouth's match against Exeter produced another 6-3 success when Barry Davies, the present Devon No. 1, made a welcome return to win his three sets. Cleve Judson was also prominent for the home team winning two. For Exeter Mike Rattue lost his unbeaten record to Davies.

Newport just made it 5-4 at home to Taunton when all rested on the last set between Terry Roden and R. Whitmore which the Newport player won in straight games. J. Philpotts was unbeaten for Taunton.

The match score in Weston's home encounter with Bristol stood at 4-all when J. Garland was beaten by C. Feltham. For Weston, Tony Kinsey had a terrific set-to with Eric Hall before losing in the decider. Hall was in brilliant form throughout and won his 3 sets.

Cheltenham broke their "duck" when, in their home match against Taunton, they won 6-3. Martin White laid the foundation by winning all his sets, Philpotts being the only player to take a game from him.

Exeter beat Cheltenham 5-4 with Paul Stone and Mike Rutland winning one each to augment another fine maximum by Rattue. For the losers, White and Dave Harvey each won two.

Bristol Ladies inflicted a 6-3 home defeat on Weston with Marilyn Jones, Joan Collier and Jean Golding sharing the spoils. Doreen Henderson was Weston's lone star winning her three sets.

Swindon, in their home match with Exeter, won 5-4, Gwen Hazell clinching victory in the final set by beating Joan Ware.

Bristol, at home to Exeter, were made to fight all the way before emerging 6-3 victors. Eight of the nine sets went to a decider but Jean Golding claimed a treble, Joan Watts two and Marilyn Jones one.

In another home match, Bristol beat Newport 6-3. For the visitors Stella Jones and Barbara Roden both beat Joan Collier, whilst Marilyn Jones, for Bristol, won her three, Jean Golding (2) and Joan Collier (1).

Bristol Ladies are still unbeaten in the League and look firm favourites to retain their championship title.

Leading positions:—

MEN	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	6	5	1	33	21	10
Exeter	5	4	1	26	19	8
Weston	5	3	2	27	18	6
Bristol	4	3	1	22	14	6
Swindon	5	3	2	25	21	6
Newport	6	3	3	28	26	6
WOMEN						
Bristol	7	7	0	50	13	14
Swindon	5	3	2	21	24	6
Newport	5	2	3	17	28	4

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by "Geordie"

NORSEMEN CONQUERED

A Northumberland party comprising county secretary Alan Morpeth, team captain Harry Dignan, Brian Burn, Stuart Lennie and Alan Ransome assembled on the North Shields quayside on a freezing January afternoon for the 24-hour sail across the North Sea to Bergen.

With expenses being paid by the Norwegian Assn., the team were determined to create a good impression and register convincing wins. The luxuries of the tourist bar—appearing to be open at all hours—and the team captain spending most of his time in the first class lounge considerably increased the challenge.

First event, after a day's recuperation, was an American tournament involving eleven players with Burn coming out on top with 8 wins out of 8 sets, Ransome 6 out of 7 and Lennie, hardly recovered from the sea passage, 2 out of 7.

A Bergen team fully comprising Norwegian internationals was the second hurdle on the following evening which was surmounted 5-2. It was a vastly improved performance by the home team after last year's 5-0 defeat and, with a little luck, the score might have been closer.

Seemingly baffled by the slow conditions, Lennie lost the opening set to Asbjorn Nessoy and the win seemed to act as a spur to the Norwegians whose Gunnar Greve gave Ransome a whale of a fight before going down -18 in the decider.

Burn put the Northumbrians in the lead when he beat Kjell Otto Eide, easily in the first game, but from leading 19-11 in the second he had to withstand a terrific come back before nosing home 22-20!

The match score was levelled at 2-all when Lennie succumbed to Greve but this was to be the last success obtained by the Norwegians as Burn swept Nessoy aside as did Ransome with Eide. To complete the 5-2 score Burn beat Greve in a 3-gamer.

In an individual tournament that followed on the next night, Lennie found his legs with a vengeance to beat Halaard Nielson (2-0), Nessoy (2-1), Tore Sehl (2-1) and Ransome (2-0) in the final after Alan had defeated Greve (2-1) and Burn 23-21 in the decider.

During the short tour Burn played 18 singles and lost 2, Ransome lost 3 out of 19 and Lennie lost 8 out of 18.

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KENT NOTES

by Charles Wyles

WELL DESERVED HONOURS

CONGRATULATIONS to Pauline Piddock on her inclusion in England's world championships squad—the first time a Kent player has been so honoured since the War. And to her husband, Tony, on his recall to represent England against Scotland last month. Well deserved honours for both of them in an eventful season.

The annual Kent Schools' Team Championships have again drawn considerable interest when the finals were played at the E.T.T.A. School Centre at Ashford. The results clearly show that Mallory School, Bromley are still supreme in both the Boys' U-15 and U-17 events. Results: U-17 Boys: Mallory School, Bromley. U-17 Girls: Clarendon House, Ramsgate.

U-15 Boys: Mallory School, Bromley. U-15 Girls: Westlands Sec. School, Sittingbourne. U-13 Boys: New Beacon School, Sevenoaks. U-13 Girls: East Sec. School, Sittingbourne.

Plans are now well advanced for the County Dinner and Dance to be held in Folkestone on Friday, May 2. This popular event is being held on the eve of the English Junior Open and will be held at last year's venue, but, this time, with a private dance.

The Kent T.T.A. is planning to revise completely the Kent League rules at the A.G.M. to be held on June 1. The necessary resolutions have been circularised with amendments now being awaited.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by "Moonraker"

"NO CANDY FROM THIS BABY"

SALISBURY'S unranked 30-year-old John Candy caused the biggest ever upset in the 13-year-history of the Wilts. Closed when he beat the reigning champion Bill Moulding in the Men's Singles final at Bulford Camp.

Candy's shock — but deserved-victory took 23 minutes, and provided a suitable climax to a day of never-to-be forgotten shocks.

Returning to championship play after an absence of four seasons, Candy commenced his giant-killing feats with a 3rd Rd. win over Swindon's new county No. 8 Michael Andrews 20, -19, 13 and then proved this was no fluke by ousting the strongly fancied Wilts. No. 2 Tony Wolff (Jnr.) -9, 13, 16 in the quarter-finals.

Current Cheshire, Liverpool and Wirral Junior title-holder, Frank Bailey—now playing in the Swindon League—put out Wilts. No. 6 Tony Ward 18, 14 in Rd. 2 but went out to Moulding.

With the Women's title-holder Penny Bonner absent, County No. 2 seed Gwen Hazell crashed 18, -15, -14 to Mrs. K. Leslie (ranked 8) who in turn was a victim of Wilts. Girls' Champion Helen Rusby in the quarter-finals.

Final Scores—(Men's) J. Candy bt W. Moulding 19, -14, 20; (Women's) Mrs. M. Alexander bt Miss K. Waters 12, 17; (Veteran's) R. Yates bt G. Townsend 20, -14, 18.

Men's Doubles—W. Moulding/A. Wolff (Jnr.) bt F. Bailey/M. Wolff 19, -13, 9; Women's—Mrs. G. Hazell/Miss K. Waters bt Miss D. Onslow/Mrs. B. Moody -19, 16, 19; Mixed—A. Wolff (Jnr.)/Mrs. M. Alexander bt K. Sawyer/Mrs. G. Hazell 12, 13.

During a brief visit to the championships a County Vice-President, The Hon. Sarah Morrison—accompanied by her husband the Hon. Charles Morrison, M.P. (the Tory 'shadow' Minister for Sport) — presented Mrs. M. Alexander with her County Badge.

At the West Wiltshire League's championships, Spencers veteran Don Morris became the first player ever to win the veteran's title and then go on to lift the Open Singles Award.

Final Scores (Open) D. Morris bt M. Smith 17, 18; (Women's) Mrs. P. Hawkins bt Mrs. V. Webb 16, 19; (Junior) R. Arney bt B. Gronski 15, 15; (Veteran's) D. Morris bt C. Chandler 12, 8.

Open Doubles—J. V. Ford/J. Cleveland bt V. Usher/M. Smith -19,

17, 15; Mixed—D. Rigby/Mrs. P. Hawkins bt R. Johnson/Mrs. V. Webb 19, 7; Junior—R. Arney/P. Nelson bt B. Gronski/F. Potem -20, 10, 17.

A hat-trick by Tony Ward laid the foundations of Salisbury A's feat in becoming the first side to take a point from Swindon "A" in a drawn County League—top of Div. One clash—at the city.

County Junior champion Richard Arney lost his hitherto 100% league record 16, -17, -20 to Wilts. No. 3 Ken Harrison when West Wilts. made sure of Divisional honours with a 6-4 win over challengers Swindon.

Leading Wilts. League positions (as on 21.2.69).



Division One									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps		
Salisbury "A"	8	6	1	1	58	22	13		
Swindon "B"	8	6	0	2	46	34	12		
Swindon "A"	6	5	1	0	49	11	11		
Warminster	8	5	0	3	53	27	10		

Women's Division									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps		
Devizes	2	2	0	0	17	3	4		
Salisbury	3	1	0	2	12	18	2		
Swindon	3	1	0	2	11	19	2		

Mixed Division									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps		
Swindon "A"	5	5	0	0	43	7	10		
Devizes	5	2	1	2	24	26	5		
Swindon "B"	5	2	0	3	15	35	4		

Junior Division									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps		
West Wilts.	5	5	0	0	44	6	10		
Swindon	5	3	0	2	34	16	6		
Salisbury	4	1	0	3	8	32	2		




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LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

SUSAN AGAIN UNBEATABLE

LEICESTERSHIRE'S two county teams met with mixed fortunes in their recent matches. The first team could only muster two sets against Warwickshire II. Steven White beat Derek Backhouse two-straight in the first set of the match but the home county's only subsequent win was in the Mixed Doubles where Charlie Jacques and Susan Baxter won their second set in succession.

A happier story for the juniors with Leics. beating Notts. 7-3. All three boys won one (Branson, Carter and Brewer) and Susan Baxter again proved unbeatable in the three sets in which she participated. Over the past two seasons in county junior play, Susan has only been on the losing side once in 24 visits to the table! This now makes the match with Warwickshire all-important and no doubt the claims of Andy Holdsworth and Paul Randell will be considered before the side is finally announced.

In the Y.M.C.A. Invitation Tournament an unexpected but well-deserved winner was John Iliffe who beat White in a close semi and Jacques in the final. Rita Beith did the 'treble', winning the Ladies' Singles. Mixed Doubles (with Mick Porter) and the Ladies' Doubles, partnered by Jose Rogers. Jacques

and Colin Truman paired up to take the Men's Doubles but they came uncomfortably close to losing early on to the junior pairing of Holdsworth and Branson. Andy and Tony, however gained some consolation by taking the Boys' Doubles. Perhaps the outstanding performance in the whole tournament came from Paul Randell who was positively brilliant in the final against Tony Branson. Holdsworth beat David Carter in the final of the Intermediate Singles and it is encouraging to note that both Holdsworth and Randell will still be juniors next season. The Under-15 Singles was contested by two girls, Sally Elsdon and Karen Rogers with the former emerging a close winner.

In the Leicestershire Town's League, Melton beat Coalville 10-0, but there were several close sets. Coalville included two of their most promising players, John Lenton and Gregg Nicholl for the first time. Both showed great promise.

The Rose Johnson Bowl is now reaching the latter stages and in the fourth round Loughborough II did well to beat Maccabi by 22 points. Terry Jeffcott, who has so often played in the shadows of Steven Harding and Peter Main, for once outshone them, winning three of his four sets and returning easily the best points aggregate.

In the Midland League, Leicester had wins for the Men's Seconds and Ladies', both by a 7-3 margin against Nuneaton, and the veterans won 6-4 against West Brom. Until this match,

West Brom. were also undefeated and Leicester now have a great chance of topping the league. Certainly their team of John Bryant, Mike Long and Brian Pearn is very useful indeed.

In the Leicester and District League, Division 3B was thrown wide open when A.E.I. Lamps defeated Wigston Fields 7-3. Alan Lowe, Roy Norman and Graham Gibson each took two for the winners. Loughborough appear to be running away with 3A and their team of Roger Morley, Terry Hall, Mick Brooks and Ivor Billson looks strong enough to do well in the second division. A.E.I. Lamps II have established a narrow lead in 6A whilst Leicester Banks look favourites to top 6B. Mellor Bromley and Abbey are having a great fight in 7B, both having lost one game.

In the Loughborough League Knock-Out Cup, Monitor lost 8-1 to Holy Trinity where Ronny Wright and Malcolm Carrington both recorded maximums. Loughborough 'B' had a very close match with Polish Y.C. 'A'. With the score 4-all, County treasurer John Grimley played Richard Stabik but on this occasion it was on account, Stabik's win giving Polish Y.C. victory. A magnificent maximum by Terry Bunting gave Breedon 'A' a surprise win over Cottons 'A'.

"WELL HELLO DOLLY"

IN the south of the County, a Leighton-Linslade and District Schools' Association has recently been formed, thanks to the initiative of Mrs. Dolly Harmer. The Harmer family are, of course, well known table tennis enthusiasts, Mr. Peter Harmer being Chairman of the Bedfordshire T.T.A. and one son, Paul, a former England Junior International.

The association has met with success, with 390 players from nine schools in the area taking part and its success could well lead on to the formation of a County Schools' Association.

A tournament was held consisting of both team and individual events. Winners of the team events were—Boys: Cedars School over-15 team. Girls: Cedars Schools under-13 team. Individual events—Boys: Brian Hutchinson, Girls: Janet Kingman, Under-11: Sam Harmer.

In the County Championships, the Bedfordshire team of Colin Crowe, Bill Astbury, Alan Nicholl, Anita James and Barbara Hammond had a convincing 10-0 win over nearby Hunts.

Bedford League are now finally out of all the national cup competitions, with the Ladies losing 1-8 to Lowestoft. However, in the Ladies' section of the South-East Midlands League, Bedford are unbeaten and are making a strong bid for the title.

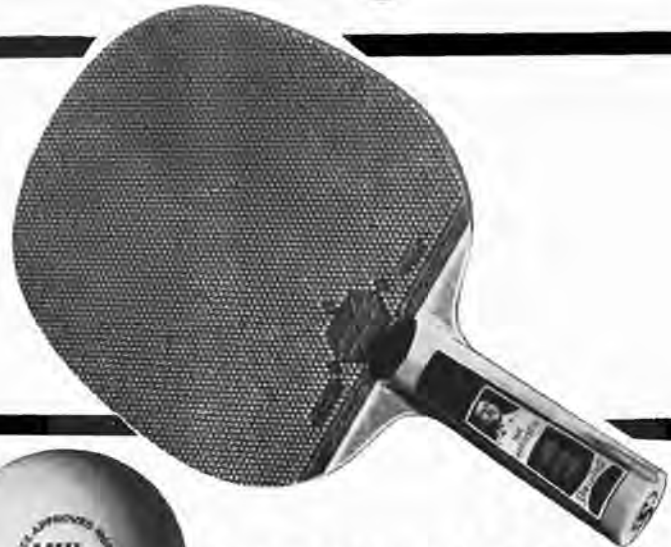
BEDFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Ron Cox

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COUNTY DIARY

FIXTURES AND VENUES FOR MARCH, 1969

PREMIER DIVISION		
Mar. 15	Gloucestershire v. Cheshire, Grosvenor Street Hall, Grosvenor Street, Cheltenham.	7-15 p.m.
	Middlesex v. Essex, Southall G-T School, Boyd Avenue, Southall.	7-00 p.m.
	Sussex v. Yorkshire, Lewes Boys' Club, Landport Road, Landport Estate, Lewes.	7-00 p.m.
.. 22	Warwickshire v. Kent, Coventry Baths, Pool Meadow, Coventry	7-15 p.m.
	Essex v. Yorkshire, King Edward VI G.S., Broomfield Road, Chelmsford.	7-00 p.m.
	Cheshire v. Warwickshire, I.C.I. Ltd., Hurdsfield Industrial Estate, Macclesfield.	7-00 p.m.
	Gloucestershire v. Kent, Hoffmans Works Canteen, Bristol Road, Stonehouse, Nr. Stroud.	7-15 p.m.
	Sussex v. Middlesex, North Mundham Village Hall, North Mundham, Nr. Chichester.	7-00 p.m.
.. 29	Yorkshire v. Middlesex, Fields & Co., Clayton Road, Bradford.	7-15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH		
Mar. 13	Essex II v. Middlesex II, Gascoigne Youth Centre, Howard Road, Barking.	7-00 p.m.
.. 15	Norfolk v. Hertfordshire, Y.M.C.A., Kings Lynn.	6-30 p.m.
.. 22	Surrey v. Kent II, C.E.R.L., Giebe Road, Leatherhead.	7-00 p.m.
	Hertfordshire v. Essex II, Cheshunt Drill Hall, Turners Hill, Cheshunt.	7-00 p.m.
	Kent II v. Buckinghamshire, Woolwich Recreation Inst., Kings Park, Eltham Palace Road, Eltham, S.E.9.	7-15 p.m.
	Middlesex II v. Norfolk, East Finchley T.T. Centre, 142, High Road, East Finchley, N.2.	7-00 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION NORTH		
Mar. 15	Lincolnshire v. Durham, The Drill Hall, Victoria Road, Louth.	7-15 p.m.
	Northumberland v. Lancashire, Y.M.C.A., Blackett Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.	7-00 p.m.
	Yorkshire II v. Cumberland, Y.M.C.A., Wood Street, Doncaster.	5-30 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND		
Mar. 15	Derbyshire v. Moamouthshire, The Police Station, New Beetwell Street, Chesterfield.	7-15 p.m.
	Glamorgan v. Warwickshire II, Wesley Methodist Church, Townhill, Swansea.	7-15 p.m.
	Oxfordshire v. Leicestershire, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford.	6-30 p.m.
.. 22	Leicestershire v. Derbyshire, Barwell Constitutional Club, Chapel Street, Barwell.	7-15 p.m.
	Moamouthshire v. Oxfordshire, Alcan Welfare Hall Rogerstone.	7-00 p.m.
	Warwickshire II v. Staffordshire, The Drill Hall, New Broad Street, Stratford-on-Avon.	7-15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION WEST		
Mar. 15	Cornwall v. Dorset, St. Ives County Secondary School, St. Ives.	7-30 p.m.
	Somerset v. Worcestershire, Sydenham Community Centre, Parkway Sydenham Estate, Bridgewater.	7-15 p.m.
	Wiltshire v. Hampshire, Pewsey Secondary Modern School, Wilcot Road, Pewsey.	7-00 p.m.
.. 22	Devon v. Cornwall, Plymouth & District T.T.L.H.Q., Kerr Street, Devonport, Plymouth.	7-15 p.m.
	Hampshire v. Somerset, Tanners Brook Infants' School, Millbrook, Southampton.	7-00 p.m.
.. 29	Wiltshire v. Dorset.	7-30 p.m.
	Worcestershire v. Devon, The Corn Exchange, Kidderminster.	7-30 p.m.
SOUTHERN DIVISION		
Mar. 15	Berkshire v. Oxfordshire II, Thatcham Church Hall, Newbury.	7-00 p.m.
	Hampshire II v. Buckinghamshire II, Boys' Brigade Mission, George Street, Basingstoke.	7-00 p.m.
Mar. 22	Surrey II v. Berkshire, Heinemann Book Publishers, Lower Kingswood.	7-00 p.m.
	Worcestershire II v. Hampshire II, Cripplegate Pavilion, Tyebridge Street, Worcester.	6-30 p.m.
MIDLAND DIVISION		
Mar. 15	Lancashire II v. Nottinghamshire, St. George of England School, Fernhill Road, Bootle, Liverpool.	7-00 p.m.
	Shropshire v. Derbyshire II.	7-00 p.m.
	Staffordshire II v. Denbighshire, Streetly Youth Centre, Streetly.	7-30 p.m.
Mar. 22	Denbighshire v. Lancashire II, Queens Park Sports Centre, Wrexham.	6-30 p.m.
EASTERN DIVISION		
Mar. 15	Bedfordshire v. Suffolk, Cryselco Works Canteen, Woburn Road, Kempston.	6-30 p.m.
	Huntingdonshire v. Northamptonshire, Eaton Socon Institute, Eaton Socon.	7-00 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH		
Mar. 15	Kent v. Middlesex, Milton Old People's Hall, St. Paul's Street, Sittingbourne.	3-00 p.m.
	Surrey v. Buckinghamshire, B.C.U.R.A. Sports & Social Club, Randalls Road, Leatherhead.	4-00 p.m.
	Sussex v. Berkshire, North Mundham Village Hall, Nr. Chichester.	4-00 p.m.
Mar. 22	Kent v. Buckinghamshire, Woolwich Recreational Inst., Kings Park, Eltham Palace Road, Eltham, S.E.9.	3-00 p.m.
	Hampshire v. Sussex, Fareham Community Centre, Queens Road, Fareham.	2-30 p.m.
	Middlesex v. Surrey, East Finchley T.T. Centre, 142, High Road, East Finchley, N.2.	3-00 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH		
Mar. 15	Northumberland v. Lancashire, Y.M.C.A., Blackett Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.	2-30 p.m.
	Yorkshire v. Cumberland, Y.M.C.A., Wood Street, Doncaster.	2-15 p.m.
Mar. 22	Yorkshire v. Lancashire, Sedburgh Boys' Club, Odsal Rise, Bradford.	2-45 p.m.
	Cheshire v. Durham.	
JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLAND		
Mar. 15	Denbighshire v. Oxfordshire, Queens Park Sports Centre, Wrexham.	3-00 p.m.
	Derbyshire v. Staffordshire, A.G.D. G.P.O., Chetwynd House, West Bars, Chesterfield.	3-00 p.m.
	Nottinghamshire v. Warwickshire, Notts. T.T.A., H.Q., Beech Avenue, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.	7-00 p.m.
Mar. 22	Denbighshire v. Staffordshire, Queens Park Sports Centre, Wrexham.	2-00 p.m.
	Oxfordshire v. Derbyshire, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford.	
	Warwickshire v. Leicestershire, Birmingham City Transport Bus Garage, Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham, 14.	5-30 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION EAST		
Mar. 15	Northamptonshire v. Huntingdonshire, Weatherby's Sports Centre, Dennington Industrial Estate, Wellingborough.	4-00 p.m.
Mar. 22	Hertfordshire v. Essex, Cheshunt Drill Hall, Turners Hill, Cheshunt.	3-00 p.m.
	Huntingdonshire v. Bedfordshire, St. Neots Table Tennis Club.	6-00 p.m.
	Norfolk v. Suffolk, C.E.Y.M.S. Rooms, Brigg Street, Norwich.	2-30 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION WEST		
Mar. 2	Worcestershire v. Wiltshire, Cripplegate Bowling Pavilion, Tybridge Street, Worcester.	2-30 p.m.
Mar. 13	Glamorgan v. Moamouthshire, Jackson Hall, Westgate Street, Cardiff.	7-15 p.m.
Mar. 15	Gloucestershire v. Somerset, Grosvenor Street Hall, Grosvenor Street, Cheltenham.	2-30 p.m.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Cliff Darley

DOWN TO "BRASS TACKS"

A Special General Meeting of Yorkshire Leagues is being called to discuss proposed changes in affiliation fees. By this method, leagues will be aware of such changes in the offing, and be in a position to incorporate the proposals in their own A.G.M. agendas. Ron Hart, the county treasurer, has done a deal of research to provide his estimates and full details will be available at the meeting.

Congratulations to Rea Balmford (Hull) and Ron Richardson (York) on passing their National Umpire exam at the first attempt. Their success brings our total to six, and I know that those who did not pass this time will be taking the test again.

Frank Briggs, Bradford's match secretary, has resigned his office in order to concentrate on other aspects of the game. Plenty of work here for his successor.

Lumbs "A" and Ansons "A" lead the divisions in the Castleford/Pontefract League both being undefeated. Ansons are to present the league with a challenge shield for the Division 2 Merit competition. Closed title winners were:—

M.S. R. Bannister (Ferrybridge "C" Power Station).
M.D. B. Frost /B. Nash (Lumbs Sports).
V.S. H. Peel (Wilkinson's Handicap: B. Nash).

Hull's Junior Girls' team won through to the semi-final of the Bromfield Trophy when they beat Birmingham 5-2. The Midlanders had become second favourite in the competition, but 'flu kept their junior international Jenny Cornock out of the side. Valeria King notched up three wins which played a big part in Hull's win.

Previously unbeaten in the Premier Division of the Yorkshire League, Hull men's No. 2 team lost their first match of the season to a Barnsley side strengthened by one of the rare appearances of Alan Hydes. Neil Fulstow, making his debut in the top flight, took one of Hull's three singles with a win over Roy Ward.

Coaching is very much in the news in the city, thanks to the co-operation of the Local Education Authorities of both Hull and the East Riding. Centres have been opened at Newland Avenue Youth Club and Willerby County Secondary School.

In the Northern Area, British Rail Tourney at York in January, Lynda Sutton was in good form winning three titles and remained undefeated at a subsequent Yorkshire Junior re-ranking meeting. With Sandra Lee, Valerie King is now Joint No. 2.

The "Saints" who had been league leaders in the Barnsley League had their march stopped when Barnsley North End beat them 6-4. The win put North End one point clear at the top of the table, and hero of the hour was Roy Ward with victories over Doug McGarry and, at 5-4, "Chick" Robinson.

A 16, 18 triumph over Yorkshire second-teamer Peter Hirst gave Bradford No. 1, Jim Yeats the distinction of having beaten half the county ranked players although unranked himself. In the last two

months he has defeated Tony Clayton (5)—Tony got his own back the day after—P. Hirst (6), M. Corking (7) and Roy Brothwell (8).

David Hirst won the Huddersfield Men's Closed title for the fifth time when he defeated Malcolm Mear 10, 14 in the final. He had a close call in his semi against Les Crowe, who is leaving for Canada in the summer. Crowe's consolation came in the doubles, when he and Geoff Brook beat Hirst/Mear. Sandra Lee took the women's crown defeating Barbara Dunne.

Finally, a warm welcome is extended to E. G. White who as a Life Member of the E.T.T.A., a member of the National Umpires' and Referees' committee and who was Referee for the European Championships at Wembley. George has taken up residence in Leeds having taken over the position of Director of Postal Services in the North-East. We trust that both he, and his family, have settled in and are enjoying life in the north.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

STILL at the head of affairs in Division 1 of the Cambs. League are New Chesterton Institute now almost certain of retaining their title. At the other end of the scale St. George's are in a perilous position but Hospitals, with a recent win over Y.M.C.A. II, with the help of Mick Stennett, are intent on maintaining their status.

In Division 2, Soham III are well on their way to promotion to join their other two teams in the top flight. Impington II are in second position with S.E.M.L. veterans "Lofty" Adams and Bernard Adams (no relation) in their side. Y.M.C.A. III and Harston prop up the division the latter without a point to their name.

Cambridge University II and Haverhill are neck-and-neck at the top of Division 3A whilst Swavesey I and Fisons lead the "B" section.

In their first season M.A.F.F. lead Division 4A and look likely champions.

North Cambs. Hospital lead the first division of the Wisbech League and Downham Market head the second.

Cambridge City still lead the men's section in the S.E. Midlands League with both Wisbech and Ely doing well, the latter recently holding ex-champions Northampton to a draw.

Coaching sessions are still flourishing at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. with David Jarvis doing a good job on Saturday afternoons.

Carl Dellar and Sally Browning have obtained the Silver Award in the Junior Proficiency Awards scheme and quite a number of other youngsters have obtained the Bronze. With a record entry for the Cambs. Closed and the wealth of junior talent about the future looks exceedingly bright.

The Cambs. Ladies' League is now in full swing and Y.M.C.A. I are at the top with a clean slate. I am sure that everybody wishes success to the league and to Secretary Linda Wisbech who is doing a grand job.

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

NINE POSTPONEMENTS

IN a month where bad road conditions caused the postponement of 9 matches, Essex returned to the head of the Premier Division table although Middlesex have a game in hand. Surrey's surprise defeat will probably not affect their chances of challenging for promotion as the only teams which could finish above them are 2nd teams of Premier Counties now safe from relegation.

Premier Division

Yorkshire 9 Gloucestershire 0
D. Neale bt R. Morley 9, 16; bt M. White 10, 12.
A. Hydcs bt Morley -18, 12, 13; bt C. Feltham 12, 14.
J. Kedge bt White 10, 14; bt Feltham 10, 10.
Hydes/Neale bt Morley/White 19, 8.
Miss L. Bashford bt Miss M. Jones 19, 11.
Kedge/Bashford bt Feltham/Jones 25, 16.
Essex 9 Warwickshire 0
C. Barnes bt D. Munt 4, 10; bt R. Gunnion 12, 10.
D. Brown bt D. Munt 15, 13; bt M. Billington 10, 14.
S. Gibbs bt Gunnion 16, -19, 15; bt Billington 13, -17, 13.
Barnes/Brown bt Billington/Munt 15, 19.
Mrs. L. Radford bt Miss J. Cornock 6, 5.
Gibbs/Radford bt Gunnion/Cornock 17, -31, 15.

Essex pulled in over 200 people (best this season) to this Sunday match at Tilbury. A thoroughly competent display by Essex with the only real chance of a set for the visitors when Ralph Gunnion and Jenny Cornock led 10-4 in 3rd of XD.

Kent 8 Sussex 1
A. Piddock bt P. Williams 12, 16; bt R. Chandler 19, 17.
D. Basden bt Williams -16, 14, 12; bt S. Ogundipe 17, 18.
H. Buist lost to Chandler -10, -9; bt Ogundipe 16, 13.
Buist/Piddock bt Chandler/Williams 7, 16.
Mrs. P. Piddock bt Miss J. Williams 14, -21, -15.
Basden/Piddock bt Ogundipe/Williams -14, 14, 21.

Surprisingly easy for Kent after Derek Basden's defeat of Peter Williams in the opening set. A tight XD with Kent just getting home and a fine WS with Pauline Piddock, despite faltering in the 2nd after gaining a good lead, coming through in grand style in the 3rd. Roger Chandler, with the match score 0-7, scored Sussex's only success crushing Henry Buist.

Second Division South

Hertfordshire 3 Buckinghamshire 7
Trevor Taylor's 3 the only consolation for Herts. against this Bucks. side which could really be challenging for the title next year.
Surrey 4 Middlesex II 6
Mary Wright back and impressive as ever, but Surrey missed "Connie" Warren (playing against Scotland) and fell away after leading 4-3.

Second Division North

Lancashire v. Lincolnshire—
Durham v. Yorkshire II—postponed.

Second Division Midland

Derbyshire 10 Oxfordshire 0
First win for Derbys. this season (at any level) and all in straight games too!
Leicestershire 2 Warwickshire 8
Staffordshire 6 Glamorgan 4
An exciting match with Glamorgan pulling back from 1-3 and 2-4 to 4-1. Graham Davies in excellent form for the visitors while Dot Deeley and Brian Keates impressive for Staffs.

Second Division West

Somerset 9 Wiltshire 1
Dorset 2 Hampshire 8
Veteran Cyril Bush rewarded for his our struggle with Peter Smith when he narrowly took the first and got right on top in the second to win 19, 9. Dorset's other success in WS with Joyce Coop's strong defence proving just too good for Christine Davies. "Super-veteran" John Dale, in partnership with Joyce Coop then came so close to a third success in XD but 5 powerful forehands from Pauline Edwards late in the 3rd saw the Hampshire pair home 17, -19, 18.
Worcestershire v. Devon—postponed.

Southern Division

Buckinghamshire 7 Berkshire 3
Oxfordshire II 5 Worcestershire II 5
Both Alf Davies and Cecil Jackson in great form for Oxforas. taking 2 singles each and MD. Worcs., the better all-round side, took the lead for the first time 5-4 but Jackson gave Mike Prosser no chance to take home both points, beating him 3, 13. Oxfordshire table tennis rather in the doldrums at the moment and more frequent appearances by players such as Jackson might lift them.

Hampshire II 1 Surrey II 9
Definitely Surrey's day against the division champions. MS wins by 19 in 3rd, 17 in 3rd, MD won 21, 19, XD won -24, 16, 17, and the last MS won 20, 19 really rubbed it in. Chris Pickard, making singles debut, the only success for Hants. and Trevor Campbell for Surrey the most impressive player although rather erratic.

Midland Division

Denbighshire v. Lancashire II—
Nottinghamshire 8 Derbyshire II 2
A really good win for Notts., fielding two reserves. A great night for J. G. Ellis who, with Alf Saunders and Pat Mammond, was unbeaten. Fine recovery by D. Stills and Miss P. Wibberley from 7-10 and 14-16 in XD despite having wrong order at end of 3rd. They won 19, -12, 18.
Shropshire 2 Staffordshire II 8

Eastern Division

Bedfordshire 10 Huntingdonshire 0

Bedfordshire excelled themselves by taking every game. Never a dull match, as Hunts. put up steady resistance throughout.

Northamptonshire 6
Cambridgeshire 4

Northants. saw their 3-0 lead transformed to a 3-4 deficit before taking the final three for success. Penholder George Tsow still unbeaten although worned in the vital set by B. Wilson. The home men in good form, and Northants. found a winning XD pair for the first time this season, but Cambs. women rather too strong.

Suffolk 7 Hertfordshire II 3
This shock result makes Suffolk almost certain of promotion (Herts. II can not go up as their first team is in 2nd South).

Junior South

Middlesex 9 Buckinghamshire 1
Even though Bucks. were without Jill Shirley this was a great win for Middlesex with Melvin Waldman, Bob Gibson, Ray Jones, Christine Mann, Sheila Hamilton and Anne Painter an impressive-looking team.
Surrey 4 Kent 6
But this Kent side too is very useful with John Dabin, Ray Tilling, Barry Grimwade, Lynda Chesson and Paula Brenchley. Three of Surrey's four successes came from Susan and Linda Howard, the other from Paul Bishop (v. Tilling).

Berkshire 0 Hampshire 10

Junior Division North

Cheshire 2 Lancashire 8
Tony Boasman a class above everyone else and never in trouble. Young Brian Johns gave a spirited display against Kingsley Harrison and promises much.
Durham v. Yorkshire—postponed.

Junior Division Midland

Leicestershire 7 Nottinghamshire 3
Alan Crome outstanding for Notts. but Leicesters. had the greater all-round strength and Susan Baxter yet again emerged unbeaten.
Staffordshire 8 Oxfordshire 2
Four of the first five went 21-8 to Staffs. who later took a 4-0 lead. Oxforas., with J. Rose the steadier of the two, then opened their account for the season with a BD win in a set where Mike Stephenson squandered points with overenthusiastic hitting. A second set to Oxforas. when Miss J. Hunt beat debutant Barbara Eardley who needs to learn which ball is hittable and which is not (and how many players that is true of!). But Staffs. now called a halt and reeled off the last 4 sets in straight games.

Junior Division East

Bedfordshire 2 Hertfordshire 8
Overawed when hearing Trevor Taylor was coming (he was in fact committed elsewhere) and with no local support Beds. tried hard taking 5 sets to the deciding game but losing all. Some return to form by Brian

Hutchinson, and Pat King also won a singles.

Suffolk 3 Hertfordshire 7
Essex v. Bedfordshire, Norfolk v. Huntingdonshire, Suffolk v. Northamptonshire all postponed.

Junior Division West

Somerset 3 Wiltshire 7
Monmouthshire 9 Gloucestershire 1
Glamorgan v. Worcestershire—
postponed.

DIVISIONAL TABLES TO 26th FEB., 1969

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PREMIER							
Essex	5	5	0	0	37	8	10
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	30	6	6
Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	27	9	0
Kent	5	3	0	2	24	22	6
Sussex	5	2	0	3	17	28	4
Cheshire	5	1	0	4	17	28	2
Warwickshire	5	1	0	4	11	34	2
Gloucestershire	5	0	0	5	9	36	0
SECOND SOUTH							
Surrey	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Middlesex II	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Kent II	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Buckinghamshire	5	2	1	2	30	20	5
Essex II	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Hertfordshire	4	0	0	4	7	33	0
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	4	36	0
SECOND NORTH							
Northumberland	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Lincolnshire	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Yorkshire II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Durham	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Cumberland	4	0	0	4	2	38	0
SECOND MIDLAND							
Staffordshire	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Warwickshire II	4	4	0	0	30	10	6
Glamorgan	5	4	0	1	35	15	2
Derbyshire	4	1	0	3	17	25	2
Leicestershire	4	1	0	3	14	20	2
Monmouthshire	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Oxfordshire	4	0	0	4	3	37	0
SECOND WEST							
Somerset	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Hampshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Worcestershire	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Devon	4	1	2	1	21	19	9
Wiltshire	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Dorset	4	0	0	4	8	32	0
Cornwall	4	0	0	4	7	33	0
SOUTHERN							
Buckinghamshire II	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Surrey II	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Worcestershire II	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Hampshire II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Berkshire	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Oxfordshire	4	0	1	3	10	30	1
MIDLAND							
Staffordshire II	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Nottinghamshire	4	3	0	1	31	9	6
Lancashire II	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Shropshire	4	1	0	3	9	31	2
Denbighshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Derbyshire II	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
EASTERN							
Suffolk	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Hertfordshire II	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Northamptonshire	4	2	1	1	18	22	5
Bedfordshire	4	2	0	2	25	15	4
Cambridgeshire	4	0	1	3	16	24	1
Huntingdonshire	4	0	1	3	13	27	1
JUNIOR DIVISIONS							
SOUTH							
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Kent	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Surrey	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Hampshire	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Buckinghamshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Sussex	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Berkshire	5	0	0	5	3	47	0
NORTH							
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Northumberland	4	3	0	1	24	6	6
Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Cheshire	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Durham	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Cumberland	4	0	0	4	6	34	0
MIDLAND							
Leicestershire	5	5	0	0	37	13	10
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	40	0	8
Nottinghamshire	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Staffordshire	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Denbighshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Derbyshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
Oxfordshire	4	0	0	4	2	38	0
EAST							
Hertfordshire	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Essex	4	4	0	0	39	1	3
Northamptonshire	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Bedfordshire	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Suffolk	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	7	33	0
Huntingdonshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0
WEST							
Monmouthshire	4	4	0	0	34	6	3
Glamorgan	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Wiltshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Somerset	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Worcestershire	3	1	0	2	8	22	2
Gloucestershire	4	0	0	4	8	32	0