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Table Tennis News

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Victor - A Smile to Remember

Photo by Cliff Darley

This month's Star Feature

45th ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

by JOHN WOODFORD and PHILIP REID

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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CAUSE APPARENT

SOMEWHERE along the line, lies the blame for our continued inept performances against top continental opposition.

Relegation, should it occur, from the Premier Division of the European League would be bad enough — a saving grace could possibly be an enlargement of the division — but to have, as the summit of our achievements in the English Open, two semi-final losers in five major individual events can only be interpreted as a second category performance.

What is apparent from this sad state of affairs is that, well as the Coaching Scheme is functioning, it can only do so to the extent of improving the general standard of play, when what is manifestly lacking is a higher strata of coaching and training for those players now in so much need of it.

It is no secret that the Sports Council have given their blessing to the grant-aided employment of a full time Trainer/Coach whose prime concern will be to concentrate on our current elite and those whose potential is now deserving of same.

The demand for purely domestic coaching has reached such proportions to make it impracticable for any of our three Staff Coaches to be seconded from their labours in the field for any length of time and the solution can only lie with the appointment of another, but in a specialist capacity.

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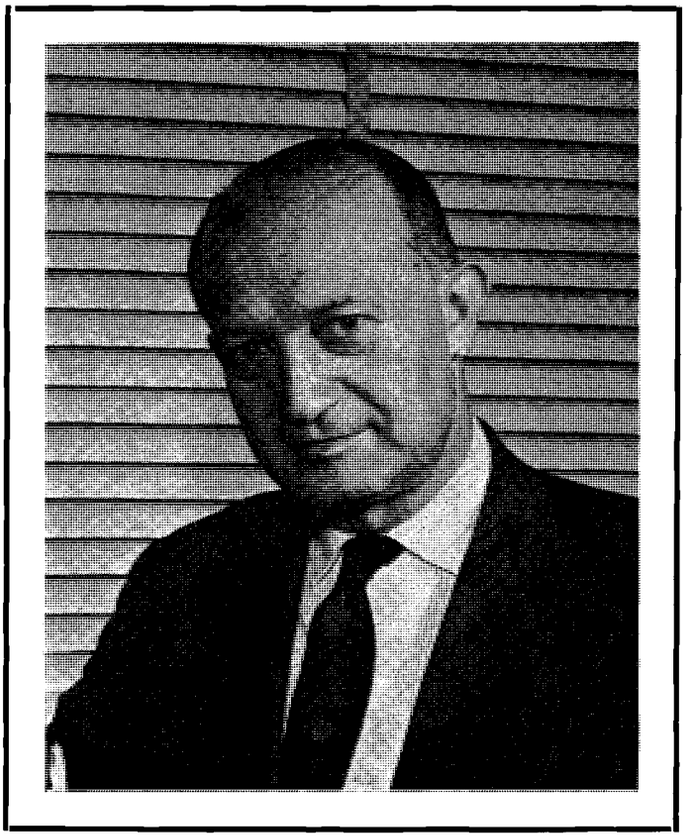


In Memoriam

Victor the Nonpareil

by Hon. Ivor Montagu

Victor Barna was the greatest table tennis player who ever lived, the most graceful in form and movement, the most complete in technical equipment, the most intelligent in strategy, the most masterly in combat, the most thoughtful in his approach to the game, the most able and single-minded in his devotion to its problems and their solution after the best of his playing days were over.

Add to this his qualities as a person: a happy husband, a man of wry humour who mellowed as he grew older, a good friend. Truly an era has passed with his death at the other end of the world.

In sport it is always difficult to convey to a succeeding generation the qualities of the champions it has never seen. Who was the finest batsman: W. G. Grace, Hobbs or Bradman ? Were the Dohertys 'better' than Perry, or than Laver and Rosewall today ? Was Bob Fitzsimmons 'greater' than Dempsey or is Mohammed Ali indeed 'the greatest' of all ? How compare the incomparable, and who has seen all of them with his own eyes ? The conditions have changed. All I can do for the reader who knew not Victor as a player is to picture his style just a little and recall his peerless record.

His attack was so good that no-one but those of his opponents who fought to take the initiative away from him appreciated that his floating, subtle defence was even better. His backhand was so spectacular that few spectators appreciated that the winning rally position had often been opened by his forehand. His positioning was so perfect that, with the slightest change of foot angle and body balance, his flick could instantly and invisibly alter the direction of the kill from diagonal to straight or vice versa, leaving the opponent floundering out to reach for it or else hopelessly and impotently passed.

Often one sees really great players who impose their will with a limited repertoire by qualities of character and persistence, or who throw away caution and take chances, conquering the heights by courage. But Barna at his best had everything. He could adjust to any opposition, and his matches were so memorable because whereas many victors win by exploiting the weak points of their opponents, Victor's treasures were so inexhaustible that often he seemed to delight in coping with and overcoming his opponents' strengths.

DOMINATED

We first saw the future nonpareil at the World Championships in Budapest in the spring of 1929 when he was not yet 18-years-old. The situation should be imagined. In those days — the earliest of World table tennis — Hungarians dominated as effectively as the Far East has done in the last couple of decades.

In the first year, the older generation prevailed, veterans from the years before the first world war won all the titles. But back home, their new-won laurels fresh upon them, the seniors were immediately out-distanced by fresh youngsters, who next season outshone their elders in the brilliance of their play.

Then in 1929, the third season, yet younger teenagers swept these latter aside to reign from that time onward, Barna and his more staid and run-of-the-mill partner Miklos Szabados in their van. Between them, in seven successive seasons, these two now won six World Singles Championships, shared six Men's Doubles (Barna won the seventh also but with another partner one year that Szabados was suspended), and also took five Mixed.

Barna's personal tally, as everyone knows, can never be rivalled: in the World's—five Singles (four in succession, and one runner-up), eight Men's Doubles (with three different partners), three Mixed, seven times member of a winning Swaythling Cup team; the National Opens one can hardly begin to count—in the English I list five Singles, seven Men's Doubles (with five different partners), eight Mixed (with four) and I am not sure I have them all. This, by the way, is the record of a man who broke his right arm as early in his career as the decade after he began. (After this happened in a motor-car accident Barna began a certain, not easily perceptible, decline. He appeared as brilliant as ever, but there was lacking just a traction of that supreme inner confidence and resourcefulness at the crux).

SOCIAL SITUATION

To follow Barna's life-story one should also understand the social situation in the Hungary of those days. The Hungary of before the first world war, prolonged in the 20's and 30's by a successful counter-revolution, was a feudal country, ruled over by great landowners and the rich. There could be, and was, no mass popular participation in sport.

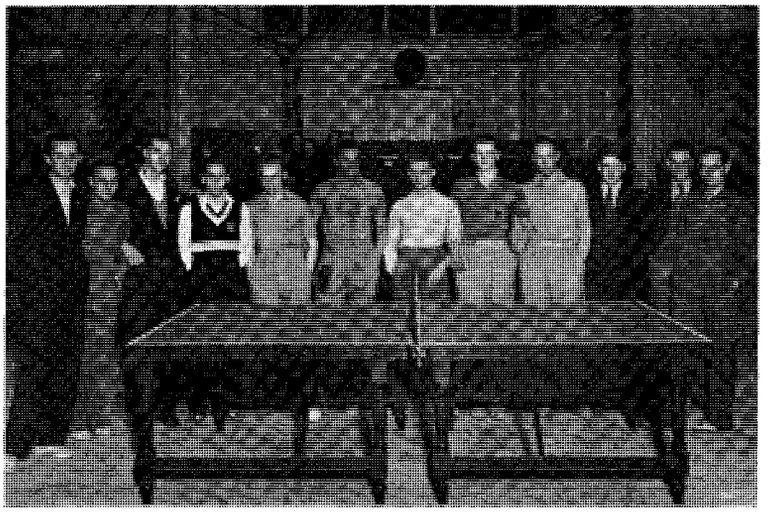
Sport was confined in the main to a few aristocratic clubs in the centre, and gifted youth outside these circles found its only sporting opportunity in the chance of being picked up and taken under the wing of one or other of such clubs to gain advantage over its rivals.

With its feudal basis, Hungarian society of those days was also rigidly anti-Semitic, and it was a strange thing to those who knew the circumstances in Central Europe to realise that so many of the young Hungarian table tennis geniuses of the period were Jewish in origin.

But the keen and influential sportsmen of the favoured clubs knew how to have their cake and eat it. They wanted the most promising talent in their sides and they knew how to square the racial chauvinists who banned national teams from including Jewish players.

They included the recruits but hid them under good Hungarian names. Thus Muller was made to play as "Magyar", Klein—an only slightly less brilliant contemporary of Victor—won an English Open as 'Kelen', and Victor himself, born Braun, became known to the world as 'Barna'. (His first name, Victor, was just a straight translation of his given name Oyözö, necessary because no Englishman can pronounce that Hungarian o surmounted by two dots).

Long before the 'Cold War' we have become used to in this epoch turned every emigrant from Eastern Europe into a 'victim' or 'deserter' according to the point of view, the enterprising youth of the smaller Central European countries sought wider fields abroad,



A group of international players taken at Buxton, Derbyshire on Feb 26, 1931 prior to competing in the English Open Championships at Liverpool on the following day. From left to right:—S. Glanz (Hungary), R. Verger (France), F. Liebster (Austria), L. Finberg (Latvia), Adrian Haydon, Fred Perry, Victor Barna, Don Foulis, H. C. Cooke, A. G. Miller (all England), I. Kelen (Hungary) and S. Kolar (Czechoslovakia).

free of such constriction in their homelands, in the more extensive opportunities provided by the wider countries. The talented Hungarian table tennis youngsters were no exception.

Thus of their crop Glancz and Bellak found themselves in America, Szabados in Australia, Barna first, for a time, in France and then in Britain, where, eventually, he took up British nationality. Here he and his wife Suzy were to live amongst us and benefit us for more than thirty years. In this role Victor became a shining light in English table tennis, an always loyal and willing helper and counsellor to the Association, as well as an extraordinarily successful ambassador and propagandist for the game everywhere abroad. It was a second, quite different, but no less illustrious career.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It could not have been an easy matter for Victor Barna to make the change. First, the best player in the world, who raised table tennis not only to a sport but even above—to an art—merely by his grace and skill. Second, through the disappointments of a declining success (after his car crash and with the approach, later, of middle age), to now respect and service as a technician and business expert.

I know he would smile now in acknowledgement if I were to say: hard as it is for the drab caterpillar to change into a gorgeous butterfly, the reverse and more pedestrian alteration must be a yet more painful miracle.

At first he captained for England, with a splendid conscientiousness, both men's and women's teams. He encouraged youngsters, by training and partnering them in doubles. He threw himself into the County game and carried Middlesex to the honours. He pioneered exhibition play before new audiences in the halls.

An artist such as he lived on his nerves, and as the effort to maintain his level grew more strenuous, the strain grew greater. I remember the first time he fell in an early round of the World's; this was bitter to him and, rightly or wrongly, he complained of the softness of the table service, something I had never heard him do before. Then he smiled ruefully at himself and said: "When I was young I should never have noticed if I was playing on a velvet carpet".

What made possible his second great contribution to table tennis was his meeting with Dunlop's. Dunlop's is a big firm, highly diversified, and table tennis, indeed any one sport by itself, is but a small matter in the grand totality of their affairs.

I do not know how it was exactly: whether the firm recognised his ability and opened the way to him, or whether he recognised their potentiality and opened the way for them. Anyway, they grew very much together.

Dunlop's is not the only firm in the world that makes good equipment, but nonetheless the fact that so big a firm, with such world-wide connections, made and sold everywhere equipment of such quality was not only a source of profit and maybe, in a small way, prestige to the firm, it was a source of untold advantage to the spread of the game, the establishment and raising of standards in all parts of the globe.

APPRECIATED

This success Dunlop's, as well as the playing community, owed largely to the lucky partnership between themselves and Barna, to his shrewdness, his experience, his unrivalled global acquaintance. I am sure they appreciated this. But it became odd to realise that, at the last, for the handful remaining who still knew the great Barna as the incomparable player, there were literally millions younger to whom all this was a bygone legend and who knew only Barna the businessman.

As a Briton, Barna became perhaps even more world-famous in this capacity than he had been as a Hungarian, in the days of his beginnings. But he never forgot or forsook his roots. He remained an honoured guest in his birthland and often visited there the two sisters who survived the war.

I have said that the later Victor relaxed, grew more philosophical. Shy and even edgy in the youthful days of high competition, he grew unnecessarily modest, increasingly placid, wise, humorous.

Highly opinionated and therefore stubborn, he and I both, we would in middle days often find ourselves arguing vigorously and even quarrelling loudly, before we quieted down enough to find that we were both agreed. Increasingly, in the later years, we would find that we did agree nearly always, with each other, if with no-one else.

We became ancient relics together. In the end there was no-one at all, whose opinions on technique or strategy and everything relating to this side of things I more respected.

It is not sad to go quickly. What is sad is for those who are left. All others of long married partnership must feel tender now towards Suzy, for they can understand. But today there is a big hole in table tennis for all of us. We are all, in a sense, bereft. The friend who shed lustre on what we loved is gone. There is only the legend.

Obituary to an Immortal

by H. ROY EVANS, President I.T.T.F.

AS we thumb through the pages of any World Book of Sport in the future, we shall come to 'Table Tennis' and there emblazoned at its head will be a name 'Victor Barna' — one of Life's immortals! The record will tell us that he was born in Hungary, that he won 15 World Titles, that he became a naturalised Briton and, more personally, that he took unto himself a wife, Susie, lived in Pinner, and was Export Sales Manager for Dunlop Sports Co. Ltd.

But these prosaic details convey nothing of the personality which was Victor Barna. Because as he himself used to say, "A player is finished at the age of 24", Victor Barna as a player has not been seen by the vast majority of the players in our World scene today. He won his first Singles title in 1930 and his last in 1935. He was still good enough in 1939 to partner the late Richard Bergmann to success in the Men's Doubles Championship of the World, and it is perhaps fitting that these two great players now both departed, should have been together in the last great Doubles Competition for either of them to win.

It was in the immediate pre-war years that Victor wrote the pages of his life which have established his immortality. This was the time when enthusiastic but professional organisers all over the world were struggling to convince a sceptical public that Table Tennis was a Major Sport. With his two companions, Michael Szabados and Laci Bellak, Victor travelled the World playing exhibitions in all sorts of unlikely places. Church Halls and Town Halls, Dance Halls and Variety Halls, these became the venues for a sight of Table Tennis most of the World had never seen. Here the famous Barna back-hand flick became the wonder of all the thousands who came to see the "Three Musketeers" of Table Tennis.

All over the World this crusade went on and Organisers frustrated before in their efforts to woo the Public, now found it no longer necessary to excuse their Game.

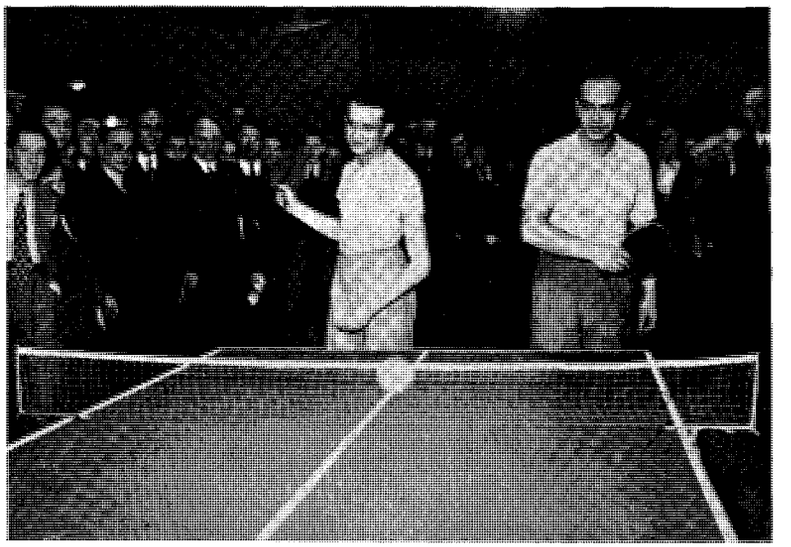
Victor had brought Table Tennis to a disbelieving World and never after that was there a person who did not say 'Victor Barna' when 'Ping Pong' really became translated into Table Tennis.

Officials in the immediate Pre and Post war years, had just cause to be grateful and surely many an Association now a member of the I.T.T.F. owes its growth, even its birth, to the crusading of this man and his friends.

Others, too, whose only sight of Table Tennis was as a stage act between Victor and Alec Brook, must suddenly have become aware of the art and skill of this Game.

Victor remained deeply involved in the playing of the Game long after his skill had diminished. Although maybe too ready to equate the ability of any modern player with his own in his time, he was at all times a provocative talker about a Game which was life itself for him.

He became deeply involved in some crises, seeing only black or white in a situation and so impatient with the Establishment which seemed too often to procrastinate. He had no indulgence for those who seemed reluctant to adopt a solution which was blazingly clear to him.



Somewhere in Holland. Victor (left) and his famous compatriot Michael Szabados.

For Dunlops, within whose Organisation he rose to a very senior position, Victor trod again those same paths to all corners of the World that he had travelled as a carefree and gay cavalier. Always on these trips selling Barna Equipment around the World, he rang me to know if there was anything he could do for me for the International Table Tennis Federation, to remind somebody that I was awaiting a letter, to give that much-needed push to some Association vaguely contemplating affiliation.

Although few of today's players have ever seen him in action, he is well-known to them and forged a reputation in days when venues were poor by modern standards, when travelling was a stamina sapping experience, and when equipment was auything but standard.

Victor's last years were spent in perfecting equipment on which, in his own words, "players could play better". He was convinced that just as he had been the best in the world, his supremacy was reflected in the equipment he promoted.

So intense was he in this connection that recently his health had suffered and his death occurred in promoting the sale of equipment he passionately believed in.

There will be Barna tables and Barna bats and Barna balls as long as our game is played but apart from this tangible memorial to his life, there are two other institutions which also will ensure that the name of this brilliant Hungarian will be perpetuated for ever.

The Barna award has been set up in very many countries in the World and its annual holder is proud indeed to be recognised as having given the best contribution to the Game during the year, as Victor himself had done.

Victor, as Captain of England's team in Tokyo in 1956, poses with (l) Di Rowe and Ann Haydon.

The other Barna miracle lies in the creation of the Swaythling Club. His own idea to bring together all those who have played in World Championships throughout the years, to make it possible for older players, many of them now in bad health and without the means, to come together in the atmosphere of the present World Championships and meet once again those with whom they battled many years ago.

There have been many meetings of the Swaythling Club in all parts of the World but wherever they have taken place they have been with that same spirit of warmth and friendship which Victor himself has always wished should be evident in the Game. He himself has throughout been the inspiration of this fantastic organisation. He himself would have been delighted at every meeting which has taken place, and although its name is the Swaythling Club, and what more apt title than that, in fact the spirit behind it all is BARNA, and to many like myself his death has meant the loss not only of the World's finest Table Tennis player, but also of a man who had been a great personal friend to many of us. The world of Table Tennis will never know his like again.

Victor Barna as a Colleague

by W. "Bill" Evans

VICTOR BARNA joined Dunlop Sports Company in 1946. He was brought to us by the late Corti Woodcock, a former Chairman of the E.T.T.A., and a wise counsellor.

Dunlop had not been involved in table tennis before and we had scant knowledge of the game and its problems. We knew that Victor was a former World Champion and the outstanding personality in the sport. We probably thought that like so many top sportsmen before the war and immediately afterwards, he would have little business acumen and even less knowledge, relying entirely on his world reputation. It did not take us long to disabuse ourselves of that image. Victor, in fact, had the most acute commercial sense and had an uncanny knack of swiftly getting to the essence of a commercial problem. He was invariably right in any situation; it became a joke between us that he was always right, though sometimes for the wrong reasons!

His attitude to table tennis products was also revealing. There was no question of a perfunctory approval of bats, balls, tables, etc. with a view to securing royalties with all speed. We began with bats and balls and were soon involved in depth and width of pimple, vital attributes to Victor, and sphericity and weight of balls involving individual testing of every single ball. Of course, the Company was not new to the testing of golf and tennis balls for these characteristics—but for "Ping Pong"! we experimented, tested, modified and retested and it would often be many months before something was produced which came near to meeting Victor's exacting standards and invariably there were reservations even then. As Dunlop widened its table tennis range into tables, posts, nets and more recently, the Barna Super ball, the same meticulous process of experiment, test, modification often repeated many times, would unfold itself until finally he would agree to go ahead. This could, at times, be a nerve taxing business but Victor had a highly developed sense of humour and during the most taut sessions could relieve the tension by a joke or two of which, he had an extensive and hilarious repertoire.

Although to the end he retained a very marked Central European accent, he wrote extremely good English. He would often ask you to read over an article he had written to check for errors of grammar or syntax, but you would be lost in admiration of his command of the language and his manner of expressing it. He was intensively proud of his English nationality. It was a great disappointment to him that the Super ball, a British invention, was receiving less acceptance in this country than elsewhere in the world.

He had great loyalty to his colleagues and to the Company, for which he worked so diligently and conscientiously. I had the privilege of being with him at many World and European Championships and it was an education to observe his methods. His mind and body were ever active in the interest of the game he loved and adorned and the Company for which he was so proud to work. At the great Championships of the world he would stay up to all hours discussing problems and events with players, officials and business men and would be particularly co-operative with the gentlemen of the press. He seemed to know everyone in the Sporting World, and indeed in many walks of life. Joe Louis was a friend and so was Ernest Marples. He knew Sir Stanley Rous and the late Bud Flanagan. There was hardly a public figure he didn't know or one who wasn't glad to know him.

In the last two or three years, two things dominated his mind—the new Super ball and the Swaythling Club. He strove through our research and technical experts to perfect the Super ball which he felt must be the ball of the future and he never underestimated the difficulties. As a good business man he never displayed these to the outside world but internally he constantly kept everyone on their toes, in order to achieve the highest standard of quality.

The Swaythling Club was the object of his special affection. He was its first and only President and he worked constantly to make it the organization he had set out to achieve. To keep together players from all parts of the world who had represented their country in Swaythling or Corbillon Cup matches at World Championships was the central theme. In particular he strove to make it possible for such players, who would otherwise not have been able, to attend World Championships as guests of the Swaythling Club. Anyone who had seen Bo Vana, Trudi Pritzi, Angelica Rozeanu and many others in such circumstances, will know how successfully he achieved his great wish. The Club will go on as a memorial to Victor Barna.

We in Dunlop will sadly miss him. Whatever we do Victor will be irreplaceable. To Susie, his loyal and devoted wife, we offer sympathy and, we hope, comfort in the knowledge that Victor was loved and respected and will be remembered all over the world where table tennis is played.

The traveller arrives in South Africa.

Farewell to Victor

by STEPHEN KELEN
former Hungarian Swaythling Cup player

IN my mind's eyes I tried to see Victor Barna in Peru's capital, Lima, where he met his sudden and untimely death — to say a last farewell to my old friend and team mate.

But instead I saw him in another faraway place called Budapest, way back in time almost half a century ago, in short pants, carrying a large, specially polished wooden bat worn and dirty on the forehand and backhand side where he used to hit the ball.

He came to one of the three table tennis centres we frequented, feeling that precious shilling in his pocket, to play a "loser pays" game with some other young kids whose names were Szabados, Bellak, Glancz, David to mention a few of the future Hungarian team that became foremost for years to come in the table tennis world.

Should anyone have told Victor that, one day, at the age of sixty, with one of the most distinguished careers a sportsman could achieve behind him, he would see his last day high up in the rarified atmosphere of the Andean Mountains and millions of people all over the world mourn his death, he would have smiled his quiet smile, felt the shilling in his pocket and thought, "If I play well and my luck's in I can go through the day and keep my money for tomorrow ."

But his rivals who liked to play just as much as he did were equally determined and this was the way we all learned to fight for every point in every set.

Victor had a tough go for the first three years of his game, and many a time his money lasted only for an hour because he had no backhand. It took him time and concentration to develop his formidable half-arm backhand, which eventually became part of his stroke armoury to win more world

and international titles in his chosen sport than any other player to this day.

It was after the summer of 1927, when the first world championship was held, in London, that Victor surprised us all with his backhand.

This was the year when the "older set" consisting of Dr. Jacobi, Mechlovits, Dr. Pecsi and Kehrling established Hungary as the leading nation in early table tennis history.

They were the ones sent to London, and we, the juniors viewed their trip with a great deal of admiration, liberally sprinkled with jealousy.

"We could do better than they did," Victor remarked when we heard the results.

"How could we do better?" one of us asked. "They won everything."

PERMISSION GRANTED

"We shall see," said Victor, and quite unreasonably we agreed with him.

Most of us hopefuls were in the 15-years age bracket and occasionally the "great ones" gave us permission to visit their clubs and play with them. More often than not we were the winners, old Mechlovits with his penholder grip was the only one who stood the test of time, but not for long.

Old Mechlovits? He was in his early thirties, but we looked at him as if he were a veritable Methusalah with no right to stand in our way. In order to defend their places in the Hungarian team, the seniors, who controlled the Association, brought in the rule that a player had to be 18 years-of-age before he was able to play in a senior event and be allowed to represent Hungary.

The rule was enforced for the 1928 Stockholm World Championships, but changed for 1929 when the event was held in Budapest. Barna, Szabados and Kelen, despite their "tender age" were selected for the team, because the rest of the world was improving and if the best players were left out and Hungary lost, that would have created a national scandal.

So we lined up for our first international test, deeply regretting that the tournament was not held somewhere abroad, anywhere, even if in Austria, some 200 miles from our native city.

In the crowd were members of the Barna family, father and younger brothers, in happy expectation pleased by the Hungarian team winning the Swaythling Cup, and disappointed when Victor lost, quite unexpectedly to Adrian Haydon of England.

But the doubles went to Barna/Szabados, which started a series of eight world doubles title wins for Victor, six with Michael, one, in Baden, with Glancz, and the other with Richard Bergmann in Cairo.

Victor won his first singles world title in 1930, and Berlin was his place of triumph. In Budapest, the following year he lost in the final to Michael Szabados, only to regain it in Prague and then hold it for the following three years, thus establishing a record no other table tennis player has broken yet.

SUPREME TEST

Barna's supreme test came in Prague in 1932, when Czechoslovakia won the title against the Hungarian team, the odds-on favourites. What the Hungarians had to face up to was a fanatical crowd that had urged on their team to win the Swaythling Cup, but could not hinder Barna from regaining the title he had lost to his compatriot in Budapest.

The finals were played at The Lucerne, a huge dance hall which could comfortably accommodate some two-thousand spectators but three times that number came to see the finals.

There, for the first time, politics and fanaticism raised their ugly heads in our sport.

The singles went to Victor, so did the men's doubles, but we lost the Swaythling Cup to Czechoslovakia. The Hungarians were at the height of their form with five world team titles behind them, when the totally unexpected occurred.

The end result was 5 to 4.

The Czechs went mad with joy.

We grouped together in the dressing room. I looked at Victor and saw his eyes moist. Embarrassed, he said:

"I'd have rather lost the singles, if only we could have defended the team title. It should never have happened. We did not concentrate enough," he went on. "Forget about the crowd, even your opponent, his style, and even yours. All you must see is the ball as it leaves your opponent's bat, and then return it, place it so that it is out of his reach. It is all very simple; you have to keep the ball in play just one hit more than the other fellow does."

As simple as that. And for a great many years Victor managed to carry out this "truth" better than any other player.

In his early table tennis career Victor managed to turn his limp backhand into one of the best strokes a table tennis player ever had, and so, after the Prague disaster, he decided to increase his power of concentration. The result was that for the following three world championships he won the singles title, the men's doubles, and helped the Hungarians to regain the top place in the team events.

BROKEN ARM

Victor achieved his greatest triumph before a cheering crowd of thousands in London's Wembley Stadium in 1935 when he won the singles, the men's and mixed doubles world titles, and helped Hungary retain the Swaythling Cup.

Talk about determination.

In a car accident Victor broke his right arm, and for a while it seemed he would never play again. The best doctors in Budapest consulted, and operated, placing a piece of metal to hold together and give strength to the fractured bones.

Was this then the end of Victor's table tennis career? So even if he retired, his record would have been the most outstanding on the scoring board.

"Don't risk your reputation," friends pleaded with him.

He shook his head and smiled.

"Let's see what I can do with this arm of mine," he challenged more himself than his audience and kept playing with great success.

But Victor's London hat trick in the individual events, and his magnificent performance in the Swaythling Cup meant more to him than sporting victories; he was offered and accepted a position with Dunlop to blueprint and market their table tennis equipment.

From then on, through the years, till his death he not only retained his executive post but, eventually became the man in charge of all Dunlop sporting equipment on the international market.

In this capacity, a long time after he retired from table tennis as a tournament player he travelled the world in connection with his favourite sport.

"I managed to attend every world championship played since 1929, and I am proud of this, because I witnessed the game gaining strength and status," he told me when I last saw him, some two years ago, when he visited Australia.

I took him out to St. Ives, a Sydney suburb where I live with my family. Since I left Europe with Michael Szabados to tour the world, and finally settle down in Australia, I have seen Victor only twice — each time in Sydney.

In 1952 or so, I cannot really remember the year, he came with Bergmann to play a series of exhibitions here. I found him then hardly changed, and time did not seem to have marked him badly when we met again on the last occasion.

But the world did indeed.

CATACLYSM

And we talked a lot about just what brought the change about, and that of his own life and that of his family.

The cataclysm that swept over Europe (the Second World War) destroyed a lot of people, and amongst those was his younger brother, killed by the Hungarian Nazis.

"Imagine," he said, "he won the Hungarian title, he followed in my footsteps, he had a great future in table tennis, and they killed him." He spoke with deep emotion, but without hatred.

"I wish," he went on, "the people could have saved him, and not my trophies".

He then told me a fantastic story, which again illustrated just how people idolised him in Hungary, as they did in all parts of the world, where table tennis is played.

When the Hungarian Nazis took over Budapest, Victor's trophies (and he had a fabulous and valuable collection) were buried by his neighbours and unearthed after peace came to his tormented country. They turned up in London, taken there by a deputation.

A gesture of great devotion he so fully deserved.

It reminded him of his splendid past he cherished in many ways. He expressed this with the formation of the Swaythling Club, whose founder he was and president he remained till the end.

SWAYTHLING CLUB

Players qualified for the Swaythling Club not only on the basis of their attendance and results in world championship events (although this was the first condition) but also for what kind of sportsmen and citizens they were in the past and present.

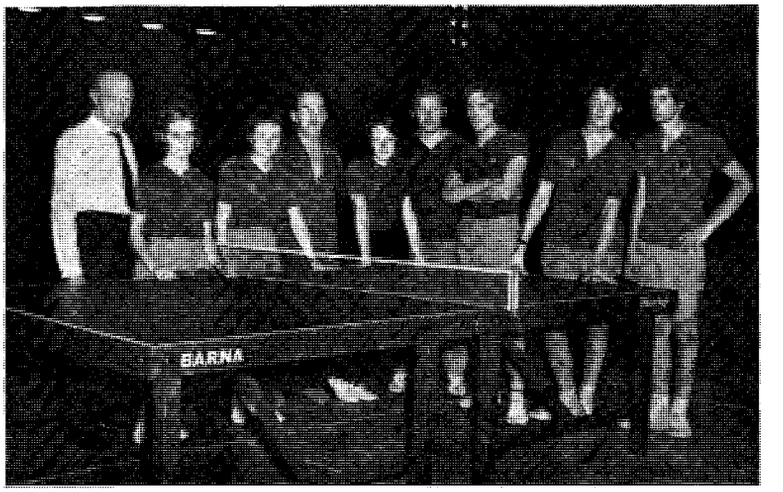
The Swaythling Club meant a great deal to old veterans, like Maria Mednyanszky, Standa Kolar, who were invited to holiday resorts, world championships—a practical way to express the sentiment; you are not forgotten.

Barna was a teacher — through his strokes, and attitude to the sport he taught not only his contemporary rivals but those who play now and the thousands who will compete in the future.

It would not be right to say that distance and time divided him from the old brigade, those who made the first steps to make table tennis into one of the most popular sports in the world.

You may not have heard of him directly, but there was always that feeling that he was here or there, in Tokyo, in Spain, in India, Lebanon or wherever table tennis was played. We lived with him, we travelled with him right to that final station, and now that I will not be able to welcome him again together with my wife and sons we shall remember him and that wonderful day he spent in the circle of our family.

Stephen Kelen, now living at 1, Sussex Road, St. Ives, New South Wales 2075, Australia, was one of Victor Barna's teammates who together with other members of the Hungarian team shared, on five occasions the winning of the Swaythling Cup. Recently his son, Stephen Jnr., a pupil at Hornsby High School, won the "Player of the Year" award of the combined Sydney Y.M.C.A. table tennis clubs. He holds the award jointly with Martin Stern of Randwick Y.M.C.A. Editor.



With the English team at the 1st Commonwealth Championships in Singapore, March, 1971.

Former Middlesex County Colleague, Geoffrey Harrower, of the Daily Telegraph writes . .

Victor Barna will be missed all over the world, but particularly in Middlesex, where he made his home during the war, and continued to live in a flat in Pinner with his wife Suzie.

Right from the formation of the Middlesex Association, Victor made a most positive contribution. He was as keen as anyone to see the county first win, and then retain, the county championships.

In fact wherever possible he was insistent on practicing in the same hall on the night before a match, so as to get the "feel" of the conditions and give the team the maximum chance of victory.

This attitude, of course, spurred other members of the team to produce results often in excess of their usual form. Even to have such a great player in the team exuded confidence. But when that player was a driving force as well, victory was always that so much easier.

Even in the season when he was touring Australia Victor did not forget Middlesex. Cables would be received wishing the team success, and, spurred on by this support the county championships were again retained.

No one who really knew Victor will be surprised by his actions. He was far more than a great player, he was a great gentleman, and will never be replaced.

Victor - Real Person

by Laurie Landry

THE passing of Victor Barna will possibly affect more people than would the death of almost any other famous person. To know Victor was almost without exception to be his friend — once met, never forgotten by him.

I had known him on four fronts. For Middlesex, he had served on the committee and acted as captain to our teams after several years of taking us to County Championship victories. As a member of the Willesden League committee, I often invited him to our functions and he felt as much at home in local league surroundings as in the big arenas.

As secretary of the International Club, he was always asking how he could help and, of course, did so. He was one of our Vice-Presidents.

Finally as an individual, I got to know the real Victor after he wrote to me and visited me in hospital following my accident. Always prepared to put himself out and pass on from his vast experience in many fields, information and advice.

With the death of Victor Barna, we have all lost a real friend.

Cover Photograph

It was all smiles at this gathering of the Swaythling Club, taken at Brighton on the occasion of the 44th English Open. Pictured with Victor Barna (centre) is Ivan Andreadis of Czechoslovakia and Ella Constantinescu of Rumania. Johnny Leach and Ron Crayden are in the background.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Pike

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY, DOT

DOROTHY DEELEY

The big news from Staffordshire this month is that Dorothy Deeley has played her last game for the county. Her final match against Warwickshire last month marked her one hundredth appearance for the county, and this is surely something Staffordshire will be proud of for a very long time to come.

Her record over the years is well worth recording. Out of those 100 county matches she was only beaten on nine occasions and in one spell between 1964 and 1971 her only defeat came against Mary Wright, who was then the English champion.

Had she gone to more tournaments she would no doubt have been ranked in the top six of the England list. As it was she had to settle for the Staffs. title 10 times, and the West Bromwich women's singles 13 times. Add to that the Midland title, which she won 4 times, and I think all of us in Staffordshire should say to Dorothy "thanks for a great job, well done".

West Bromwich players again dominated the **Staffs. Closed** at Stoke and it was no surprise to see them in four of the five major finals. The one they missed out on was the men's singles where Wolverhampton's Keith Fellows beat last year's winner Tony Isaacs. Dot Deeley—you just cannot keep her out of the limelight—took the women's singles against Kath Perry before this pair joined forces to win the women's doubles against Ann Baker and Sue Warner. Stan Ward and John Pugh beat the Wolverhampton pair Jeff Robbins and Dave Jenkins to win the men's doubles.

West Bromwich were confident about their match with North Herts. and if they do get through this one, they are only one hurdle away from the final of the Rose Bowl.

Tickets are going well for the county dinner dance next month in Wolverhampton but for those who still require them, Mrs. Marion Colclough, 105 Rosemary Crescent West, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, will be glad to hear from you.

The Wolverhampton championships were completed successfully at the second attempt after the original date had been affected by the power cuts. The next tournament at the Woodfield club will be the Beattie Trophy on April 9. John Dainty takes over from Joe Carroll as Wolverhampton's new press officer so may I say welcome to the fold John. Wolves annual dance is on the 28th of this month.

Both the school centres at Highfield and Joseph Leckie report good progress. It has been quite a season for Highfield's Janet Carr. After making her mark in the school team, she has won the gold award, the Wolverhampton and Staffs. junior singles, and looks an extremely good prospect for the future.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Keith Ponting

In Round 3 of the National Club Championships (men's section), holders Ormesby travelled to Leeds to play Moor Allerton emerging 5-1 winners. Alan Jones got the home team off on the right foot by beating Jimmy Walker but from then on it was all Ormesby with two wins each for Denis Neale and Alan Ransome and a solo from Walker.

Penmaen made the long journey down from Boston, Lincs., to take on Norwich Lads' Club in East Anglia and made their trip worthwhile with a 6-3 victory. Brian Hill and Mick East each contributed a treble.

Derek Munt was in great form for Birmingham Central Y.M.C.A. in their 5-2 win over the Leicester Y.M.C.A. team. Dick Cooper also won two sets with G. Hughes and P. Randell replying for the home trio.

Once again, Barry White saw his team East Herts. Colleges (Cheshunt) home with three wins against Broomwade (High Wycombe). A. Hammond, with two wins, and C. Jackson, with one, added to the visitors' score. M. Sibley and J. Leith scored for Broomwade.

Fellows Cranleigh (East London) had it easy against Ellenborough (North Middlesex) with Ian Robertson, Robert Hellaby and David Bowles all in great form.

Philip Crane won the first set for the Merton Club (Bournemouth) but that was as far as they got against St. Annes (Staines) represented by A. Schooler, P. Shirley and D. Welsman.

To be completed by April 9, the quarter-final draw is:—

Ormesby (Middlesbrough) v.
Boston Penmaen (Boston)

Central Y.M.C.A. (Birmingham) v.
Manchester Y.M.C.A. (Manchester)

East Herts. College (Cheshunt) v.
Fellows Cranleigh (E. London)

St. Annes (Staines) v.
John Keble (Willesden)

Both Manchester Y.M.C.A. and John Keble had third round walkovers against Deepdale / Villa (Preston) and North Mundham (S.W. Sussex).

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European League

ENGLAND DOWN 2-5 TO CZECHO

by J. S. Penny

At Norwich Lads' Club on Mar. 9, 600 spectators watched England make a great effort against the unbeaten Czechoslovakian team to obtain that vital point which would lift them from the relegation spot in the Premier Division of the European League.

But despite this, they were soon 0-3 down; Neale losing to Orlowski, after leading 12-5 in the third: Barnes falling to Kollarovits at 17 in the decider and Jill Hammersley fading against World No. 3 Ilona Vostova, after beating her 21-12 in the second game.

Then came a tremendous recovery with Neale and Barnes sparkling against Orlowski and Kunz. With the score at 19-all in the decider, they then took the next two points to a roar of applause.

Once more Neale returned to the table, this time with Karenza Mathews against Orlowski and Miss Vostova. Again the set went to three with Denis and Karenza playing brilliantly to clinch the issue at 21-18.

For the third successive time, it was Neale's turn for action. Could he save the match against Kollarovits? Despite the handicap of playing a fresher player it did seem, at one time, that he might.

He took the first at 18, lost the second at 17, but took a 16-10 lead in the decider only for Kollarovits to level at 17-all, after which Denis was a spent force. But what a great effort it was.

The last set of the evening saw Chester Barnes and Milan Orlowski give, what was to all intents, an exhibition match which, despite humouring the crowd, still went to the Czech.

Individual scores:—

D Neale lost to M. Orlowski -15, 18, -18;
C. Barnes lost to S. Kollarovits -14, 20, -17;
Mrs. J. Hammersley lost to Miss I. Vostova -18, 12, -12;
Barnes/Neale bt J. Kunz/Orlowski 19, -15, 19;
Neale/Mathews bt Orlowski/Vostova 17, -12, 18;
Neale lost to Kollarovits 18, -17, -17;
Barnes lost to Orlowski -14, -14.

Prior to the European League match at Norwich, England had engaged the Czechs in two friendly encounters at Bracknell, on Monday, Mar. 6 and on the following night at Leicester.

At Bracknell, England were given an 8-1 drubbing, the one ray of sunshine being provided by Linda Howard when she beat Alicia Grofova after the Czechs had taken a 5-0 lead.

Scores:—

A. Hydes lost to Kollarovits 12, -21, -19;
N. Jarvis lost to Kunz -17, 11, -10;
Barnes lost to Orlowski 19, -14, -17;
Mrs. Mathews lost to Miss Vostova -15, -9;
Jarvis lost to Orlowski -22, -22;
L. Howard bt A. Grofova 17, 15;
Hydes lost to Kunz -12, -14;
Miss Howard lost to Miss Vostova -19, -11;
Barnes lost to Kollarovits -18, 18, -17.

A much improved performance was in evidence at the English Electric Sports and Social Club, Whetstone on the Tuesday when England took a 3-2 lead before going down 3-6.

Alan Hydes and Orlowski provided the curtain raiser to warm up the crowd with the Yorkshire left-hander allowing his opponent to steal both games for an opening Czech win. This was nulified when Nicky Jarvis, by way of celebrating his 18th birthday, accounted for Stefan Kollarovits in straight games.

Taylor began brightly against Jaroslav Kunz but, after winning the first game and losing the second at -20, spluttered out like a spent candle in the decider.

Again England levelled the match score when Karenza Mathews swept to victory over Miss Grofova with Hydes following suit, against Kunz, to put the home side ahead.

But from then on the tide turned and although in the last three sets a deciding game was hard fought it was in vain that England struggled.

Scores:—

Hydes lost to Orlowski -21, -24;
Jarvis bt Kollarovits 18, 17;
T. Taylor lost to Kunz 16, -20, -8;
Mrs. Mathews bt Miss Grofova 12, -11, 10;
Hydes bt Kunz -10, 21, 19;
Miss Howard lost to Miss Grofova -13, -18;
Taylor lost to Kollarovits 19, -16, -18;
Mrs. Mathews lost to Miss Vostova -10, 20, -19;
Jarvis lost to Orlowski -6, 19, -19.

UNDER-13 CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE national finals of these championships will be held at Northfield Y.M.C.A., Banbury Road, Birmingham 31, on Saturday, June 3, 1972 commencing at 1 p.m.

HYDES FOR CHINA

The E.T.T.A. is pleased to announce that Alan Hydes of Yorkshire has received news of a continuation of his Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship which took him to Japan in the autumn of 1971.

This will enable him to visit China in September for two to three months to study the training and coaching methods used by the Chinese teams.

The news was recently conveyed to the E.T.T.A. through the Chinese Embassy in London. It will be the first visit of a Winston Churchill Fellow to the People's Republic of China and further cements the relationship between the Table Tennis Associations of the two countries.

On receiving the information Alan Hydes said "This is the news I have been waiting for ever since I returned from Japan in December. It will give me the opportunity to learn a great deal about the training methods of the Chinese players and use this information to help develop the game when I return to England".

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN

THE Teesside Corporation have recently agreed to sponsor these championships which will be held at Thornaby Pavilion, on Saturday/Sunday, May 20-21, 1972.

It is hoped to attract a strong European entry as it will be a good proving ground for the teams entering the European Youth Championships which are to be held in Denmark in early August.

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U.A.U. AFFAIRS

by Peter Simpson

THE University teams were the guests of the R.A.F. at Stanmore, Middlesex. In a close and exciting match, the men's team beat the Air Force 7-3 with Brian Mitchell and Mostyn Lewis of Birmingham University winning maximum sets. The highlight of the match was between Dick Clode and Tony Clayton with Clode coming out the winner, 17 in the third.

Results:—

A. Clayton bt G. Wilson 12, 13; lost to D. Clode 17, -16, -17.
B. Mitchell bt Clode 12, 12; bt Wilson -18, 11, 11.
C. Brewer lost to B. Cullis -10, -18; lost to E. Bradshaw -19, 15, -14.
M. Lewis bt Bradshaw -14, 15, 12; bt Cullis -18, 14, 16.
Brewer/Clayton bt Bradshaw/Wilson 11, -18, 19.
Lewis/Mitchell bt Clode/Cullis -18, 11, 18.

Meanwhile, the women's team were beaten by the W.R.A.F. despite having the British U.S.F. women's finalist and ex-New Zealand champion, M. Bridson, winning maximum sets. The W.I.V.A.B. team was not at full strength and the result was W.I.V.A.B. 4 W.R.A.F. 6.

J. Benedict lost to J. Thomas -8, 21, -16; lost to J. Gallichan -13, -9.
J. Bearcroft lost to Gallichan -5, -6; lost to J. Thomas -16, 20, -15.
M. Bridson bt M. O'Haylon 10, 9; bt N. Sothcott 14, 12.
J. Cheetham lost to Sothcott -13, -8; bt O'Haylon 11, 15.
Bearcroft/Bridson bt Gallichan/Sothcott 17, 17.
Benedict/Cheetham lost to O'Haylon/Thomas -17, 11, -11.

U.A.U. TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE Annual Universities' Team Championships took place at Surrey University. Southampton, team champions for the past four years, were ousted 9-4 by Birmingham's team of Mitchell, Lewis, A. Selcuh, S. O'Neale and J. Maloney. Both Mitchell and Maloney had three wins each with O'Neale winning two out of two in the first semi-final.

In the other semi, Aston beat Liverpool 8-2, Tony Clayton obtaining the losers two successes.

Aston's team of Alan Fletcher, K. Fellows, A. Morris, F. Wong and G. Musteo did well to beat Birmingham in the final. Fletcher did particularly well to win his three sets including a reversal of his U.A.U. Championships defeat by Mitchell, but he was fortunate to beat the Turk, Selcuh, when the score was 4-3 in Ashton's favour. Birmingham rallied to equate the score at 6-all but were finally beaten 9-6.

W.I.V.A.B. TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

AT Liverpool University, the women were fighting for supremacy. In the first semi-final, Exeter beat Sheffield 7-2 and Hull accounted for Leeds 6-5.

Exeter's side of J. Benedict, L. Crosby and D. Fidida proved too strong for the weakened Hull team of P. Kelf, J. Bailey and K. Ford who were beaten 7-2. Pat Kelf won the two singles for the Yorkshire University.

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From the Editor's Postbag

SOUTH YORKS OPEN

Our League Committee were very concerned to read the critical remarks contained in last month's Open Tournament notes about the South Yorkshire Open and I would like to make the following points in reply:-

1. Although complaints were said to be "numerous" not one has been received by myself or by any member of the organising committee and the article was the first indication we had that such complaints had been made.
2. The claim that entries received well before the closing date were refused is utterly untrue as every entry received two days before the closing date was accepted, and the entries returned were strictly treated on the "last received, first out" basis.
3. It is admitted that five players were allowed into the draw on the day of the tournament to take the place of players who had scratched. This was done with the full knowledge of the Referee, the feeling being that players who had travelled considerable distances in the hope of a game should be accommodated if at all possible.

May I say in conclusion that it was unfortunate that over 60 entries had to be refused for this popular tournament and my feeling is that such complaints as have been made most probably emanate from competitors who left their entry until the last possible moment, a common failing in table-tennis circles.

Keith Robinson,
Hon. Tournament Secretary,
Sheffield & District T.T.L.
62, Twentywell Road,
Sheffield. S17 4PW.

ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS - 1972

I was instructed by the Association to prepare a more attractive Friday evening programme for this season's English Open, and would be interested to hear comments on the programme produced. For the benefit of those not at Brighton, this was

(1) two quarter-final Men's Singles.
(2) two quarter-final Men's Singles.
(3) two semi-final Women's Doubles.
(4) two semi-final Men's Singles.
(5) two semi-final Women's Singles.
(6) two semi-final Men's Doubles.

One comment I have heard was that the Friday evening was **too** good, with so many matches of quality that the watcher was sated at the end: this comment was coupled with disappointment that the Saturday morning consisted of Mixed Doubles and no other Senior event. May I invite your readers to let me know their views on this?

Through the columns of your magazine I would like to thank all those who contributed to making this one of the most successful Championships of recent years. This thanks includes not only my own Committee but also the Umpires without whose help as ambitious a programme as that carried out could not even have been contemplated.

JOHN M. WRIGHT,
Hon. Referee,
English Open T.T. Champs.
124 Rusthall Avenue,
Bedford Park, London W.4.

SOON FORGOTTEN

ON reading through the Chairman's Welcoming Message in the English Open programme this year I noticed that he states "It is ten years since England produced a winner of a Singles event although Team and Doubles events have been won on a number of occasions since that time." I would like to point out that I won the Ladies' Singles event at Brighton in 1967, which was only 5 years ago.

I feel that all too often the English players are criticised for their efforts, and it is sad to note that, when we do in fact win something important it appears to be forgotten all too quickly.

MARY WRIGHT.
20 Burghfield,
Epsom, Surrey.

NULL-NULL AT HAGEN

IN the Federal German Open at Hagen, the English umpiring squad, in addition to three days of almost non-stop umpiring, were honoured to be given the Women's Team final and two of the individual finals — the men's singles and doubles.

With very few exceptions, all matches were conducted and scored in German, an achievement of which they can be justifiably proud.

The members of the squad wish to record, via this magazine, their appreciation of the excellence of the hospitality and friendliness shown to them by the German hosts, officials and umpires, during the championships and at the Ball and Prizegiving afterwards.

Many useful exchanges of views about the Laws and other aspects of the game were made, between the French, Dutch, German and English umpires, of much interest and benefit to all, helping to prove the value of these exchanges of umpires.

JIM SYKES,
Squad Leader.
58 Beechwood Park Road,
Solihull, Warwicks.

England Abroad

by The Editor

At the invitation of the Dutch Association, intent on giving their top players a thorough workout prior to the European Championships, an England quartet, comprising Alan Hydes (captain), Nicky Jarvis, David Alderson and Simon Heaps, undertook an exhaustive four-match tour over the period Mar. 13-17.

That they returned to these shores undefeated and Jarvis was unbeaten in fourteen sets speaks volumes for the manner in which we, in addition to the Dutch, placed a serious intent on performance.

Results:-

Mar. 13 at Steenwigk.

Netherlands 6, England 10.

Hydes bt C. Deken 16, 11; lost to F. Schoofs -20, -18; bt B. Schoofs 12, -17, 12; bt H. Lingen 15, 12.

Jarvis bt F. Schoofs -8, 15, 15; bt Deken 14, -17, 19; bt Lingen 19, 18; bt B. Schoofs 17, 14.

D. Alderson bt B. Schoofs 16, 18; bt Lingen 22, 18; lost to Deken -14, -16; lost to F. Schoofs -19, -13.

S. Heaps lost to Lingen 23, -18, -17; lost to B. Schoofs -14, -12; lost to F. Schoofs -19, -20; bt Deken 12, -19, 14.

Mar. 14 at Renkum.

Netherlands 2, England 6.

Hydes bt N. v. Slobbe 13, 14; bt B. Schoofs 20, 15.

Jarvis bt B. v. d. Helm 14, 15; bt Deken 18, 14.

Alderson bt Deken 16, 19; bt v. d. Helm -16, 17, 11.

Heaps lost to B. Schoofs 14, -16, -9; lost to v. Slobbe 12, -18, -13.

Mar. 15 at Veenendaal.

Netherlands 4, England 12.

Hydes bt v. Slobbe 19, 21; bt H. Hopman 12, 18; bt v. d. Helm 21, 9; bt Lingen 12, 10.

Jarvis bt Hopman 14, 16; bt v. Slobbe 15, 12; bt Lingen 11, 21; bt v. d. Helm -21, 12, 11.

Alderson lost to v. d. Helm -21, -15; lost to Lingen -8, 15, -17; lost to v. Slobbe -14, -18; bt Hopman 13, 23.

Heaps lost to Lingen -19, 19, -8; bt v. d. Helm 16, 14; bt Hopman 18, -18, 12; b v. Slobbe 17, 16.

Mar. 16 at Heerlen.

Netherlands 6, England 10.

Hydes bt Deken 20, 16; lost to v. d. Helm -19, -18; bt B. Schoofs 17, 16; lost to F. Schoofs -19, -14.

Jarvis bt v. d. Helm 12, 15; bt Deken 17, 11; bt F. Schoofs 19, -18, 14; bt B. Schoofs 10, -19, 14.

Alderson bt B. Schoofs -13, 19, 22; lost to F. Schoofs -20, -17; lost to Deken -10, -19; bt v. d. Helm -18, 17, 15.

Heaps bt F. Schoofs 16, 17; lost to B. Schoofs -15, -13; lost to v. d. Helm -19, -12; bt Deken -17, 22, 14.

Individual records of England's players were:—

A. Hydes	Won 11	Lost	3
N. Jarvis	Won 14	Lost	0
D. Alderson	Won 7	Lost	7
S. Heaps	Won 6	Lost	8

IN SWEDEN

Despite being beaten 5-4 by Federal Germany in their opening match, an English trio comprising Karenza Mathews (captain), Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard came out on top in a four-nation women's team event played at Solvesborg, Sweden on Mar. 18. Final placings were:- 1. England, 2. Sweden, 3. Federal Germany, 4. Denmark.

Results:-

England 4, Federal Germany 5

K. Mathews bt K. Kruger 16, 15; lost to W. Hendriksen 19, -15, -19; bt M. Kneip -20, 20, 7.

J. Hammersley bt Kneip 13, -19, 19; bt Kruger 10, 10; lost to Hendriksen -20, -8.

L. Howard lost to Hendriksen -15, -10; lost to Kneip -18, -17; lost to Kruger -16, -11.

England 3, Sweden 3

K. Mathews lost to L. Andersson 17, -17, -11; bt A. C. Johansson 11, 15; bt U. M. Gustavsson 16, -17, 20.

J. Hammersley bt Johansson 15, 7; bt Gustavsson 18, 12; bt Andersson 9, 19.

L. Howard lost to Gustavsson -12, -11; lost to Andersson -13, -20.

England 5, Denmark 0

K. Mathews bt K. Lyngholm 4, 5; bt B. Andersen -17, 18, 13.

J. Hammersley bt S. Poulsen 11, 8; bt Lyngholm 6, 5.

L. Howard bt Andersen -17, 9, 18.

On the following day, at Lund, Linda Howard, who throughout the trip was suffering from a heavy cold, reached the semi-final of the girls' singles where she lost to Kirsten Kruger -19, -12. But, in partnership with Karenza, won the women's doubles with final victory over Wiebke Hendriksen and Monica Kneip.

English results:-

J.G.S.: Linda Howard.
Rd. 2: bt Agneta Nilsson 10, 16.
Q-F: bt Ann Nilsson 10, 13.

W.S.: Jill Hammersley.
Rd. 2: bt M. Borggren 3, 11.
Q-F: bt K. Lyngholm 4, 10.
S-F: lost to W. Hendriksen -18, -10.

Karenza Mathews.
Rd. 2: bt B. Andersen 8, 19.
Q-F: lost to L. Andersson -13, 20, -19.

Linda Howard.
Rd. 1: bt Ann Nilsson 4, 4.
Rd. 2: lost to Kruger -16, -15.

W.D.: Howard/Mathews.
S-F: bt Hammersley/Kruger 16, 18.

Hammersley/Kruger.
Rd. 1: bt Moller/Segerstrom 8, 5;
Q-F: bt Lyngholm/Poulsen 20, 9.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service in honour of the late Victor Barna will be held in St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London E.C.4. at 12 noon on Saturday, April 29th.

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OPEN TOURNAMENT SURVEY

as collated by the Editor from details supplied by LAURIE LANDRY, ALAN MORPETH and DEREK SCHOFIELD

After the 'three ring circus' at Brighton's Dome and Corn Exchange, the more mundane domestic scene got under way with the Northumberland 2-Star Open at the Ministry of Social Security's No. 1 canteen at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Mar 11.

Lacking the 'big' names, possibly due to a clash with the Welsh Open, a men's singles entry of 128 and a women's of 30, plus 46 in the boys' singles, was well up to standard numerically.

Brian Johns, Cheshire's fifth-ranked England Junior, was the player to 'steel' the show by winning, not only the men's singles title, but the men's doubles (with brother Ian) and the mixed with Janice Green, daughter of the Cheshire County match secretary.

In the men's singles, the England Junior accounted for Mick East in the quarters and county colleague Brian Kean in the semis but, inexplicably, went down to Durham's Peter Edon in the semi-final of the boys' singles, won by Brian Alderson of Teesside.

Sheffield's Judith Walker chalked up another success in the girls' singles but lost to Jean White in the semi-final of the women's singles. The Lincolnshire player went on to win the title by beating West of Scotland's Lesley Barrie whose semi success was against Connie Moran.

On the following day in the Lancashire 2-Star Junior Open, at Bolton's Institute of Technology, thirteen hours of non-stop play had its climax for John Kitchener when, in the closing stages of the boys' U-17 event, he beat two higher-ranked England Juniors to win the title.

In the semi-final, the Ipswich boy accounted for Donald Parker and followed this up by disposing of the same Brian Johns whose weekend gallivanting was beginning to show. But all credit to Kitchener who was fully deserving of the title.

Paul Day won both the U-15 and U-13 junior boys' events but was denied a repetition of his Burford treble when ousted from the more senior of the singles events by Philip Ward of Teesside.

Karen Rogers had a most comfortable win over Lancashire's Brenda Williams in the final of the U-17 girls' singles but was, surprisingly beaten by Gillian Locke in the U-15 singles.

Yorkshire's Aston University student, Alan Fletcher, was a triple champion at the East of England 2-Star Open, played at the West Common Sports Hall, Scunthorpe, Lincs, on Mar. 18.

The former England Junior international, from Hull, won the men's singles, the doubles (with Michael Wright) and the mixed with Judith Walker.

Young Wright, also from Hull, won a second title when taking the junior boys singles, but Sheffield's Miss Walker failed in the final of the girls' event despite putting up a great fight against Anita Stevenson.

Susan Lisle, now at Liverpool's Edge

Anita Stevenson (Leicester) winner of the girls' singles at Scunthorpe.

Hill Teacher Training College, was also given a run for her money by Miss Walker, in the women's singles, but had little difficulty in disposing of Sandra Walters in the final.

The boot was on the other foot in the women's doubles, however, when Mrs. Walters, partnered by Mandy Mellor, triumphed over Miss Lisle and Miss Stevenson.

Shocks abounded over the weekend of Mar. 25-26 at the Newbury 2-Star Open, played in the Corn Exchange, with Sheila Hamilton leading the way, in the women's singles, by beating, successively, Janet Hellaby, Suzanne Kavallierou and Karenza Mathews! But it was the steadiness of Susan Howard who eventually brought the Middlesex girl down to earth.

Although the title did go to Miss Howard, it was sister Linda who won it.

In the men's event, Gary Harding, a Group 'A' England Junior, accounted for Laurie Landry (10, 13) and top England Junior, Peter Taylor (16, -17, 21) before falling to Alan Hydes after taking the first game from the Yorkshire senior international.

The much travelled Brian Johns was on the scene again with an early victory over Graham Blomfield (14, 17) and a good win over Brian Burn (-21, 20, 17). His good work was nullified, however, when he lost to Ian Robertson in the quarters.

Andy Mitchell had a shock win over Simon Heaps (-14, 13, 9) but lost to Trevor Taylor, the eventual winner, in the quarters.

Burn and Roger Chandler had a walk-over in the final of the men's doubles when Barry Meisel phoned up to say his car had broken down and couldn't make it, tendering due apologies to his partner, Hydes.

Karenza Mathews, in partnership with David Jemmett, had a good mixed semi-final win over Hydes and Miss Kavallierou but the Middlesex combine were seen off in the final by the Essex veteran Ken Beamish paired with Shelagh Hession.

Winner of the boys' singles was Ian Horsham who, after accounting for Peter Taylor in the semis, came back to beat Heaps in the final after dropping the first game. Linda Howard strolled to success in the counterpart girls' event. Janet Hellaby offering only token resistance in the final.

Results:-

Northumberland 2–Star

Men's Singles: Final:
B. JOHNS (Ches.) bt P. Hoyles (Nthld.) -15, 17, 19.
Women's Singles: Final:
J. WHITE (Lincs.) bt L. Barrie (Scotland) 10, 16.
Men's Doubles: Final:
B. JOHNS/I. JOHNS (Ches.) bt D. Schofield (Ches.)/T. Stevenson (Yorks.) 11, 16.
Women's Doubles: Final:
L. BAINBRIDGE (Durham)/**J. WALKER** (Yorks.) bt C. Moran (Lincs.)/White 20, 14.
Mixed Doubles: Final:
B. JOHNS/J. GREEN (Ches.) bt M. East (Lincs.)/White 13, -19, 16.
Boys' Singles: Final:
B. ALDERSON (Yorks.) bt P. Edon (Durham) -13, 12, 18.
Girls' Singles: Final:
WALKER bt Green 7, 13.
Veteran Singles: Final:
SCHOFIELD bt T. Donlon (Ches.) 13, 21.

Lancashire 2-Star Junior

Under-17 Events
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
B. Johns (Ches.) bt A. Martin (Yorks.) 13, -14, 13;
R. Wiley (Yorks.) bt A. Barden (Middx.) 18, -12, 16;
J. Kitchener (Suffolk) bt B. Alderson (Yorks.) -14, 19, 20;
D. Parker (Lancs.) bt P. Ward (Yorks.) 19, 13.
Semi-finals:
JOHNS bt Wiley 18, 16; KITCHENER bt Parker 18, 19.
Final:
KITCHENER bt Johns 15, 15.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
K. Rogers (Leics.) bt S. Read (Essex) -16, 13, 11;
J. Green (Ches.) bt S. Manning (Lancs.) 12, 9;
B. Williams (Lancs.) bt M. Mellor (Derbys.) 12, 18;
C. Stonell (Essex) bt G. Taylor (Essex) 17, 17.
Semi-finals:
ROGERS bt Green -18, 11, 11; WILLIAMS bt Stonell 16, -17, 9.
Final:
ROGERS bt Williams 13, 12.
Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
M. BAWDEN (Essex)/JOHNS bt Barden/P Day (Cambs.) 11, 14;
PARKER/P. RILEY (Lancs.) bt J. Nix/S. Taylor (Warwks.) 19, 10.
Final:
BAWDEN/JOHNS bt Parker/Riley 22, -11, 12.
Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
B. KIRKMAN (Lancs.)/Manning bt Green/Rogers 19, -12, 21;
READ/TAYLOR bt Mellor/Williams -15, 17, 15.
Final:
KIRKMAN/MANNING bt Read/Taylor 18, 11.
Under-15 Events:
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Wiley bt Kitchener 11, -21, 18;
Barden bt N. Hallows (Lancs.) 13, -17, 15;
P. Edon (Durham) bt A. Cotton (Warwks.) 12, 10;
Day bt C. Rogers (Leics.) 8, 14.
Semi-finals:
WILEY bt Barden 8, -20, 17; DAY bt Edon -21, 12, 19.
Final:
DAY bt Wiley 20, 14.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Rogers bt C. Reeves (Berks.) 15, 16;
Mellor bt K. Wilson (Yorks.) -18, 15, 17;
Manning bt Stonell 10, 12;
Taylor bt Williams 13, -19, 15.
Semi-finals:
ROGERS bt Mellor -17, 20, 11; TAYLOR bt Manning 22, 12.
Final:
TAYLOR bt Rogers 20, -15, 19.
Under-13 Events:
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Day bt N. Gledhill (Lancs.) 16, 8;
D. Newman (Essex) bt A. Stonell (Essex) 10, 11;
Rogers bt M. Thirkettle (Yorks.) -19, 7, 19;
Barden bt S. Cowley (Lancs.) 13, 17.
Semi-finals:
DAY bt Newman 2, 14; BARDEN bt Rogers 15, 14.
Final:
DAY bt Barden 19, -14, 10.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Dewhurst (Lancs.) bt E. Clare (Lancs.) -11, 17, 9;
J. McClean (Yorks.) bt N. Carne (Yorks.) 12, 7;
Wilson bt L. Crook (Lancs.) 7, 9;
L. Wales (Sussex) bt J. Black (Lancs.) 18, 13.
Semi-finals:
McCLEAN bt Dewsurst 15, 11; WALES bt Wilson 19, 11.
Final:
WALES bt McClean 22, 14.

East of England 2-Star

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:
A. SAUNDERS (Notts.) bt M. Askham (Yorks.) 18, -17, 12;
A. FLETCHER (Yorks.) bt S. Kosmowsky (Yorks.) 16, 11.
Final:
FLETCHER bt Saunders 11, 4.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals:
S. LISLE (Lancs.) bt J. Walker (Yorks.) 17, 22;
S. WALTERS (Derbys.) bt J. White (Lincs.) 7, 12.
Final:
LISLE bt Walters 10, 15.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
FLETCHER/M. WRIGHT (Yorks.) bt L. Oram/P. Skerratt (Lincs.) 13, -16, 13;
R. BROWN/M. DUNNE (Warwks.) bt B. Mayfield (Notts.)/Saunders 8, 14.
Final:
FLETCHER/WRIGHT bt Brown/Dunne 19, 22.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
LISLE/A. STEVENSON (Leics.) bt C. Moran (Lincs.)/G. Stocks (Yorks.) 9, 16;
M. MELLOR (Derbys.)/WALTERS bt S. Broadbent (Yorks.)/Walker 11, 17.
Final:
MELLOR/WALTERS bt Lisle/Stevenson 14, 21.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
FLETCHER/WALKER bt W. Moran (Lincs.)/B. Shaw (Notts.) 12, 16;
N. ECKERSLEY (Ches.)/LISLE bt G. Hughes (Leics.)/Stevenson 16, 17.
Final:
FLETCHER/WALKER bt Eckersley/Lisle 18, -20, 20.
Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
WRIGHT bt S. Morley (Lincs.) -20, 9, 18;
G. KEERS (Notts.) bt R. Brooks (Yorks.) 11, 11.
Final:
WRIGHT bt Keers 20, 16.
Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
WALKER bt J. Burbage (Lincs.) 13, 12;
STEVENSON bt Mellor -22, 11, 8.
Final:
STEVENSON bt Walker 16, -16, 18.

Newbury 2-Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
T. Taylor (Essex) bt A. Mitchell (Kent) 12, 5;
R. Chandler (Sussex) bt I. Horsham (Essex) 19, 13;
I. Robertson (Essex) bt B. Johns (Ches.) 17, 19;
A. Hydes (Yorks.) bt G. Harding (Berks.) -19, 11, 16.
Semi-finals:
TAYLOR bt Chandler 14, 16; HYDES bt Robertson 9, 10.
Final:
TAYLOR bt Hydes 19, 18.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
S. Howard (Surrey) bt S. Hamilton (Middx.) 11, 17;
B. Bird (Kent) bt S. Hession (Essex) 16, 19;
J. Heaps (Ches.) bt J. Williams (Sussex) -14, 14, 13;
L. Howard (Surrey) bt D. Simpson (Essex) 6, -19, 16.
Semi-finals:
S. HOWARD bt Bird 18, 19; L. HOWARD bt Heaps 13, -19, 19.
Final:
L. **HOWARD** bt S. Howard 12, 18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
HYDES/B. MEISEL (Kent) bt A. Chilvers/R. Thornton (Berks.) -19, 20, 14;
B. BURN (Warwks.)/CHANDLER bt B. Johns/I. Johns (Ches.) 14, -18, 19.
Final:
BURN/CHANDLER w.o. Meisel/Hydes.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
HOWARD/HOWARD bt T. Dale (Essex)/A. Painter (Middx.) 17, 15;
HESSION/WILLIAMS bt Bird/S. Kavallierou (Sussex). (No scores).
Final:
HOWARD/HOWARD bt Hession/Williams -18, 21, 18.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
K. BEAMISH (Essex)/HESSION bt Chandler/Williams. (No scores).
D. JEMMETT/K. MATHEWS (Middx.) bt Hydes/Kavallierou 22, -16, 12
Final:
BEAMISH/HESSION bt Jemmett/Mathews 18, 16.
Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
S. HEAPS (Ches.) bt R. Aldrich (Middx.) 15, 14;
HORSHAM bt P. Taylor (Beds.) 17, 16.
Final:
HORSHAM bt Heaps -20, 12, 14.
Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
L. HOWARD bt K. Rogers (Leics.) 16, 12;
J. HELLABY (Essex) bt A Stevenson (Leics.) -17, 12, 14.
Final:
HOWARD bt Hellaby 10, 13.
Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
MITCHELL/S. PRESTON (Middx.) bt Heaps/Taylor 18, 16;
ALDRICH/HORSHAM bt Harding/B. Johns -14, 14, 19.
Final:
ALDRICH/HORSHAM bt Mitchell/Preston 13, -16, 7.
Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
G. LOCKE (Essex)/K. MASHFORD (Berks.) bt Hellaby/L. Howard -12, 18, 16;
J. GREEN (Ches.)/C. REEVES (Berks.) bt Rogers/Stevenson -15, 20, 15.
Final:
GREEN/REEVES bt Locke/Mashford 23, -12, 18.
Junior Mixed: Semi-finals:
ALDRICH/L. HOWARD bt B. Johns/Green 10, 20;
HORSHAM/STEVENSON bt Harding/Reeves 18, 12.
Final:
ALDRICH/HOWARD bt Horsham/Stevenson 13, 19.
Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
J. BAXTER (Herts.) bt A. Shepherd (Essex) 8, 24;
BEAMISH bt P. Benning (Berks.) 4, 7.
Final:
BEAMISH bt Baxter 20, 14.

Basic Principles of Tournament Scheduling

by Colin Clemett,
Hon. Sec. N.U.R.C.

The inclusion of questions on tournament scheduling in the Referee qualifying examination has prompted a number of requests to the NURC for guidance on the subject. While there can be no hard and fast rules on a subject which depends so much on the judgment and preference of individuals, there are some basic principles which are a general application. Scheduling means the preparation of a time-table for the events in a tournament and for the matches in these events, so as to fit the programme to time and the number of tables available. This article will attempt to deal with the scheduling of events and a later article with the more detailed question of scheduling matches.

Scheduling has four main purposes. First, to determine the number of matches that can reasonably be played during the period of the event and hence the number of entries that can be accepted; second, to ensure as far as possible that time is not wasted through players being required for several events at the same time; third, to reduce the length of time that players spend waiting between matches while ensuring that they have sufficient rest periods and, finally, to simplify the work of the organisers by limiting the number of competitors who have to be dealt with at a time and to assist in planning mealbreaks, staged finals and similar fixed items of the programme.

Except in the unlikely circumstances of having sufficient time to play each event separately, it will be necessary to overlap successive events so that the order of play is important if clashing is to be avoided. It is best to alternate men's and women's events, or boys' and girls', and it is, of course, important to remember that most juniors will also compete in the senior events where these are played on the same day. The one event in which no overlapping can safely be planned is the mixed doubles and it is generally safest to stage this event on its own, either at the beginning or at the end of the programme. (In practice, it may often be possible to play some mixed doubles matches earlier than scheduled, as players and tables become free) . Having selected the order, the best method is to play through each event as far as is possible without undue waste of playing time due to the rest periods necessary between matches. It is tempting to alternate, say, successive rounds of the men's and women's singles but this usually leads to very uneven intervals between matches and seldom, if ever, to any saving of time.

In addition, if the entries for the two events are similar in number, there will be difficulty in overlapping with the succeeding event without clashing, as both men and women will be still competing in the late rounds at about the same time. Unless the entry is very small in relation to the number of tables available it is usually possible to play several rounds of an event without any vacant tables before introducing matches from another event.

As an example, in an event with 64 entries to be played on 8 tables, at least the first three rounds should be played before any matches of the next event and the remaining two rounds should be played at the first available intervals between rounds of the next event. The aim should be to enable players to complete their commitments in an event and have a reasonable rest period before starting play in another event, to avoid the all too common problem of finding, towards the end of the tournament, that the same few players are required to play in later rounds of a singles event and one or two doubles.

Limitations of space make it impossible here to deal comprehensively with all the problems of scheduling, but it is hoped that the preceding brief paragraphs give some idea of the general approach to the task and that the next article will fill in more of the detail.

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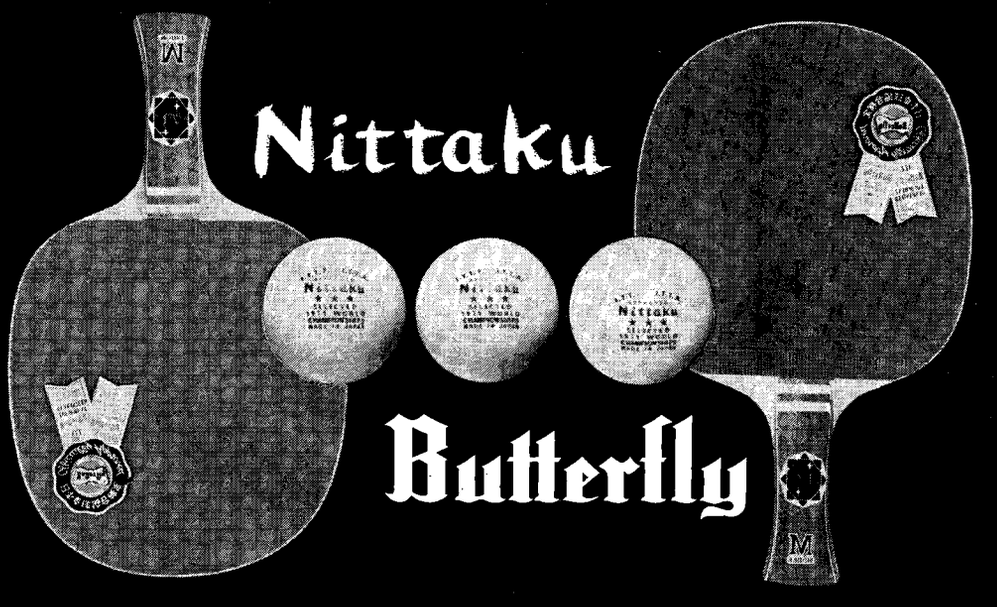

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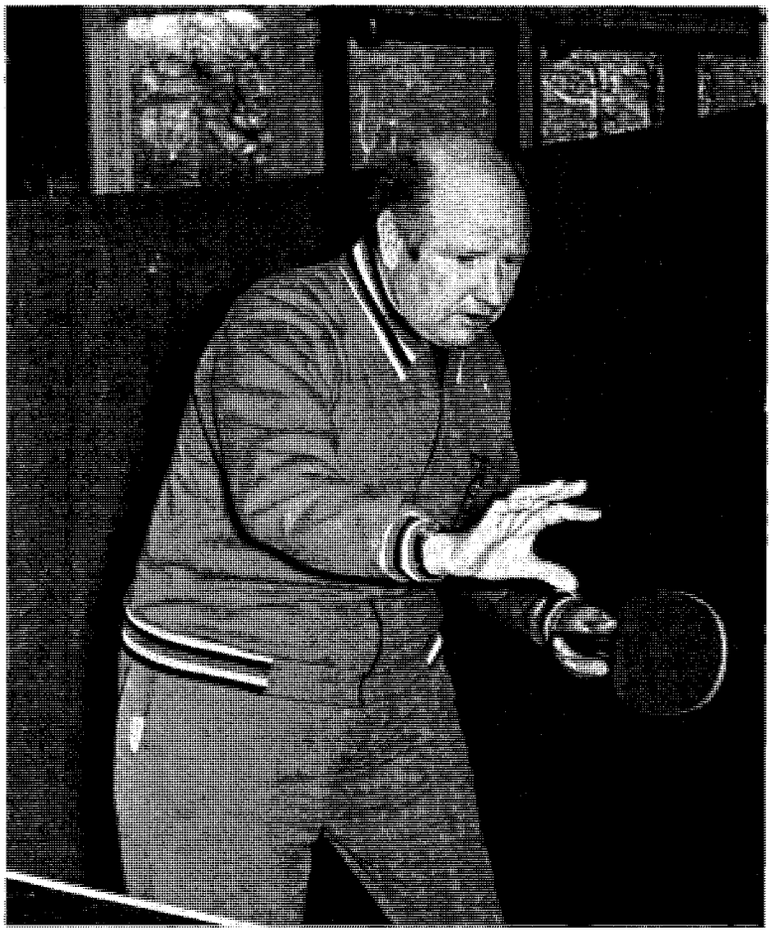


Northern Coaching Panel Chairman Harry Dignam, commands attention in this typical pose. photo by John O'Sullivan.

IN THE COACHING FIELD

with John O'Sullivan

IT did not take me long to discover the difficulties that can arise when one takes the first faltering steps in journalism. Take, for example, information that is relevant at the time of writing which, by the time it reaches the reader is not only out of date but also untrue!

I made reference to the National Finals of the English Schools' T.T.A. team championships due to have been played on March 19. Since then I have learned that they were postponed and will now take place at Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday, May 13.

Having, in the March issue, given some indication as to how the National Coaching Scheme works, I hope that it is a little more obvious to the bulk of players who have not had the advantages of some that it is highly organised, and most efficiently run, by a staff much too small to cope with the enormous demands made on it.

It is a great pity that more people cannot observe, at first hand, the activities on a course arranged at one of the Nationals Centres under the direction of one of the E.T.T.A. Staff Coaches. Unfortunately, the facilities are such that they cannot accept spectators.

I attended one of these courses, at Lilleshall on March 7, run by Bryan Merrett with the assistance of 2-Star Diploma coaches, Barry Hayward who is a County Coaching Officer, and Peter Coleman. Helping to shed the load were other 1-Star and Club Coaches.

The students came mainly from Birmingham and comprised, in the main, of the Warwickshire County Junior squad. It was most encouraging to note the attendance of leading senior players as well led by Derek Munt.

Derek is especially useful on these occasions as he makes a most efficient 'feeder' and thus enables the coaches to set certain exercises without having to worry about the ball not being returned.

During the day, which was hard work for all, Derek never seemed to lose patience and it was only towards evening that he showed any sign of fatigue. No wonder he appears so fit at tournaments. Although most other senior players were contacted to give of their services, few even bothered to reply. Good old Derek Munt!

May I say, at this point, that any county player need not be backward in contacting his local coaching officer if he or she can assist.

INADEQUATE

The course proved not only successful, but also completely inadequate. In organising the course 34 students could be catered for, but there were 78 applications which is proof enough that the demand for coaching of this nature is far in excess of the accommodation available.

We can, therefore, be thankful for other centres such as the ones arranged in Birmingham, on a weekly basis at Brandwood, Washwood Heath and Nechells Park Schools. All these centres are well attended and keep a supply of young talent moving into the league clubs.

April is a very busy month for Bryan Merrett even outside of his coaching duties. After Easter there is the European Championships in Holland and international matches against Hungary. Subsequently he will have a session with the Gloucestershire junior squad and make an appearance in Oxford. But, according to his diary, it does seem a little confusing that on April 7 - 9, he will divide himself between Lilleshall and Teesside!

As previously stated, I know little of the activities within the Eastern Region, but it has been brought to my notice that at least one man is doing his best to see that coaching in that area is not neglected.

I refer to D. J. Barrett who has been coaching for over a decade and noting his list of activities, which reads like a telephone directory, he would appear to be like a one-man army, holding down positions from National Councillor to Junior Development Secretary in his native Suffolk.

The one point in his career that fascinates me is that, in 1962, he was coaching in a convent. I wonder if we will ever see a Nun in the ranking list! The information I have on Mr. Barrett would warrant an article in itself but, for now, suffice it for me to say that Suffolk owe a debt of gratitude to this hard working gentleman. Not that I am suggesting that there is nobody else in this area worthy of mention, I am learning all the time.

LEA GREEN

Over the week-end of March 10-12, I attended a course organised for student coaches at Lea Green in Derbyshire. The course organisers were Staff Coach Peter Simpson and Northern Coaching Panel Chairman, Harry Dignam.

You will have, no doubt, noticed the frequent 'digs' introduced into these notes about so few people willing to help out. But at Lea Green it was a welcome sight to see players willing to train as coaches to help others enjoy a sport and even attain County and National honours.

Although it is a good sign to see that student coaches are coming forward, it was also noticeable that more could have been accommodated on this particular course.

It is even more disappointing when it is realised that not only is Lea Green the most picturesque centre in which to hold a training camp, situated in the hills above Matlock, but help is also on hand from experienced coaches such as Doug Foulds and his wife Kath. Kath Foulds must be one of the most popular physical training instructors in table tennis, especially with the male students who will work themselves to death—all to the sound of Pop music. At least Derek Schofield will!

When this particular course came to an end, the first comment from a student was "When is the next " This, in itself, shows the popularity of such courses with the students who do attend, even if the organisers do have their moans about more people not registering as student coaches.

BLACKBURN

The Centre at Blackburn Y.M.C.A. is still a success if the number of juniors attending the sessions is the yardstick of calculation. If, on the other hand, in terms of coaches attending, failure must be chalked up.

It is a sad reflection on any county, when three or four coaches, out of two dozen or more, cannot attend one session per month. I would hate to close on a sad note so may I conclude by saying that I have just returned from the Lancashire Junior Open having witnessed some great play by youngsters from all over the country and this pleases me no end. I hope to see more good table tennis at the National Schools' finals which are always worth watching. Care to join me?

Peter Simpson, Northern Staff Coach, also has a point worth noting by Kath Foulds at Lea Green. photo by John O'Sullivan.

In this month's

CONTROVERSY

John Woodford pursues Charlie's Theme . . .

I WILL pledge wholehearted support to Charlie Davies' story in last month's issue "Shake Up the Bandwagon Merchants"; I will go further and say that I agree basically with Charlie's two main points, (a) a concerted thousand-letter attack on the national newspaper offices is a good (but not a new) idea and (b) E.T.T.A. officials cannot expect splash publicity if they lock up all the material.

Not wishing nowadays to count the number of years I have worked for newspapers, my experience over the years has been that the Press always have jumped on to any sort of bandwagon and as far as I can see they always will! Rightly or wrongly this is journalism. I see no hope of trying to persuade editors throughout the country that their policy of, for example, jumping on the Chinese tours vehicle is sinful, harmful or even wrong.

Now about the letter bombardment: All successful protests require organisation. I see no hope of progress unless a body of persons - the obvious choice is the E.T.T.A.'s Publicity Committee dig in on the spadework in time for the start of next season.

All affiliated leagues will need to be contacted in writing with an appeal to persuade at least 50 players to write to the national newspaper offices. Fortunately, the actual letters written by the players need only be short, crisp and to the point asking for more table tennis news and especially the major tournament results.

If this could be achieved, with the leagues reporting back so that we know things are happening, I will join Charlie Davies in forecasting success.

There is a snag of course — it goes without saying that the editors and sports editors are not gullible enough to imagine that the arrival of these missiles is coincidental. They will know that they are being subjected to an organised campaign, but fortunately, so many readers moan but never think of writing about their complaint, that the effect should still be dramatic but harmless.

The facts which have to be hammered home, how many thousands of table tennis fans look in vain for tournament results etc., can easily be circulated by the Publicity Committee. The target papers as I see it will be the Daily Mirror, Daily Express, Daily Mail, The Sun, The Times, The Guardian, The Observer and perhaps one or two others. Newspapers usually like to reply to such letters — they will have some task! But before we laugh too loud, so have we on the Publicity Committee.

All we would ask of you players and supporters is say 15 minutes of your time and a 2½p stamp. I am willing if required to play a major part in the organisation of this project.

A final word on the question of what E.T.T.A. officials should reveal and when their lips should be sealed —it's not quite as simple as Charlie makes out. When I take off my Press hat and put on the official's headgear I have often seen the danger of being labelled a complete idiot by saying something that is strictly off the record, especially if I had to answer to the National Council, with the greatest respect to that body, of course. All sections of the Press can create embarrassment but sometimes, that is the price that has to be paid for publicity. We cannot have it both ways.

HANDBOOK ERRATA

PLEASE note that the telephone number of Mr. Arthur Upton, Councillor for Lancashire, should read 051-928 3529.

DUNLOP SPORTS COMPANY

Dunlop Sports Company Limited announce that broadly, Michael Thornhill will deal with the overseas aspect of table tennis promotion and W. "Bill" Evans will perform the same function in regard to the United Kingdom.

When overseas players visit this country, both Mr. Thornhill and Mr. Evans will be involved and both will attend the forthcoming European Championships.

SALES SERVICE

THE latest addition to the range of goods available are E.T.T.A. Cuff Links. Attractive in design with the three leopards in gold on a blue background, they are priced at £1 per pair.

TRAINING CAMPS

TWO national training camps will be held this month, one at Crystal Palace N.S.C., for juniors and one at Middleton St. George, Darlington for seniors.

The camp at Crystal Palace will be an Anglo-French venture and provides further evidence of the support given by Coca-Cola for our junior training programme. Five boys and five girls from each country will train and practise together, from April 4-8.

The camp at Middleton St. George, from April 4-9, will be for the team selected to represent England at the European Championships in Rotterdam which commence on April 15.

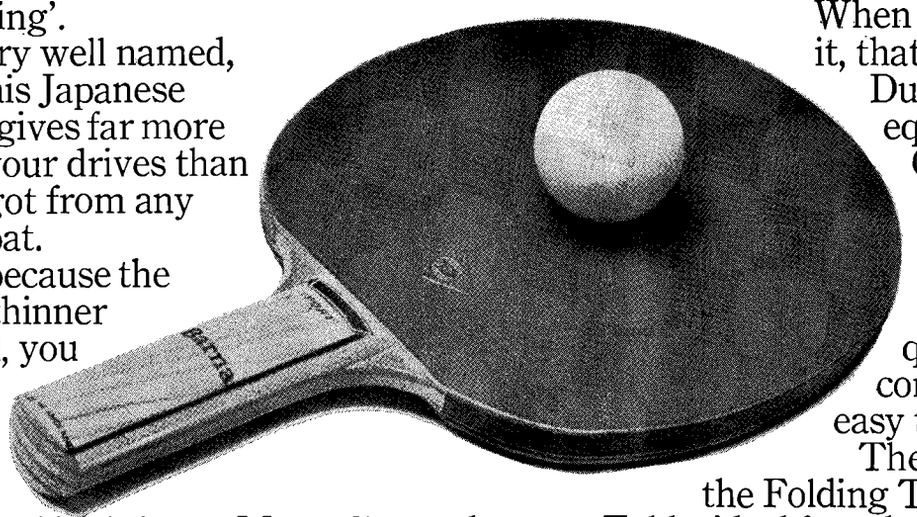
The new 'Hikari' lightning rubber unit

A new formula rubber with more resilience than ever before. Exclusive to the Dunlop Maxply Fort.

It's called "Hikari", and that's Japanese for 'lightning'.

It's very well named, because this Japanese discovery gives far more power to your drives than you ever got from any ordinary bat.

And, because the rubber is thinner than usual, you get more play out of the sponge.

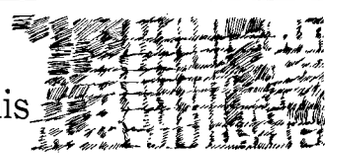


More control in defence. More all-round subtlety. The sponge itself is a new formula as well. We call it Silver Sponge.

Hikari rubber and Silver Sponge. All new. And all exclusive to the Dunlop Maxply Fort Bat.

The Barna Super Ball is another Dunlop exclusive. With its improved sphericity, the ball now has a better, more consistent bounce. And every single one plays with the same feel. Plays better, and lasts longer.

When you come to think about it, that's true of all Dunlop's Table Tennis equipment. The Barna Championship Table, for instance. It's been adopted for many of the world championships. Because it's got star quality. It's sturdy, yet compact and easy to store.



Then there's the Folding Table Tennis Table, ideal for school and club use. It's light, stable and gives you absolutely uniform response.

Bat covers, nets, posts and, of course the Dunlop Barna Clothing range.

E.T.T.A. Lincoln Lottery

by Albert W. Shipley, Promoter.

May I, through the columns of our magazine, express my thanks to those associations who took part in the E.T.T.A. Lincoln Lottery this year. The gross sales of tickets reached the record sum of £4,500 which means that £2,250 will be given back to the Counties, Leagues and Clubs who took part.

The Lottery provides a no-risk method for associations to raise funds by reason of the 50% rebate on ticket sales and I would ask all League and County Committees to consider taking part next year even if only to offset the increase in E.T.T.A. fees.

Special thanks are due to the main supporters of the Lottery such as Middlesex, Warwickshire, Yorkshire, Wales and Reading but pride of place this year must go to the Pioneers Boys' Club, in Dunstable, Beds., who sold £220 worth of tickets, thereby earning over £100 for Club funds !

WINNERS

First prize of £250 has been won by W. Walton, 32 Reeves Avenue, Kingsbury, London NW9 8LP whose winning ticket was numbered 225853 and drew him the horse **Sovereign Bill.**

Second prize of £50 was won by E. H. Hood, 51 Novi Lane, Leek, Staffs. with ticket 118005 which drew the horse **Dowdstown Charley** and the third prize of £25 was won by T. Williams, Tycelyn, Upper Chapel, Brecon with ticket 10566 and third-placed **Medicinal Compound.**

£3 goes to all other runners.

County Notes Supplement

SUSSEX NOTES

by ROBIN PIERCE

SAMMY OGUNDIPE

Photo by John Carter

SUNDAY, March 19, 1972, will be a day that Brighton's Sam Ogundipe will always remember. On that day, after ten years of trying, popular Sam won the men's singles in the Sussex 'Closed' championships.

To win the crown Sam defeated two men who have handed him many a thrashing over the years, Crawley's John Clarke, much improved since he came down to Sussex from Bolton, and Roger Chandler, now No. 11 on the English ranking list.

Those who are keen followers of the game will remember that it is only a few months since Sam was getting thumpings from everyone in sight. Now he has got used to the anti-top-spin bat he is another player.

In the semi-final Ogundipe's acrobatic defence must have seemed like a brick wall to Chandler. I have not seen Sam so fleetfooted for years. Roger was the hot favourite, having thrashed Sam at the recent Chelmsford Open, but the Nigerian international came through 13, -20, 16.

Once Clarke was some way down in the first game of the final he went for expedite. Why Chandler did not try the same tactics we shall never know. The rule was invoked at 18-14 in Ogundipe's favour and he hung on to go one up.

Most people thought Sam would be in dire trouble, and so it seemed as John swept through the second game at 21-13 and established a commanding 13-8 lead in the decider.

Some of Sam's hits went on, that's enough to upset all but the very best. In a minute or two it was 13-all. John's confidence began to ooze away.

At 18-all Ogundipe took the lead with a backhand return that most of us dream about. But it was a nightmare for Clarke. To a great burst of cheering Sam won the point that mattered to get home at 21-19.

No major upsets, unless the defeat of No. 3 seed, Linda Woodcock, by Hasting's Susan Franklyn can be counted as such, in the women's singles.

Judy Williams won in a canter and it was rather disappointing to see her final opponent, young Suzanna Kavallierou, left floundering so often by Judy's positional play.

One young man, 14-years-old Gerald Pugh of Crawley, caught the eye of many players and officials. He reached the quarters in the men's singles, defeating the top junior, Stephen Marley, on the way, and won the Intermediate event. The unfortunate Marley was his victim yet again.

Results:

M.S.: S. Ogundipe (Brighton) bt J. Clarke (Crawley) 18, -13, 19.

W.S.: Miss J. Williams (Eastbourne) bt Miss S. Kavallierou (Worthing) 15, 17.

M.D.: R. Chandler/Clarke (Brighton) bt R. Stace/A. Downer (Brighton) -16, 12, 14.

W.D.: Miss Kavallierou (Worthing)/Miss L. Woodcock (Eastbourne) bt Miss Williams (Eastbourne)/Mrs. G. Brown (Brighton) 12, 14.

X.D.: Ogundipe/Miss Williams bt Clarke/Miss Kavallierou 11, 16.

Men's Intermediate: G. Pugh (Crawley) bt S. Marley (S.W. Sussex) 12, -19, 19.

Women's Intermediate: Miss A. Terry (Crawley) bt Miss C. Randall (Brighton) 20, 14.

Men's Veteran: J. Barry (Hastings) bt J. Mileham 18, 14.

Women's Veteran: Mrs. H. Batt-Rawden (Brighton) bt Mrs. J. Denman (Brighton) 5, 13.

Gerald Pugh's maximum, he beat England-ranked juniors Kenny Reeve and Keith James, was a great help to Crawley when they took on Plymouth in the Coca-Cola Carter Cup quarter-final. Crawley won through 5-4

Linda Woodcock shocked Susan Howard into a 14, -12, 17 defeat when Eastbourne challenged Guildford in the inter-zone final of the Rose Bowl. She almost had Linda Howard as well, making the England No. 4 save four match points in the third game.

Guildford won 6-3 but knew they had been in a match.

Not such a sweet goodbye for Worthing who were well beaten by Barking at the same stage of the Wilmott. Mike Mclaren won one and sickness gave Worthing their other tie.

A hand injury to Ogundipe kept him out of the Sussex v. Middlesex Premier County clash. The side was well beaten at 1-8. Looks like relegation for the 2nd South side who lost to Middlesex II after enjoying a 4-2 lead.

There were two reserves in the side, Andy Meads (Crawley) and Angela Mock (Eastbourne). Andy did pick up a win but Angela, hard as she tried, could not quite make up for the loss of Linda Woodcock.

Hard-working Bernard Rowley and Ken Merret are full of the joys of spring now that the juniors are booked for the play-offs. They have every hope that their team of Stephen Marley, John Avey, Gerald Pugh, Alison Terry and Christine Randall are way out in front in Junior South.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

DESPITE their fine win over Surrey II, Hampshire's match against Bucks. could still decide not only who goes through to the Premier play-off, but who is relegated to the Southern Division. For this vital match the County have chosen Chris Pickard, Chris Shetler Keith Summerfield, Daphne Gray and Celia Hutchings. Jeff Spencer after some indifferent form lately is dropped.

In the inter-town league, Bournemouth "A" virtually clinched the retention of the mixed Division 1 title with a 7-5 win over their closest rivals Basingstoke. Wins by Joyce Coop and Jean Smith provided the mainstay of Bournemouth's win although Trevor Smith, Brian Pickard and Phil Crane each gained one success. For Basingstoke, Bob Thornton maintained his unbeaten record.

Likely relegation candidates are Portsmouth "B" and the Isle of Wight. Bournemouth "B" and Aldershot are both unbeaten in the second division and almost certain of promotion although the championship will not be decided until these two teams meet.

The first Junior Division is headed by Southampton "A" with 11 points from 6 matches, followed by Gosport with 9 points. It is unfortunate that this championship could be decided by a disputed match between Southampton and Bournemouth, with Bournemouth's last minute cancellation leaving Southampton in a somewhat embarrassing position which should not have been forced upon them.

Bournemouth "B" and last season's champions Basingstoke "A" are almost certain to be relegated. Southampton "B" having won all 8 of their matches are certain of the championship and promotion from the 2nd Division with Aldershot likely to join them. With two matches each to play the men's division is still in doubt between the Isle of Wight, Aldershot and Basingstoke. Bournemouth, with an unbeaten record are certain to be the first champions of the veterans' division.

I think this is the stage to congratulate Southampton in reaching the quarter-finals of the Wilmott Cup for the end of the road looks likely to have been reached with an away draw to East London. Southampton's fine win over Wembley should be judged by the fact that their opponents have previously beaten Willesden last year's finalists.

SOUTHAMPTON CLOSED

Few surprises in the early rounds of the Men's Singles with all eight seeds reaching the quarter-final. At that stage Bill Moulding accounted for Martin Gilbert; Chris Shetler beat the holder for the past two seasons Phil Brown; Jeff Spencer beat Keith Summerfield and Terry Bruce upset the ranking slightly by knocking out Ray Lush. The semi-final draw placed together the 2 Four T's players and the two Snow's players and at that stage Spencer beat Bruce 15, -12, 14 and, in a great set, Shetler beat Moulding 19, -19, 18. The first two and a half games of the final produced somewhat mediocre table tennis with Spencer's (Four I's) consistency taking him to a 10-3 lead in the third. This lead extended to 18-11 and although Shetler (Snows) was at last producing his true form Spencer still looked very much a winner at 20-16, but six points on the trot for Shetler gave him the title. This is the first major title for Chris, and, in fact, none of the semi-finalists had previously won this event.

The women's final was not a good spectator set with the young County player, Celia Hutchings (Four T's) easily beating a very nervous and out-of-touch Leslie King (Alpha) 18, 13. Leslie had earlier gained revenge for her Hampshire Closed defeat by Susan Harding and Celia had beaten Linda Skinner in her semi.

Lush and Moulding (Snows) beat Bruce and Spencer (Four T's) 16, 22 in the men's doubles final.

Juniors, Leslie King and Susan Harding did well to beat the experienced Kay Waters and Celia Hutchings in the women's doubles -17, 13, 17. Again juniors did well in the mixed. Gary Longland and Susan Harding came back to win a semi against Spencer, and Christine Houston -10, 20, 20 after trailing 10-20 in the third! In the final however Moulding and Celia Hutchings held too many aces and won 12, 13. Southampton President, Ray Yates, beat the holder, Jim White 14, 8 in the veterans' final.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

The great event in Norfolk during the past month was, of course, the vital European League match between England and Czechoslovakia at the Lads' Club, King Street, Norwich, on Thursday, Mar. 9. It was a sparkling Table Tennis occasion. All the leading E.T.T.A. officials from Chairman, Charles Wyles, downwards, seemed to be there. Secretary Derek Tremayne acted as a lucid and informed Announcer, greatly adding to the pleasure of the match.

The audience of about 600 was not quite as great as the 750 in the European League match against Sweden on Dec. 5, 1968, but was greater than, at one time, with the power cuts, we had feared.

The arrangements made by Norwich League, who staged the match on behalf of E.T.T.A., seemed admirable. Congratulations to Len Miller, the Norwich Secretary, and his band of helpers. Len gave a television interview before the match, and also acted as an umpire during it.

It was especially pleasing that the E.T.T.A. had appointed Ken Turner, Norfolk's National Umpire, as a Referee for this occasion, the first time a Norfolk man had been appointed.

The teams were presented to the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Alderman Don Pratt, and to the President of Norwich League, Mr. Tom Stevenson, by the E.T.T.A. Chairman. The attractive young lady who led the English team into the arena was Diane Whitwood, daughter of Norwich Committee member, Gordon. All the pre-match ceremonies helped to set the seal on a great occasion. The television cameras and lights also added to the atmosphere, and the B.B.C. are to be congratulated on the film they produced.

Before the start we were asked to stand in memory of Victor Barna. Later in the proceedings, an announcement of quite a different character informed us that Denis Neale had become the father of a daughter that morning.

Battle then commenced, and, as is reported separately, Czechoslovakia triumphed by 5 sets to 2.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George R. Yates

Liverpool's Wally Allanson was the surprise winner of the men's singles event in the first Lancashire Closed Championships played at the Harris Technical College, Preston on Mar 18.

His resolute defence carried him to a semi-final success over top seed Philip Bowen and final victory over Jack Keogh. Barbara Kirkman, another Liverpudlian, was the winner of the women's singles which attracted such a sparse entry as to be classified as a non-event.

Arthur Hartshorn brought off a unique double by adding the Closed veterans' title to that of the Lancashire Open won earlier in the season at Bolton.

Results:-

M.S.: *Semi-finals*:
W. Allanson (Liverpool) bt P. Bowen (Manchester) 11, 20;
J. Keogh (Burnley) bt B. Farnworth (Farnworth) 14, 16.
Final: Allanson bt Keogh 17, 13.
W.S.: *Semi-finals*:
B. Kirkman (Liverpool) bt H. Jane (Liverpool) 8, 11;
S. Williams (Farnworth) bt B. Wilkins (Preston) 7, 15.
Final: Kirkman bt Williams 15, 13.
M.D.: *Final*:
Allanson/Keogh bt A. Hartshorn (Burnley)/P. Rowe (Nelson) 19, 8.
B.S.: *Semi-finals*:
P. Riley (Bolton) bt B. Crook (Preston) 20, -18, 13;
M. Foulkes (Blackpool) bt C. Barratt (Bury) 11, -22, 13.
Final: Riley bt Foulkes 10, 12.
G.S.: *Final*:
Kirkman bt Jane 9, 16.
V.S.: *Final*:
Hartshorn bt F. Thomas (Blackburn) 15, 18.

Farnworth added the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy to the Division 2 (North) Lancs. and Ches. League title when, at Oldham on Mar 25, they accounted for Bury (6-3) in the semi-final, and Burnley (6-3) in the final. In the other semi, Burnley disposed of Lancaster and Morecambe by a similar score. Farnworth's winning team comprised of Bryn Farnworth, Bob Kelly, Clive Heap and Sybil Williams.

Still unresolved, by reason of outstanding matches, is the Div. 1 title of the Lancs. and Ches. League.

Farnworth, with an unblemished record, have assured themselves of promotion from Div. 2 (North) and Chester will accompany them from Div. 2 (South).

Manchester have regained the Women's Div. 1 title from Stockport who, with one match remaining against Blackpool, cannot overhaul Liverpool for the runners-up position. In Div. 2, Liverpool 'A' are again the champions.

Lancaster and Morecambe are the undisputed champions of the Junior Div. (North) and, similarly, Stockport reign supreme in the South section.

Annual General Meeting date for the combined Lancashire and Cheshire Associations is Friday, May 19. Venue is the East Lancashire Paper Mills Social Club. Cheetham St., Radcliffe which is some 200 yards from Radcliffe railway station. Time of commencement - 7-30 p.m.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

FOR the past four seasons, Yorkshire have had one of the best junior sides in the country. Yet, for the past four seasons, circumstances have contrived to deny the County the top junior championship title. This season, two 4-6 reverses against Cheshire and Essex ended our title hopes, but with no disrespect to the counties mentioned, I feel that Yorkshire failed to capitalise on the chances they had to win, or at least to draw, these matches. Very frustrating.

At the time of writing, Yorkshire's other three sides are still in title chases. The destiny of the Premier Division title could have been decided at Pontefract on April 1, when Yorkshire meet Essex. The second team's clash with Cheshire should decide the Second Division North, whilst the second junior team had to lose 1-9 or 0-10 to Durham to avoid winning the Junior Division North.

In the Junior Division of the Yorkshire League, Barnsley's unbeaten record was well dented, 9-0, by Middlesbrough, for whom Brian Alderson, Robert Wiley, P. J. Ward and Pat Clements conceded only 2 games against Glyn Hydes, David and Melvin Starkie and Pat Buckley.

Keith Guy was a quadruple champion at the Halifax Closed, winning MS, MD, XD and U-20 YS. Results:
M.S.: K. Guy (YMCA) bt W. Mount (Old Crossleyans) 13, 6;
W.S.: Mrs. J. Bottomley (Mackintosh) bt Mrs. B. Beardsley (Mackintosh) 21, -15, 16;
M.D.: Guy/P. Mancy (Hospitals) bt G. W. Barnes/G. Thompson (YMCA) 18, 8;
W.D.: Mrs. Beardsley/Mrs. Bottomley bt Miss L. Melton/Miss F. Sutcliffe (YMCA) 15, 6;
V.S.: G. Kidd (Old Crossleyans) bt D. Oddy (Nomads) 11, 15;
U-20: Guy bt Y. Baluk (Rawdonians) 12, 9;
U-17: M. Kowalski (YMCA) bt P. Walker (St. Andrew's) 19, 12;
U-15: G. Thompson (YMCA) bt A. White (YMCA) 15, 18.

Over in Harrogate, David Shaw's long reign as M.S. champion was ended by Wanderers club colleague Alan Jones, who plays for Leeds in the Yorkshire League. Jones won a long and fascinating match (-19, 11, 17) Earlier, Jones and John Troughton (Villa) just lost a hectic MD final -17, 17, -20 to Hospital Board pair Peter Campkin and Tony "Hosh" Marshall.

In Barnsley, the North End club could be set for a unique treble — Division 1, 4-a-side (Section "A") championship and the Handicap K.O. The first season of the Barnsley Schools' League seems certain to result in a double triumph for St. Helens, the boys having already won their section and the girls having defeated nearest rivals Oaks 6-4. Lillias Hamilton, Barnsley's women's champion, celebrated her 250th appearance for her club, Barnsley North End, in February.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by "Moonraker"

Amongst county events hit by electricity cuts were both the Senior and Junior Closed, the 2nd Division West home game with Cornwall while the County League suffered a four week stand-still.

May 7 is the revised date for the Wilts Closed at Melksham's Christie Miller Sports Centre with entries for the MS, WS, MD, WD, MXD, VS plus consolation singles for both men and women again to Mr. Pete Harford, 7, New Road, Bradford-on-Avon.

This year's male title-holder could so easily come from anyone of the current top five seeds, e.g. Tony Wolff (Jun-Swindon), Roy Smith (West Wilts), Bill Moulding (Salisbury), Richard Arney (West Wilts) and Dick Clode (Swindon) while though Valerie Webb (West Wilts) gains her first recognition in the Women's Rankings, holder Alison Boyce (Devizes) may find the current form of Swindon's Gwen Hazell (2) and Devizes' Margaret Alexander (4) a real challenge. Pity third seed Helen Rusby (Devizes) has undoubtedly hit a bad patch just as she was becoming to show much promise.

It's always a pleasure to welcome new officials, especially County Umpires—of which Wiltshire can rightfully boast of seven active members—with the addition to the ranks of Swindon's Don Webb.

At the same time warm congratulations go out to National Councillor and National Referee Kathleen Waters (Salisbury) upon her inclusion in the Referee's List for the ensuing season, also to County Secretary Fred Jennings (Swindon) and Swindon League Secretary Alf King upon their promotion to National Umpires.

County Umpires, Arthur Catchpole and John Ford, are also prominent in other spheres in the game. Arthur being chairman of the Salisbury League besides carrying out the role of County Championship Rep. for Wilts' 2nd Division West side while John Ford is West Wilts Results, Registration and Team Competition Secretary besides being Team Manager of the Wilts Junior Division West side. John Candy—a former county champion—is Wiltshire's other C.U.

Whilst on the subject of congratulations it gives me much pleasure to extend the Association's best wishes to our popular President Alf Bown, M.B.E. who has recently been made an honorary freeman of the Borough of Swindon and also a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire.

Despite an early March backlog of 58 matches, John Ford was confident that through the co-operation of club officials the West Wilts League's Annual Presentation Evening at the Unigate Sports Social Club, Trowbridge, will go ahead as planned on April 22.

HUNTINGDON & PETERBRO' NOTES

by David Obee

With a 4-1 lead in hand the County senior team looked certain to take at least a point in their most recent match, against Suffolk. It was not to be however, for the visitors staged a fighting recovery to take the last five sets and the match. This leaves the County pointless at the time of writing with fixtures against Norfolk and Northants to come.

This season's County "closed" championships, once again held at Peterborough's "Wirrina" Stadium on 9 tables ran with clockwork percision but the results, with the majority of the finals contested by the "old hands", were not encouraging from the County standpoint. New names will however go on the men's and women's singles trophies, Gordon Cockram and Diana Bushby.

They beat Alan "Gus" Albon and Susan Richards in their respective finals, both in one-sided encounters. Earlier Albon had scored his usual win over Paul Charlton in the first men's semi whilst Cockram had beaten Len Saywell in three games.

Closest set of the night was the men's doubles where Albon/Haslop inched home at deuce in the decider against Charlton/Obee to repeat their win of last season. Other results were:—
X.D.: Albon/Miss B. Webb bt Saywell/Miss B. Chamberlain.
V.S.: C. Dale bt H. Fox.
W.D.: Mrs. D. Bushby/Miss Webb bt Mrs. E. Allinson/Miss J. Allinson.

The County's Junior "closed" tournament has been provisionally arranged for late April

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Ian R. Crickmer

It now looks more than likely that Worcestershire's interest in the Promotion Challenge matches on April 29-30 will be confined to the organisation of the event at Redditch Youth Centre.

The defeat at the hands of Glamorgan II at Aberdare was hard to bear, and the Worcestershire contingent were clearly more severely handicapped by the lack of concentrated lighting and of adequate runback than were the home side.

It is certainly unfortunate that the architects of these fine new sports centres often seem unaware of the specialist requirements of the sports using their facilities.

However, one wonders whether at County match level basically defensive players can gain much success against the modern game—in terms of figures, Ian Schofield did better in the juniors' encounter against Michael Owen, than did Belcher and Bell at senior level.

Another disappointment was to learn that there are substantial arrears of fixtures in the County League programme; although the electricity cuts were a partial contributory factor, it certainly seems that the administrative work of some of the team secretaries has been sadly lacking !

The need to create a really attractive League with all the leading players of the County in regular contention will clearly again be a major topic for discussion at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Walter Reeves

Derby men's team are having their best ever season in the Midland League having recently beaten Bristol 6-4 and held Worcester to a 5-all draw.

Whether this will be good enough to gain them second place and a chance of promotion to Division 1 remains to be seen. They go into their final match against Leamington with a real incentive to win, for the final placings may well depend on set averages.

These improved results have come as a direct result of Doug Foulds changing his bat to an anti-spin with which he won 3 sets against Worcester. The Leamington result will depend on the support he receives from his colleagues Chris Francis and Frank O'Sullivan.

Chesterfield's run in the Wilmott Cup ended with a 4-5 defeat by Preston. However, it is still a good result for a Derbyshire side and sets an example for the town's younger players to equal.

The County Challenge Cup is approaching its final stages and handicaps are being re-assessed at the quarter-final stage. Teams remaining are Rolls Royce and Old Sheltonians (Derby), British Gypsum (Burton), Alfreton Sheepbridge I and II (Chesterfield), Leopards (Matlock), St. Andrews II (Derby) and Church Gresley (Burton).

Handicaps are to be based on County level to try and solve some of the complaints of previous seasons when teams reached the quarters only to find the handicaps unrealistically calculated.

MANDY MELLOR

(Photo by courtesy of Sheffield Newspapers Ltd.).

The Derby Individual Championships resulted in a triumph for Doug Foulds once again, for the third successive season. Together with Dave Stills, Doug also recaptured the men's doubles title from holders Albert Hough and brother Brian Foulds.

There is a distinct possibility of Denis Neale playing in the Derbyshire Closed and if so his mixed doubles partner will be young Mandy Mellor of Chesterfield.

SURREY NOTES

by Geoff Ryan

A narrow 4-5 defeat at the hands of Kent means the first team go into their last match at home to Lancs. having to secure two points to avoid the big drop. Thus an identical situation has developed from this time last season when a 5-4 win over Sussex preserved everyone's dignity. "Connie" Warren has served the team well from the No. 1 spot but has suffered from a lack of backing.

The 2nd team are having a very successful season thanks mainly to anchor man Paul Beck enjoying his best-ever season in maroon and blue. His partnership with Paul Bishop has produced some notable scalps and exciting play. The Juniors are holding their own in the Premier division although some problems have kept Mick Kercher fully employed.

The Croydon League are holding their 25th Anniversary Presentation Dinner & Dance on Thursday, May 18 at Grants (6-45 for 7-15). Tickets priced at £2-75 are limited and will be available from Ken Joyes at 6 Court Avenue, Old Coulsdon.

The Redhill and Reigate League staged their best-ever closed championships recently when the organisers received 350 entries for the six events. A very high standard of play was achieved over the two days culminating in the final session where 14-year-old Gerald Pugh had an outstanding semi-final victory over Keith Horton but the greater experience of Mike Maclaren told in the end.

Thames Valley boys' team in the Carter Cup, having accounted for Southend in the inter-zone final now face Barking. The team of David Harding, David Bangerter and Peter Matthews have taken the league further than any previous side in this competition.

Now comes a plea from Miss Sue Gardner who is principal of the Croydon School for Physically Handicapped children who is anxious for any help both financial or material in obtaining table tennis equipment for their school at Lambourne House, 103, Pampisford Road, South Croydon. Anyone in a position to assist should contact her at this address.

"Connie" Warren's club at Larkhall will be open during the summer where Malcolm Sugden will be supervising fitness classes on Wednesday evenings.

DURHAM NOTES

by Fred Inch

Two young men from the same club, namely Hartlepool St. Joseph's of the Murton League, have recently won the men's singles championships at their separate universities.

Michael Wright was triumphant at Bath University and Paul Freeman followed suit at Durham University. Indeed, Paul was a triple champion, for he also won the men's doubles (with Allan Terry of Durham) and the mixed with Miss Linda Hewitson.

With Durham seniors firmly anchored at the foot of Division 2 (North) of the County Championships and the Junior having been pipped by Lancashire, for a crack at the promotion play-offs for the Junior Premier, the season draws to a close. The hope for next season is that the first team will not again have such rotten luck and that the Juniors will eventually gain Premier status.

Stockton have championed both the Men's and Junior Divisions of the County League competition with Sunderland taking the Men's 2nd Division and the Women's.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Robin Lockwood

Having beaten Oxfordshire, Herts. II and Hants. II, the seniors had only to take one point from Bucks. II to win promotion to Division 2. On Saturday, Feb. 26, the match took place, at the Berkshire College of Education, Reading, and Berks. duly gained the requisite point—not without a few palpitations, however ! With a few minutes to go before the match Arthur Chilvers, the Berks. No. 2, had failed to put in an appearance ! The playing order was revised and reserve Duncan Campbell moved in at No. 3, with Gary Harding moving up to No. 2.

The tie was then played and Berkshire succeeded by 9 sets to 1—Duncan losing the only set to Pete Leckie. Mention must be made of the Bucks. No. 1, Leith, who took both Harding and Bob Thornton (Berks. No. 1) to deciding games. In the women's singles, Joyce Taylor proved far too steady for Mrs. Wooding, winning 16 and 3 ! Joyce and Caroline Reeves easily won the women's doubles.

The Berkshire team and officials then assembled in a local hostelry to 'toast' their success. The unfortunate Arthur Chilvers, who had got lost on his way to the match, cheered up considerably by the end of the celebration session. Officials' note:—Berkshire had 2 National and 4 County Umpires 'doing their stint' at this tie.

Berks. juniors, who lost to Sussex in the first match of the season and then improved to beat Hants. and draw with Kent II, proved that these latter results were no flukes by beating Oxfordshire 10-0 and Herts. II 7-3. The Oxfordshire tie took place at A.E.R.E. Harwell and Tony Stevens opened the account with a close 12, -13, 20 win over F. Bashir. The only other game for Oxfordshire was gained by T. Smith when losing 20, -14, -16 to Brian Sweetzer. Gary Harding, Karen Mashford and Chris Whittingham were the other Berks. representatives. The match against Herts II, which took place at the College on the same day as the senior match against Bucks. II, was kept alive by the energetic and determined play of 11-year-old R. Jermyn, the Herts No. 1, who beat Stevens 19, -16, 10 and then combined with Miss D. Roseberry to win 16, 20 in the mixed. This was a bad day for Tony, who lost the final set 20, -19, -18 to P. Roseberry. Harding, Caroline Reeves and Sweetzer all played well—especially Brian, who beat M. Webb 10, 8 !

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

It looks fairly certain that the Newbury league will win both the men's and women's section of the Western Counties League both having yet to taste defeat this season despite having played their nearest rivals.

In the *Men's Division,* Plymouth had an easy 9-0 win over Swindon II while, at home, Exeter beat Bristol 7-2. It was good to see young Chris Sewell playing for Bristol and he did well to extend Mike Rundle to a deciding game.

That very popular stolid defender, Ron Bowles, excelled for Bristol in accounting for Exeter's star player Mike Rattue, as well as Rundle. His only loss was to Paul Stone whose maximum paved the way for Exeter's win.

Weymouth, in the *Women's Division,* lost 4-5 at home to Swindon thus giving their opponents their first win of the season. Weymouth's star was Janny Vass to whose maximum young Cherry Seviour, in winning her first-ever Western League set, was responsible for the other home win. She beat K. Hazell 22-20 in the decider.

Newbury, at home to Devizes, won 8-1 although the score hardly does justice to the visitors. Mrs. Masters and Miss Taylor had good maximums while Miss C. Reeves lost only to Miss Boyce.

Away to Swindon, Plymouth won 8-1 with Nancy Hollywood and Barbara Pearson recording maximums and Mavis Scott losing to Kath Leslie. Devizes did well in their home match with Plymouth winning 7-2.

Congratulations to Mike Rattue who recently won the Devonshire Closed men's singles title beating Barry Davis. Two further titles came Mike's way when, with Paul Stone and Pam Mortimer, the men's and mixed doubles titles were annexed.

Pam was also a triple winner beating Barbara Pearson in the singles and, in the doubles, pairing up with Jean Crosby, beating Mrs. Hollywood and Mrs. Pearson.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

Paul Randell, as expected, retained his Leicestershire Closed Men's Singles title when he beat No. 2 seed, Graham Hughes, in the final. He went through without dropping a game and also retained his Intermediate Singles Trophy, won the Men's Doubles (with Hughes) and the Mixed (with new partner Pat Kilsby). Not a bad performance for an 18-year-old !

Karen Rogers was hardly less successful. Without Anita Stevenson there—on International duty—she was hardly extended. Karen took the Women's Singles, Girls' Singles and Women's Doubles (with mother Jose). The "Ida Perry Memorial Trophy" was presented in memory of Karen's grandmother, a supporter of table tennis for twenty years. The trophy was for Girls' Singles and it was rather appropriate that Karen should be the first winner.

Chris Rogers won the Boys' Singles and the Under-15 Singles but shock, though deserved winners in the Junior Doubles were Paul Dawson and Brian Wright. Yet another Rogers figured on the winners list. John Rogers (father of Chris and Karen) took the Veterans' Singles title after a fine set with Phil Overend.

Oddly, one of the best finals was the Consolation Singles in which junior Dave Barry narrowly defeated John Bryant at 19 in the third. Sadly, both these players will be performing further afield next season. Dave is to emigrate to Australia whilst John has moved on business to Pontefract, where he is already creating an impression.

Leicestershire completed their best-ever season when the seniors defeated Herts. 6-4 whilst the Juniors beat Staffs. 7-3, only Philip Rowe making much impression. Janet Billson's debut for the seniors was most impressive.

Big news in the county was of course the selection of Anita Stevenson to play against Wales and Karen Rogers against Scotland. Whilst the standard of the boys is not quite so good, it is improving rapidly and hopes are high that in the not too distant future we shall see a junior boy wearing an England shirt.

Leicester's hopes in the Bromfield Trophy went with a 5-4 defeat by Liverpool. Karen Rogers played superbly for the Leicester side, winning all her 3 sets.

A full house attended the International match—England v. Czechoslovakia — and they were rewarded with some exciting play. A new type of floor covering—supplied by En-Tou-Cas — was used and appeared effective, except for a couple of occasions when Nicky Jarvis, for some reason not readily apparent, appeared to skid on it !

Midland League-wise, Leicester have now only to draw with Wolverhampton to top the Men's 1st Division. Whilst nothing is certain it would be rather an under-statement to say they are optimistic ! Hinckley's relegation dangers have now been dispelled, a pleasing feature here being that Stuart Haines has had an outing in the side—against Gloucester—and a win by him resulted in Hinckley taking a point.

Whilst Loughborough are not amongst the trophy winners this season there is no doubt they have consolidated their position in this league and the standard in the town has gone up as a result of their participation in this standard of play.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

During the last few weeks, Cambridgeshire have displayed 'in and out' form in both divisions of the County Championships. In a trip to Leicester, the first team were defeated 8-2, despite the fact that Peter Hirst won both his singles on debut. These were the only sets that Cambs. managed to win, although Tony Littlechild and Alan Ponder had narrow defeats at the hands of Charlie Jacques and Maurice Newman respectively.

In their next match, against Bedfordshire, the team snatched vital points in their bid to avoid relegation by winning 7-3 at Haverhill Sports Centre. In this match Hirst again won both his singles, but not without struggle. Both Littlechild and Ponder both won a singles, to put Cambs. well on the victory trail. Another pleasing feature of the match was Sally Hirts's victory over Barbara Hammond.

The second team, against Suffolk at Lowestoft, went down 7-3, mainly due to the magnificent form of England No. 9 Junior, John Kitchener, who beat both Paul Day and John Thurston (the latter being hit off the table !) Ken Muhr had a terrific struggle with Osborne, the first game going to 27-29, but despite this he subsequently lost to Mick Palmer. Another bright spot was the Men's Doubles success of Day and Muhr, who beat Kitchener and Palmer in a three-game thriller, each being decided by two points only.

In their match against Norfolk, the second team were the first County to take a point from the men from the Broads ! In their 5-5 draw at Haverhill Sports Centre, well . . . thereby hangs a tale ! Day opened the match in good style by beating Philip Tye in two but then came disaster when the Home County slumped to a 1-5 deficit. A win by Thurston over the luckless Tye, followed by a Mixed Doubles success, brought Brian Jones in opposition to Tony Hipperson, who had previously beaten Thurston and, after losing the first game, Jones fought back well, to win in great style. It was left to Day to earn Cambs. their point and his win over Chris Bensley in the final set was as convincing as the score of 21-9, 21-9, suggests.

In their Junior Eastern Division Match, against Essex II at Maldon, Cambs. achieved a creditable draw, after trailing 2-4. In this match Day lost his first singles set in the competition by going down in straight games to David Boulter, to make the score 2-5. When all seemed lost, Cambs. showed their fighting spirit and, with a mixed doubles win, and a further singles success, the match was delicately poised. Chris Fuller, the newest member of the County team, had the nerve-racking last singles set, and he rose to the occasion magnificently, to beat Andy Bawden 21-19, in the third, "Boy-of-the-match", however, was John Willis, who had two fine singles wins, and his set with Boulter was retrieved from an almost impossible position as, after losing the first game, he trailed 15-20 in the second, and 13-19 in the third, but fought back to win.

In the fourth round of the Carter Cup, Cambridge defeated Wisbech 7-2 at Soham. Cambridge dominated from the start and won the first five sets, to make the remaining four of pure academic interest. This is the second consecutive season that Cambridge have reached the quarter-final and maybe they will have progressed further by the time these notes are in print.

With the South-East Midlands League drawing to a close, Cambridge City are fighting hard to retain their title. Northampton, at present, lead the division and a 4-6 Cambridge reverse to Ely, ensures a thrilling finish. Ely's win over Cambridge was a magnificent achievement and shows that competition in this league is becoming more intense.

Cambridgeshire schools did not win a match in the South and East Regional finals of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association's National Team competition, held at Crystal Palace. Perse School lost 0-8 to Plaistow Comprehensive, but held Southall Grammar to a 4-4 draw, Emma Swan, Deborah Clarke, Karen Garner and Ruth Atkins each winning one.

Sawston Village College were beaten 5-3 by both Plaistow Comprehensive and St. Michael's, Finchley, in the Under-15's. Susan Ellis won all her 4 sets for Sawston.

In the Cambs. League, University Press have almost won Division I by a wide margin and New Chesterton Institute and University I seem likely to follow, in that order. In next month's magazine I hope to report more fully on the other divisions.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Brian Kean

First England Junior cap for Brian Johns is the highlight of our County notes this month. Brian was selected to play against Scotland, at Grangemouth on Mar. 17. Ironically his international debut could well have seen him opposing his County colleague and Anglo-Scot, John McNee, who I expect would lead the Scots into what they would doubtless hope to be a second Bannockburn !

Brian celebrated and justified his selection by travelling north to "Geordie Land" on Mar. 11 to win three senior titles in the Northumberland Open at Newcastle-on-Tyne. His first men's singles title was won at the expense of yours truly, Kean, B. in the semis, and a very close final win over Northumbrian Peter Hoyles. His men's and mixed doubles successes were kept very much Cheshire affairs when he teamed up with his brother Ian and Janice Green respectively. The veterans' final was also an all-Cheshire duel with Derek Schofield the victor over Gatley colleague Terry Donlon.

The only county matches to weather the electricity power cuts were, firstly, the Junior Premier fixture played against Surrey before a mere half dozen spectators at the Willaston T.T. Club, Crewe. Our overall strength proved too much for the Southerners and, despite the lack of atmosphere and a spirited Surrey performance, we ran out comfortable 7-3 winners.

Opposed, as I am, to the Veteran Divisions, I suppose our Northern/Midland championship win warrants a mention, after accounting for Staffordshire in the final match. Our "All Our Yesterdays Squad" now go forward to the national play-off opposed by the winners of the Southern Division.

It is on a black note that I refer to the Stockport League and their Wilmott Cup fixture against the mighty North Yorkshire. After numerous telephone calls between both secretaries, they finally overcame player availability and the power cuts to stage the tie at Ormesby on Sunday, Feb. 27. However, after overcoming these hazards, Stockport eventually conceded the match owing to them having transport problems.

I feel it is a disgrace, and a blot on their copy book, to concede a match of such importance on the grounds of there being no transport available. One would think that from a committee of around sixteen, at least one member could have availed himself for official representation. Although when taking into consideration, that Stockport had no official representative at their zone final against Bolton, a round trip of 200 miles to Teesside is really too much to expect.

Surprise was occasioned at Stockport's decision, and haste, in cancelling their Closed championships (owing to power cuts) due to have been staged on Mar. 9—11. Finally, I give ten out of ten to Match Secretary, Len Green, for his quick decisive action in arranging the Cheshire Closed for Saturday, May 13 at the Grange Road West, Sports Centre, Birkenhead. It was a hammer blow to Len when told that the previously arranged venue in Macclesfield was no longer available for sporting activities. But within 48 hours a meeting with Wirral League officials was arranged with a happy outcome. Entry forms are available from your local league secretary.

ESSEX NOTES

by Alan Shepherd

Pride of place this month must undoubtedly go to our Juniors, who have become National Champions for the second time in three years.

The title was virtually clinched when we shocked Yorkshire in their own backyard at Bradford by 6-4. An amazing win in the boys' doubles by Martin Bawden (unranked) and Peter Hunt (Group "B") over England-ranked David Alderson and Tony Martin was capped by a brilliant singles win by Bawden over Martin.

Two weeks later we made sure of the Championship by beating Kent 9-1. As often is the case this was a triumph of team spirit. Although we have our ranked players, every match included five events contested by players dismissed by the Selectors.

I must emphasise, however, that a great deal of our success was due to the fine leadership of Ian Horsham, who suffered only one defeat in the 15 events he contested.

Further congratulations go to Ian on his being given a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship Award. He is the youngest recipient ever at 16, and will be going to Japan in September, following in the footsteps of Alan Hydes.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

by Philip Reid

Despite the power cuts, most teams made remarkable efforts to get matches played by changing the venues and, in at least one case, the town ! First news is that the relegation battle in the Men's 1st Division has now been settled. Wolverhampton —who were promoted only last season — and Oxford are the teams destined to make the drop. Oxford's inability to hold their position is surprising.

With players of the calibre of Stanley Hahn, David Harse, Cec. Jackson and C. Alcock they look far too good for the second division. Three successive 6-4 defeats at the beginning of the season put them in a bad position, worsened when beaten 9-1 by both Gloucester and Birmingham 'A' and made almost impossible when they defaulted to bottom of the table Wolverhampton. An 8-2 win against Birmingham 'B' showed their fighting spirit but their last match—against Nottingham—will now have no bearing on the relegation fight.

The three-cornered fight in the Men's 2nd Division continues with Bristol, Derby and Worcester fighting it out for top place. Each have dropped two points. Clearly the Derby-Worcester match will be the vital pointer here. Leamington and Nottingham 'B' are at present in the relegation spots but either—or both ! —could overtake Walsall, who have completed their fixtures.

The Men's 3rd Division looks almost 'cut and dried'. Chesterfield need only to draw with Darlaston to accompany Cheltenham to the second division.

Leamington collected a point in the final match of their programme in the Intermediate Division when they held Nuneaton to a draw. They led 5-3 and looked likely to secure two, but first M. Neale completed a fine maximum for the Warwickshire side and then A. Ellison beat S. Montgomery 21-19 in the third to conclude the match with the spoils shared.

Contrasting fortunes from the two Birmingham teams in the Junior first division. The 'A' team are riding high, having dropped only seven sets in six matches (Desmond Douglas still unbeaten) whilst the 'B' team have collected only two draws from seven matches and are in bottom spot.

Coventry "B's" promotion hopes in the Junior 2nd Division took a jolt when Nuneaton held them to a draw. Paul Dawson played well for Nuneaton to win two with K. Quigley and M. Burnham winning two for Coventry.

Whilst Oxford look to have the Veterans' 1st Division tied up, the other end of the chart is wide open—two points separate the bottom four teams. Gloucester (2 points), Birmingham 'B' (2), Cheltenham (3) and Leicester 'B' (4) are the teams in the 'danger zone'.

Fine individual performance in the Veterans' 2nd Division came from Darlaston's C. Hughes who beat all Nottingham 'B', only to see his team lose 7-3. Amongst Hughes' wins was one against R. Thickpenny—his first reverse of the season.

The Women's Division has an unfamiliar look about it in that Birmingham, who have only failed to win the title once in 25 years before this season, will finish at least third, possibly lower. Surely this team are due to show some of their former glory before long ?

E.T.T.A. '100 CLUB'

by Albert W. Shipley

IT was pleasing to have 47 of our membership in attendance at the Luncheon held in Brighton's Grand Hotel on Saturday, March 4. The total attendance, inclusive of guests, was 109, the century being topped for a second time.

Guest Speaker was Bill Martin, a comedian whose vocation in the entertainment world has included the "warming-up" of an audience before a T.V. show, and he most certainly warmed his Brighton audience up with his quick-fire patter. He also led the cabaret, following the luncheon, a novel idea of our new Chairman, Johnny Leach, which had to end all too soon.

In the Draw, the first name out of the hat for the £100 was that of Mr. R. E. Ransome, father of Alan, which brought his total winnings to a total of £220 to make him the Club's leading money winner. The £50 was won by Aubrey Hill, of Coulsdon, Surrey and the £10 to Bill Rogerson, the Cambridgeshire President.

Additional prizes of £5 each, from Premium Bond winnings, were won by David Wolstencroft, of Bolton, Margaret Hiorns, the former Middlesex player, and by Johnny Leach himself!

On the subject of Premium Bonds, the Club now holds a total of £1,800 and the serial numbers are given so that when you hear of a big money winner living in Yorkshire you can check before ringing Tom Blunn!

Next date is on Saturday, July 1, at the House of Commons with details of a trip to Spain, in December, to be forthcoming shortly.

PREMIUM BONDS HELD BY "100 CLUB"

9VK 788901 - 789000	£100
7PL 096901 - 096950	£50
8WP 970201 - 970400	£200
7XS 213901 - 214200	£300
1NF 452241 - 452280	£40
QT 520921 - 520980	£60
4PN 972301 - 972350	£50
4PW 047451 - 047500	£50
6VF 050901 - 051000	£100
4PL 368451 - 368500	£50
7WT 814601 - 814800	£200
6VT 700601 - 700700	£100
9RB 009001 - 009500	£500
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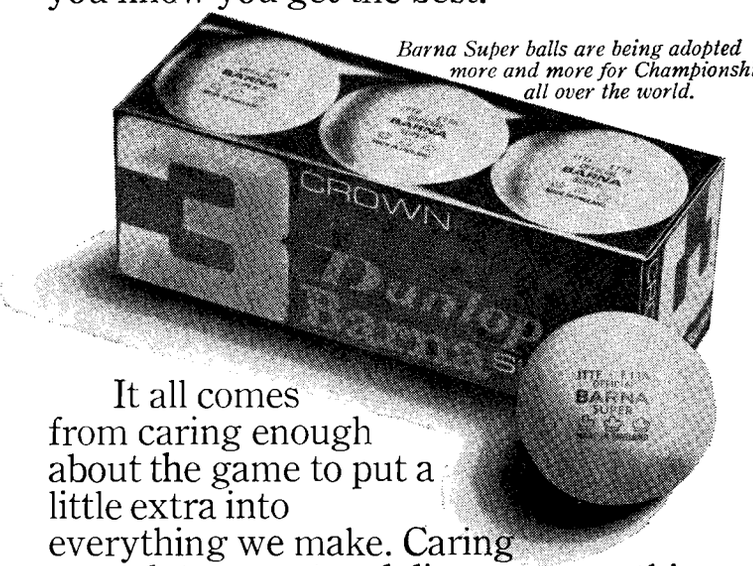

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English Open Championships

Individual Events

by JOHN WOODFORD

Stellan Bengtsson receives the men's singles trophy from the hands of E.T.T.A. President, A. K. "Bill" Vint, at Brighton.

Photo by Peter Madge.

First Singles Title for Sweden

I WOULD imagine that the careers officer at STELLAN BENGTSSON'S school in Falkenburg, Sweden must have been alarmed at the time, in 1969, when informed that this young man was to become a professional table tennis player. Since then it appears that Bengtsson's decision was the right one although to many, his capture of the world title in Nagoya last year was a major surprise.

Trevor Taylor is surely amongst those who have noticed that being left-handed in world-class these days seems to pay off—at least three of the last eight in the 1972 English Open were left-handers including Bengtsson, the first Swedish player ever to win this title.

Bengtsson's record of progress through the men's singles shows that he was extended twice, against Trevor Taylor and, in the wonderful final, by Kjell Johansson. My word, how the Brighton crowd needed a classic men's final to lift them from the gloom of previous days!

Early 1972 will be remembered as one of the blackest periods in the history of English table tennis. The humiliating defeat of England by France at Troyes on February 23; the tragic death of Victor Barna and then defeat after defeat for English players both in the international team championships and the individual events at Brighton. All this coming after the sweeping elevation of national status gained by the tour of China and the return tour of Britain late last year.

However, as much as one is tempted to dwell on past glories, past defeats must be forgotten. England's strength has to be re-built as quickly as possible and in time for a double-quick return to the Premier Division of the European League, assuming of course that England is relegated.

The first game of the men's final was adjudged to be the best; both players clearly knew each other's game inside out with Johansson, a certain prospect for a future English Open title, winning at 17. The world champion then really showed the smaller than usual crowd spells of very attractive all-out attacking play, just getting past the wily Johansson 19, 19, 18.

STILL INCREASING

After watching play at Brighton for three days, my conclusion is that the use of top-spin is still increasing amongst the best players. One has only to watch the best top-spinner of the lot, Dragutin Surbek, to check this point. Anyone who can reach the top without using nearly 100 per cent top-spin is a wonderful exception. Up to a year or so ago, of course the exception to this rule in the men's field was Eberhard Schöler, but now even he has sunk to No. 13 on the European ranking list and was a notable absentee at Brighton.

Top-spin does not play quite such a major role in the women's game, but even so, there it is increasing quite rapidly, which may account for the fact that MARIA ALEXANDRU is now only No. 3 in Europe and No. 8 in the world. It is still quite incredible to me how Maria's defence manages to cope year-after-year with everything at Brighton. I know she was beaten by Birgitta Radberg in the team event but one has the feeling that Maria plays just that little bit better in an individual event rather than a team affair.

The whole tournament lacked major surprises but I must try and mention several notable results: In the men's singles, "Les" Haslam put up a mighty fight before going down, in the fifth, to Trevor Taylor who went on, via Bobby Stevens, to stop Istvan Korpa at 18 in the fourth. Forty-eight hours later Taylor up-ended Korpa again at Ormesby in the semi-final of the Europe Club Cup *facts which suggest to me that Taylor will be the next England No. 1.*

STOUT RESISTANCE

A Barnes-Langan meeting was expected but "Connie" Warren intervened by beating the Irishman and then losing to Barnes, -16, -11, -11. Chester put up stout resistance to Anton Stipancic but could not maintain his challenge in the fifth and lost at 15. That was in round 3 and it was at that stage that Neale also went down. His conquerer this time was Surbek. This one drew the crowds to No. 2 table in the Dome. Surbek won at 18 in the fourth in a match when the final point was the best of the day, probably of the championships. The Yugoslav looper was driven far back and to the side; instead of lobbing he smashed it back to a tremendous ovation.

The only English semi-finalist in the main singles events of the whole tournament was Jill Hammersley. In the second round Jill gained a revenge win for her loss at Troyes to Claude Bergeret by beating the French girl 14, 11, 11. To prove that this was no fluke, Jill went on to defeat the former Eleonora Mihalca (now Vlaicov) again by the surprising score 9, 15, 10 only to lose to Ilona Vostova (-17 ,-9, -13) in the semi-finals on the Friday evening.

Karenza Mathews plays her two defensive rivals Judy Williams and Shelagh Hession at English tournaments so often that she cannot have relished facing them both again at Brighton. However, Karenza's top spin seems to cope fairly well with most problems presented by Shelagh and Judy and this time she disposed of both girls in four games to reach the quarters; there, however,she found the defence or Maria Alexandru once again in a class of its own and went down -10, -16, -7.

In the final Miss Vostova gained more points than most but still the Rumanian ace triumphed 17, 15, 19, to win her fifth title at Brighton and the third in succesion.

WONDROUS

Neale and Barnes ploughed their way past Kollarovits and Bobby Stevens in the mens doubles and then Jarvis-Heaps. They were soon in difficulties in the quarters however, losing out at 15 in the fifth to Karakasevic-Korpa.

Shock of this event was, I suppose the defeat of the No. 1 seeds Bengtsson and Johansson in a wondrous five gamer. Matyas Beleznai and Peter Rozsas were the surprise winners over the Swedes but the Hungarians were on the losing end of another five gamer to Karakasevic-Korpa in the semi-final to make an all-Yugoslavian final. The mens doubles did not produce as many fireworks as expected mainly because that very special loop of Surbek's triumphed once again and it was three-straight to *Dragutin* and *Stipancic* who was at last amongst the Brighton winners.

The only English pair to reach the quarter-finals of the mixed was Neale and Karenza Mathews by defeating Ken Beamish and Shelagh Hession, but here was another big disappointment for England—Denis and Karenza fell away badly to lose -13, -14, -21, to that Surbek spin backed up by Carmen Crisan. The eventual winners *Stipancic-Alexandru* took a five-game semi-final to shake off Bengtsson and Lena Andersson but in the final Marias skill was the deciding factor against Milan Orlowski-Vostova who lost in three straight. England also had semi-

Women's singles winner Maria Alexandru (Rumania) receives back into her custody the Nicholls Cup from E.T.T.A. Treasurer, Tom Blunn.

'Photo by Peter Madge.

finalists in the women's doubles when Linda Howard and Karenza Mathews made progress against home opposition but once more the unshakeable Maria cast her Balkan spell on the situation and out they went by a sliding score 19, -10, -10, -7.

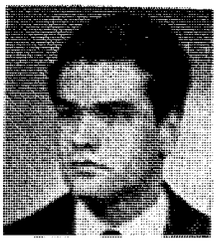
The women's doubles was the first final to go on at the last session to the consternation of the Press whose deadlines so often wait only for the singles finals. Czechoslovaks Grofova-Vostova put on a bright and breezy display, which is a change for a women's doubles final but inevitably, after some bright hitting by *Mrs Vlaicov,* it was Rumania and *Maria Alexandru* who won the day.

NEW HONOUR!

...Regarded by almost all the ladies as the most handsome of the foreign stars, Czechoslovakia's Stefan Kollarovits has been honoured in a new way—

Worcestershire players and top England supporters John and Peggy Mytton have named their third child Stefan, now aged 15 months after the Czech star!

The Myttons rarely miss the English Open; they travelled to Munich in 1969 for the world championships and intend to make the journey to Sarajevo, Yugoslavia next year with the E.T.T.A. supporters party.



Stefan Kollarovits

Stefan's comment when I told him that an English baby boy had been named after him was, "I am very honoured indeed".

...Now you know where to find Peggy Mytton at world events when the Czechs enter the arena!

VETERANS

Ron Etheridge (Kent) and Daphne Gray (Herts) are the new English Open veteran champions, both winning their titles for the first time.

Etheridge, the evergreen warhorse from Kent came through via Schramm (Surrey), Browning (Yorks), Schofield (Cheshire), and an exciting expedite-rule clash in the semi-final with Ken Beamish (Essex) who was beaten -17, 12, 18. In the final, Etheridge beat Stan Jacobson 12, 16. Among Jacobson's victims were Crickmer (11, 10), Bestock (12, 14), Osborne (19, 14) and, in the semi-final, Kirby, -18, 16, 16.

Eight women lined-up for the veterans' title. Winner Daphne Gray (Hants.) has the distinction of also being the holder of the Hampshire *mixed* veterans' singles title. Daphne added the English title to her bag when she beat Margaret Hiorns (nee Fry) in the final 8, 10.

CONSOLATION SINGLES

Space only for a quick glance at what happened in the consolation events:

I.T.T.F. Treasurer, Jean Mercier of France poses with women's veteran winner Mrs. Daphne Gray of Hampshire.

'Photo by Peter Madge.

In the men's, the best win seems to be by Michael Harper (Herts.), a recent recruit for the Halex Super League. He stopped Mike Johns (Cheshire) 18, 17. Alan Griffiths (Wales) had a good run to the finals beating Barry Hill, 14, 18 in the quarters and Harper, 13, 14 in the semi-finals. Best of all, was the performance of the winner Jimmy Walker (Yorkshire), aided by the elimination of Johns. He put out Welsman (Surrey) 10, 5, J. D. Constant (France) in the semis and finished by up-ending Griffiths 9, 14 in the final.

The women's event was dominated by Linda and Susan Howard. Linda's victims included Marie Petre (Surrey), in the quarters, 17, 15, Elaine Tarten (Essex), 18, 11 in the semis and, in the final, sister Susan 18, 18. Earlier, Susan accounted for Brigitte Thiriet (France), 16, 13 and Jean Williams (Bucks.) 10, 14 in the semis.

Individual Results

Men's Singles: Round 3:
S. Bengtsson (Swed.) bt M. Sugden (Scot.) 13, 10, 13;
T. Taylor (Eng.) bt I. Korpa (Yugo.) 14, 14, -19, 18;
P. Rozsas (Hung.) bt J. Kunz (Czech.) 12, -18, 13, 17;
A. Stipancic (Yugo.) bt C. Barnes (Eng.) 20, 18, -16, -20, 15;
K. Johansson (Swed.) bt M. Beleznai (Hung.) 10, 14, -21, -19, 15;
S. Kollarovits (Czech.) bt M. Karakasevic (Yugo.) 15, -19, 16, -12, 16;
M. Orlowski (Czech.) bt B. Persson (Swed.) 15, -16, -13, 17, 18;
D. Surbek (Yugo.) bt D. Neale (Eng.) 15, -18, 22, 18.

Quarter-finals:
Bengtsson bt Taylor 20, -20, 19, 16;
Stipancic bt Rozsas 16, -18, -20, 11, 20;
Johansson bt Kollarovits 16, 11, -19, 14;
Surbek bt Orlowski 15, -16, 18, 18.

Semi-finals:
BENGTSSON bt Stipancic 10, 11, 20;
JOHANSSON bt Surbek 17, 15, 11.

Final:
BENGTSSON bt Johansson -17, 19, 19, 18.

Women's Singles: Round 2:
I. Vostova (Czech.) bt J. Hellaby (Essex) 9, 12, 17;
A. Molnar (Hung.) bt L. Andersson (Swed.) 19, 18, 13;
E. Vlaicov (Rum.) bt S. Kavallierou (Sussex) 12, -14, 12, 13;
J. Hammersley (Eng.) bt C. Bergeret (Fr.) 14, 11, 11;
A. Grofova (Czech.) bt C. Crisan (Rum.) 10, -18, -16, 18, 18;
B. Radberg (Swed.) bt K. Szendy (Hung.) 15, 14, -18, 19;
K. Mathews (Eng.) bt S. Hession (Essex) 16, -18, 14, 12;
M. Alexandru (Rum.) bt J. Heaps (Ches.) 5, 9, 8.

Quarter-finals:
Vostova bt Molnar 16, 11, -17, 15;
Hammersley bt Vlaicov 9, 15, 10;
Radberg bt Grofova -18, 14, 8, 12;
Alexandru bt Mathews 10, 16, 7.

Semi-finals:
VOSTOVA bt Hammersley 17, 9, 13;
ALEXANDRU bt Radberg -19, 19, 7, 10.

Final:
ALEXANDRU bt Vostova 17, 15, 19.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Beleznai/Rozsas bt Bengtsson/K. Johansson 18, -16, 15, -18, 20;
Karakasevic/Korpa bt Barnes/Neale -17, 10, -17, 18, 15;
Kunz/Orlowski bt A. Johansson/I. Wikstrom (Swed.) 21, 16, 9;
Stipancic/Surbek bt Persson/P. Taylor (Beds.) 17, 18, 5.

Semi-finals:
KARAKASEVIC/KORPA bt Beleznai/Rozsas 16, -14, 18, -12, 15;
STIPANCIC/SURBEK bt Kunz/Orlowski -19, 17, 18, 11.

Final:
STIPANCIC/SURBEK bt Karakasevic/Korpa 15, 13, 15.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Alexandru/Vlaicov bt Bergeret/B. Thiriet (Fr.) 15, 10, 19;
L. Howard (Eng.)/Mathews bt L. Radford/D. Simpson (Essex) -12, -13, 7, 17, 12;
Andersson/Radberg bt Crisan/Heaps 16, 16, 15;
Grofova/Vostova bt Molnar/Szendy -21, 16, 11, -13, 17.

Semi-finals:
ALEXANDRU/VLAICOV bt L. Howard/Mathews -19, 10, 10, 7;
GROFOVA/VOSTOVA bt Andersson/Radberg 17, 13, -12, 19.

Final:
ALEXANDRU/VLAICOV bt Grofova/Vostova 12, 20, 16.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Stipancic/Alexandru bt Rozsas/Szendy 19, 20, 13;
Bengtsson/Andersson bt Kunz/Grofova 20, -12, 14, 10;
Surbek/Crisan bt Neale/Mathews 13, 14, 21;
Orlowski/Vostova bt Persson/Radberg 16, -20, 13, -19, 18.

Semi-finals:
STIPANCIC/ALEXANDRU bt Bengtsson/Andersson -14, 21, 10, -18, 9;
ORLOWSKI/VOSTOVA bt Surbek/Crisan 18, 18, 15.

Final:
ORLOWSKI/VOSTOVA bt Stipancic/Alexandru 14, 20, 10.

Men's Veteran Singles: Quarter-finals:
R. E. Etheridge (Kent) bt D. Schofield (Ches.) -19, 11, 15;
K. Beamish (Essex) bt P. Bevan (Wales) 13, 9;
S. Jacobson (Middx.) bt J. Osborne (Essex) 19, 14;
T. Kirby (Middx.) bt F. Walker (Middx.) 9, 14.

Semi-finals:
ETHERIDGE bt Beamish -17, 12, 18;
JACOBSON bt Kirby -18, 16, 16.

Final:
ETHERIDGE bt Jacobson 12, 16.

Women's Veteran Singles: Quarter-finals:
M. Hiorns (Middx.) bt R. Bass (Sussex) 18, 16;
J. Williams (Bucks.) bt M. Prowen (Middx.) 9, 14;
D. Gray (Hants.) bt B. Williams (Wales) 10, 17;
H. Hamilton (Scot.) bt P. Lauder (Essex) 21, 16.

Semi-finals:
HIORNS bt Williams -16, 15, 15;
GRAY bt Hamilton 16, 16.

Final:
GRAY bt Hiorns 8, 10.

Men's Consolation Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Walker (Yorks.) bt D. Welsman (Surrey) 10, 5;
J. Constant (Fr.) bt D. Jemmett (Middx.) 18, 22;
M. Harper (Herts.) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 18, 17;
A. Griffiths (Wales) bt B. Hill (Surrey) 14, 18.

Semi-finals:
WALKER bt Constant 17, -14, 18;
GRIFFITHS bt Harper 13, 14.

Final:
WALKER bt Griffiths 9, 14.

Women's Consolation Singles: Quarter-finals:
L. Howard (Surrey) bt M. F. Petre (Surrey) 17, 15;
E. Tarten (Essex) bt M. Neish (Scot.) 15, 20;
S. Howard (Surrey) bt Thiriet 16, 13;
J. Williams (Bucks.) bt C. Kingston (Middx.) 10, 13.

Semi-finals:
L. HOWARD bt Tarten 18, 11; S. HOWARD bt Williams 10, 14.

Final:
L. **HOWARD** bt S. Howard 18, 18.

A smiling E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles Wyles, stands between the men's doubles winners Dragutin Surbek (left) and Anton Stipancic of Yugoslavia.

'Photo by Peter Madge.

Team Championships

by PHILIP REID

Sweden's non-playing captain, Christer Johansson, holds the men's team trophy presented to him by the Mayor of Brighton, S. W. Theobald, Esq., to whose left is Stellan Bengtsson and Kjell Johansson.

'Photo by Peter Madge.

Disappointing Home Results

The team events in the English Open provided two excellent finals but disappointments in the earlier rounds for the English teams. In the Men's event, England III played Hungary whilst on the distaff side England II were opposed to France. Both lost 3-1 but there were encouraging performances in both matches.

16-year-old Simon Heaps brought off a great win against the left-handed Hungarian, Peter Rozsas, now possibly past his peak but a very useful player nonetheless. Indeed, England III came near to taking a lead only succumbing at 20-22 in the third game of doubles. It was Matyas Beleznai who proved the big stumbling block, winning both his singles.

Meanwhile, two tables away the youthful looking England II (Janet Hellaby and Linda Howard) were playing the much-improved French team of Claude Bergeret and Brigitte Thiriet. England made the best-possible start when Linda Howard gained a superb win over Bergeret—who had proved a thorn in the flesh of England in the recent European League match. Miss Howard's play suggested her No. 4 ranking in the England list by no means flatters her. The doubles was very close but the French had a match winner in Thiriet who beat Janet Hellaby and partnered Bergeret in the doubles to put the French team ahead. Bergeret duly applied the 'coup-de-grace' by beating Janet Hellaby.

FIRST ATTEMPT

In Round 2, the Women's first team also went out at the first attempt. This was a thoroughly disappointing result for England, who were expected to win this match without undue difficulty. Jill Hammersley beat the left-handed Anna Molnar but that was the extent of England's successes. England II men's team put up a very good performance against Czechoslovakia—a team strongly fancied to top the Premier Division of the European League—Nicky Jarvis took the energetic Orlowski the full distance before losing but England were level when the chunky Kunz lost to Trevor Taylor.

Kunz is not the most attractive player in the world to watch—his game consists of much jabbing, half-volleying and quick hits—but it is very effective. England II, in fact, moved into the lead when they took the doubles and obviously the Taylor-Orlowski game was of major importance. The English Champion was able to match the Czech star, point for point, throughout most of the set but the Czech player collected the points when it mattered at the end of the third. Jarvis lacked nothing in determination in the decider against Kunz, but he was given little chance to get his loop in against a determined opponent.

England I, meanwhile, had beaten Sweden II 3-0 by virtue of good play by Barnes and Neale and moved into the semis where they were opposed to Yugoslavia. Surbek — who probaby covers more ground in a set than any player in Europe — beat Chester Barnes despite the England No. 3 taking the second game fairly easily.

Anton Stipancic was the conqueror of Denis Neale, although in this competition the Yugoslav left-hander went from strength to strength. Few players possess more strokes than Stipancic and in this set he certainly used them. The doubles gave Yugoslavia a match-winning 3-0 lead and once again England flattered to deceive. They took the second, only to fall away at 8 in the third.

JOHANSSON SHOCK

It was not a very encouraging display by England who clearly have some thinking to do in the near future if they are to regain their former status, unlike Sweden who reached both finals.

The men beat Ireland and Scotland 3-0 and then recovered from the shock of Kjell Johansson losing to Stefan Kollarovits to win 3-1 against Czechoslovakia.

Yugoslavia's path was not quite so simple. Scotland II gave them no trouble but Hungary proved much more difficult than anticipated. A 2-0 lead gave no indication of any shocks to follow but first Rozsas/Beleznai took the doubles and Rozsas showed superb form to beat Surbek. The accurate placing of the Hungarian left-hander had Surbek in unexpected trouble. When he took the second, it looked as though Surbek had weathered the storm but in fact it was only the signal for Rozsas to loop and hit with renewed vigour. Surbek was hardly ever in it and amazingly, Hungary were level at 2-all. Yet again, Stipancic came to the rescue with a comfortable victory over Beleznai. The Yugoslav team's victory over England put them into the final.

Sweden also reached the final of the Women's team event where their opponents were Czechoslovakia. Both teams had easy first round matches against Ireland and Scotland respectively.

Whilst this was happening, Rumania were beating France 3-1. The Rumanians made a bad start when two of the most promising young players in the game were in opposition—Carmen Crisan (Rumania) and Bergeret. The French girl, whose improvement has been one of the revelations of this season, played with an assurance borne of success but then the stage was set for the great Maria Alexandru to take over the match.

First she thoroughly demoralised Thiriet, won the doubles partnered by Miss Crisan and then beat Bergeret. I have never seen Alexandru hitting like this before. " She is trying to hit a lot more because she feels she ought to—sometimes she misses and sometimes she doesn't" their charming captain Ella Constantinescu told me. Certainly against both her opponents she hit as though she had been doing it all her life. Forehands and backhands both found their mark regularly and with this additional weapon in her armament she looks a very formidable rival indeed.

The fourth quarter-final match was of course England's ill-fated match with Hungary.

The stage was then set for the semi-finals. In the Czecho-Hungary match, the expected happened—a 3-0 win for the Czechs, but it was not quite as one-sided as the score would suggest. All three sets went the distance and there is no doubt the Hungarian girls had shown rich promise.

CARMEN AGAIN

In the other semi, Crisan was again preferred to Eleonora Vlaicov. Crisan shows immense promise but of course lacks the experience of Mrs. Vlaicov. Birgitta Radberg's two-straight win over Crisan showed how much the Swedish girl has improved rather than indicating any particular failing by the Rumanian. Alexandru duly defeated Lena Andersson though it was by no means one-way traffic.

Alexandru's determination and fight saved her when Andersson threatened to dominate the game but nothing could pull the Rumanians from defeat in the doubles, which they lost in straight games. Radberg, like her colleague, took the first game from Alexandru but the reply in this case was just as sharp—a big second game win for Alexandru who now appears if anything to concentrate even more than ever when she is trailing.

Few could have imagined Radberg would take the third but that is what happened ! Moreover she took it in style. Pushing, hitting, clever flight variations, the Swedish girl had it all. And having established a lead she showed she was mature enough to keep it. It was a win 'right against the form-book' but it was thoroughly deserved and gave Sweden the match.

FINALS

Often the finals are disappointing affairs but this was not one such occasion. For a start both matches went the full distance—3-2 and whilst this in itself is not a guarantee of exciting play, it is often a pretty good pointer. The Women's final started 50 minutes before the Men's

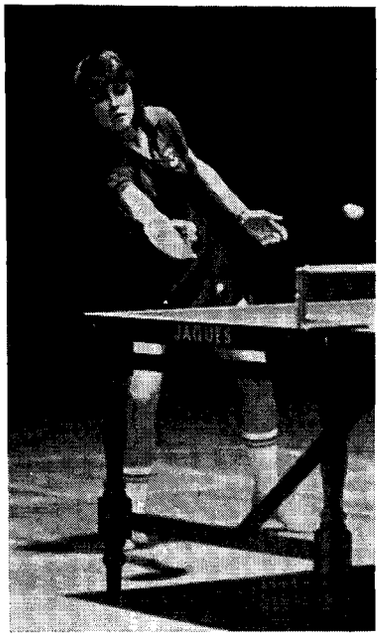
The Bill Stamp Cup is here held by Stipancic who, with Maria Alexandru, won the mixed doubles event, the presentation having been made by the E.T.T.A.'s Deputy Chairman, George R. Yates.

'Photo by Peter Madge.

and as such was well on the way when the No. 2 table in the Dome was occupied.

An interesting feature of this match was that before the start of it three players—Ilona Vostova and Alicia Grofova (Czecho) and Radberg (Sweden) were undefeated but by the time the match had run its course only one player still had an untarnished record, and that perhaps the least likely of the three.

The final set was Radberg v. Grofova. Greater consistency by the Czech girl gave her the first game but a rather scrappy second was marred by too many mistakes by both players. At 20-all Radberg hit a rash backhand kill and a longer rally followed which culminated in the Swedish girl pushing the ball into the net. This was one castle which had fallen and another was to follow. Vostova seemed totally bemused by the power of Andersson's forehand drive, and although she staged a partial recovery towards the end of the second game there was really only one player in it.



Birgitta Radberg (Sweden)
'Photo by Tony Ross.

The Czech girls took the vital doubles and when Vostova took the first against Radberg the match looked as good as over. But the Swedish girl would have none of it. She looked a winner all the way in the second and only two tremendous hits by Vostova saved her when she was down 20-21 and 21-22. Radberg showed great composure when it mattered most to win 24-22. We waited for the onslaught from Vostova in the third but it never materialised. Instead, looking distinctly dispirited she changed ends 2-10 down. Mrs. Radberg doesn't let opportunities like that slip, and keeping up the pressure romped home in a canter at 21-7. Everything then depended on the last match — Grofova v. Andersson. Grofova had an unbeaten record but stern opposition was anticipated from the hard-hitting Swedish girl. The first game showed only too clearly how nervous the players were. My notes show—Grofova misses an easy backhand kill — 19-all — Andersson serves off—24-23; Grofova misses a 'sitter' — 24-all; Andersson turning quickly, falls full length—25-24 ! It was Andersson who finally won the marathon first game at 27-25. Hitting much more consistently Alicia took the second and all depended on the decider.

Could Sweden win the title for the first time, or were Czechoslovakia going to win it for the second ? It was Grofova who provided the answer. She got off to a great start and proceeded to display a fine array of hitting strokes. Quite suddenly the set had become very one-sided with Grofova winning almost as she liked.

HIGH STANDARD

The Men's Team final provided play of an extraordinarily high standard but bearing in mind the four competitors are ranked 1, 4, 5 and 7 in Europe it should come as no real surprise.

The first set involved Kjell Johansson of Sweden and Stipancic, Yugoslavia. The first game reached great heights. The speed of Johansson was exceptional and some of his forehand kills as hard as anything hit throughout the tournament. The left-handed Stipancic, however played some superb stuff, showing great defensive qualities to supplement his excellent attack. The first game was neck-and-neck all the way but Stipancic managed to make the vital breakthrough and, suitably encouraged, played with greater confidence to win the second fairly easily.

The second set—Bengtsson v. Surbek—provided one of the best in the whole of the team events, possibly beaten in quality only by Bengtsson's set with Stipancic. World Champion or not, Surbek had no intention of being over-shadowed by Bengtsson and his incredible speed, allied to his magnificent forehand, brought some very spectacular rallies. The tall Yugoslav was never afraid to move away from the table and when he moved in with lightning speed he frequently put the ball away, mostly cross court wide on Bengtsson's forehand, a shot the Swede had difficulty coping with.

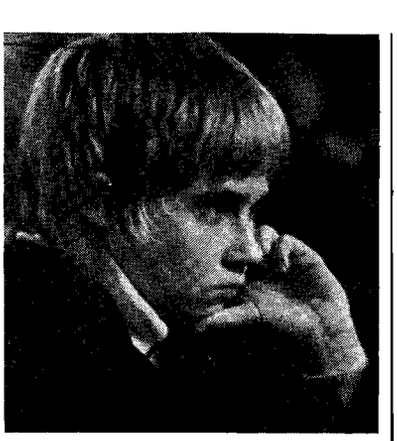
TOUCH-AND-GO

The second game was touch-and-go all the way. At 21-20 up, Surbek narrowly missed making an almost impossible return which would surely have given him the set but at 22-23 down he made a hash of a forehand kill and the set had gone the full distance. Most impartial supporters were more than delighted about this. It was such great stuff that two games could scarcely satisfy most appetites. The third, however, failed to live up to expectations. Surbek appeared to tire—it was as though he had staked everything on winning two straight—and the World Champion took it at 10.

Sweden then won the doubles and the next set was the battle of the left-handers, the only two players now unbeaten in the team event.

Although Bengtsson had an advantage in speed this was nullified to some extent by Stipancic's power. He hit some colossal shots in the first game and made a very determined effort but Bengtsson just hung on to win. With Stipancic looking better and better all the time, and mixing his game cleverly, the scores became level.

"Stipancic thinks very much more now—He is thinking and working all the time now and he is so much



Here seen in pensive mood is Sweden's Lena Andersson taken unawares by Cliff Darley.

better" the Yugoslav captain Dusan Osmanajic told me. Unlike the previous singles, this one didn't deteriorate in the third—if anything it got better. Both players seemed to have decided that now it had gone to three, they were going to win it.

DISCONCERTING

With some tremendous kills, many straight down the line on the forehand, Stipancic established a 14-10 lead. What must have been disconcerting for Bengtsson was the amount of stuff Stipancic was able to return—some of it was vintage defensive play. At this juncture the play really became tight with every point vital and Bengtsson pulled back to 13-15. A long rally was then won by Bengtsson—14-15—A great hit by Stipancic—16-14—A wide backhand played by Bengtsson with Stipancic out of position is just off—17-14—A good forehand kill by Stipancic—18-14, he's pulling away again—Another one, only better—19-14—Bengtsson puts away a forehand—19-15—Bengtsson, game as ever, comes in again—19-16—Stipancic, playing carefully but looking hard for any chance to kill, spots a half-chance, in he comes and the ball is put away—20-16—A long rally is brought to an end when Stipancic moves swiftly in for a forehand kill which found it's mark and had Bengtsson vainly leaping to retrieve—Game and set to Stipancic.

So Stipancic had gone through the whole of the team event unbeaten. He had looked like a champion, a player destined to achieve higher things in singles. Surprisingly to me, few of the top players I spoke to thought he would win the Men's Singles ("He doesn't win many tournaments, at least not Men's Singles events").

GRAND FINALE

All this, of course, had opened the way for a grand finale—Johansson v. Surbek. In fact it didn't really live up to the standard of the previous three singles. Johansson, with some astute play, was able to keep out Surbek's deadly forehand kill and dominated the set from start to finish. As one would expect from two such athletic players, there were some excellent rallies, with both players retreating on occasions, but it was the Swede who won in straight games to take back the title last held in 1969. The team event, then, had finished, and whilst the host country had little to shout about by way of results, the spectators had plenty at some very exciting games, particularly in the two finals.

Team Results

MEN

Round 1:

YUGOSLAVIA I 3, SCOTLAND II 0
D. Surbek bt E. Sutherland 14, 10.
A. Stipancic bt P. Forker 7, 12.
Stipancic/Surbek bt Forker/Sutherland 13, 8.

HUNGARY 3, ENGLAND III 1
M. Beleznai bt D. Alderson 14, 19; bt S. Heaps 18, 13;
P. Rozsas lost to Heaps -17, 14, -16.
Beleznai/Rozsas bt Alderson/Heaps 12, -10, 20.

SWEDEN II 3, WALES
B. Persson bt G. Davies 20, 13.
A. Johansson bt A. Griffiths 11, 16.
Johansson/I. Wikstrom bt Davies/Griffiths 13, 11.

ENGLAND I 3, NIGERIA I 0
D. Neale bt M. Lawal 9, 14.
C. Barnes bt B. Obisanya 8, 13.
Barnes/Neale bt Lawal/Obisanya 19, -21, 12.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3, YUGOSLAVIA II 0
S. Kollarovits bt M. Karakasevic 8, 16.
M. Orlowski bt I. Korpa 16, -13, 17.
J. Kunz/Orlowski bt Karakasevic/Korpa 11, 19.

ENGLAND II 3, FRANCE 1
T. Taylor bt P. Birocheau -17, 19, 17; bt J. D. Constant 14, 18.
N. Jarvis lost to Constant 21, -24, -19.
Jarvis/Taylor bt Birocheau/Constant 14, 10.

IRELAND 3, NIGERIA II 0
J. Langan bt Fenuyi 17, 16.
C. Thompson bt P. Santos 15, -18, 19.
Langan/Thompson bt Fenuyi/Santos 19, -19, 17.

SWEDEN I 3, SCOTLAND I 0
S. Bengtsson bt R. Yule 15, 18.
K. Johansson bt M. Sugden 16, 18.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Sugden/Yule 12, 8.

Quarter-finals:

YUGOSLAVIA I 3, HUNGARY 2
Stipancic bt Rozsas 18, -15, 19; bt Beleznai 15, 14.
Surbek bt Beleznai -19, 16, 9; lost to Rozsas -15, 15, -12.
Stipancic/Surbek lost to Beleznai/Rozsas 15, -18, -18.

ENGLAND I 3, SWEDEN II 0
Barnes bt A. Johansson 12, -19, 16.
Neale bt Persson 15, 12.
Barnes/Neale bt Johansson/Wikstrom 16, -17, 12.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3, ENGLAND II 2
Orlowski bt Jarvis 16, -19, 15; bt Taylor 17, -16, 16.
Kunz lost to Taylor -12, 17, -17; bt Jarvis 12, 20.
Kunz/Orlowski lost to Jarvis/Taylor -21, -15.

SWEDEN I, 3, IRELAND 0
Bengtsson bt Langan 12, -13, 17.
K. Johansson bt Thompson 11, 8.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Langan/Thompson 11, 14.

Semi-finals:

YUGOSLAVIA I 3, ENGLAND 0
Surbek bt Barnes 20, -11, 13.
Stipancic bt Neale 12, -19, 14.
Stipancic/Surbek bt Barnes/Neale 11, -21, 8.

SWEDEN I 3, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1
K. Johansson lost to Kollarovits -13, -18; bt Orlowski -15, 19, 8.
Bengtsson bt Orlowski 12, 10.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Kunz/Orlowski 16, 13.

Final:

SWEDEN I 3, YUGOSLAVIA I 2
K. Johansson lost to Stipancic -22, -12; bt Surbek 17, 15.
Bengtsson bt Surbek -16, 22, 10; lost to Stipancic 19, -18, -16.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Stipancic/Surbek 14, 21.

WOMEN

Round 1:

FRANCE 3, ENGLAND II 1
C. Bergeret lost to L. Howard -19, -19; bt J. Hellaby 10, 9.
B. Thiriet bt Hellaby 16, 19.
Bergeret/Thiriet bt Hellaby/Howard 19, 19.

Quarter-finals:

RUMANIA 3, FRANCE 1
C. Crisan lost to Bergeret -16, -10.
M. Alexandru bt Thiriet 10, 6; bt Bergeret 14, 14.
Alexandru/E. Vlaicov bt Bergeret/Thiriet 11, 11.

SWEDEN 3, IRELAND 0
L. Andersson bt K. Senior 11, 14.
B. Radberg bt B. Stewart 10, 14.
Andersson/Radberg bt Senior/Stewart 12, 15.

HUNGARY 3, ENGLAND I 1
A. Molnar lost to J. Hammersley 18, -12, -12.
K. Zsendy bt K. Mathews 16, 19; bt Hammersley 19, -21, 19.
Molnar/Zsendy bt Hammersley/Mathews -13, 15, 7.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3, SCOTLAND 0
I. Vosyova bt C. McBeath 14, 14.
A. Grofova bt M. Neish 15, 11.
Grofova/Vostova bt McBeath/Neish 7, 14.

Semi-finals:

SWEDEN 3, RUMANIA 1

Team Results cont.

Radberg bt Crisan 18, 13; bt Alexandru 20, -12, 14.
Andersson lost to Alexandru 18, -6, -16.
Andersson/Radberg bt Alexandru/Crisan 18, 15.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3, HUNGARY 0
Grofova bt Zsendy 5, -11, 12.
Vostova bt Molnar 18, -20, 12.
Grofova/Vostova bt Molnar/Szendy 17, -16, 17.

Final:

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3, SWEDEN 2
Grofova bt Radberg 19, -14, 20; bt Andersson -25, 15, 8.
Vostova lost to Andersson -10, -16; lost to Radberg 9, -22, -7.
Grofova/Vostova bt Andersson/Radberg 11, 18.

HOLIDAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

Those who enjoy an active holiday with people their own age will doubtless be interested in a sports coaching week to be held at Scarborough from July 22 - 29.

The holiday offers the chance for beginners to learn a new sport whilst the more experienced can improve their skill in the sport of their choice.

The week's course includes table tennis, cricket, archery and trampolining for both boys and girls from absolute beginners to advanced performer. Staff in charge of table tennis will be J. Yates, a 2-star Diploma Coach, and R. Waterworth, an E.T.T.A. Club Coach.

Fee, including full accommodation, is £13 and further details can be had from:— C.C.P.R., 5 St. Paul's Street, Leeds, LS3 2NQ.

Tournament Diary

Date	Title and venue	Additional to normal events	Organising Secretary
Apr. 29/30	1st Basingstoke 2--Star Open, Basingstoke Sports Centre, Porchester Square, New Town Centre, Basingstoke, Hants.	U-21 XS, BS, GS.	Mrs. A. A. Waters, Dell Field, Fox Lane, Newfound, Basingstoke. (Oakley 510). Closing date 9.4.72.
May 6/7	Crescent 1-Star (Girls) Open, Bowaters Social and Recreation Club, Sittingbourne, Kent.	U-15, U-13, U-12, U-10 Singles U-15, U-13 Doubles.	Mr. F. G. Mannooch, 216 Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. Closing date: 22.4.72.
May 6/7	North Herts 2-Star Open, R.A.F. Henlow Gymnasium	U-21 MS & WS VS.	Mr. J. Jermyn, 191 Baldock Road, Letchworth, Herts. Closing date: 14.4.72.
,, 13/14	3rd Dagenham 2-Star Open, New Redbridge Sports Centre, Forest Road, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex.	BS, GS, VS.	Miss M. E. Harden, 173 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex. RM12 6BL. Closing date: 21.4.72.
,, 20/21	**ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN** Thornaby Pavilion, Teesside.		E.T.T.A. Office, Closing date: 6.5.72.
June 3	Aycliffe Festival 1-Star Open, Woodham Secondary School, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham.	BS, GS.	Mr. J. A. Masson, 10 Teesdale Avenue, Darlington, Co. Durham. Closing date: 20.5.72.
Apr. 15/22	**8th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, ENERGIE HAL, ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND.** Team Events: Apr. 15-18. Individual Events: Apr. 20-22. **Finals:** Team:—8 p.m. Tuesday, Apr. 18. Individuals:—2 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 22.		

SWEDISH CLUB VISIT

LANGSHYTTAN B.T.K. intend to visit this country from June 10-18, with a party of 15 to 20 players between the ages of 10 to 20 and are desirous of some Club matches.

In the party will be two 14-years-old girls who wish to stay with English families for a period of three weeks for the purpose of improving their knowledge of the English language. The parents of these two girls will also be in the party and would offer hospitality in Sweden for a similar period of time in return.

Any Club or League interested in making contact with Langshyttan B.T.K. are requested to contact Mr. C. Antonsson, Box 539, 770 70 Langshyttan, Sweden.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

THIS season's two remaining home international matches are against Hungary, the first on Monday, April 24 (European League) at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend, Essex and the final one on Tuesday, April 25 at the "Y" Sports Centre, Melrose Avenue, Maidstone, Kent, both encounters to commence at 7-30 p.m.

Ticket enquiries in respect of the European League match to: Mr. M. D. Watts, 25 Church Green, Sycamore Way, Canewdon, Essex ('Phone: Canewdon 429) and for the match at Maidstone to: Mr. B. H. Fuller, 38 Park Avenue, Maidstone, Kent ('Phone Maidstone 57614).

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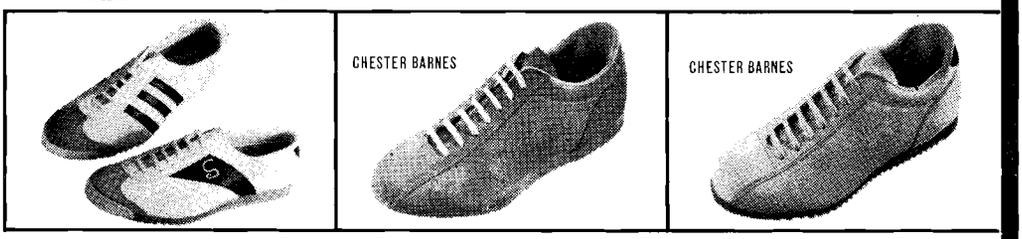

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HALEX SUPER LEAGUE

by Lou Hoffman

TIE FOR FIRST POSITION

GRAND climax of the Halex Super League occurred on Wednesday, March 29 and to all those people who were unable to be present on that occasion, I offer my condolences.

In all my years of playing and watching, I have never seen players and spectators become so involved and excited. I will be giving a full report in the next issue of the magazine but, in the meantime, here are the final positions:—

	P	W	L	Pts
London School of Flying	10	6	4	55
Halex	10	7	3	55
Reddings	10	7	3	50
B.X.L.	10	5	5	40
Jaques	10	3	7	39
Scotia	10	2	8	31

It has been obvious from this pilot scheme that the Super League is a must . The only difficulty encountered has been the lack of spectators. Your suggestions, however, would be most welcome. Any ideas would be given full consideration and you are hereby invited to send them addressed to Halex Super League, c/o E.T.T.A., 26-29 Park Crescent, London W1N 4HA.

by PENHOLDER

NATIONAL FINALS DATE

The National Finals of the 4-a-side School Team Championships, which were postponed from March 19 because of the effects of the electricity crisis on two of the three Regional Finals, will now take place on Saturday, May 13, at Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., commencing at 1 p.m.

Schools in the North Region and the Midlands & West are due to compete in the Regional Finals on Sunday, April 30 but the South & East Regional Finals were unaffected by power cuts and went ahead as arranged on February 27.

SOUTH & EAST REGION FINAL RESULTS:

Highlights of the day's proceeding at the Crystal Palace Centre was the amazing achievement of Plaistow Grammar School (Essex Met.) who for the second year in succession will have three teams in the Grand Finals.

But their Girls' Under-15 team, who are defending this title, were taken very close by St. Michael's Convent G.S., Finchley (Middlesex). Both teams defeated Sawston Village College (Cambs.) 5-3 and so a deciding doubles set was played with the East London girls made to fight all the way.

Surrey have two teams through; Emanuel School, Battersea include two strong players in Paul Bishop and Steve Lyons and they scored comfortable 6-2 wins over Essex County winners St. Helena, Colchester, and Great Yarmouth Grammar School.

The other Surrey representatives are in the Under-11 event - Barrow Hills from Godalming. They could only draw with Old Buckenham Hall (Suffolk) but ousted Pulford School (Beds.) 5-3 to go through.

Middlesex retain an interest via Salvatorian College, Harrow, in the Boys Under-13 event whilst in the parallel Girls event Westlands, Sittingbourne should prove to be formidable opposition for their two opponents at Stoke.

RESULTS:

Boys' U-19:
1. EMANUEL (Surrey)
2. St. Helena, Colchester (Essex Cty.)
3. Gt. Yarmouth G.S. (Norfolk)

Girls' U-19:
1. PLAISTOW G.S., Newham (Essex Met.)
2. Southall G/T School (Middlesex)
3. Perse Girls (Cambs.)

Boys' U-15:
1. PLAISTOW G.S., Newham (Essex Met.)
2. Tiffin Boys (Surrey)
3. Northgate G.S., Ipswich (Suffolk)

Girls' U-15:
1. PLAISTOW G.S., Newham (Essex Met.)
2. St. Michael's Convent G.S. (Middlesex)
3. Sawston Village College (Cambs.)

Boys' U-13:
1. SALVATORIAN COLLEGE, Harrow (Middlesex)
2. S.W. Ham Technical, Newham (Essex Met.)
3. Orwell Park (Suffolk)

Girls' U-13:
1. WESTLANDS SEC., Sittingbourne (Kent)
2. Plaistow G.S., Newham (Essex Met.)
3. Manor (Cambs.)

Under-11:
1. BARROW HILLS (Surrey)
2. Old Buckenham Hall (Suffolk)
3. Pulford, Leighton Buzzard (Beds.)

Please note:

The Competition Secretary, E. J. Mitchell, of The Schoolhouse, Cookhill, Alcester, Warwicks, is on the 'phone at Astwood Bank 3506.

The General Secretary, D. A. Lomas has now moved to 45, Shirley Way, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey.

George R. Yates *reports on . . .* The International Front

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

NOT until Czechoslovakia have travelled to the U.S.S.R. to take on Russia, and England have faced up to Hungary, at Southend on April 24, will either the championship or the relegation issues be resolved in the *Premier Division* of the European League.

Following their 5-2 win over England at Norwich (reported elsewhere) and a 4-3 victory over Federal Germany, in Remscheid, Czechoslovakia still boast an undefeated record from five matches. But, coming up on the rails, the Soviet Union have, within the same period, also beaten Federal Germany, in Frankfurt (5-2) as well as Sweden (4-3) in Moscow.

In this latter engagement, Russia's success was accomplished despite the fact that Zoya Rudnova, was beaten by Ann-Christine Hellman, winner of last season's English Junior Open at Canterbury, and Stanislav Gomozkov had gone under to Karl-Johan Bernhardt.

By beating the Czechs 6-1, Russia could win the title outright, or by games average should a win of 5-2 result. Similarly, England have the task of accounting for the Hungarians 5-2 to avoid relegation, or by a superior games average to France should they manage to succeed 4-3!

If, as is reported, Hungary have lost the services of Tibor Klampar for the rest of the season, as the result of an accident, then all is by no means lost. Detailed match results:—

Federal Germany 3 Czechoslovakia 4

E. Schöler bt M. Orlowski 17, 16;
W. Lieck bt J. Turai 19, 19;
Diane Schöler lost to Alica Grofova -20, **-18;**
J. Leiss/Lieck lost to Orlowski/Turai **-22**, 17, **-17;**
Schöler/Schöler lost to J. Kunz/Grofova 18, -13, -20;
Schöler bt Turai 18, -15, 9;
Lieck lost to Orlowski -14, -16.

Hungary 3 Sweden 4

I. Jonyer bt K. Johansson 18, 18;
G. Gergely lost to S. Bengtsson 21, -16, -13;
Judit Magos lost to Birgitta Radberg 21, -16, -13;
Gergely/Jonyer bt Bengtsson/Johansson 22, 12;
Jonyer lost to Bengtsson -16, -14;
Gergely lost to Johansson 19, **-11, -12.**
Jonyer/Magos w.o. X.D.

continued on next page

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The International Front

Federal Germany 2 Soviet Union 5

Lieck bt A. Strokatov 17, 15;
Schöler lost to S. Gomozkov -15, -18;
Wiebke Hendriksen lost to Zoya Rudnova -8, -7;
Leiss/Lieck lost to Gomozkov/Strokatov 17, -13, -18;
Schöler/Hendriksen lost to Gomozkov/Rudnova -20, -12;
Lieck lost to Gomozkov -10, -16;
Schöler bt Strokatov 12, 14.

Soviet Union 4 Sweden 3

Gomozkov bt Johansson 12, 19;
S. Sarkhayan lost to K. J. Bernhardt -18, -19;
Zoya Rudnova lost to Ann-Christine Hellman -19, 18, -17;
Gomozkov/Sarkhayan bt Johansson/I. Wikström 18, 8;
Gomozkov/Rudnova bt Wikström/Hellman 16, 10;
Gomozkov lost to Bernhardt 18, -16, -19;
Sarkhayan bt Johansson 15, 18.

France 2 Federal Germany 5

J. Secretin bt Leiss 7, 14;
J. P. Weber lost to Schöler -12, -18;
Claude Bergeret lost to Diane Schöler -15, 18, -18;
D. Dhondt/Secretin lost to Leiss/K. Schmittinger 16, -15, -17;
Secretin/Bergeret bt Schöler/Schöler 18, -15, 21;
Secretin lost to Schöler -18, 18, -18;
Weber lost to Leiss -8, -9.

Individual results in the 5-2 win obtained by Czechoslovakia over France (as reported in the March issue) were:—

Orlowski bt Dhondt 19, -18, 9;
Kunz lost to Secretin -13, -18;
Alica Grofova bt Claude Bergeret 19, -13, 15;
Orlowski/Turai bt Dhondt/Secretin -17, 16, 10;
Orlowski/Jitka Karlikova lost to Secretin/Bergeret 24, -17, -20;
Orlowski bt Secretin -22, 24, 17;
Kunz bt Dhondt 16, 12.

Current table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia ...	5	5	0	23	12	5
Soviet Union	5	4	1	20	15	4
Hungary	5	3	2	21	14	3
Sweden	6	3	3	22	20	3
Fed. Germany	6	3	3	19	23	3
France	6	1	5	16	26	1
ENGLAND	5	0	5	12	23	0

In Vienna, Netherlands lost their first match of the season, in *Division Two*, when beaten 5-2 by Austria, and Ireland had their relegation fears increased when beaten, at home, 4-3 by Greece. Subsequent to this match, Ireland have lodged a protest.

Scotland's 5-2 away victory over Switzerland, in Romont, has put them in a comfortable position on which to build on for next season. Current positions:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	5	5	0	27	8	5
Netherlands	6	5	1	28	14	5
Denmark	4	4	0	20	8	4
SCOTLAND	7	3	4	21	28	3
Greece	6	2	4	20	22	2
Switzerland	6	2	4	18	24	2
Belgium	4	1	3	10	18	1
IRELAND	6	0	6	10	32	0

Italy, with wins over Spain (5-2) and Turkey (6-1) have won the *Mediterranean Group* play-off in which Malta took no part. Spain beat Turkey 4-3 for second position.

The *Western European Group* play-off is scheduled to be played in Luxembourg over the periol April 11-13 when, apart from the host country, Guernsey, Jersey, Norway and Wales will battle it out for the right to meet Italy for a position in Division Two.

EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

English Club Champions, Ormesby, contest the final of the *European Club Championships* in a two-legged affair with Sweden's Falkenbergs BTF. Ormesby's team of Denis Neale, Trevor Taylor and Nicky Jarvis travel to Sweden on April 27, the home leg being scheduled for Thursday, May 11 on Teesside.

Further details can be had from Ormesby supremo, Alan Ransome, at 21a Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough. 'Phone: Middlesbrough 34214 (home). Spearheaded by world champion, Stellan Bengtsson, Falkenberg's team is otherwise likely to comprise Anders Johansson and Tommy Andersson.

EUROPEAN RANKING LIST

A revised ranking list has recently been released by the European Table Tennis Union in which Denis Neale, at No. 16, and Trevor Taylor, at No. 19 figure, together with Jill Hammersley, at No. 12 (from No. 9) in the women's section.

Stellan Bengtsson retains his No. 1 position in the men's section with his compatriot, Kjell Johansson, shooting up into second position from No. 7. Hungary's Tibor Klampar drops from No. 2 to No. 5.

In the women's section Russia's Zoya Rudnova, the European champion, regains her No. 1 position from Ilona Vostova who moves down to No. 4. The most startling rise is made by Hungary's Judit Magos, up from No. 15 to No. 5! List (previous position in brackets):—

MEN

1. S. Bengtsson (Sweden) (1)
2. K. Johansson (Sweden) (7)
=3) I. Jonyer (Hungary) (3)
) A. Stipancic (Yugoslavia) (5)
5. T. Klampar (Hungary) (2)
6. D. Surbek (Yugoslavia) (4)
7. J. Secretin (France) (10)
8. M. Karakasevic (Yugoslavia) (9)
9. S. Gomozkov (Soviet Union) (13)
10. E. Schöler (Fed. Germany) (8)
11. M. Orlowski (Czechoslavakia) (12)
12. I. Korpa (Yugoslavia) (11)
13. J. Kunz (Czechoslavakia) (14)
14. J. Börzsei (Hungary) (-)
15. J. Turai (Czechoslavakia) (-)
16. D. NEALE (England) (-)
17. W. Lieck (Fed. Germany) (16)
18. S. Kollarovits (Czechoslavakia) (15)
19. T. TAYLOR (England) (-)
20. B. Persson (Sweden) (-)

Hans Alser, previously at No. 6 in the last list, is not now included following his retirement from competitive play. The men's list has been increased from 16 to 20 places.

WOMEN

1. Z. Rudnova (Soviet Union) (2)
2. B. Kishazi (Hungary) (4)
3. M. Alexandru (Rumania) (3)
4. I. Vostova (Czechoslovakia) (1)
5. J. Magos (Hungary) (15)
6. D. Schöler (Fed. Germany) (5)
7. S. Federova (Soviet Union) (6)
8. A. Grofova (Czechoslovakia) (7)
9. A. Simon (Fed. Germany) (8)
10. M. Resler (Yugoslavia) (11)
11. B. Radberg (Sweden) (-)
12. J. HAMMERSLEY (England) (9)
13. L. Andersson (Sweden) (13)
14. D. Hovestadt (Dem. Germany) (12)
15. E. Vlaicov (nee Mihalca) (Rumania) (10)
16. C. Crisan (Rumania) (-)

Out from the previous list go Marta Hejma (nee Luzova) (Fed. Germany) (No. 14) and Rita Pogosova (Soviet Union) (No. 16).

WELSH OPEN

Czechoslavakia dominated all events at the Welsh Open, held for the first time at the National Sports Centre for Wales (*writes Nancy Roy Evans*) which provided a magnificent venue, enthusiastically approved by the Czechs, Nigerians and Peruvians, and by the usual English contingent.

Trevor Taylor looked at one time as if he might get into the final for a crack at the £75 First Prize, and he lead Orlowski by two games and was playing well in the third, when suddenly the points began to run away from him, and the Czech emerged a comfortable winner.

Jaroslav Kunz had, meantime, beaten Stefan Kollarovits in a set one felt the latter could and should have won, but Kunz was a worthy winner over Orlowski in a five-game final.

Jill Hammersley carried the English challenge to the final against Vostova, after a fine win over Grofova, and went to 20-all in the first game. An umpiring decision seemed to affect her more than it should, and she was nowhere in the hunt after that.

Most pleasing feature of the Championships was the fine performance by the Nigerians, Philip Santos and Lassey Wilson, who had a great run to the final of the men's doubles. Had they been able to play in the same uplift as their quarter-final win over Taylor and Alan Hydes, and semi-final over Nicky Jarvis and Paul Beck, they would have given Orlowski and Kunz a better run.

Results:-

M.S.:s-f:
J. Kunz bt S. Kollarovits 20, -17, -11, 11, 17;
M. Orlowski bt T. Taylor -21, -17, 19, 15, 9.
Final:
Kunz bt Orlowski 22, -18, 14, -16, 13.
W.S.: s-f:
I. Vostova bt L. Howard 11, 11, 12;
J. Hammersley bt A. Grofova 20, 9, 7.
Final:
Vostova bt Hammersley 20, 14, 13.
M.D.: Final:
Orlowski/Kunz bt P. Santos/L. Wilson 14, 14, 7.
W.D.: Final:
Grofova/Vostova bt Howard/S. Howard 7, 8, 11.
X.D.: Final:
Orlowski/Vostova bt Kunz/Grofova 19, -13, 13, 15.
B.S.: Final:
D. Alderson bt I. Horsham 17, 20.
G.S.: Final:
L. Howard bt E. Tarten 14, 11.
M.C.S.: Final:
D. Douglas bt A. Ransome 13, -10, 16.
W.C.S.: Final:
A. Stevenson bt J. Rowley 17, 19.

SCOTTISH OPEN

Undoubtedly this season's Scottish Open played at the Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh over the weekend of Mar 18-19, belonged to Elaine Smith (*writes Helen Hamilton*).

The young Scottish girl must be congratulated on her splendid perform-

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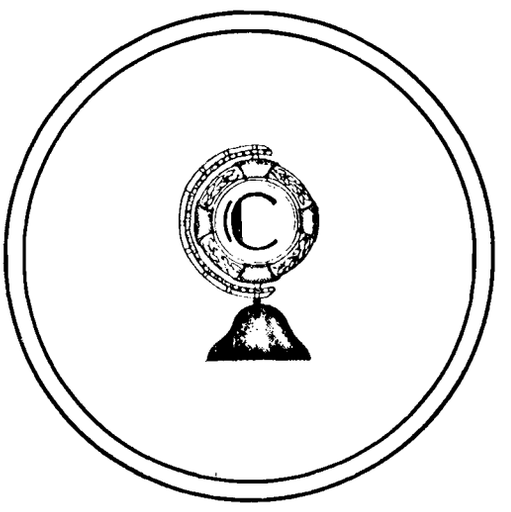

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ances in winning, not only the women's singles, but the doubles (with Charlotte McBeath) and the mixed (with Richard Yule). She reversed her two previous defeats, one in Friday's Junior international match and Saturday's defeat in the Junior Girls' final by England's Janet Hellaby. These two girls certainly had some ding-dong tussles over the weekend. There were no other surprises in the women's events.

In the Men's Singles, the first seed to go out was Nicky Jarvis beaten by Scotland's No. 7 ranked player Ram Bhalla in the round before the quarters. Bhalla (West of Scotland), who plays with pimpled rubber only, won convincingly much to the joy of the Scots audience. He lost in the quarters to David Alderson but not without a fight scores of 21, -16, -12, -20 would indicate.

The next seed to fall was Trevor Taylor who was surprisingly beaten by Jimmy Walker. The semi-finals were all Ormesby affairs in which Denis Neale beat Alan Ransome, and Alderson got the better of Walker.

In the final Neale was the master and never looked otherwise. One of the best sets of the tournament was the final of the Boys' Singles in which Donald Parker beat David Alderson. The Lancastrian showed enterprise and variety and much more will be heard of this young man.

Results:-

M.S.: Q-F:
D Neale (Yorks.) bt P. Forket (Scot.) 10, 10, 15;
A. Ransome (Yorks.) bt D. Parker (Lancs.) 11, -12, 10, 11;
D. Alderson (Yorks.) bt R. Bhalla (Scot.) 21, -16, 12, 20;
J. Walker (Yorks.) bt T. Taylor (Essex) 15, 16, -13, -21, 18.
S-F:
Neale bt Ransome 14, 17, 14; Alderson bt Walker -12, 18, 13, 17.
Final:
Neale bt Alderson 9, 14, 11.

W.S.: S-F:
E. Smith (Scot.) bt K. Rogers (Leics.) 19, -13, 19, -18, 11;
J. Hellaby (Essex) bt J. Green (Ches.) 10, -18, 12, 7.
Final:
Smith bt Hellaby -19, 18, 18, 18.

M.D.: Final:
Neale/Taylor bt N. Jarvis (Yorks.)/Walker 18, 16, 17.

W.D.: Final:
C. McBeath (Scot.)/Smith bt Hellaby/Rogers 15, -15, 18, 17.

X.D.: Final:
R. Yule (Scot.)/Smith bt B. Johns (Ches.)/Green 20, -16, -20, 14, 17.

B.S.: S-F:
D. Parker (Lancs.) bt J. McNee (Scot.) -19, 11, 10;
D. Alderson bt B. Johns 14, 18.
Final:
Parker bt Alderson 19, 15.

G.S.: S-F:
Smith bt Rogers 12, 14; Hellaby bt Green 12, 15.
Final:
Hellaby bt Smith 20, -12, -17.

V.S.: Final:
L. Browning (Yorks.) bt T. Donlon (Ches.) -20, 19, 19.

M.C.S.: Final:
A. Warents (Nthld.) bt Browning 18, 15.

W.C.S. Final:
D. Quin (Scot.) bt M. Neish (Scot.) 18, 13.

JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS

by Brian Wright

IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY BY NEWCOMERS

BEFORE a small crowd at the University College of Swansea on Mar. 10, England had a convincing 10-0 win over Wales with only one set going to three games. Both Anita Stevenson and Desmond Douglas played creditably on debut.

Welsh No. 1, Michael Owen, was the player to demand a deciding game and that against his opposite number, Peter Taylor. Scores:—

P. Taylor bt M. Owen -17, 15, 15;
S. Heaps bt W. Hussey 13, 13;
I. Horsham bt A. Thomas 10, 12;
D. Douglas bt P. Harvey 3, 12;
Janet Hellaby bt Lynda Jones 16, 12;
Anita Stevenson bt Dawn Michael 7, 11;
Taylor/Douglas bt Thomas/Harvey 19, 11;
Heaps/Horsham bt Owen/Hussey 20, 9;
Taylor/Miss Stevenson bt Owen/Miss Jones 13, 15;
Heaps/Miss Hellaby bt Hussey/Miss Michael 8, 9.

Against Scotland, at Bowhouse Community Centre, Grangemouth, before a crowd approaching 80 on Mar. 17, England again had an untroubled passage in winning 9-0 with no set demanding a decider. The only real resistance came from Elaine Smith who extended Janet Hellaby. All three boys, Brian Johns, Donald Parker and Robert Aldrich, together with Karen Rogers, were making their international debut.

Another who should was David Alderson whose flights from Holland to London, and from London to Edinburgh, were delayed by fog with the result that he did not arrive at Grangemouth until the match was over. David has yet to win his first junior badge though he is a senior international.

Results:

D. Parker bt M. Thomson 11, 12; bt J. McNee 16, 16;
B. Johns bt A. McCulloch 4, 15;
R. Aldrich bt N. Smith 8, 17;
Janet Hellaby bt Elaine Smith 20, 21;
Karen Rogers bt Patrice Fleming 14, 9;
Johns/Parker bt McNee/McCulloch 13, 14;
Johns/Aldrich bt Thomson/Smith 20, 21;
Miss Hellaby/Miss Rogers bt Miss Smith/Miss Fleming 19, 16.

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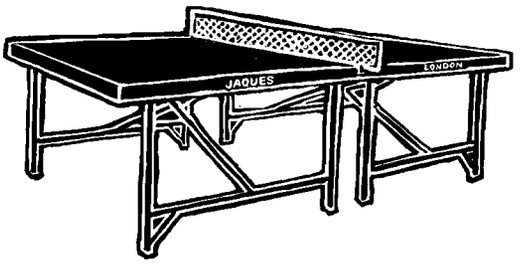

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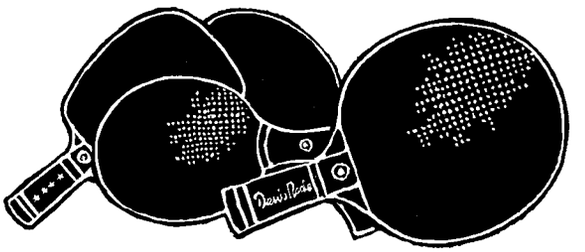

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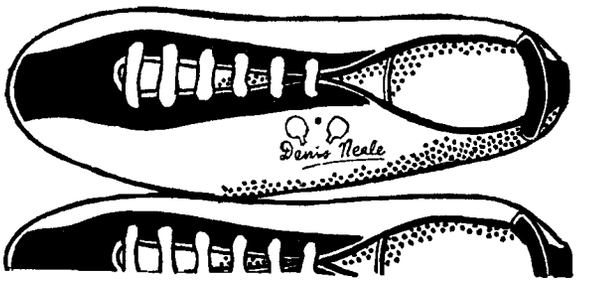

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English National Umpires Squad at

THE FEDERAL GERMAN OPEN

by BRIAN WEBB

The invitation from the D.T.T.B. for the E.T.T.A. to send four National Umpires to their Open Championships resulted in the selected squad of J. Sykes (Team Leader—Works), F. J. Groom and S. E. Francis (both Kent) and B. R. J. Webb (Middx./Bucks.) rendezvousing on the S.S. JUSTINA for the 11-15 p.m. Harwich-Hook channel crossing on Wednesday, 23rd February. After a choppy seven hours we landed in the early hours of Thursday morning and proceeded, with one change, by train to Hagen reaching the TARGAN HOTEL just before noon. In addition to the four umpires our party also included Mrs. Helen Sykes and during the visit her fluent German was to prove a valuable asset.

After spending the first afternoon shopping we had our evening meal out and then returned to our hotel for a 9 p.m. briefing which was led by one of the joint referees, Herr Gessler. Here we had our first opportunity to meet the other National Umpires from Germany, France and the Netherlands, who were to be our colleagues for the next three days. The official briefing was concluded with an informal discussion which proved to be an excellent opportunity for us all to get to understand other viewpoints on certain interpretations. We were informed that when the Germans use two officials (umpire and timekeeper/score recorder) to control a match, the second official sitting in the centre on the far side of the table is permitted to judge if a service is good on any occasion that the servers body obstructs the umpire's view of the ball. Although this is contrary to our interpretation of the second paragraph of Law 6 we were prepared to follow the official German instructions. (At the English Open Championships the following weekend the German National Umpires Squad asked to be allowed to continue this practise at our tournament, but the request was rightly refused by John Wright).

A most interesting discussion on the unused, uncovered side of a racket (when used with the penholder grip) could not reach a satisfactory conclusion. The Germans could see nothing to prevent a player having a bat with white or untreated wood but we unanimously considered that as we read the law this wood must be dark. Obviously here are two topics which can be considered by more expert opinion, perhaps to a universally acceptable conclusion.

Our umpiring stint commenced at 8-30 a.m. on Friday, 25th at the ISCHELANDSPORTHALLE, Hagen. After a 6-30 a.m. call and a 7 o'clock continental breakfast we journeyed by coach to the hall in good time for the first round matches of the ladies' and men's team competitions. We were allocated to table 3 and kept intact as a squad. Within the space of a few hours we had all broken the ice and umpired our first match in German. It was only later we realized that our Dutch and French counterparts were calling their matches in their own language and not German. However with only a couple of exceptions, at the player's request that English was preferred, we called throughout in German. At our briefing the previous evening we had been instructed to ensure that all players served strictly according to the letter of the law. Before all the early matches we instructed all players "Korrekte Aufschlage Bitte!" and this policy was so successful that, by the later stages of the tournament, the warning was no longer necessary. The warning in German was accompanied by a flat open hand demonstration.

During play on the first day we were surprised that the individual events commenced before the team knockout was completed. However the smooth organisation of the tournament came as no surprise. Everything went with clockwork efficiency from beginning to end. The official opening parade and ceremony was Thursday evening, before the Men's and Ladies' team finals, when all nations were led into the arena by a blue and white uniformed brass band. Great attention had been paid to every aspect so that it was always easy to follow progress of the play on any one of the nine tables. The players were all clearly numbered, as were the tables, the score recording machines were simple and efficient and every match was clearly set out in detail in the official prestige programme.

Our first day concluded with the final of the Ladies' Team Event which was won 3-2 by Hungary, with Russia as runners-up. In the doubles FEDEROVA vollied after the ball had cleared the table and unsuccessfully claimed the point as it was Rudnova's strike. Her argument found no response from Sid Francis. The same Russian player, in her opening singles, had been faulted after a warning from Jim Sykes for serving whilst the ball was still on the way up.

During the play on Saturday our table saw the departure in successive matches, from the Men's Singles, first of Barnes by Leiss (18, -15, -20, -15) then Taylor to Klamper (23, -17, -17, -16). Chester had an entertaining game watched by the majority of the crowd as his opponent was a home player. His immediate reaction of pushing the table the smallest fraction towards Leiss after the finest of edge balls against him nearly brought the house down; however our squad were equally amused when he complained to the N.P.C. that the !! English Umpire saw it when he vollied.

Sunday was a much easier day, we were able to lie in until 8 o'clock as play, on four tables, did not commence until 10 o'clock. The semi-finals in the morning, three of which (all doubles) were played on our table and in the afternoon the five finals on one table. The finals took place before a packed house—the hall seats 1,500 but I am not sure if this official figure included the several hundred individual seats on the floor of the arena for competitors, etc. Before play commenced the brass band returned, this time accompanied by a team of dancing girls. Our squad were honoured with the men's singles and doubles, an arrangement which naturally greatly pleased us although, with so many National Umpires present, not altogether the fairest share out of the spoils. In the evening our two matches were the main features of the long table tennis item in their television sport's programme with many good shots of players and officials.

No report of these championships would be complete without a word of praise for the wonderful and genuine hospitality which we received and thoroughly appreciated. Nothing—but nothing—was too much trouble to our hosts throughout the entire visit. Their generosity to us was in keeping with the treatment which their own umpires enjoy. The German Squad which was due to leave for Brighton were having their fares paid to Dover by the D.T.T.B.

I am sure that I speak for all four of our squad when I say that our visit was both exciting and memorable. The new friendships which we made, the views and interpretations which we discussed will remain with us for a long time. Our experience as umpires can only have benefitted and it is to be hoped that this in turn will be to the benefit of table tennis back home. Similar exchanges can only be to the overall improvement of table tennis umpiring.

ENGLISH RESULTS

MEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
1st Round:
ENGLAND bt BELGIUM 3-0.
Barnes bt Roels 15, 19.
Taylor bt Hofmann 13, 9.
Barnes/Taylor bt Roels/Hofmann 15, 15.
2nd Round:
ENGLAND lost to SWEDEN 0-3.
Barnes lost to K. Johansson 14, -16, -15.
Taylor lost to Bengtsson -10, -15.
Barnes/Taylor lost to Johansson/Bengtsson 13, -16, -11.

WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
1st Round:
ENGLAND bt HOLLAND 3-0.
Mathews bt Heltzel -17, 13, 19
L. Howard bt Coltof 14, 19.
Mathews/Howard bt Heltzel/Coltof 23, 17.
2nd Round:
ENGLAND lost to GERMANY I 1-3.
Mathews lost to Hejma -16, 18, -16.
L. Howard lost to Schöler -9, -11.
Mathews/Howard bt Hejma/Simon -19, 19, 17.
Mathews lost to Schöler -22, -15.

MEN'S SINGLES
1st Round:
Barnes bt Obisanya (Nigeria) 16, 8, 11.
Taylor bt Wikström (Sweden) 16, 20, 17.
2nd Round:
Barnes lost to Leiss (Germany) 18, -15, -20, -15.
Taylor lost to Klampar (Hungary) 23, -17, -17, -16.

WOMEN'S SINGLES
1st Round:
Mathews bt Kreke (Luxembourg) 8, 7, 17
Howard lost to Krier (Luxembourg) -15, 16, -14, -15.
2nd Round:
Mathews bt Radberg (Sweden) -9, 18, -13, 18, 19.
3rd Round:
Mathews lost to Grofova (Czechoslovakia) -12, 14, -10, -15.

MEN'S DOUBLES
1st Round:
Barnes/Taylor bt Schoofs/V. Slobbe (Holland) 18, 15, 17.
2nd Round:
Barnes/Taylor lost to K. Johansson/Bengtsson -15, 18, -16, -19.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES
1st Round:
Bye.
2nd Round:
Mathews/Howard bt Resler/Jeler (Yugoslavia) 18, 13, 17
3rd Round:
Mathews/Howard lost to Schöler/Wetzel (Germany) 17, -10, 9, -7, -17.

MIXED DOUBLES
1st Round:
Howard/Taylor bt Krier/Cloos (Lux.) 8, 8, 17.
(Mathews/Barnes BYE).
2nd Round:
Howard/Taylor lost to Bergeret/Secretin (France) 14, -16, -17, -6
Mathews/Barnes lost to Lotaller/Gergely (Hungary) -15, 14, -18, -13.

OVERALL RESULTS
Men's Team Event: Semi-finals:
Sweden 3, Federal Germany I 0.
Hungary 3, Federal Germany II 0.
Final:
SWEDEN 3 Hungary 0
K. Johansson bt I. Jonyer 16, -18, 19.
S. Bengtsson bt T. Klampar -8, 19, 10.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Jonyer/Klampar 14, -17, 14.
Women's Team Event: Semi-finals:
U.S.S.R. 3 Federal Germany 1 0.
Hungary 3 Rumania 2.
Final:
HUNGARY 3, U.S.S.R. 2
J. Magos lost to Z. Rudnova -16, -7;
B. Kishazi bt S. Federova 11, -19, 18;
H. Lotaller/Magos bt Federova/Rudnova 18, 18;
Kishazi lost to Rudnova -18, 16, -19;
Magos bt Federova 15, 17.
Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
S. Bengtsson (Swe.) bt E. Schöler (Fed. Ger.) 17, 8, -21, 13;
M. Karakasevic (Yugo). bt I. Jonyer (Hun.) 14, 16, -18, -15, 19;
K. Johansson (Swe.) bt D. Surbek (Yugo.) 19, -22, 18, -17, 11;
A. Stipancic (Yugo.) bt J. Secretin (Fr.) 14, 17, 19.
Semi-finals:
Johansson bt Stipancic 8, 19, 15;
Bengtsson bt Karakasevic 18, 18, -17, 16.
Final:
JOHANSSON bt Bengtsson 19, 10, 17.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
A. Grofova (Cz.) bt M. Resler (Yugo.) 19, 13, 12;
J. Magos (Hun.) bt M. Alexandru (Rum.) 15, 21, -19, 16;
B. Kishazi (Hun.) bt E. Vlaicov (Rum.) 16, 10, 12;
Z. Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) bt L. Andersson (Swe.) 17, 9, 12.
Semi-finals:
Magos bt Grofova 21, 18, -13, 18;
Rudnova bt Kishazi 15, 10, 18.
Final:
RUDNOVA bt Magos 16, -12, 17, 16.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Jonyer/T. Klampar (Hun.) bt Stipancic/Surbek -13, -13, 21, 11 19;
Bengtsson/Johansson bt J. Börszei (Hun.)/Schöler -17, -18, 15, 19, 17.
Final:
BENGTSSON/JOHANSSON bt Jonyer/Klampar 14, 20, 17.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Grofova/Silhanova (Cz.) bt H. Lotaller (Hun.)/Magos -13, 15, -14, 16, 17;
Alexandru/C. Crisan (Rum.) bt D. Schö'er/E. Wetzel (Fed. Ger.) 18, 18, -21, 18.
Final:
ALEXANDRU/CRISAN bt Grofova/Silhanova -16, -26, 13, 13, 14.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Secretin/C. Bergeret (Fr.) bt Jonyer/Magos 22, -15, 14, 14;
Börzsei/Kishazi bt Lotaller/Gergely (Hu.) 18, 13, 15.
Final:
SECRETIN/BERGERET bt Börzsei/Kishazi 20, 17, 24.

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The Coca-Cola National Team Trophy Competitions

by Keith Ponting

HOLDERS STILL IN HUNT

As another great season's competition nears its end, after many months of hard and often exciting matches, we find the holders of all four competitions safely through to the semi-final stage.

In the **Wilmott Cup,** North Yorkshire have to travel to take on Birmingham, whilst East London and Barking meet in the other semi which should provide a more closely contested match.

Central London, in the **Rose Bowl,** travel to play Guildford and, again, it is difficult to see them being beaten. West Bromwich entertain northern favourites, Stockport, in the other semi and another close encounter should result.

The North Yorkshire youngsters who won the **Carter Cup** last May will be at home to Preston, whilst the surprise team of this competition, Crawley, entertain the boys from Barking.

Barking have had an outstanding season, with three of their teams reaching the semi-finals. One of these, the girls, are now called upon to travel to Guildford. In the other semi-final Liverpool are at home to Sheffield. These matches being in respect of the **Bromfield Trophy.**

Completion date, for all semi-finals, is Sunday, April 16.

QUARTER-FINALS

Wilmott Cup

North Herts 1, North Yorkshire 5—Another easy win for the holders with Denis Neale and Nicky Jarvis winning two each. Trevor Taylor added the other but lost to brother Peter !

East London 9, Southampton 0—Bobby Stevens, Stuart Gibbs and David Brown were far too strong for the enthusiastic Hants. team.

Barking 7, Bristol 2—Barking secretary, Ron Locke, was full of praise for the Bristolians. In a long letter (far too long for these notes) he extols the virtues of the fighting spirit displayed for despite being, at one stage, 0-4 in arrears they could well have been on even terms at 2-2. Ron ends his letter "Thank you Bristol for a very entertaining match, nice to have met you and better luck next season". For the records, Dennis Johnson was unbeaten for Barking with David Bowles and Bob Hellaby scoring two wins each. Johnny Wise and Brian Reeves won for Bristol.

Birmingham 5, Preston 2—The Midlanders started well by winning for the first four sets, which put them well on the way to victory. Derek Munt was in splendid form winning his three sets to which Ralph Gunnion and Dick Cooper added one each. Tony Rigby and Donald Parker got one each for the visitors.

Rose Bowl

Stockport 7, Spalding 1—Stockport certainly mean to represent the North in the finals in May and on this form look good bets. Diane Johnson was again the mainstay winning all her sets, with two sets each from Doreen Schofield and Susan Lisle. Jean White scored the only win for the visitors.

North Herts 2, West Bromwich 5—The home team's fate was sealed by a fine maximum from Dorothy Deeley. Kath Perry weighed in with two wins to complete the scoring for the visitors. Susan Felstead and Daphne Baines won one set each for N. Herts.

Central London 5, East London 1—Once again, the holders seem to be heading for yet another final appearance. They were never in any trouble in this match with two wins each from Karenza Mathews and Judy Williams and a solo from Shelagh Hession who lost to Lesley Radford.

Guildford 6, Eastbourne 3—The scoresheet suggests that this was a very close match indeed. Linda Howard was unbeaten for the home team, with her sister, Susan, winning two and Ruth Miles the other set. Linda Woodcock was again in fine form for the seasiders. She won two sets and ran Linda Howard to 24-22 in the third game decider. Diane Gard won the other set for Eastbourne.

Carter Cup

North Yorkshire 5, North Herts 4—Despite the absence of David Alderson, away in Holland on England duty, N. Yorks pulled off a fine win against a very good N. Herts team. Peter Taylor was in great form for the visitors, being undefeated, but two wins each for Tony Martin and Brian Alderson, plus one from Philip Ward clinched the issue for the Yorkshire team who, at one stage, trailed 3-4.

Thames Valley 3, Barking 5—Another close match and Barking were grateful for Ian Horsham's fine treble. David Boulter and Peter Hunt had one win each for Barking whilst Peter Matthews and David Bangerter scored for Thames Valley.

Plymouth 4, Crawley 5—Crawley won the match at 5-3 with Gerald Pugh scoring excellent wins over Keith James (Group A) and Kenny Reeves (Group B). A very good performance by the visitors especially with a team that does not contain a 'noted' player. Plymouth are also to be congratulated on reaching such an advanced stage of this competition.

Cambridge 3, Preston 6—A great treble by Donald Parker did much to see the Lancastrians home and what a set between Parker and Paul Day which saw the Soham youngster go down to his only defeat.

Bromfield Trophy

Sheffield 5, Cheshunt 3 — Judy Walker was the star of this match, being unbeaten for Sheffield. She was well supported by Janet Cooper who won two. Jane Hartwell and Angela Mitchell recorded wins for Cheshunt.

Liverpool 5, Leicester 4—This was the closest match of the whole competitions. Seven of the nine sets went to a decider with Liverpool getting home when Barbara Kirkman beat Anita Stevenson 23-21 in a third game decider. Brenda Williams also won two sets with Susanne Manning one. Karen Rogers was unbeaten for Leicester but all the players in this match deserve praise for putting on such a magnificent performance.

Sittingbourne 3, Guildford 6—Helped by a maximum from Linda Howard, Guildford won this tie comfortably. It was all over when the visitors won the first five sets. Nicolette Leslie got the other two for Guildford whilst Pat Gouge and Lynne Holtam scored for the Kent trio.

Barking 9, Taunton 0—Barking found it impossible to fix this match in London so travelled down to Somerset. Janet Hellaby, Gillian Taylor and Gillian Locke were far too good, however, and had a somewhat easy passage into the penultimate round.

International Club

A.G.M. AT BRIGHTON

The ninth annual general meeting of the Club took place at the Dome, Brighton on Mar. 4/72 and the usual small attendance unanimously re-elected Ivor Montagu as President. The meeting stood in silence in memory of Victor Barna, whose sudden death had been announced earlier in the week.

A proposal from Geoff Harrower that the Club present a trophy called the Victor Barna Memorial Trophy for the women's singles in the Rubber-Bat Open was unanimously accepted. This would then stand side by side with the men's singles trophy named after the late Richard Bergmann.

On April 27, in Manchester, a Victor Barna Memorial match is to be played between the Club and Manchester at Christie's Cancer Hospital. Club team to be Denis Neale, Alan Hydes and Tony Clayton. On May 12, the Club will play Middlesex in another Memorial match at the North Ealing Sports Centre. Club team to be selected.

Divisional Tables

continued from page 27

JUNIOR NORTH

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Yorks. II	6	5	1	0	49	11	11
Lancs.	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Durham	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Northmblnd	5	2	0	3	25	25	4
Westmrlnd	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Cheshire II	6	1	0	5	17	43	2
Cumberland	6	1	0	5	11	49	2

JUNIOR MIDLAND

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Leics.	6	4	2	0	41	19	10
Derbys.	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Notts.	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Staffs.	6	3	0	3	31	29	6
Warwks. II	6	1	0	5	21	39	2
Northants.	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Lincs.	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

JUNIOR EAST

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Cambs.	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Essex II	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Suffolk	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Hunts.	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Bedfordshire	5	0	1	4	19	31	1
Norfolk	5	0	1	4	14	36	1

JUNIOR WEST

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Glamorgan	6	6	0	0	50	10	12
Gloucs.	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Devon	5	3	1	1	34	16	7
Somerset	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Monmouths.	6	2	0	4	16	44	4
Worcs.	6	1	0	5	23	37	2
Wilts.	6	0	0	6	9	51	0

VETERAN SOUTH

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Essex	5	5	0	0	34	11	10
Kent	5	4	0	1	27	18	8
Oxfords.	5	3	0	2	27	18	6
Herts.	4	1	0	3	17	19	2
Northants.	4	1	0	3	5	31	2
Hants.	5	0	0	5	16	29	0

VETERAN MIDLAND

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	4	4	0	0	25	11	8
Notts.	4	3	0	1	23	13	6
Staffs.	4	2	0	2	13	23	4
Leics.	4	1	0	3	18	18	2
Worcs.	4	0	0	4	11	25	0

Gloucestershire—withdrawn

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Continued from page 28

Cambridgeshire II 5, Norfolk 5

How did Norfolk let this slip ? 0-1 down (to Paul Day) they then led 5-1 but got no more. Day crushed Chris Bensley 9, 9 and earns his new position of County No. 1 (he picked up XD with Deborah Clarke as well).

Norfolk 6, Huntingdonshire 4

Bensley, keen to wipe out the memory of his last match, put up a fine performance here with 2 x MS and MD all in straight games.

JUNIOR PREMIER

Hertfordshire 1, Warwickshire 9

Cheshire 7, Surrey 3

Yorkshire 4, Essex 6

Touch and go all the way, with the Essex capture of BD vital (by Martin Bawden and Peter Hunt 19, -18, 14 over Tony Martin and David Alderson). Alderson picked up 2 x BS and so did Michael Wright: a more determined and better-on-the-day Essex took BS from Ian Horsham and Bawden (a good win this, 17, -18, 12 in final set over Martin), XD, GS, GD and that BD.

Warwickshire 6, Surrey 4

A cliff-hanger: 2-all, 3-all, 4-all with the home team (is Lilleshall home ?) never behind. 3 x BS they took, and BD but Surrey's girls took all theirs and David Bangerter (17, -14, 19 over Steve Taylor) got the other.

Essex 9, Kent 1

A draw would have sufficed for the Championship, but why be charitable to an inexperienced team ? Late withdrawal of Andy Mitchell a blow to Kent and after Dean Dino-Smith took the opening set for them it was one way, straight set, traffic.

Kent 8, Hertfordshire 2

Not a Premier standard match, this one, with only Dave Weller and Robert Williams performing consistently. Had Herts. had Richard Morris . . .

Middlesex 9, Kent 1

An impressive display by Middlesex who dropped only BD. Bob Aldrich never in trouble but GD closer than expected at -16, 19, 14.

Surrey 2, Yorkshire 8

Even with two reserves, Yorkshire too strong. Good win for Pat Clements over the vastly improved Susan Tame, and Yorks. also took GD. Surrey boys, off of whom have another year, more impressive second time round.

Middlesex 8, Yorkshire 2

Middlesex good value for their win, both Yorks. successes coming from Brian Alderson. Aldrich can be his own worst enemy at times: he had a good lead in 3rd v. Alderson but got too ambitious and lost -14, 14, -17. Kathy Deem and Jane Hartwell have had a fine season: of 21 "girls" sets only two have escaped them (better record even than Essex who have dropped 3). Robert Wiley made David Tan work hard for his first game but crumpled in 2nd (-27, -11).

JUNIOR SOUTH

Berkshire 7, Hertfordshire II 3

Richard Jermyn's opening set win followed by promise by M. Webb against Gary Harding, suggested that Berks needed a good lead before the last 3 sets. This they got with Harding's 20, 11 win over Jermyn (producing best t.t. of match) making score 6-1. Improved, confident display by B. Sweetzer who with Harding and Caroline Reeves was unbeaten.

Kent II 1, Sussex 9

The very strong visiting team surprised by the fight of Kent but their strength told in the end. Stephen Marley outstanding. John Avey lost unbeaten record, then regained it as Chapman is the Kent ranked No. 3 and not eligible for 2nd team !

Hampshire 2, Sussex 8

JUNIOR NORTH

Northumberland 4, Lancashire 6

Well-fought match with Lancs. getting 4 of the 6 3-gamers. Best match the clash of the No. 1's with Mick Foulkes beating P. Gorman 20, -16, 13. Nice win for Miss B. Kearney -21, 12, 11 over Brenda Williams.

Westmorland 2, Durham 8

Two visiting boys in the wrong order gave the only Westmorland "wins".

Yorkshire II 10, Cumberland 0

6 sets needed a deciding game, but no **real** challenge from the visitors.

Durham 5, Yorkshire II 5

Peter Edon, unbeaten in play this season, continues to improve and was outstanding. J. Alsop lowered Robert Wiley's colours for the first time and a very nice GS with both Miss C. Walker and Miss J. Rutter spurning defence, the former winning 19, -16, 22. S. Hosking, on Junior debut, unlucky to have a blank day.

Cumberland 6, Cheshire II 4

A maximum by Cumberland's girls, Yvonne Brockbank and Jeanette Bullock proved decisive in this first-ever win by Cumberland at any level. At one stage they led 5-1.

Lancashire 9, Westmorland 1

Ronald Wilson was the only visitor to stem the tide (beating Barry Crook) which assured Lancashire of concerning themselves with the promotion challenge matches.

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Derbyshire 10, Northamptonshire 0

With every set important an excellent result for Derbys. What a recovery by Michael Taylor and Susan Holmes to take XD from Gary Alden and Miss A. Wallis 16, -15, 19 after trailing 11-19 in 3rd !

Leicestershire 7, Staffordshire 3

Only Steven Rowe performed for Staffs. in business-like way: he took 2 x BS and BD with Stephen Dunning. For Leics., Steven Penney had a good match and their girls (only two defeats in 2 seasons) too strong.

Nottinghamshire 8, Lincolnshire 2

Fine performance by S. Morley to inflict first defeat for home No. 1 Roger Dawkins: for Notts., Brent Skuse had 2 x BS wins in straight games on debut.

Derbyshire 4, Nottinghamshire 6

The more composed visiting trio of Dawkins, Adrian Ashley, George Keers allowed only one BS to go against them (to Neil Marples). Katherine Turton, on debut for Derbys., won GS and GD (with Susan Holmes) and Susan got another XD win with Taylor this time at 18 in 3rd. Notts. players all have at least one more Junior season and are poised to take their first Junior title.

Warwickshire II 3, Staffordshire 7

Two more BS wins for Kevin Pilgrim, and BD too !

JUNIOR EAST

Essex II 5, Cambridgeshire 5

The Cambs. v. Suffolk match, see after, now vital.

Suffolk 9, Norfolk 1

Determined resistance from Peter Maybury and Peter Burton, but Suffolk superior all round.

Cambridgeshire 6, Suffolk 4

No "double" for Essex Juniors, and the first-ever divisional title for Cambs. Thrice led, thrice Cambs. levelled and then a great win, 19, 14 for Paul Day over John Kitchener. Day paired with Deborah Clarke to take XD 19, 4 but Keith Richardson could not hold Simon Ball: 5-4. John Willis stormed home 13, 6 against Peter Oldfield in something of an anti-climax. Cambs. girls just that bit too strong and that win of Day's tipped the scales.

JUNIOR WEST

Somerset 8, Monmouthshire 2

Two convincing singles wins for Nigel Woodward on debut: E. Moses the best for the visitors.

Worcestershire 1, Glamorgan 9

One way traffic in the singles with 16 the best home score. Worcs. did better in the doubles and Wendy Salter and Sheila Foley recorded their 4th success in 5 GD appearances.

Monmouthshire 7, Wiltshire 3

Six sets went the distance, with each team winning 3. Nice win for Miss D. Sherman and Moses again in good form although team-mates made heavy weather of it.

Glamorgan 9, Devon 1

Keith James started things well for the visitors who forfeited their only other success: unavailable regulars meant two unregistered players appearing in GD.

Wiltshire 2, Somerset 8

Gloucestershire 6, Worcestershire 4

VETERAN SOUTH

Hampshire 4, Oxfordshire 5

A slight edge for the visitors for whom Alf Davies again excelled. John Ewles picked up two singles for the hosts.

Hertfordshire 4, Kent 5

In successive sets the unbeaten records of Ron Etheridge and Kath le Milliere went; the former to Jack Bender, the latter to Mrs. K. Rowden. But Kent recovered from these setbacks and took the last two singles for victory.

Essex 9, Northamptonshire 0

Oxfordshire 3, Essex 6

Oxon. started as if to crush the division leaders with wins by both G. Collins and Davies. But a second MS from Davies (over twice beaten Ken Beamish) was all else they won.

Leicestershire 4, Nottinghamshire 5

John Bryant outstanding in an even match. Leics. led 4-3.

Staffordshire 0, Cheshire 9

10 games finished at 19 or closer !

County Diary

Apr.	22/23	Junior Promotion Challenge, Hartshill High School, Nuneaton.
,,	22	12-00; 3-00; 7-00.
,,	23	10-00; 2-00.
,,	29/30	Senior Promotion Challenge, Redditch Youth Centre, Ipsley Street, Redditch.
,,	29	3-00.
,,	30	10-00; 2-00.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

to 28th March, 1972

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	6	6	0	0	36	18	12
Middlesex	6	5	0	1	40	14	10
Yorkshire	6	5	0	1	40	14	10
Sussex	6	4	0	2	28	26	8
Kent	7	3	0	4	25	38	6
Surrey	7	2	0	5	27	36	4
Glamorgan	7	1	0	6	18	45	2
Lancashire	7	0	0	7	20	43	0

2 SOUTH

Kent II	6	4	1	1	33	27	9
Middlesex II	6	3	1	2	29	31	7
Essex II	5	2	2	1	30	20	6
Bucks.	6	2	2	2	27	33	6
Surrey II	6	1	3	2	31	29	5
Hampshire	6	2	0	4	27	33	4
Sussex II	5	1	1	3	23	27	3

2 NORTH

Yorkshire II	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Cheshire	4	4	0	0	37	3	8
Notts.	6	4	0	2	29	31	8
Lincs.	6	2	1	3	23	37	5
Derbyshire	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Northmblnd	6	1	1	4	17	43	3
Durham	6	0	0	6	18	42	0

2 MIDLAND

Warwicks.	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Leicestershire	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Staffs.	6	3	1	2	33	27	7
Glouc.	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
Cambs.	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Beds.	6	1	0	5	18	42	2
Hertfordshire	5	0	1	4	19	31	1

2 WEST

Somerset	5	3	2	0	35	15	8
Glam. II	6	2	4	0	32	28	8
Devon	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Worcs.	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Dorset	6	0	3	3	26	34	3
Cornwall	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Wiltshire	5	1	1	3	17	33	3

SOUTHERN

Berkshire	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Hampshire II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Herts. II	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Oxfordshire	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Bucks. II	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

NORTHERN

Lancashire II	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Derbys. II	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Nrthblnd. II	5	3	0	2	21	29	6
Notts. II	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Durham II	5	0	2	3	14	36	2
Cumberland	5	0	1	4	16	34	1

MIDLAND

Warwks. II	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Monmths.	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Staffs. II	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Worcs. II	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Denbighs.	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Shropshire	5	0	1	4	11	39	1

EASTERN

Essex III	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Norfolk	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Suffolk	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Cambs. II	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Northants.	4	0	0	4	13	27	0
Hunts.	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

JUNIOR PREMIER

Essex	7	6	1	0	47	23	13
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	49	21	11
Yorkshire	7	4	0	3	44	26	8
Cheshire	6	4	0	2	37	23	8
Warwicks.	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Surrey	7	1	2	4	27	43	4
Kent	7	1	0	6	18	52	2
Herts.	7	0	1	6	16	54	1

JUNIOR SOUTH

Sussex	6	6	0	0	54	6	12
Berkshire	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Hampshire	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
Kent II	6	2	2	2	33	27	6
Bucks.	4	1	2	1	17	23	4
Herts. II	5	0	0	5	10	40	0
Oxon.	4	0	0	4	0	40	0

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

ESSEX TRIUMPH AT PONTEFRACT . . . PROPOSED RULE ALTERATIONS

Normally, at this stage of the season, one would expect all major issues to be settled: that so many are in this particular season reflects well on the initiative of Match Secretaries who have managed to keep going in very trying circumstances.

Essex look likely to retain the title of Champion County: they need to beat Sussex to make certain of this but (sorry Roger and Judy) they should manage this. Glamorgan and Lancashire return to 2nd Division play.

Bucks., Cheshire and Warwicks. are assured of places in the promotion challenge, and 2nd West seems likely to put forward Somerset although both Devon and Worcs. still have chances. Berkshire and Norfolk both regain 2nd Division places and so may Warwicks. II.

Essex take the junior crown for the 2nd time in 3 years: Kent and Herts. go down. Sussex, Lancashire, Cambridgeshire and Glamorgan are all eligible for the challenge and Notts. should qualify from Jnr. Midland (but Leics. are waiting for them to slip). Essex and Cheshire contest the Veteran play-off.

Proposed rule alterations have been received from several Counties: probably the most interesting of these is the Middlesex proposal to replace the Mixed Doubles (in a 10-set match) by a second Women's Singles. This nearly got passed some 7-8 years ago and I have been surprised that no move in this direction has been made earlier.

Following discussion I initiated with Mike Johns at Brighton, Ascot Sports have made an attractive offer to the C.T.T.C. for the adoption of the Nittaku ball for all C.T.T.C. matches. As well as a cash payment to the C.T.T.C., each County would receive a dozen balls for each team entered. Subject to satisfactory safeguards on quality, the Officers will propose acceptance of the offer at the A.G.M. Preliminary soundings made by me have indicated the move will be popular and accepted.

PREMIER

Kent 5, Surrey 4

A. Piddock lost to C. Warren -18, 8, -17; bt F. Nilam 20, 14.
K. Baker lost to Warren -12, -14; lost to B. Hill -22, -15.
C. Morris lost to Nilam -22, 18, -21; bt Hill -13, 18, 12.
H. Buist/Piddock bt Nilam/Warren -18, 11, 24.
Mrs. B. Bird bt Miss S. Howard 15, 18.
Morris/Mrs. Bird bt Hill/Miss Howard -19, 16, 19.

Lancashire 4, Glamorgan 5

A. Boasman lost to A. Griffiths -19, 14, -17; bt G. Davies 17, 23.
K. Forshaw bt Griffiths 10, 17; lost to R. Bishop -15, -20.
D. Parker lost to Davies -15, -19; lost to Bishop -16, 19, -20.
Boasman/Parker lost to Bishop/Griffiths -12, 15, -15.
Miss S. Lisle bt Miss L. Jones 8, 9.
Forshaw/Miss Lisle bt Davies/Miss Jones 16, 16.

Lancs. in a good position with a 4-2 lead, but last 3 M.S. all to the visitors for whom Robert Bishop had a fine match.

Essex 6, Kent 3

D. Brown bt A. Piddock 13, 16; bt K. Baker 19, 8.
R. Stevens lost to Piddock -9, -12; lost to C. Morris -16, -12.
S. Gibbs bt Baker 9, 9; lost to Morris 17, -13, -20.
Gibbs/Stevens bt Baker/Piddock 21, 19.
Miss S. Hession bt Mrs. B. Bird 5, 16.
Brown/Miss Hession bt Morris/Mrs. Bird 18, -17, 17.

Sussex 1, Middlesex 8

R. Chandler lost to O. Haslam -17, -17; bt M. Sugden 18, -17, 20.
J. Clarke lost to Haslam -16, -13; lost to E. Coster -20, 19, -14.
R. Stace lost to Sugden -9, -12; lost to Coster -19, -18.
Chandler/Clarke lost to Coster/Sugden -14, -20.
Miss J. Williams lost to Mrs. K. Mathews 19, -9, -15.
Stace/Miss Williams lost to Haslam/Mrs. Mathews -15, 17, -17.

Well down in the 2nd game of each singles, "Les" Haslam really got stuck in and gave one of his best displays for Middlesex.

Glamorgan 3, Kent 6

A. Griffiths lost to A. Piddock -13, -16; lost to C. Morris -22, -14.
G. Davies lost to Piddock -13, -20; bt H. Buist -13, 11, 21.
R. Bishop bt Morris -12, 17, 16; lost to Buist -12, -8.
Bishop/Griffiths lost to Buist/Piddock -6, -18.
Miss L. Jones lost to Mrs. B. Bird -8, -12.
Davies/Miss Jones bt Morris/Mrs. Bird 11, 20.

A disappointing end to Glamorgan's Premier campaign. 0-3 quickly became 1-6 (all in straight games) and only the last two sets gave them much comfort.

Surrey 7, Lancashire 2

C. Warren bt D. Parker 15, 17; bt B. Mitchell 10, 10.
F. Nilam lost to Parker -6, -13; bt E. Johnson 9, 6.
R. Penfold lost to Mitchell -10, -21; bt Johnson 13, 16.
Nilam/Warren bt Mitchell/Parker 13, 19.
Miss L. Howard bt Mrs. D. Johnson 18, 19.
B. Hill/Miss Howard bt Johnson/Mrs. Johnson 15, 14.

With so many players "unavailable" this depleted Lancs. team had little chance. Best play of the evening in sets 6 and 7 with Linda Howard only just getting the better of Di Johnson (who had absolutely no luck and deserved at least a game) and "Connie" Warren giving a lesson to Donald Parker who fought back well from 7-17 to 16-18 in 2nd game. Parker's display the most heartening of the match: he overwhelmed Firoz Nilam.

Yorkshire 4, Essex 5

D. Neale bt T. Taylor 15, 18; bt D. Brown 17, -20, 5.
A. Hydes lost to Taylor 19, -11, -17; bt R. Stevens 15, 17.
N. Jarvis lost to Brown -18, -25; bt Stevens -19, 8, 16.
Hydes/Neale lost to Brown/Stevens -17, -19.
Miss J. Walker lost to Miss S. Hession -4, -13.
Jarvis/Miss S. Broadbent lost to Taylor/Miss Hession -19, -9.

What can one say about this one? Undoubtedly the MD win for David Brown and Bobby Stevens was the bitterest pill for Yorks. to swallow although Brown's nail-biting success over Nicky Jarvis was not honey-coated either. Judy Walker was annihilated by Shelagh Hession but this was much-seasoned company in which to introduce a junior girl.

2nd SOUTH

Buckinghamshire 5, Kent II 5

Surrey II 4, Hampshire 6

Middlesex II 6, Sussex II 4

Sussex led 4-2 and looked like causing an upset until Richard Yule stepped in to win his 2nd MS and take the XD with Sheila Hamilton. Of the ten players in the match only one not involved in winning a set.

Kent II 6, Surrey II 4

A good all-round performance by Kent whose Joyce Ellis and Lynda Chesson proved decisive. First time Kent II have won this division.

Hampshire 4, Buckinghamshire 6

After taking the first three MS, this result always was "on" and Bucks go forward to the challenge.

2nd NORTH

Durham 2, Nottinghamshire 8

Far closer than the score suggests, with 7 sets going the distance (5 of these to 18 in 3rd or closer).

Lincolnshire 5, Northumberland 5

Unbeaten Cleve Judson played a big part in securing a valuable point for Lincs. He opened by beating Peter Hoyles 22, 19; comfortably took the XD with Connie Moran, and at 4-5 saw off Paul Whiteman 22, 14 after hanging on in 1st game.

Durham 4, Lincolnshire 6

A repeat performance here by Judson although Durham might have had a draw: 18-12 leads in each game of WD but lost -20, -18 and Mrs. Bainbridge, trailing Miss J. White 17-18 in 3rd of WS, lost a vital point when the ball stuck to her hand in service.

Derbyshire 3, Yorkshire II 7

Nottinghamshire 8, Northumberland 2

A fine and comfortable victory for Notts., the only visiting successes being recorded in MS by Jojo Hanson from Ghana. Notts. failed to be unduly alarmed by their opening reverses against Yorks. II and Cheshire and have since then notched 4 wins to finish 3rd in what they consider to be the strongest Division they have played in. Good record for Miss P. Hopkin who entered the side after the first two matches and is unbeaten in WD and XD.

Northumberland 3, Derbyshire 7

Two convincing MS wins for Peter Hoyles and one from Hanson but generally a disappointing end to the season for the hosts. Anti-loop Doug Foulds had a fine match for Derbys: as well as good defence he put away the loose ball firmly.

2nd MIDLAND

Cambridgeshire 7, Bedfordshire 3

Cambs. the better all-round team with Peter Hirst's two MS cancelling out Peter Taylor's. Well don Sally (Browning) Hirst: in her first singles for the County she defeated Barbara Hammond 16, 18 (and Barbara has had some excellent results this season).

Hertfordshire 4, Leicestershire 6

Leading 3-0 Leics. looked set for an easy win, but Herts. took all three doubles. Then "Digger" Lamprell recovered v. Charlie Jacques from 13-17 in 2nd to win -16, 18, 12 and make match score 4-5. But Richard Morris not quite able to clinch a point.

Gloucestershire 1, Warwickshire 9

Visiting men far too strong, even Roy Morley (below his best) outplayed. The match became very lighthearted when Warwks. had winning lead and the championship.

Staffordshire 4, Warwickshire 6

Played in XD and MD, Peter Eaton looked the best player present. Warwicks. otherwise just too strong in a close match with some good sets.

2nd WEST

Glamorgan II 6, Devon 4

Glamorgan II 6, Worcestershire 4

Dorset 4, Wiltshire 6

Somerset 5, Glamorgan II 5

SOUTHERN

Berkshire 9, Buckinghamshire II 1

No messing about here by Berkshire who win a Division for the first time since 1955-56. Arthur Chilvers says they will win 2nd South next season, but that the following season may be tougher!

Hertfordshire II 3, Hampshire II 7

Hants. deserved their win: David Seaholme a little unlucky to lose 17, -20, -12 to T. Bruce.

Oxfordshire 2, Hertfordshire II 8

NORTHERN

Durham II 0, Derbyshire II 10

The lone Durham success forfeit as it was scored by their 3rd ranked player Paul Freeman.

Northumberland II 0 Lancashire II 10

Very one-sided, with no set needing a 3rd game.

Nottinghamshire 6, Cumberland 4

7-3 said the sheet, but Kathy North switched from WD to XD when her partner did not arrive!

MIDLAND

Monmouthshire 2, Warwickshire II 8

Monmouth's promotion hopes almost disappear with this result.

Shropshire 1, Worcestershire II 9

EASTERN

Northamptonshire 4, Essex III 6

A better home performance—only opening and closing sets did not need a 3rd game. Roderick Marchant scored two MS wins and took MD with David Hogg (who got the 4th for Northants). For Essex, a team effort spearheaded by unbeaten Tina Dale and Gillian Locke.

Continued on page 27

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