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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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February 1974

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Photo by Cliff Darley

This month's Star Features

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS by George R. Yates
STIGA NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - A Preview by John Pike

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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A TASTE OF HONEY

There is no denying that when Chester Barnes deigns to emerge from his contractual obligations to put his head on the chopping block provided by competitive play the media swarm like bees to provide the nectar so thirsted for by those concerned with the publicity of our sport.

Say what you will, the drawing power of G. C. Barnes, craftsman extraordinary, has in no way diminished since he opted out from representing England in the 31st World Championships played in Nagoya, Japan in April, 1971.

The exploits of the Essex international in the recent Norwich Union English Championships acted like a magnet on players and spectators alike at Crystal Palace.

Play on all tables was brought to a halt as the deciding game between Barnes and Jimmy Walker went into nail-biting protraction and an aura was created that completely overcame the cathedral-like proceedings surrounding most other encounters.

Points to emerge quite clearly are that the game is sadly lacking in crowd-pulling personalities and that Crystal Palace because of its very complexity in providing facilities for a variety of sports is not the answer for a major championship venue.

Granted the adjacent swimming pool—its concurrent use long being a bone of contention—fitted well into the scheme of things on the day, if only to 'drown' the sorrows of the beaten finalist and to splash cold water on the fond ambitions of others less likely to command attention.

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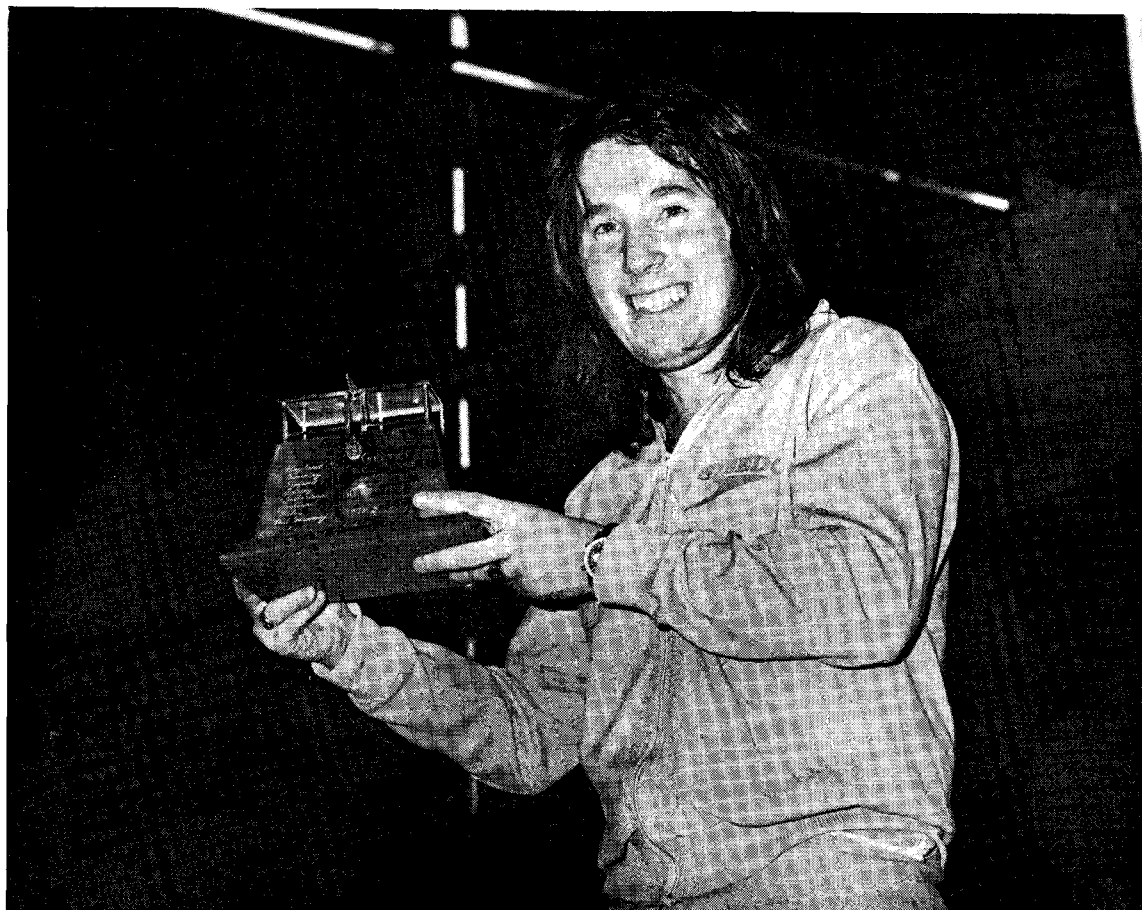
A. E. Upton and K. Watts

Norwich Union

English Championships



BACK ON THE ROSTRUM



Chester Barnes holds aloft the 50th Anniversary Trophy of the Guernsey TTA won by England on the Channel Isle in May, 1972.
Photo by Peter Madge.

Buoyant Barnes remains afloat

by GEORGE YATES

Not particularly noted for fighting lost causes on the table tennis front, having witnessed his many failings both at home and, more particularly abroad, there can be no denying that Chester Barnes 'came good' in this season's Norwich Union English Championships played at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace over the period Jan. 3/5, 1974.

Four times taken to the brink of defeat when Jimmy Walker had set point in the deciding game of five, Barnes clawed his way back to equality and eventually triumphed 28—26 in the second round before going on to win the men's singles crown.

It was for the fifth time in his chequered career that the Essex international claimed the title leaving in his wake, like so much flotsam, a further trio of Ormesbyites who, two seasons back, won the European Club Championship title!

Having accounted for David Skedge of Norfolk in the first round, to be followed up with that nail-biter against Walker, Barnes then allowed Staffordshire's John Pugh a game start before demolishing the Midlander's stout defensive tactics in the next three.

Next in line was Trevor Taylor and what he and Barnes don't know about each other's game is not worth knowing. Suffice it to say that Barnes knew too much and out went the holder sadly bemoaning the luck of the draw which had earlier pitted him against his younger brother, Peter.

But could the Essex man continue to erode the structure of the national ranking list? Yes he could and proceeded to stage yet another comeback when opposed by Nicky Jarvis winner of both the Humber-side and Middlesex 3-Star Opens.

Jarvis went into a 2—0 lead when taking the opening games 21—18 and 22—20 but from thereon a depression set in and the Yorkshire loop expert could only manage 5 points in a third game which could have been interpreted as the breather before the onslaught.

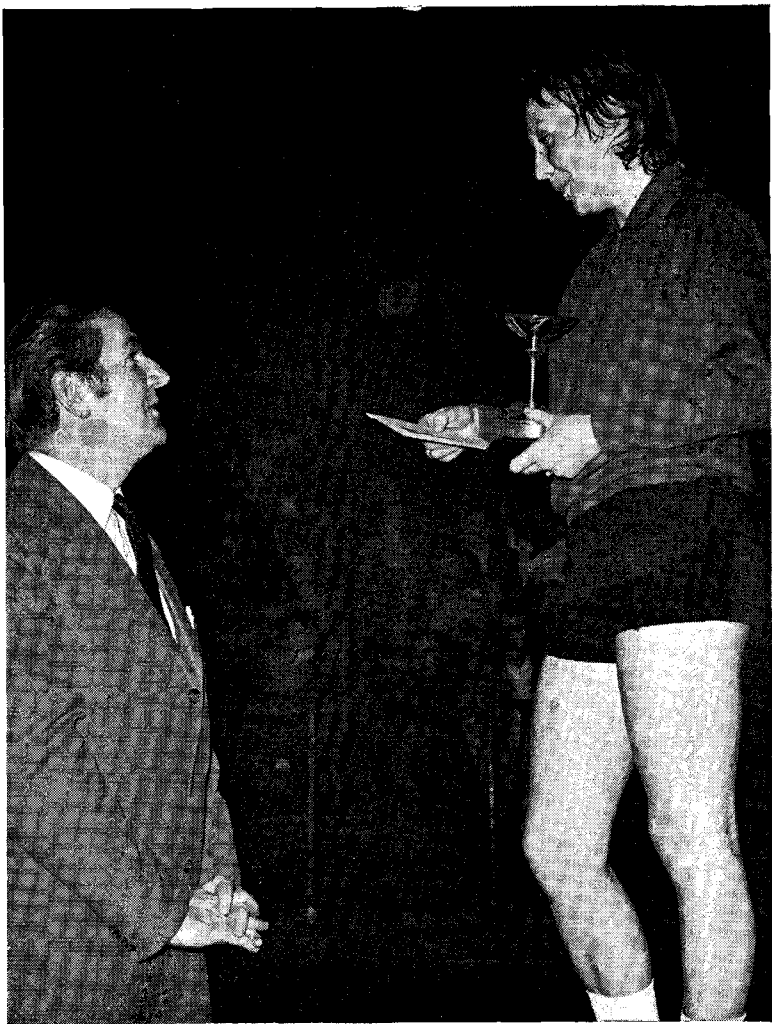
CAPITULATE

It was an onslaught that never really materialised albeit the game reached 'deuce' before Barnes edged home 24—22. Having then given his all the Yorkshireman seemed to capitulate in the decider when beaten 21—10. Ormesby major domo Alan Ransome was of the opinion that his pride and joy was physically spent having, in the previous round, been hard-pressed by Alan Hydes. Could this be the reason?

No such pre-final statement was forthcoming from Denis Neale who, without shedding more than one game—to Tony Clayton in the quarters—was so confident of success that he was bold enough to promise in the event of being beaten he would plunge fully clothed from the high diving board into the adjacent swimming pool.

But jump he did, true to his word, when Barnes still in cork-like fashion, after losing the first game, bounced back to take the next three by closer and closer margins. He was still there at the side of the pool after Neale had jumped, just to lend a hand to lift Neale from his watery 'grave'.

Barnes apart, the championships



A word of congratulations from John McDonnell, Public Relations Manager of the Norwich Union Insurance Group for Jill Hammersley on her retention of the women's singles title.

Photo by Peter Madge.

threw up no other surprises and all the top-seeded players, with the exception of Walker, reached their quarter-final objectives.

Not one of England's up-and-coming juniors did himself justice. Top boy David Alderson, the beaten finalist two years ago, got no further than the second round losing in straight games to Jarvis after beating Clive Morris of Kent in the first.

ESTRANGED

Suffolk's John Kitchener went one round further following wins over T. A. Bruce (Wilts.) and Alan Fletcher, Yorkshire's strangled former county player now representing Warwickshire. But the Ipswich lad then failed against the sixth-seeded Clayton.

Mark Mitchell of Middlesex, third-ranked England junior, was a sickness victim and scratched as did Robert Wiley, but Paul Day found, to his cost, that there was nothing wrong with the vitality of Mike Johns whose progress, fortuitously by a second round walk-over, was brought to an unceremonious close by Neale 6, 4, 15.

Andy Barden, yet another highly rated junior from the North Thames nursery, failed to break out of the qualifying competition when beaten by Bromley veteran Len Cooper 11, -14, -20, 14, 17.

Indeed, of the younger generation, only Des Douglas and Lancashire's Donald Parker can be said to have

made any impact, the former with wins over Graham Blomfield, the veteran Cooper, Ian Horsham and "Connie" Warren. But it was a poor, poor show that Warwickshire's great hope put up against Neale.

Parker began by disposing of Laurie Landry 13, 15 and 10, making further progress at the expense of David Tan, 10, 13, 11, and taking the first game off Jarvis before bowing the knee.

Greek met Greek when Cornelius J. Warren faced Ralph E. Gunnion at 09.00 hrs. on the Friday morning—a little too early in the day I fancy for the talkative ex-Liverpudlian to be at his vociferous best!

"Connie" had no need to out-utter his opponent nor had he cause to call on his extensive vocabulary when further opposed by M. J. A. Broughton of Norfolk or indeed Alan R. Ransome, yet another player never at a loss for words.

ALL AT SEA

Words could have, perhaps, failed top seed and defending title holder Jill Hammersley in her fourth round meeting with Judy Williams in the women's singles.

Seemingly all at sea in the first two games, which went to Miss Williams 17 and 7, the defending champion was forced to call on all her expertise before scraping home 23—21 in the third. But from thereon Mrs. Hammersley completely awoke

from her nightmare and was never again troubled — indeed her final meeting with Linda Howard could not have been easier.

Overawed, perhaps, by the occasion this was not the Linda who had almost snatched the Humberside 3-Star title from Jill and who had accounted for Lesley Radford in the final of the Midland Counties, and, at Crystal Palace, had ousted the No. 2 seed Karenza Mathews in the semis.

Mrs. Mathews had been hard pressed to keep her prospects alive in the quarters when trailing 0—2 to Cheshire's Susan Lisle but, as with the men, this was another event which produced little in the way of giant-killing feats.

Only Leicestershire's Karen Rogers succeeded in breaking through the seeded barriers when she accounted for Di Court in the third round, her county team-mate, Anita Stevenson, after beating Lesley King of Hants, going out in straight games to Mrs. Radford.

UNQUENCHED

Yorkshire's Carole Knight began in devastating fashion with a 6,4,2, win over Mandy Smith of Berkshire and, despite losing the first two games to Mrs. Hammersley, -7, -13, was sufficiently unquenched in spirit to take the champion to 'deuce' in the third conceding the set.

Hampshire's acquired Worthing resident, Linda Wales, had a good first round win over Suzanna Kavalierou before going under to Shelagh

Hession but, all in all, there were few surprises and I am sure, the televised women's singles final, did little to advance the cause of greater screenage.

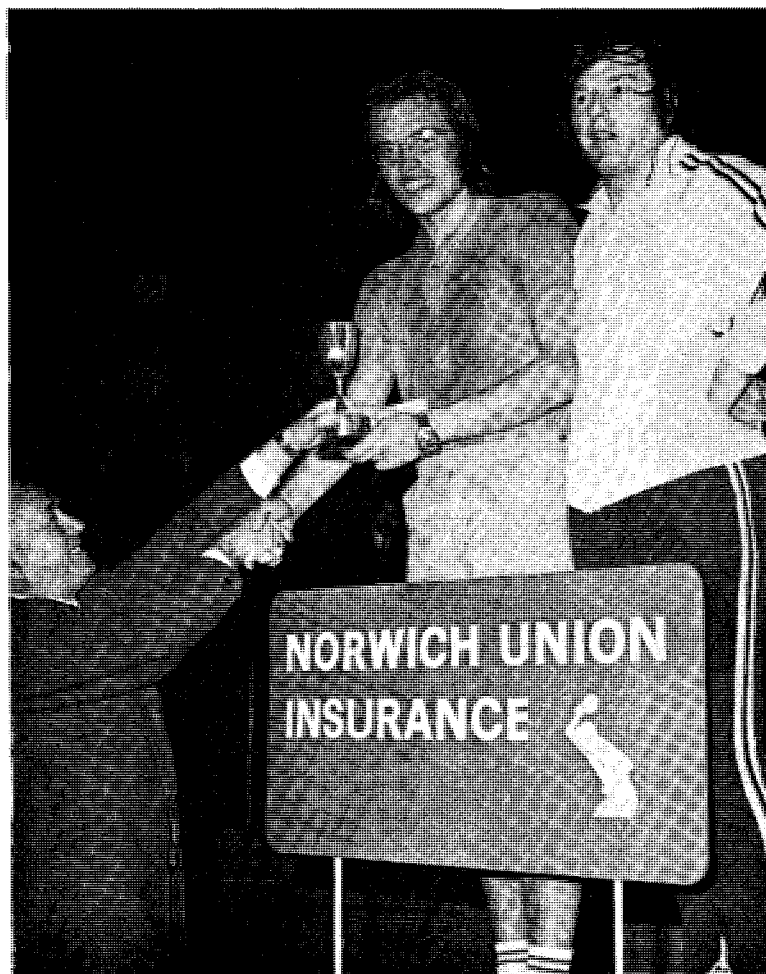
Neale reverted to his old and trusted partnership with Alan Hydes in the men's doubles and for the fourth time in six seasons the Tyke combine won the title beating Jarvis and Walker in the final having overcome the obstacle provided by Barnes and Trevor Taylor—the latter holder last season with Neale—in the semis.

For some inexplicable reason Parker had not been paired in this event which for an international squad member was a strange omission to say the least! However, if an error it was, matters were righted when Douglas found himself without a partner when Brian Burn was reported injured and absent.

TESTIMONY

Four 3-straight successes for the Warwicks./Lancs. pair, over Gunnion/Pugh (14, 10, 13), Ian Robertson/E. S. Worsman (Yorks.) (13, 12, 10), K. A. Horton/C. Wells (Sussex) (13, 9, 11) and Brian and Mike Johns in the quarters stand as testimony to the harmonious relationship which stood up well to Jarvis and Walker in the penultimate round.

Barden and Day, the 'whiz kids', reached the quarters by overcoming Horsham and Peter Taylor, Barry Hill and Clive Morris, Graham Blomfield and D. J. Boulter before going down with all guns blazing to Barnes and T.T. Unseeded but always a threat Laurie Landry and Tony



ETTA Chairman, Charles M. Wyles, OBE, hands up the men's doubles trophy to Alan Hydes with his partner Denis Neale.

Photo by Peter Madge.

Clayton had an 11, 15, 7 win over Kitchener and Tan and further succeeded in taking a game off the eventual winners.

In the counterpart women's event there was an immediate shock when second seeds Shelagh Hession and Judy Williams were eliminated in the first round when beaten by Susan Lisle and Anita Stevenson. The Ches./Leics. partnership further flourished in knocking out Barbara Kearney and Carole Knight before falling, over five games, to the beaten finalists Di Court and Lesley Radford.

TOUCH AND GO

Linda Howard and Karenza Mathews were seldom troubled in reaching the final, but it was touch and go before they got home, 22 in the fifth, to retain their title.

The third title to change hands was the mixed in which Neale and Mrs. Mathews brought off their fifth success in this event, again but narrowly in the final, when opposed by the European Youth champions Douglas and Miss Howard.

This latter would appear to be a partnership with a future for in the semis they comfortably disposed of Jarvis and Mrs. Hammersley and, prior to, had beaten Mike Johns and Di Court, and, in the second round, Jimmy Walker and Miss Lisle. No mean feats!

A championship without major upsets tends to be soon forgotten but one player, proverbially like the bad penny which keeps turning up, provided us and the press, with something to remember.

Results :

Men's Singles: Round 3:

- D. Neale (Yorks) bt M. Johns (Ches) 6, 4, 15;
- A. Clayton (Yorks) bt J. Kitchener (Suffolk) 18, 13 -16, 14;
- C. Warren (Surrey) bt A. Ransome (Yorks) 17, 21, 18;
- D. Douglas (Warwks) bt I. Horsham -16, 13, 13, 15;
- N. Jarvis (Yorks) bt D. Parker (Lancs) -13, 19, 15, 10;
- A. Hydes (Yorks) bt G. Chapman (Surrey) 8, 16, 4;
- C. Barnes (Essex) bt J. Pugh (Staffs) -19, 19, 12, 13;
- T. Taylor (Essex) bt P. Taylor (Beds) -19, 7, 11, -16, 14.

Quarter-finals:

- Neale bt Clayton 9, 13, -24, 17;
- Douglas bt Warren 11, 18, 14;
- Jarvis bt Hydes 19, -18, 13, 13;
- Barnes bt Taylor 17, -18, 8, 16.

Semi-finals:

- Neale bt Douglas 12, 13, 18;
- Barnes bt Jarvis -18, -22, 5, 22, 10.

Final:

- BARNES bt Neale -16, 17, 20, 21.

Women's Singles: Round 3:

- J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt S. Henderson (Surrey) 13, 16, 17;
- J. Williams (Sussex) bt L. Barrow (Essex) 12, 11, 14;
- L. Radford (Essex) bt B. Kearney (Nthld) 7, 11, 15;
- S. Hession (Essex) bt C. Davies (Hants) 8, 16, -15, 13;

- L. Howard (Surrey) bt L. Cabbage (Middx) 9, 17, 18;
- K. Rogers (Leics) bt D. Court (Middx) -15, 11, -15, 16, 20;
- S. Lisle (Ches) bt S. Broadbent (Yorks) 12, 12, -15, -18, 9;
- K. Mathews (Middx) bt S. Sutton (Essex) 12, 17, 20.

Quarter-finals:

- Hammersley bt Williams -17, -7, 21, 11, 15;
- Radford bt Hession -18, 14, 16, 10;
- Howard bt Rogers 9, 15, -19, 11;
- Mathews bt Lisle -16, -15, 12, 7, 18.

Semi-finals:

- Hammersley bt Radford 13, 10, 10;
- Howard bt Mathews 23, -10, 17, 16.

Final:

- HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 12, 15, 13.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

- Hydes/Neale bt Clayton/L. Landry (Middx) -21, 18, 10, 8;
- Barnes/T. Taylor bt A. Barden (Middx)/P. Day (Cambs) -20, 13, 13, 18;
- Douglas/Parker bt B. Johns (Ches)/M. Johns 20, 14, 18;
- Jarvis/J. Walker (Yorks) bt H. Buist/A. Piddock (Kent) 18, 10, 16.

Semi-finals:

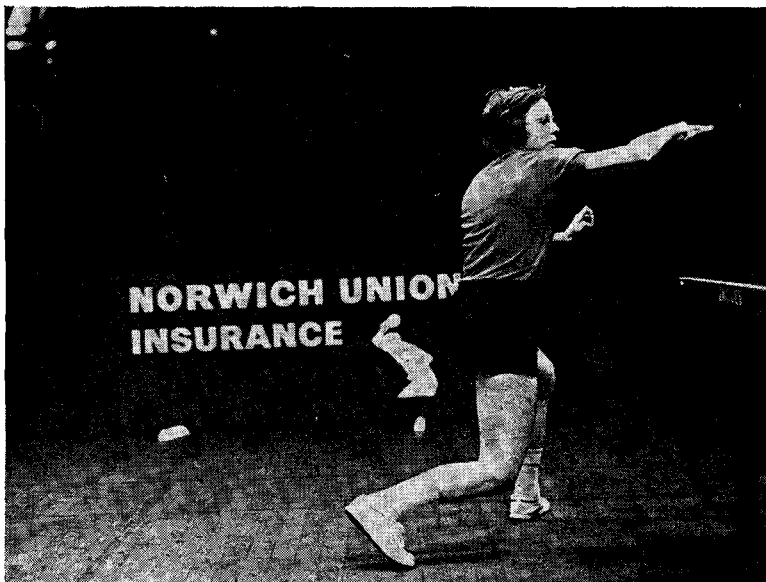
- Hydes/Neale bt Barnes/Taylor -16, 7, 19, -17, 13;
- Jarvis/Walker bt Douglas/Parker -20, 17, 21, 16.

Final:

- HYDES/NEALE bt Jarvis/Walker 19, -18, -15, 10, 13.

Continued on page 6

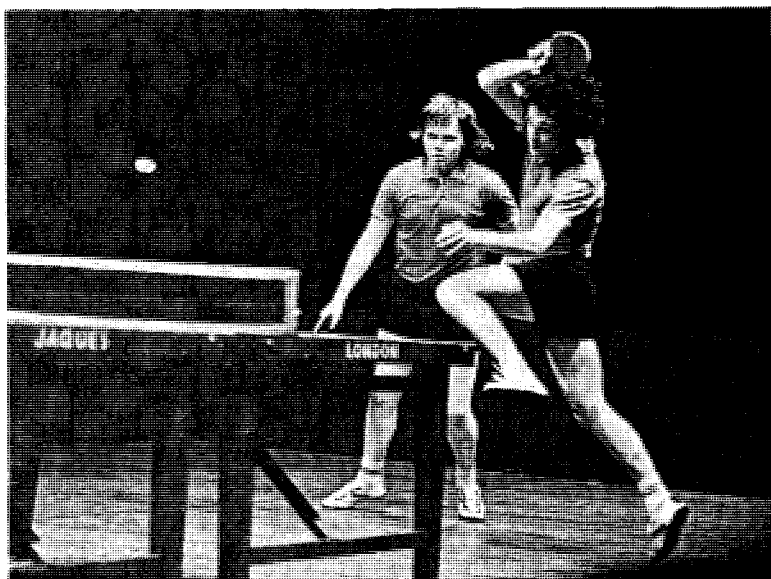
ACTION AT THE PALACE
covered by Cliff Darley



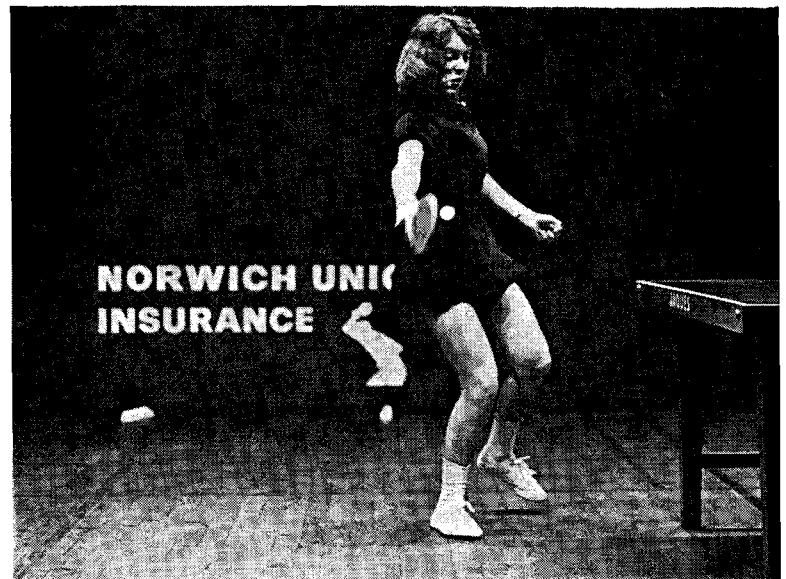
Jill Hammersley on her way to a retention of her women's singles title.



Denis Neale, the beaten finalist in the men's singles.



Nicky Jarvis leaps to it in the men's doubles final, partnered by Jimmy Walker.



Taken by surprise is the expression on the face of Linda Howard in the women's singles final.

N.U.E.C. continued

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Howard/Mathews bt K. Greenough (Surrey)/
E. Tarten (Essex) 12, 11, -17, 11;
Hammersley/Henderson bt Davies/L. King
(Hants) 7, 15, 15;
Court/Radford bt A. Mellor (Derbys)/
Rogers 16, 13, 9;
Lisle/A. Stevenson (Leics) bt Kearney/C.
Knight (Yorks) 20 -13, -15, 19, 17.

Semi-finals:
Howard/Mathews bt Hammersley/Henderson
19, 13, 15;
Court/Radford bt Lisle/Stevenson 20, -13,
-15, 19, 17.

Final:
HOWARD/MATHEWS bt Court/Radford
13 -19, 10, -16, 22.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Neale/Mathews bt Clayton/Henderson 11,
17, -13, 15;
Hydes/Hession bt Day/Tarten 19, 8, -19,
20;

Douglas/Howard bt M. Johns/Court 17, 17,
17;
Jarvis/Hammersley bt A. Ransome (Yorks)/
Stevenson 8, 12, 19.

Semi-finals:
Neale/Mathews bt Hydes/Hession 13, 12,
11;

Douglas/Howard bt Jarvis/Hammersley 12,
18, -13, 12

Final:
NEALE/MATHEWS bt Douglas/Howard
-17, 20, -15, 10, 20.

Men's Consolation: Quarter-finals:
R. Philips (Middx) bt M. Palmer (Suffolk)
9, 20;

M. Douglas (Sussex) bt D. Randall
(Essex) w.o.
D. Tan (Middx) bt B. Meisel (Kent) 14, 17;
P. Glynn (Warwks) bt M. Crimmins
(Surrey) 21, 19.

Semi-finals:
Philips bt Douglas -15, 15, 14;
Tan bt Glynn 8, 13.

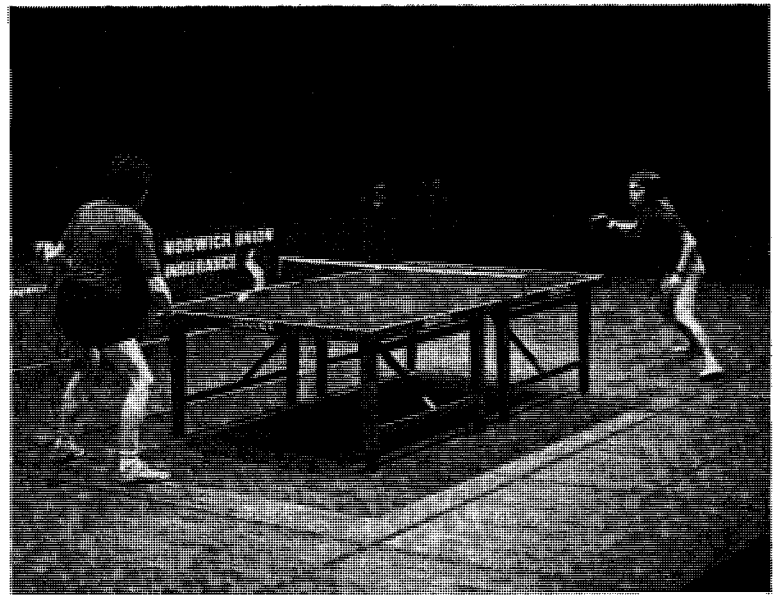
Final:
Philips bt Tan 17, -12, 10.

Women's Consolation: Quarter-finals:
Stevenson - bye;

S. Kavallierou (Sussex) bt L. Budd
(Essex) -14, 17, 15;
J. Williams (Bucks) bt Cubbage 11, 11;
J. Ellis (Kent) bt M. Smith (Essex) 8, 11.

Semi-finals:
Stevenson bt Kavallierou 15, 17;
Ellis bt Williams 19, 17

Final:
ELLIS bt Stevenson -18, 19, 9.



Far from the madding crowd on the Centre Court at Crystal Palace for the men's singles final.

Photo by Peter Madge.



Denis Neale prepares to leap from the 10-metre board at Crystal Palace after his defeat by Chester Barnes in the men's singles final.

Photo by Tony Ross.

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INTERNATIONAL T.T. CLUB

by LAURIE LANDRY, Hon. Sec.

RUBBER BAT OPEN

The eleventh A.G.M. of the Club took place at the Barnet Centre on Jan. 6 which makes the club exactly 10 years old. The Hon. Ivor Montagu was again elected as president, a position that he has held since the formation of the Club. Seventeen members attended the A.G.M., the the largest attendance ever. The first award of the Geoff Harrower International Club Trophy was unanimously accepted but more of this is mentioned elsewhere.

Played on the same day, at the same venue, our third Rubber Bat Open was once again a successful venture with 105 entries. Top seed Henry Buist was an excellent winner and Derek Schofield was well beaten in a good final.

Mike Johns, Desmond Douglas, Trevor Taylor and "Connie" Warren all showed skills with the hard rubber bat whilst Di Court won the Victor Barna Trophy for the women's singles. Suzie Barna came for the finals and presented the awards. A total of exactly 200 matches including the finals programme, were played during the day.

Referee, Lou Hoffman and Assistant Referee, Bernard Chatterly, worked tirelessly throughout the day to keep matches on. Results:—

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
H. Buist (Kent) bt D. Jemmett
(Middx) 14, 14;

M. Johns (Ches) bt T. Taylor (Essex)
16, 16;

L. Landry (Middx) bt C. Warren
(Surrey) 18, 15;

D. Schofield (Ches) bt R. Bowles
(Somerset) 13, 23.

Semi-finals:

Buist bt Johns 18, -18, 19;

Schofield bt Landry 19, 17.

Final:

BUIST bt Schofield 7, 14.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

J. Faulkner (Surrey) bt J. Redfearn
(Middx) 13, 14;

D. Court (Middx) bt J. Williams
(Berks) 13, 11.

Final:

COURT bt Faulkner 20, 6.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

P. Beck (Kent)/Buist bt A. Barden

(Middx)/T. Taylor -17, 16, 19;

Landry/Schofield bt D. Iszatt/ I.

Robertson (Essex) 12, 16.

Final:

LANDRY/SCHOFIELD bt Beck/

Buist 16, 16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Faulkner/Williams bt G. Locke/E.

Tarten (Essex) 15, 17;

A. Mitchell (Middx)/Redfearn bt B.

Clayton/M. Walker (Middx) 19, 16.

Final:

FAULKNER/WILLIAMS bt

Mitchell/Redfearn 11, 18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Johns/Court bt Barden/Mitchell 18,

16;

Landry/Redfearn bt P. Leckie

(Bucks)/Williams 10, 18.

Final:

JOHNS/COURT bt Landry/Redfearn

17, 18.

Men's Consolation:

K. Beamish (Essex) bt J.

Vanderstraeten (Middx) 7, -18, 18.

Women's Consolation:

Locke bt L. Budd (Essex) 16, 17.

The consolation events were very popular and were restricted to first match losers who were automatically placed in the consolation draw. This meant that everyone had at least two matches. The 4th Rubber Bat Open will take place at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday, Jan 5/75 (the day after the Norwich Union English Championships).

FEDERAL GERMAN OPEN

Nicky Jarvis, Desmond Douglas, Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard is the team chosen to represent England in the Federal German Open being held in Munich from February 22-24. Les Gresswell will be the non-playing captain.

At Cardiff, in the Welsh Open (March 9-10), the ETTA have nominated Des Douglas, Alan Hydes, Karenza Mathews and Lesley Radford.

Butlin's Coaching Scheme

by JOHNNY LEACH

The Finals of the 1973 Scheme, which attracted some 41,000 participants, to select the "Boy" and "Girl of the Year" are to be held at the Ocean Hotel, Brighton, during the weekend of Mar. 2/3, 1974.

Sessions will take place on Saturday morning, Mar. 2, and on Sunday, Mar. 3, with the presentations at 4-30 p.m.

Drawn from eight camps the sixteen finalists, with age in brackets, are:—

Ayr (Coach—Jim Graham)
Kevin Beadsley (Yorks.) (12) and Julie Inch (Durham) (14).

Barry (Coach—Paul Beck)
Neil Roberts (Ches.) (14) and Janette Goble (Beds.) (16).

Bognor Regis (Coach—Alan Hydes)
Stephen Newman (Essex) (15) and Janet Boulter (Essex) (13).

Clacton (Coach—Don Couper)
Keith Richardson (Cams.) (14) and Heather Pearce (Norfolk) (13).

Filey (Coach—Stephen Tracey)
Alan Summerscales (Yorks.) (13) and Hilary Clarke (Yorks.) (15).

Minehead (Coach—Suzanna Kavallierou)
Gary Hamilton (Bucks.) (15) and Wendy Brown (Derbys.) (15).

Pwllheli (Coach—Derek Munt)
Gary Alden (Northants.) (13) and Kathleen Cropper (Lancs.) (15).

Skegness (Coach—Alan Fletcher)
Trevor Burrows (Ches.) (15) and Suzanne Hunt (Lincs.) (13).

Points are awarded for every department of the game so that all-round assessment of each pupil is obtained. Each coach thoroughly examines each pupil and age is taken into consideration. Richard Yule stood in for Alan Fletcher for the first three weeks at Skegness.

QUIZ TIME

with JOHN PIKE

"Tis Christmas Day in New Zealand, some 12,000 miles away, and I am endeavouring to complete your Christmas Quiz. It's mighty hard for us Kiwis to endeavour to find out these answers from so far away." That was part of a letter I received from Frank O'Gorman who lives in Timaru, New Zealand. Last year the second prize in my quiz went to a German, and this year I am glad to say, Frank has gone one better, by taking the first prize with the only all correct entry. Full marks Frank for all the trouble you took.

A pat on the back too for Geoff Scruton of 96 Forest Lane, Harrogate. Last year Geoff finished third in the competition, but this time he has gone one better by finishing runner-up. On the strength of this the top prize should be going to Yorkshire next year.

Into third place came Stephen Whale, the Didcot representative, who lives at 16, Byron Close, Abingdon, Berks.

Those then are the three winners,

but I feel a consolation prize should go to P. G. Auden of 10 Coates Lane, Cirencester, Glos, for finishing a good fourth. To all of you who sent in entries, thank you very much. By now the winners should have received their prizes from the E.T.T.A.

ANSWERS

1. Archie Moore; 2. Ivan Mauger;
3. Walsall, Reading, Swansea City, Cambridge United; 4. Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney, Danny Blanchflower;
5. Stoke City; 6. Australian Rugby Union Team; 7. Sundew, Kilmore; 8. Arthur Milton;
9. Brian Close; 10. Jim Hines; 11. Jack Nicklaus; 12. Cambridge.

NEWBURY 2-STAR OPEN

Mrs. Grace Smith, of "Greenacres," Finchington Lane, Newbury, Berks, the Organising Secretary of the Newbury 2-Star Open, draws attention to the tournament being a 1-day only affair this season on SUNDAY, MARCH 24th, 1974.

Closing date for the tournament, to be held at The Base Gymnasium, R.A.F. Greenham, Newbury, is TUESDAY, MARCH 5th, 1974.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Trevor Channing, the National Councillor for Surrey, has changed his address from 6a Stockers Lane, Kingfield, to 15 Kingfield Drive, Kingfield, Woking, Surrey.

EXHIBITIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS


Given by the re-constituted **ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL SQUAD**

Denis Neale	Jill Hammersley
Nicky Jarvis	Linda Howard
Desmond Douglas	Karenza Mathews
Jimmy Walker	Anita Stevenson
Donald Parker	

For details please contact the Squad Administrator:—

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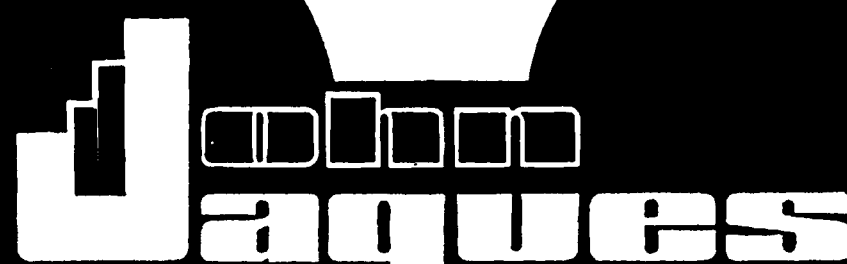
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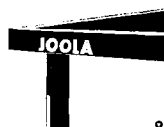
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TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Organising Secretary
February 16/17	VIIth Teesside 3-Star Open , incorporating the Teesside Halex International Team Championship and Sunday Times Super League , Thornaby Pavilion, New Town Centre, Thornaby, Teesside.	Alan R. Ransome, 21a Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbro. Tel.: 0642 34214.
24	West Midlands Junior 2-Star, Harry Mitchell Recreation Centre, Broomfields, Smethwick, Warley, Worcestershire.	Maurice Goldstein, 415 Moseley Road, Birmingham B12 9DD. Tel.: 021-440 2739.
Feb. 28	NORWICH UNION INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ,	E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Hastings, Sussex. TN34 1HA.
Mar. 2	Metropole Hotel, Brighton, Sussex.	
March		
3	Fenland 2-Star Open, The Corn Exchange, Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn, Norfolk.	John R. Moorhouse, 14 Dawnay Avenue, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Tel.: King's Lynn 63861. Closing date: 12.2.74.
10	Lancashire 2-Star Junior Open, Ethel Ryley Sports Hall, Bolton Institute of Technology, Deane Road, Bolton, Lancs.	Chris. H. Minta, Head of Physical Educ. Dept., Bolton Institute of Technology, Deane Road, Bolton. Tel.: Bolton 28851. Closing date: 23.2.74.
16	East of England 2-Star Open, West Common Sports Hall, West Common Lane, Scunthorpe, Lincs.	Mrs. A. Joan Robinson, 24 Croppers Lane, Freiston, Boston, Lincs. PE22 0QR. Closing date: 1.3.74.
23	Northumberland 1-Star Open, No. 1 Canteen, Dept. of Health & Social Security, Benton Park Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.	T. Alan Morpeth, 59 Preston Avenue, North Shields, Northumberland. Tel.: N. Shields 74248.
24	Sussex 2-Star Junior Open, Sports Centre, Shaftesbury Avenue, Worthing, Sussex.	F. H. Raynor, 32 Frobisher Way, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex. Tel.: Worthing 46370.
IRELAND		
March		
1/2	Irish Closed (Newtownards).	Clarence A. Moore, 78 Orby Drive, Belfast, BT5 6AG. Tel.: Belfast 59923.
23/24	Leinster Junior (Bosco).	
30	Limerick Open (Limerick).	
SCOTLAND		
February		
16	Lanarkshire Open.	J. Fisher, 44 Kilmeny Drive, Coltness, Wishaw.
23/24	SCOTTISH OPEN , Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh.	Mrs. H. Hamilton, 6 Grove Street, Edinburgh. Tel.: 031-229 5282 or 031-332 8435.
WALES		
March		
9/10	WELSH OPEN , National Sports Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.	Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans, 198 Cyncoed Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff. CF2 6BQ. Tel.: Cardiff 757241.

top players are JOOLA-fans



top players are JOOLA-fans

European League

ENGLAND V. CZECHOSLOVAKIA at Westcliff

by MIKE WATTS

England's next home encounter in the Premier Division of the European League is against Czechoslovakia on Thursday, March 7th, 1974, at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, commencing at 7-30 p.m.

The match, originally scheduled for March 5th, is to be sponsored by the Amenities Committee of the Southend Borough Corporation in conjunction with the Southend and District Table Tennis League, is the third European match to be held at the Cliffs Pavilion in recent years. Previous visitors being Sweden in 1971 and Hungary in 1972 when a desperate finish by England saw them 4-3 winners over Hungary to escape relegation by the most slender of margins.

This season, however, England's fortunes have changed, and with wins over Austria and Federal Germany to their credit, England will obviously be trying to lift themselves to another win which will give them their best season for some time. Local fans are hopeful that the return to form of Chester Barnes may mean his inclusion in the team for this match which would swell the attendance, and boost England's chances.

The Czechs have had a mixed start gaining an excellent win over Russia in Moscow 4-3, but they then slumped to a home defeat at the hands of Sweden 5-2. Their side is likely to include Milan Orlowski, currently ranked No. 5 in Europe, and Jaroslav Kunz, ranked No. 15. Strong in women, either Alica Grofova, ranked No. 2, or Ilona Vostova, ranked No. 5 in Europe, should complete the team, and the match promises to be a close affair.

The match commences at 7-30 p.m. and B.B.C. Television will be recording highlights for a later showing. Tickets priced £1 (50p for children under 14 accompanied by an Adult) can be obtained from either:—The Box Office, Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, or M. D. Watts, "Gleneagles," 25 Church Green, Canewdon, Essex. (Phone: Canewdon 429).

CHESHIRE NOTES

by BRIAN KEAN

Nigel Eckersley opened his new year account by winning the Edinburgh Open at Meadowbank on Jan 13. "Eck's" scalps included new Scottish No. 1 David Fraser, in the semis, and Eric Sutherland in the final. Sutherland ousted England No. 9 Donald Parker in his semi after the Lancastrian had accounted for Cheshire's Pete D'Arcy in the quarters.

Due to the cancellation of the Manchester Closed and Lancashire Open, competitive play has been rather scarce around these parts, hence a lack of news to put to press. I have on numerous occasions requested local leagues to furnish me with details of

various events. However, as yet, nothing has been forthcoming consequently the same old names appear each month.

With regret I announce a rather serious illness of County Match Secretary Len Green. After two months in a plaster cast (treatment for back trouble) he was unfortunately to suffer a leg thrombosis. At the time of writing he is, I am pleased to say, well on the way to recovery. I would, however, like to convey my best wishes and hope he is soon back to work alongside his fellow railmen!

Stockport progressed further in the Wilmott Cup by crushing Farnworth 5-0. Doubles for Eckersley and John Hilton backed a single from 'your scribe' secured a next round encounter with Liverpool. A second blow was inflicted on Farnworth by Stockport when they met five days later in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. A narrower margin of 6-4 was enough to secure the points.

Interesting to relate, Stockport have six good players to call on for inter-league and Wilmott Cup matches—a very healthy situation indeed. The next top squad training session will be held at Stretford on Feb 24 with a 10 a.m. start. See you there!

SOMERSET NOTES

by MIKE HAWKINS

Weston-super-Mare "A" and Bath "B" head their respective divisions in the Somerset Inter-Town TT League. In Division 1 Weston "A" have a 100% record having playing four and won four with a set average of 31-9 to accumulate 8 points. In second position are Failand "A" who include County 'stars' Brian and Pat Reeves their record being P3 W3 F27 A3 Pts-6. North East Somerset "A", lying fourth, could well be in with a chance to take the title.

Bath "B" are the only team in the Second Division with 100% record having won their four matches with a set average of 36-4. Weston-s-Mare "B" are lying second having played one more match but have incurred one defeat with a set average of 28-22. Bath "C" have lost one match also in obtaining 4 pts from three matches.

In the County Junior Division, Bridgewater lead with a record of P4 W3 D1 33-7. Bath are in second place P3 W1 D1 L1 16-4 pts-3. The Somerset Closed tournament is to be held on Mar 16 at the YMCA, High St., Weston commencing at 10 a.m. Hon Referee is Mr. D. Pope with Mr. S. Schofield as his assistant.

There will be six events and if time permits a consolation singles will be run. The tournament qualifies for ETTA Master Points. In the next Somerset notes it is hoped to include results of all events in the tournament.

As stated in the last issue, Somerset are confident of putting table tennis where it belongs at the top of the tree on the English t.t. map.

Tony Clayton is setting the Bath and District League alight. He plays for Oldfield Park Baptists who are in with a good chance at the moment of winning the Bath League's "Premier Division". In the same team is England-ranked junior, Chris Sewell, who should benefit greatly from the link up with affable Tony.

On the International Front

by THE EDITOR



SWEDEN CRASH IN MOSCOW

Sarkis Sarkhayan with wins over Stellan Bengtsson and Kjell Johansson was the player to put the skids under Sweden, in Moscow on January 15 when, in the *Premier Division* of the *European League*, Russia beat Sweden 5-2 to ensure a grandstand finish to this season's campaign.

It was Sarkhayan who got the reigning champions off to a tremendous start when he beat former world champion Bengtsson in the opening set. But back came the Swedes to immediately counter when Johansson equated the match score with a comfortable victory over Stanislav Gomozkov.

From then on, however, the Russians established a clear superiority in winning the next four sets for the match leaving Bengtsson to console himself with a final win over Gomozkov. Scores in match order were:—

S. Sarkhayan bt S. Bengtsson 12, -18, 18.
S. Gomozkov lost to K. Johansson -14, -15.
Z. Rudnova bt A. C. Hellman -16, 18, 10.
Gomozkov/Sarkhayan bt Bengtsson/Johansson 16, -16, 15.
Gomozkov/Rudnova bt I. Wikström/Hellman 15, 18.
Sarkhayan bt Johansson -15, 15, 16.
Gomozkov lost to Bengtsson -14, -18.

Five nights previously at Dictzenbach, Federal Germany went down to their fourth successive defeat when beaten 6-1 by Czechoslovakia whose Jaroslav Kunz lost the final set to Peter Stellwag, making his European League debut. Scores:—

W. Lieck lost to J. Kunz 12, -19, -11.
P. Stellwag lost to M. Orlowski -13, -16.
W. Hendriksen lost to A. Grofova -16, -20.
Lieck/K. Schmittinger lost to Kunz/Orlowski 17, -19 -16.
Schmittinger/M. Kneip lost to Orlowski/Grofova 18, -10, -17.
Lieck lost to Orlowski -16, -16.
Stellwag bt Kunz 17, 23.

Away to Hungary in Szombathely on the same evening, Austria went as lambs to the slaughter winning just one game when, in the opening set, Josef Bauregger took the second from Istvan Jonyer. Away to Czechoslovakia in their penultimate fixture it would appear to be a fight to the death between Austria and Federal Germany on March 13.

Scores in Szombathely were:—

I. Jonyer bt J. Bauregger 14, -14, 10.
G. Gergely bt R. Weinmann 5, 18.
J. Magos bt M. Wagner 9, 12.
Jonyer/T. Klampar bt Bauregger/Fritz 15, 13.
Jonyer/Magos bt Bauregger/Wagner 12, 15.
Jonyer bt Weinmann 13, 18.
Gergely bt Bauregger 17, 15.

Tables as at 31.1.74.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	5	4	1	26	9	4
Sweden	5	4	1	26	9	4
U.S.S.R.	4	3	1	20	8	3
Czechoslovakia	4	2	2	14	14	2
England	4	2	2	12	16	2
Fed. Germany	4	0	4	6	22	0
Austria	4	0	4	1	27	0

Remaining fixtures are:—

Feb. 20 — Czechoslovakia v. Austria, Federal Germany v. U.S.S.R.
Mar. 7 — England v. Czechoslovakia (at Westcliff-on-Sea).
Mar. 13 — U.S.S.R. v. Hungary, Sweden v. England, Austria v. Federal Germany.

A feature of Poland's *Group "A"* match against Holland in Poznan on December 12 was the 21-13, 21-0 win obtained by Danuta Calinska over Nora Bakker and the double defeat of the host country's Marek Skibinski by Bert van der Helm and Nico van Slobbe, Poland won 5-2. Other results:—

Luxembourg 4, Belgium 3 (at Dudelange).
Belgium 3, Denmark 4 (at Corenne).
Holland 5, Luxembourg 2 (at Dongen).

In the latter fixture, played on January 5, Jean Krier had wins over van Slobbe and Carel Deken but that was all the Dutch let slip.

Table as at 31.1.74.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	3	3	0	14	7	3
Holland	3	2	1	11	10	2
Denmark	3	2	1	10	11	2
Luxembourg	3	1	2	9	12	1
Belgium	4	0	4	12	16	0

Remaining fixtures scheduled for this month are:— Luxembourg v. Poland and Denmark v. Holland.

Following a 6-1 victory over Greece before 1,000 spectators in Athens, a young French team obtained their third successive victory in *Group "B"* when at "Le Cannet" Rocheville (Alpes Maritimes) they defeated Italy 5-2 in the presence of 500 spectators.

It was a hard-fought match with five of the seven sets going to a decider, Christian Martin and Miss Claude Bergeret (France) and Roberto Bosi (Italy) were the best players on

view. Detailed scores were:—
P. Birocheau bt R. Giontella 18, -15, 19.
C. Martin bt S. Bosi -16, 20, 14.
C. Bergeret bt S. Greci 3, 8.
Birocheau/R. Canor lost to Bosi/Giontella -17, 21, -18.
Birocheau/Bergeret bt Giontella/Greci 16, 16.
Birocheau lost to Bosi 22, -20, -12.
Martin bt Giontella -16, 21, 12.

Other results:—

Italy 6, Spain 1.
Spain 3, Switzerland 4.

Table as at 31.1.74.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	18	3	3
Italy	3	2	1	13	8	2
Greece	3	2	1	11	10	2
Switzerland	3	1	2	9	12	1
Spain	4	0	4	5	23	0

Remaining fixtures in this division are:— Italy v. Greece and Switzerland v. France both, again, being scheduled for this month. The respective Group winners will play off for promotion to the Premier Division.

In the lower reaches of the League, the *Mediterranean Regional Group* will be played in Malta from March 13/16 and the *West European Regional Group* will be played in Jersey from April 26/28.

SCANDINAVIAN OPEN

Detailed results of these championships played in Malmö over the period November 30 - December 2nd, 1973 were:—

Men's Team — Hungary 3, Czechoslovakia 0.

I. Jonyer bt J. Kunz 6, 12; G. Gergely bt M. Orlowski 17, 17; Gergely/Jonyer bt Kunz/Orlowski 23, 21.

Women's Team — Sweden 3, China 2.

A. C. Hellman bt Yu Chin-chia 6, 9; bt Liu Hsin-yen 19, 19. B. Radberg lost to Hsin-yen -20, -16; lost to Yu Chin-chia -19, -12. Hellman/Radberg bt Li Su-ying/Yu Chin-chia 14, 13.

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
Kunz bt Jonyer 16, 9, 14; Gergely bt J. Secretin (Fr) 20, 12, 18; Orlowski bt S. Bengtsson (Swe) 16, -9, 14, 20; D. Surbek (Yu) bt Li Feng (China) 11, -17, -11, 15, 14.

Semi-finals:
Gergely bt Orlowski 14, 13, 13; Surbek bt Kunz 18, 19, 19.

Final:
SURBEK bt Gergely -14, 14, -17, 17, 17.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
Yu Chin-chia bt J. Magos (Hu) 17, -14, 16, 18; Liu Hsin-yen bt B. Kishazi (Hu) 12, 16, 18; J. Ham-

mersley (Eng) bt A. Grofova (Cz) 15, -19, 18, 19; W. Hendriksen (FG) bt Radberg 12, 20, -11, 21.

Semi-finals:

Yu Chin-chia bt Hammersley 12, 10, 14; Liu Hsin-yen bt Hendriksen 22, 12, 13.

Final:

YU CHIN-CHIA bt Liu Hsin-yen 18, 13, 20.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Bengtsson/K. Johansson (Swe) bt P. Birocheau (Fr)/Secretin 12, 16, 10; Kunz/Orlowski bt Li Peng/Wang Chia-lin (China) 13, 18, 11; A. Stipancic (Yu)/Surbek bt D. Douglas/D. Neale (Eng) 12, 17, 13; J. Leiss/W. Lieck (FG) bt Gergely/Jonyer 19, 16, -17, 18.

Semi-finals:

Bengtsson/Johansson bt Leiss/Lieck 16, 19, 16; Stipancic/Surbek bt Kunz/Orlowski 16, -13, 16, 16.

Final:

BENGTSSON/JOHANSSON bt Stipancic/Surbek 16, 12, 12.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Hellman/B. Olsson (Swe) bt G. Linström/E. Strömvall (Swe) 11, 16, 12; Grofova/H. Riedlova (Cz) bt U. M. Gustavsson (Swe)/K. Mathews (Eng) -16, 19, 17, 17; L. Andersson (Swe)/Radberg bt H. Lotaller (Hu)/Magos 15, 11, -12, -17, 16; Hammersley/Kishazi bt J. Eberle (FG)/Hendriksen 8, -15, 23, 14.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley/Kishazi bt Hellman/Olsson 17, 7, 23; Grofova/Riedlova bt Andersson/Radberg 18, 12, -10, -19, 18.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY/KISHAZI bt Grofova/Riedlova -16, 12, 12, 12.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Orlowski/Grofova bt K. Schmittinger/K. Krüger (FG) 19, 12, -20, 17; Lu Yuan-sheng (Ch)/Liu Hsin-yen bt B. Persson (Swe)/Radberg -19, 21, -15, 18, 14; Jonyer/Magos bt Secretin/Gustavsson 16, 16, -19, 18; Douglas/Hammersley bt Gergely/Lotaller -9, 18, 17, -20, 19.

Semi-finals:

Lu Yuan-sheng/Liu Hsin-yen bt Jonyer/Magos -12, 21, -15, 13, 13; Orlowski/Grofova bt Douglas/Hammersley 11, 17, 19.

Final:

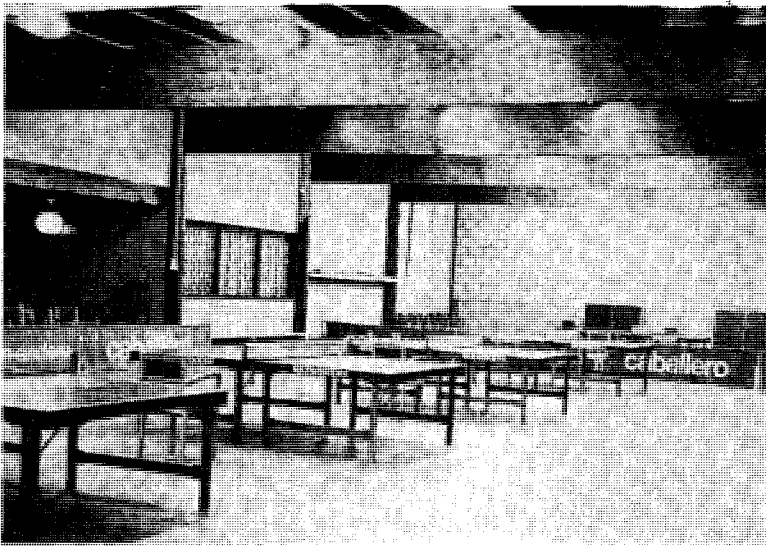
LU YUAN-SHENG/LIU HSIN-YEN bt Orlowski/Grofova 20, -18, 19, 14.

It will be readily observed that England's representatives acquitted themselves well and congratulations go to Jill Hammersley, in partnership with Hungary's Beatrix Kishazi, for their admirable success in winning the women's doubles title and to Jill, especially, in reaching the semi-final of the star-studded women's singles.

Jill, in partnership with Desmond Douglas, also reached the semi-final of the mixed and Douglas, paired with Denis Neale, also did well in reaching the quarters of the men's doubles. Last, but by no means least, Karenza Mathews also figured in the quarters of the women's doubles when paired with the host country's Ulla-Märta Gustavsson of the Vänersborgs BTK club. Les Gresswell may have had his records stolen but these are feats demanding a full recording. Well done England.

RANJA REINSTATED

At a Special General Meeting of the Table Tennis Federation of India, held in New Delhi on December 15/16, 1973, T. D. Ranga Ramanujan was reinstated as the Federation's



Wibats Club Room, The Hague, Holland.

President having, as his Vice-Presidents A. J. Rana and Probrir Mitra. Hon. Secretary: V. K. Sibal, A.A.S. Hon. Treasurer: C. T. Dorairaj.

WIBATS TEAM TOURNAMENT

Caballero is the name of the most popular cigarette in Holland and the makers, Ed. Laurens of The Hague, sponsored an International Mixed Team Tournament organised by the Dutch Club, Wibats to which England was afforded an invitation by secretary, Cor J. Vos, which had to be declined because of its clash with the Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships.

The "Trofeo Caballero" was competed for by 12 teams initially split into four groups of three — teams comprised two men and two women — the eventual winners being Delta Lloyd of Amsterdam who also won last year. A cash prize of f. 750 also went to the winners whose team comprised Carel Deken, Leo Lucas, Sonja Heltzel and Annemieke van Moorst with Willy Reintjes as third man. Weiss Rot Weiss of Kleve (Federal Germany) were the beaten finalists whose team included Wiebke Hendriksen and Mieke Jenisch ten Broek (former Dutch champion) now married to Ulf Jenisch and living in Kleve near the Dutch border. N.M.B./V.D.O., Amstelveen finished in third place with Phoenix of Delft fourth.

Eight tables were used for the tournament in the Wibats Club's sports hall measuring 28 x 14m. It took three years to prepare the building which also contains a canteen, dressing rooms, bar and kitchen plus a small meeting room. Opened in December, 1971 the cost then was f. 165,000 (£20,000) and considered cheap!

Another invitation will be forthcoming next season for an English team to participate when it is hoped that an affirmative reply can be afforded Mr. Vos.

WELSH NOTES

by H. ROY EVANS

The Czechs, West Germans, Canadians and Nigerians will be in the Stiga Welsh Open, on March 9/10, and doing battle for the big cash prizes will be many English stars, with the Welsh internationals looking for more success than in the past.

There is to be a match against the

Canadians at Aberdare on Mar 7, with the possibility of a clash with Nigeria in North Wales on Mar 6.

The Welsh Association has appointed a Czech Coach Ladislav Moudry as non-playing captain for the team in the English Open, matches against Canada and Nigeria, in the European Championships at Novi Sad, and in the European League West European Group in Jersey later on in April.

In place of the postponed Glamorgan Open, Wales held a very successful "Round Robin" tournament at the National Sports Centre on Jan 26, with first and second stage groupings. Final results:—

MEN.

1. Graham Davies.
2. Alan Griffiths.
3. Mike Owen.
4. Brian Everson.
5. Tony Holmes.
- =6. Walter Hussey and Robert Thomas.
8. Ian Chapple.
9. Jeff Bowden.
10. Tony Healan.
11. John Bloomer.
12. Gwyn Griffiths.
13. John Hook.
14. Tony Watkins.

WOMEN.

1. Sandra Pickering.
2. Margaret Phillips.
3. Audrey Coombes-Jones.
4. Betty Gray.
5. Elizabeth Jones.
6. Kim Johnson.
7. Pam Harris.
8. Pat Perrett.
9. Glenys Thomas.
10. Barbara Roden.
11. Julie Ralphs.
12. Dawn Michael.
13. Morfydd Jones.
14. Shirley Sturgess.
15. Jill Curtis.
16. Sandra Coulson.
17. Debbie Symons.
18. Debbie Coulthard.
19. Beverlea Prangley.

Most promising results were by juniors Tony Healan of Cardiff in the men's event, and Julie Ralphs of North Wales in the women's.

IRISH AFFAIRS

by STEVE TRACEY

Development and Promotion of the game in Ireland has been encouraging indeed the past two seasons, which is

resulting in giving us greater depth of potential within our younger players.

Quite happily apart from Politics, Ireland's table tennis is 'United', North and South, and after a period which brought World class players from Russia, Japan, China etc., to our soil, now the Association's immediate intention is that of winning promotion to Division 2 of the European League.

The first two weeks in March will see Ulster defend their Irish 'Inter-Pro' title, plus the 'Irish Close' Championships.

Personalities? Well, Karen Senior and Kyra Stewart demand most of the publicity in the women's ranks, whilst Jimmy Langan continues his amazing domination in the men's. It is interesting to note, that in the eight or nine years Jim has been at the top, through thousands of competitive matches, there are only two Irish players to have beaten him.

Such dominance over one's fellow country-men is truly amazing. There must be few who can boast of such a record in the modern game.

We have also seen the retirement of 70-plus international Cliff Thompson a controversial character, who seems to be getting as much publicity in administration, as he did as a player. Controversial maybe, but hard-working and positive.

In this, my first article, I have briefly underlined our present affairs, and intentions. Next issue, I shall comment on our recent and present policies, introducing you to some of the men who make Table Tennis tick, plus current information on our players.

We must also consider the part England play as our neighbours in our hopes for the future, as surely there is much to be learnt, and maybe offered, from a neighbouring country which is a superior nation in the sport. Surely the bonds can be strengthened. It can only be for the good.

BASINGSTOKE 3-STAR OPEN

Denis Neale, with final victory over Desmond Douglas, and Jill Hammersley, who finally accounted for Linda Howard, took the major honours at Basingstoke over the weekend of February 2/3.

In the Junior Girls' singles Carole Knight beat Anita Stevenson for the title and Mark Mitchell had a final victory over David Alderson in the counterpart boys' event. Des Douglas won the U-21 (mixed) singles title, beating Nicky Jarvis—for the third time over the weekend—to claim the title. A full report will be published in the March Issue.

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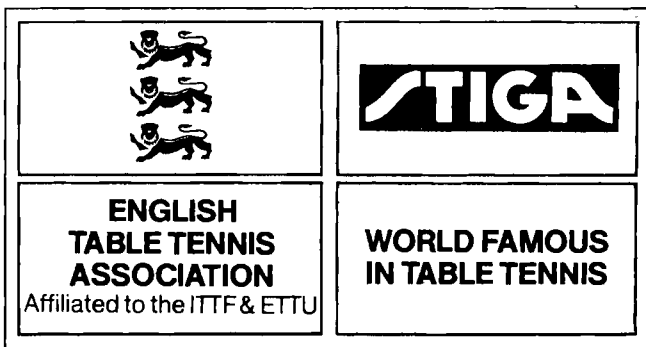
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STIGA NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

by JOHN PIKE

Stiga, a name world famous in table tennis, have already made an early impact on this year's championships. The Swedish firm are sponsoring this event for the first time, and their name alone has brought about an increase in the entries of both the men's and women's events.

The Stiga-Ormesby Cup for men has attracted 75 teams, including last year's winners, the Ormesby Club itself from Teesside, Gainsford, the central London side who hold the women's trophy, head a strong entry of 25 teams.

Again the competition has been zoned with 16 areas in the men's section and 8 in the women's. Starting with the men, only 11 matches are scheduled for the first round to be completed by January 27th.

In the two North of England groups, Spittal from Berwick are at home to the Carlisle side, St. James, in Zone 1, while the game in Zone 2 sees Ransom, Hoffman and Pollard from Castleford facing a tough challenge at Moor Allerton. The next two Zones, 3 and 4, involve teams from Lancashire, and here Fitton Hill (Oldham) are hosts to Little Lever Cricket Club from Bury. In the all Liverpool tie, Otis Elevator are at home to English Electric. Moving down to the Midlands for the next 2 Zones and a home game for newcomers Nottingham NALGO against Stevenson's Sports from Alfreton. Leicester stage the Zone 6 match with the local YMCA taking on the Hinckley side, Barwell Liberal.

There are no first round matches in Zones 7 and 8 but in the first of the three London groups, Rosebery (Chelmsford) receive Ivri Maccabi from Barking. In Zone 10 London University travel to the Department of Trade and Industry, while the third tie in the capital is at Kenton where the Tennyson club from Willesden are the visitors.

Two newcomers, RASRA and Sedgehill meet in the Kent group, that is Zone 12, but with no matches scheduled for Zones 13, 14 and 16 we come to the last tie in the first round. This is at St. Annes where the Staines League side are at home to Reading YMCA.

Like the men's competition, the

women's section also have a restricted first round, with no matches in the North of England. In the Midland group, Chesterfield YMCA are at home to the Three Aces Club from Grantham, while in the all Warwickshire clash, Kenilworth Grammar School go to South Yardley.

In Zone 4, Thame and Cheshunt both have home ties against Kidston TTC from Barnet and Letchworth Settlement respectively. In the Essex group, that is Zone 5, Grove St. Chads from the Dagenham League have an away tie with Crittall at Chelmsford.

Byfleet take on Elliotts from the Medway Towns in Zone 6, while the holders, Gainsford, have a first round bye in the other London group. In the second round they will meet the winners of the Blue Circle-National Savings Bank clash.

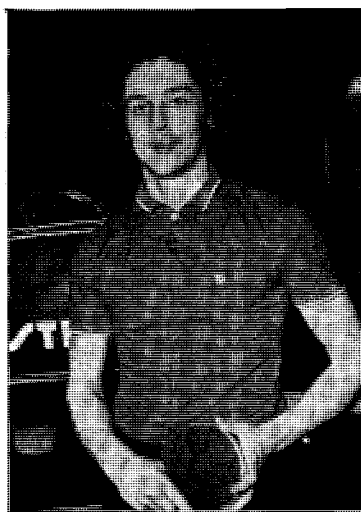
The draw favoured the two Hampshire sides in Zone 8 with the Southampton club, Four T's, at home to Exeter Community Centre, and in the other tie Merton meet Woolton Hill Sports from Newbury at Bourne-mouth.

The closing date for the first round matches in the women's section is February 24th.

FIRST ROUND RESULTS

- Zone 1**—Spittal (Berwick) 0, St. James (Carlisle) 9.
- Zone 2**—Moor Allerton (Leeds) 2, Ransom, Hoffman, Pollard (Castleford/Pontefract) 5.
- Zone 3**—Fitton Hall (Oldham) 0, Little Lever Cricket Club (Bury) 9.
- Zone 4**—Otis Elevator (Liverpool Business Houses) 1, English Electric (Liverpool) 8.
- Zone 5**—NALGO (Nottingham) 7, Stevenson's S. & S.C. (Alfreton) 2.
- Zone 6**—Leicester YMCA (Leicester) 5, Barwell Liberal (Hinckley) 0.
- Zone 9**—Rosebery (Chelmsford) 6, Ivri Maccabi (Barking) 3.
- Zone 10**—Dept. of Trade & Industry (London Civil Service) 7, London University (Central London) 2.
- Zone 11**—Kenton (Wembley & Harrow) 0, Tennyson TTC (Willessden) 9.

ENGLISH T.T. STAR LINKS WITH STIGA A.B.



Nicky Jarvis (19) the current England No. 3 from Yorkshire

The England number three ranked table tennis player, nineteen-year-old Nicky Jarvis, from the Ormesby Table Tennis Club in Yorkshire, has signed a two-year contract with the Swedish table tennis equipment manufacturer, Stiga AB. This is the first time that the company have linked with a player in the United Kingdom.

Announcing the sponsorship, Brian Hearn, Export Marketing Manager of Stiga, said: "His progress in the past year has been excellent and we view him as a player with real world class potential. Certainly Nicky's pattern of play so far this season seems to justify our enthusiasm. His contract contains additional options which will depend on his future success and we at Stiga fully expect that these will be exercised."

Commenting on his Stiga contract, Nicky Jarvis indicated that he hoped to very quickly justify the confidence that his new sponsors had shown in him by his match results.

Nicky Jarvis has already this season won a number of major tournaments and at the international level he has had a victory over one of Russia's leading players in a European league match. In the sponsorship Stiga are looking very much to the future, in particular to the 1977 World Championship when the English Table Tennis Association will host the event at Wembley.

Stiga AB already support a number of major competitions at the "grass roots" level of the game in the U.K., including the English Schools' Championship and the Stiga National Championships for both men and women. On the sponsorship of players, however, the link with Nicky Jarvis is a new development for the company outside of Sweden, though there they already support current men's world doubles champion and 1971 world singles champion, Stellan Bengtsson, his world doubles partner, Kjell Johansson, and past men's world singles champion, Hans Alser.

GRIEVOUS LOSS

In a season marred by sad and tragic deaths, comes the late and grievous news of the untimely passing on February 5th, of Cliff Darley.

Cliff, a power station worker, who lived with his mother at 13 The Booths, Pontefract, Yorkshire, was ever mindful of the needs of this magazine to be suitably illustrated and indeed this month's frontispiece was supplied by him.

He rendered a yeoman service to Table Tennis News as he did to the game generally—even as recently as January 26th when he was Hon. Referee to his beloved Pontefract 1-Star Open.

Our sympathies go out to Mrs. Darley on the loss of her son whose passing will be mourned far beyond the confines of the Yorkshire township.

A fuller appreciation will appear in the March issue, written by his fellow photographer, Tony Ross, of Hessele.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

In Norfolk, the Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace took pride of place in January. No fewer than seven players from this County participated this season, and for one party, at least, it meant a 4.30 a.m. start from here with a return after 1.30 a.m. the following morning!

It was particularly interesting that both Chester Barnes, in his great comeback, and Denis Neale, on his way to the final, took their first steps at the expense of Norfolk players. Barnes beat David Skedde 10, 14, 9 and Neale ousted Bob Mitcham 9, 14, 9.

The Norfolk first team of John Fuller, Chris Bensley and Mick Broughton were all represented, and also there were the new Norfolk Closed Champion, Mick Musson, who is a member of the Norwich Union staff, and Doug Bennett, the Norfolk U-13 and U-15 Champion. All except Broughton, who received a walkover into the second round, fell at the first hurdle, but Fuller took a game off K. H. Beamish of Essex, and, best performance of all, Broughton took one from "Connie" Warren.

Bensley bowed out to seed Jimmy Walker -10, -15, -16. Musson to John Pugh of Staffordshire -18, -13, -14, and Bennett to Brian Johns of Cheshire -11, -11, -22, whilst Fuller's score against Beamish was -16, -13, 15, -19. Finally, Broughton's performance against Warren read -16, -19, 17, -15.

The power crisis has meant that the King's Lynn Championships have had to be postponed, and, at league level, the more fortunate clubs have been asked to assist those less well placed. There is no extension of the Norwich season — so far! The Norfolk Schools' Area Finals on Sunday, January 20th, had to be transferred from Bury St. Edmunds to Haverhill Sports Centre.

In the Wymondham Championships, Stephen Bassett retained his crown but Janet Moore lost hers to Linda Kowalski.

In the Wilmot Cup, Norwich beat Bury St. Edmunds 9-0; in the Rose Bowl Norwich lost to Cambridge 0-9, and in the Carter Cup, Norwich won 6-3 against Dereham.

Obituary

ERNEST TAYLOR

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of our Chairman, Mr. Ernest Taylor, late of 17A Herbert Road, New Basford, Nottingham.

Mr. Taylor had been connected with Nottingham Table Tennis for the past 25 years, and for the past 20 years was Chairman of our Association.

He was also Chairman of the County Association until last year when he gave up the job and was elected President instead.

He was a National Councillor until the last election, when due to an oversight, his name was not put forward by the County Association.

Ernest was probably most well known for his interest in the Junior players particularly during the 1950's and 1960's. His presence will be greatly missed by all in Nottingham Table Tennis, and our deepest sympathy goes out to Winifred his widow, another very staunch worker for the game in Nottingham.

D. P. Page,
Hon. Sec./Treasurer,
Nottingham & District TTA.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by TONY ROSS

STILL UNBEATEN

Not since 2nd April, 1972, have any of Yorkshire's four teams been beaten and the tally now stands at 38 matches without defeat. This season, Leicestershire, in the Junior Premier Division, and Lancashire, in the Junior North Division, have so far come nearest to blunting the White Rose attack. The absence of David Alderson, because of illness, meant that Robert Wiley led the junior first team, but against Leics. suffered an unexpected loss to Grahame Hall. A good GD win by Judith Walker and Carole Knight over top England girls Anita Stevenson and Karen Rogers restored the balance, and in the final set Steve "Sooty" Souter made it 6-4 by taking the last 4 points when 18-20 down in the third against Grahame Hall.

Another good Souter performance provided the foundation on which the junior second team built to defeat Lancashire 6-4, with David Renton, Philip Halmshaw, Melody Ludi and Julie McLean all making significant contributions. Praise, too, for David Alderson, John Kedge, Tony Martin, Carole Knight and Sylvia Broadbent, who put up a tremendous team performance to beat Lancashire II 10-0 at Radcliffe, with the set between Bob Kelly and David Alderson particularly appreciated by the home crowd.

The Association has lost contact with a number of its Life Members and Vice-Presidents and would be pleased to hear of their whereabouts so that they may be invited to the Jubilee Dinner-Dance in May. They are, with their last known locations: C. Bedford (Gildersome), C. S. Slater (Nottingham), T. N. F. Smith (Leeds), F. B. Walker (Huntingdon), J. M. Walker (Leeds) and W. Wilson (Cheltenham). The person to contact is Social Secretary Alan Cram, 8 Heath Drive, Boston Spa, Yorkshire; Home Tel. No. Boston Spa 842829.

During a Bradford III-Hull II Yorkshire League Division 2 fixture, Hull Coaching Secretary, Pete



Presidential Inspection

The above photograph was recently taken at the table tennis ball plant of Dunlop Ltd., at Waltham Abbey, Essex during the visit of Herr Jupp Schlaf (centre), President of the European Table Tennis Union. Herr Schlaf is also Secretary of the Federal German TTA, the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund and a Vice-President of the International Table Tennis Federation.

During his visit, the purpose of which was to see production of the Dunlop Barna Super Ball, he was accompanied by (left-right), Mike Thornhill and Bill Evans of Dunlop Sports Company, Len Rennocks, works manager, Waltham Abbey and Walter Baur, sales manager of Dunlop's German Sports Company.

CORRECTIONS:-

R. J. Hart, Esq., Junior Organiser of the Royal County of Berkshire TTA writes to point out two incorrect tournament results recorded on Page 21 of the January issue relative to the Essex Junior 2-Star Open.

"In the U-13 GS regrettably:—A. Tierney (Yorks.) beat J. Douglas (Berks.) and happily in U-11 GS:—A. Gordon (Berks.) beat H. Robinson (Yorks.)."

Alan Shepherd also wrote to point out the latter error, both of which are, of course, regretted.

Bowsley, demonstrated a light-hearted, though illegal, exhibition trick as a gesture at the way all the lucky points had gone to the Bradford end during a doubles set. When Geoff Moss served, Bowsley tipped up his half of the table to brake the ball before slamming it past the astonished home pair.

The Halifax I team must also have been somewhat surprised to find Denis Neale at No. 1 when Middlesbrough I arrived to play a Division 1 fixture on 30th December last. It was Neale's first Yorkshire League appearance since the 1968-69 season.

TROLLHATEN BOUND

Jill Hammersley, England's top woman player, has been invited by the European Table Tennis Union to take part in a tournament for the top 12 ranked players in Europe, to be held in Trollhatten, Sweden, from February 8/10. Jill is ranked No. 8 and will be accompanied by ETTA Staff Coach, Bryan Merrett.

REPLACEMENT

At a meeting of the National Selection Committee, held at Crystal Palace on Jan. 5/74, it was agreed to withdraw David Bangerter (Surrey) from the Junior Elite Squad and replace him by Andrew Barden (Middlesex).

The Squad otherwise comprises:—David Alderson (Yorks.), John Kitchener (Suffolk), Paul Day (Cams.), Anita Stevenson (Leics.), Karen Rogers (Leics.) and Carole Knight (Yorks.).

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

SUSSEX NOTES

by ROBIN PIERCE



54-year-old JIM WEST an ETDA DIPLOMA COACH was the man who took EASTBOURNE into the zone final of the Wilmott Cup for the first time in a decade when he scored a maximum against HASTINGS.

Photo by IMF News, Eastbourne.

England-ranked junior, Crawley's Mike Douglas, came close to taking a sensational win over Roger Chandler in the Crawley/Brighton Wilmott Cup clash.

Since Chandler came to the top in Sussex during the 1961/62 season, only six players have recorded wins over the seven-times Sussex "Closed" champion. When Douglas raced through the first game and led nearly all the way in the second, it looked as if Roger was going to sustain another rare loss.

But Chandler called upon all his experience to weather the storm at 23-21. Even in the third Douglas came back with some thrilling counter-drives past the wide-open Chandler forehand. Roger must have been glad to have got through at 21-17.

Brighton defeated their old rivals 5-1. County No. 1, Sam Ogundipe, had no trouble with the Crawley youngsters but Robin Stace fell in two games against Gerald Pugh.

Stace, the county 2nd team captain, seems to dislike playing juniors these days. Only a week or so earlier he lost to the County No. 3, Alan Reed, in a Brighton league game.

A pity that Worthing's Linda Wales has been lost to Hants. Linda, just 15, hit Suzanna Kavallierou, No. 2 in Sussex for the last three years, off the table in the Norwich Union English Championships.

Hastings could find only two players for their Carter Cup game with Brighton. The last-named, led by 15-year-old Alan Reed, must have been quite happy when the Hastings No. 3 failed to arrive, for they left as 6-3 winners. This was the first win for Brighton juniors in a number of years.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by PHILLIP REID

Things continue to go well for Leicestershire this season. First the senior team. Against Staffordshire, we were without Anita Stevenson, on duty for England in Rumania, and a win of 7-3 was more than satisfactory. Shirley Pickering made her county debut in the doubles (with Glenys Odams) and whilst this pair lost, they put up a very stout fight indeed. Paul Randell continued his winning ways and Leicestershire are still 100% in the mixed doubles, where Karen Rogers and Maurice Newman won yet again. Chris Rogers lost his first set of the season (against Isaac) and Maurice Newman lost to John Pugh. A good win for Leicestershire.

The juniors will be satisfied with their first venture into the Premier Division. A 9-1 win against Warwickshire gave the county hope of a probable win against Cambridgeshire. From 0-3 down, they did well to recover to draw. Then, against mighty Yorkshire, Grahame Hall led 20-18 in the third against Stephen Souter, but Souter took the next four points to give Yorkshire a 6-4 win. Bad luck Grahame!

The Juniors 2nd team went down 10-0 to Derbyshire—a team who must have an excellent chance of promotion. The Veterans, with Phil Overend and Charlie Jacques both in the side together for the first time, won 6-3 at Staffordshire.

Leicester Y.M.C.A.'s annual Invitation Tournament brought the third consecutive win for Paul Randell in the Men's Singles when he beat Maurice Newman in a good final. Chris Rogers was too good in junior events—not surprising in view of his senior ranking.

Anita Stevenson's selection for the Rumanian and Czechoslovakian trip was popularly received in the county—surely similar honours cannot be too far away for her county team-mate, Karen Rogers.

In the Midland League, Leicester are still performing well but the Veterans lost their 100% record when they went down to West Bromwich. If only Phil Powell and Charlie Jacques were in the team I would back them to finish in the top three of the 1st Division. . . it could happen next season.

Junior-wise the gap after the top four is reflected in the results in the Midland League. Even with Kevin Hall and Steven Penny, the team were unable to take a point off Coventry. Good news indeed, though, is the return to form of Steven Penny—two comfortable wins were ample proof that he is back and challenging for his Premier Division place.

The extraordinary yo-yo career of Graham Hughes looks likely to continue. After several chances, he was dropped from the county team at the start of the season but he is now showing such tremendous form in the Midland League that he must, at least be a strong candidate for selection should the county decide to make changes—something which looks a little improbable at the moment.

The visit of Peter Simpson to Leicester in mid-January was popularly received and it is certain that Bryan Merrett will receive an equally

enthusiastic reception when he visits Loughborough. John Oxbrough is holding regular Sunday morning classes and attendances of 30 are common.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by IAN R. CRICKMER

The Worcestershire Junior Closed Championships, being held independently from the senior event for the first time, was saved from joining the other tournaments which have fallen victim to the power crisis only by some eleventh-hour reorganisation at Worcester on January 6. Lea and Perrins canteen being ruled "hors de combat," the championships were completed by using one table at the League headquarters, Cripplegate Pavilion, and one at the Civil Service Club, where unfortunately it proved necessary to abandon the group system for the boys' singles play.

Both 1973 singles champions remained in the junior ranks to defend their championships, but, true to the pattern of recent years, neither succeeded in retaining their title. Boys' holder, Simon Claxton, was ousted in a fine semi-final by John Lancaster, who won through 21-6, 16-21, 21-18 and went on to final success by 21-15, 21-18 over Andrew Oakley. Oakley's semi-final victory had been over Kidderminster's No. 1, Glen Jansen, 21-13, 21-11; the latter had the consolation of being the only unseeded player to reach a semi-final, having defeated No. 4 seed Nicky Mytton 21-18, 24-22 in the quarter-finals.

Claxton and Oakley retained their doubles title in a repeat of last season's final, beating Lancaster and Mytton 21-12, 21-12.

As your correspondent had been taken to task for comments in the December notes concerning the County team's girls, I attended the girls' play for much of the day, witnessing two semi-finals which provided the highest standard of girls' play ever seen amongst Worcestershire youngsters. Title-holder Pat Woodward came through by 21-16, 15-21, 21-17 at the expense of young Mandy Mytton, and Jill Watte, a game and 16-19 down versus Judy Bytheway, staged a remarkable recovery to win 13-21, 21-19, 21-17. Possibly because of the change of surroundings, the final did not reach the same high level, but eventually Jill became title holder in her last junior season with scores of 21-16, 19-21, 21-13.

Remaining with the juniors, Worcester's boys made a commendable effort before going out of the Carter Cup against visitors Leicester. Trailing by two sets lost at 18-21 and 19-21 in the third game, Worcester realised that, without Chris Rogers, who was at a junior training camp, the match could be wrested from Leicester's grasp. Oakley brought off a fine win against Graeme Hall, and Claxton completely dominated Kevin Hall. A further win for Oakley over Steve Penny brought Worcester right back into the match, and Oakley's game with Kevin Hall became of vital importance. Trailing by a game and 12-18, Hall staked all on a whirlwind attack to survive and to take a third game decision at 21-19, so ensuring Leicester's success.

The all-important Halesowen—Worcester match in the Mixed Divi-

sion of the County League lived up to expectations. With County players Brian Belcher and Mervyn Wood in the Halesowen line-up, Worcester introduced Mike Sykes, who excelled himself in defeating these two players who appear above him in the Worcestershire ranking. His set with Wood had an amazing end, the Halesowen player serving off the table twice from 19 all in the third! Maureen Allchurch, a former Buckinghamshire II player, served Halesowen well in taking her three events, carrying the homesters to a 7-3 victory.

The difficulties of handicapping teams from several Leagues are illustrated by this season's earlier results in the County competition, there being a number of wider margins than hitherto normal. The closest result saw Redditch Development Corporation beat Blue Bird (Halesowen) by 7 points in an away handicap fixture, but romp home 7-2 at Redditch when the two sides were drawn together again in the Non-handicap Competition. With all but one of the Round 2 results known, Kidderminster hold pride of place with seven sides in the last sixteen positions of the Handicap tournament, though six Leagues in all are still represented.

In other Non-handicap matches, Ledbury, with a weakened team, ousted The Curs (Bromsgrove) 5-4 thanks to a win for Neville Meredith at 24-22 in the third over Lewis Colley. Bromyard were convincing 8-1 winners when away to Stourport Wesleyans, but were eliminated 2-7 at home to another Kidderminster team, Tomkinsons.

It is most pleasant to focus the spotlight (courtesy of Philip Reid!) on the Worcestershire second team. In fourteen years of County Championships membership, the best tally for a season had been two wins and two draws in 1968/69. When Staffordshire seconds were beaten 6-4 at Cripplegate Pavilion in December—the only win amongst four Worcestershire teams in action that month—it became clear that the match versus Glamorgan II at Aberaman Y.M.C.A. would have a vital bearing on the destination of the Midland Division championship. The journey to the valleys provided a daunting prospect, for nine previous Worcestershire teams had travelled to Glamorgan between 1955 and 1973, and all had returned pointless. In the event, a superb fighting performance in which Mervyn Wood and Nick Bottomley each recorded maximum stints, saw the County side lay this "bogey" with their third consecutive 6-4 success of the season. The vital sixth event, which had put the visitors on the winning trail, was the ladies' doubles, continuing the run of Diana Moss and Sheila Foley. Whatever the outcome, the second team has certainly given a boost to interest in County match operations.

In closing, I know that all members, past and present, of the Worcestershire Association, will wish to be associated with the tributes to the late Malcolm Scott. His passing is yet another weakening of the links with Midlands table tennis in its earlier formative years. Malcolm, who was at that time National Executive Committee member for the West Midlands, was chairman of the County's inaugural meeting in Worcester on 7th June, 1952, and took a continuing interest in the County's progress as it became fully operational.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

RICHARDSON OUTSTANDING

Cambridgeshire County Second Team gave their best performance for two seasons when they obtained a point from Hertfordshire Second at Cuffley. Herts included Barry White and Colin Jackson, who won all their sets against Cambs. First Team in a Second Division match last season. Cambs. fought magnificently and although 2-5 down picked up a well-deserved point. Keith Richardson was outstanding and his hard hitting was tremendous for so young a player. A repeat performance of this form must certainly put him in line for a first team place. Paul Chisnall and Carol Ellis also shone and had a good win in the Mixed Doubles; they will be partnering each other in the County Closed.

The three points Cambs. Juniors gained in the Premier Division matches at Nuneaton should go a long way towards helping them retain their status for another season. At this stage Warwickshire and Suffolk look favourites for the 'drop', although it must be stated that Cambs. were in a similar position last season and still escaped. Another point or two will be needed in the second series in April. Against Leicestershire the Juniors held a 5-2 lead, but the former county were let off the hook, winning the next three sets and so Cambs. had to be content with one point when a win would have dispelled relegation fears completely. As expected, Paul Day and Richardson carried the main burden and were involved in every winning set except one, which was obtained by Keith's brother, Brian, who won a vital singles over Kevin Hall in the draw with Leicester.

With all the wins coming from the Soham trio, this small Cambs. town should be very proud of its place in Cambridgeshire table tennis. The girls were up against four of the top five players in England, but performed creditably. In the match against Yorkshire Ruth Newman and Susan Ellis took a game from Judith Walker and Carole Knight and, against Warwickshire, Ruth lost -18 in the third to Karen Groves. In a mixed doubles set Carol Ellis, partnered by Richardson, obtained the girls' sole success.

In the Norwich Union English Championships Paul Day, who reached the last 8 last season, was beaten in the first round 3-1 by Mike Johns, after taking the second. However, he did reach two doubles quarter-finals. In the Men's, partnered by Andrew Barden, the victors, Chester Barnes and Trevor Taylor, in four, and in the mixed with Elaine Tarten, victory went to Alan Hydes and Shelagh Hession, again in four. Kenneth Muhr, of Cambs, and M. Newman, of Leicestershire, did well to take a game from the losing finalists, Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker in the last sixteen of the Men's Doubles, before going down -15, -16, -18, -14. In a Consolation quarter-final Mick Palmer, of Soham lost to Dick Philips, the eventual winner.

In Division 1 of the Cambs. League Y.M.C.A. I beat Soham I with Peter Taylor, the English International, making his first appearance of the

season for Y.M.C.A., winning two singles but losing to Day. Day's three wins, however, were not enough to save the match for Soham. In the relegation zone N.C.I. II and Fire Brigade eased their worries with 6-4 wins over Telephones and Y.M.C.A. II respectively, and so put the defeated teams in deeper trouble. In Division II, Torchbearers II lost their position at the top of the table. After winning their first seven matches, they lost two in four days. Their first defeat was against University II, who beat them 6-4 and now replace them at the top. Tom Gawthrop won all his singles for Torchbearers, but Valerie Scripps and Janet Rodgers could only muster a doubles win between them. In their other defeat Impington I beat them by the same margin, Jimmy Parkin and Trevor McGhee being unbeaten for the victors.

In the Cambs. League averages Michael Harper of Y.M.C.A. is currently top of Division I, having won 23 out of his 24 sets played, for an average of 95.8%. His one defeat was against Day, who although unbeaten, has only played four matches and does not qualify. A big surprise is the position of veteran John Thurston of New Chesterton Institute, who has been a dominant figure in the First Division for over twenty years. His No. 12 position, with 13 wins from 21 sets, must be his worst ever. In the Second Division Gawthrop of Torchbearers II holds a slender lead from R. Mills of University II and Horace Saunders of Fisons. The only 100% man who qualifies is Keith Puddick, who plays in Division 4a and formerly played for Cambridge in the South East Midlands League. His wife, Ruth, holds fifth position in Division 4a, with an average of 75%.

The Cambridge team made further progress in the Rose Bowl when they defeated Great Yarmouth 8-1 in the second round. Sally Hirst and Janet Rodgers were both unbeaten and only when the match was already won did Valerie Scripps lose a game to Norfolk County player Edna Fletcher. In the third round Cambridge meet the winners of the Ely/Peterborough tie and look likely to extend their run even further.

At the time of writing I hear that young Keith Richardson has replaced Tony Littlechild in the Cambs. team for their match against Northamptonshire. Richardson deserves his chance after some fine displays in recent matches and some stirring performances for the juniors in the premier division last month. Recently playing for Soham II in the Cambridge League he beat Tony Littlechild and the inclusion of the 14-year-old player from Soham brings the average age of the Cambs. first team to around 18, which recalls memories of the first Cambs. team of 1947 when John Cornwall, John Thurston and George Lawrence were in action making the average age similar.

WESTERN LEAGUE BULLETIN

by GROVE MOTLOW
DAVID SLAYS GOLIATH

Newbury, at home to Bournemouth, were beaten 5-4 in a very close match. The visitors went into a 4-2 lead thanks to Steve Wilson and

Trevor Smith who, respectively, beat Duncan Campbell and David Reeves, and David Wise and Reeves.

Fighting back Newbury levelled the match score at 4-all with Campbell beating Smith and Wise accounting for Cyril Bush. It was then left to young Reeves who secured the points for Newbury with victory over the more experienced Wilson in straight games.

Salisbury, at home to Weston, had a runaway 9-0 win with no set going to a deciding game. Exeter had a fine 7-2 home success over Plymouth. Both Mike Rattue and Paul Stone, the latter making a welcome return to form, recorded maximums. Plymouth newcomer Michael Short did well to beat Robin Davis as did David James.

Newport, at home to Newbury, were beaten 6-3 and young Alan Hicks, making his debut for the visitors, created a favourable impression by beating Tony Watkins and only going down narrowly in opposition to John Bloomer and Alan Harrison. Young Reeves won all three and is certainly a great prospect "find" for Newbury. His father, Tony Reeves, can be justly proud of his son's performance. Tony will be remembered as one of the "key" players for Newbury until he retired a year or so ago.

In the Women's Section, Devizes, at home to Plymouth, were beaten 8-1. For the visiting team Kathryn Rowe, taking the place of Nancy Hollywood, appears to have a great future in the Devonshire team. She, along with Barbara Pearson, scored maximum sets while Mavis Scott lost to the Devizes No. 1 Alison Boyce.

Newbury, at home to Exeter, won 7-2 and Caroline Reeves, sister of young David, was the "star" of the match winning all her three including victory over Pam Mortimer, 21-16 in the third. Carol Houghton and Jackie Godwin had victories over Val Addicott and Maureen Spray.

Plymouth, also at home to Exeter, had an easy time of things in winning 9-0. The visitors were without Pam Mortimer for who S. Tilley deputised and made her first appearance of the season for Exeter. For Plymouth, Elaine Lamb also made her first appearance but celebrated in rather different fashion by obtaining a maximum. Now with such players as Elaine and Kathryn Rowe, Plymouth would appear to have little difficulty in team selection.

Leading positions:—

MEN						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth	3	3	0	19	8	6
Salisbury	2	2	0	16	2	4
Exeter	3	2	1	14	13	4
Newbury	2	1	1	10	8	2
WOMEN						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Plymouth	3	2	1	21	6	4
Bournemouth	2	2	0	13	5	4
Newbury	2	2	0	12	6	4

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

By JOHN COOPER

In the Gloucester League clubs are stepping up their domestic coaching

in addition to what I do on my regular Thursday, Friday and Saturday stints at three different venues. I am particularly pleased to see William Dawe jnr. coaching and enthusing the Gordon League juniors and beginning to take over from where William Dawe Snr. has not yet given up after 40 years plus coaching and playing at the Gordon League. Led by Willie jnr., Gloucester juniors are storming through Div. III of the Midland Junior League although the vets are finding things difficult following last year's promotion.

The small Stroud League bravely entered the Midland Senior League and is holding its own with one win and one loss. Despite petrol difficulties Stroud ventured down to Plymouth in the Rose Bowl competition and put up a good fight in going under 8-1, the "success" being due to Jean Golding. Stroud have expanded their coaching programme for juniors to include Saturday mornings at Nailsworth as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings in Stroud.

Cheltenham girls beat Gloucester girls 7-3 in the County Junior League thanks to a much improved Vanessa Cruwys storming over Jane Dovey. Cheltenham will stage the Regional ETTA under-13 competition in their YMCA on Saturday 27th April. This will cover Warwickshire, Oxford, Hereford, Worcester and Gloucestershire. In the Midland Senior League, Cheltenham are struggling in Div. I through the absences of Malcolm Green, and David Harvey and the loss of Bob Thornton. The spectators and officials all enjoyed the England v. Russia match staged in the Cheltenham Town Hall. It is just a pity we can't see a winning England side in this good venue.

Tony Clayton, ex-Yorkshire, is now a Bristolian and has joined 'Sewell's' Club to play in the Midland League. Clayton has also offered to help Bryan Merrett with Area Panel coaching in the south where, at Whitchurch, Sewell, Lewis and Stopher will be training in the South Glos. Wilts and Somerset group. For North Glos, mostly at Worcester, Willie Dawe, Jane Dovey and Vanessa Cruwys (Reserve M. Hodgetts) will take part in monthly training under Bryan Merrett and Peter Cruwys in the group with Herefordshire and Worcestershire players.

Bristol's Pat Rowe and Mick Lewis are continuing their coaching at various venues and always on the look out for better ones. Indeed the last Area Panel coaching in that area was in difficulties because of lighting restrictions and therefore more physical work was done off the table. Perhaps not a bad thing for some! It is also good to hear that both Pat and Mick have been off on a Lilleshall Coaches Course.

In the County Junior League Bristol boys beat Stroud 8-2, with Keith Wand getting the 2 for Stroud. Bristol "A" boys beat Bristol "B" boys 8-2, the 2 from the "B" side being from Lewis and Stopher. When Bristol "A" girls lost 4-6 to Bristol "B" girls, Anne Bowden got 2 for the "A" side and Donna Vowles 3 for the "B" side, plus 2 from Wendy Simmons and they together took the doubles.

Honourable mention to Alan Good for standing in at short notice for Sewell in a county match and performing creditably.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by BERNARD YARNOLD

SHOCK CLOSED WIN

Alan Fletcher pulled off a great win in the Warwickshire closed championships when he beat former County No. 1 Ralph Gunnion in the final of the men's singles.

With the County first team regulars unavailable, Yorkshireman Fletcher, now at University in Birmingham, had a fine win over top seed Pat Glynn in the semis before forcing Gunnion into errors to take him in the third game.

The women's singles is an all-Birmingham affair between 'Andy' Jones and Di St. Ledger. This final along with the men's and mixed doubles, has yet to be played.

Power restrictions forced the tournament to be curtailed and the outstanding matches will now be played in Birmingham sometime in the future.

The boys' U-17 singles went as seeded with Kevin Pilgrim (Coventry) retaining the title he won last year. Pilgrim's toughest encounter was in the semi-final against Mick Home, who had previously beaten No. 3 seed Alan Cotton.

Richard Mountford (Birmingham) snatched the boys' U-15 title from Peter Griffiths (Coventry) when beating him in the final with a powerful display of driving. The girls' U-17 singles went to form with only a spirited semi-final display by Beverley Green standing in the way of Karen Groves.

Results:—

M.S. s-f:
A. Fletcher bt P. Glynn -19, 14, 13;
R. Gunnion bt K. Pilgrim 19, 13.
Final: Fletcher bt Gunnion -18, 14, 11.

B.S. U-17:
Pilgrim bt D. Johnson 13, 14.
R. S. U-15:
R. Mountfort bt P. Griffiths 15, 12.
G.S. U-17:
K. Groves bt J. Loudon 9, 14.

B.D.:
A. Cotton/D. Shropshire bt Johnson/Mountford 5, 18.

G.D.:
M. Allen/Groves bt Loudon/C. Vines 14, -16, 13.

V.S.:
J. Peakman bt C. Dawson 9, 11.
W.D.:
D. Hazzard/D. St. Ledger bt A. Jones/K. Groves 18, 18.

Warwickshire played host unsuccessfully to teams from Leicestershire, Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire when the first set of Junior Premier Division matches were played in Nuneaton.

With the top junior talent in England on parade in the visiting sides, the home team went down in all three of their matches. Only a final set victory for Birmingham's Douglas Johnson prevented a 'white-wash' in the opening encounter against Leics. when he beat Kevin Hall.

A reconstituted team fared little better against Yorkshire, the title holders. Alan Cotton and Richard Mountford joined Kevin Pilgrim, who looked much sharper than in the opening match, and Pilgrim and Cotton took the boys' doubles; Cotton beaten Renton 16 in the third.

The closest matches took place in

the evening. Warwicks. got off to a bad start against Cambs, but levelled the match score at 2-all and Karen Groves and Beverley Green, representing Warwicks, all day in the absence of a reserve, were rewarded with a fine win in the girls' doubles.

Karen Groves beat Ruth Newman, and Pilgrim just lost an exciting set against Paul Day -19 in the decider. Cambs, clinched the next two sets to ensure victory, despite a rearguard action by Cotton against Keith Richardson.

Still on the junior scene, Clive Wainwright of Brandwood School won two titles and was runner-up in a third when the Birmingham Schools TTA staged their annual individual championships just before Christmas. A few of the older players were missing because of the clash with the Warwicks. Closed, but entries were still up on last year.

Wainwright took the main open event, beating David Shropshire (Heart of England) -14, 10, 20 in the final. The same pair contested the U-16 final, Wainwright coming out on top by 17 and 15. Mick Home (Brandwood) confirmed his higher County ranking by taking Wainwright 15, -20, 12 in the U-19 event.

Other double successes were achieved by Beverley Green (Marsh Hill), who won the girls' U-15 and U-16 events; and Andrew Smith (Heart of England), who waltzed through all opposition to gain the U-14 and U-15 trophies.

The first division of the Inter-Town League promises to provide as close a finish as last season, judging by results to hand so far. Table:—

	P	W	Pts
East Birmingham	3	3	6
South Birmingham	3	2	4
Leamington	4	2	4
Nuneaton	3	1	2
Coventry	3	0	0

East beat current champions South 5-4 at home, Barry Johnson being the hero when defeating Alan Cotton in the third game of the final set. A victory by East in the return match will probably ensure them the championship, which eluded them only on games average last season.

Coventry, who were also very much part of the title race last season, are struggling to find winning form. However, 5-4 reverses against South and Nuneaton have obviously sapped morale, which a good win will no doubt do wonders to restore.

Business Houses (Birmingham) seem to be walking away with the second division, having won all four of their first half matches. This could be their season for promotion after trying for so long.

The Birmingham League are contemplating drastic action if the power crisis lasts into February. They may scrap the current set-up, and reform completely for a new series of competitions with an extension of the season to April and May. Already a victim of the power clamp-down is the Association's practice centre at Duddleston Manor School.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by ROY COLE

REVISED RANKINGS

Following a trial and other County activities, the County Selection Com-

mittee issued a revised ranking list during January. It sees the welcome return of Arthur Chilvers to add greater experience to our first team and some ups and downs reflecting the narrow differences in ability between some of our girls, for instance, and also availability for match play. With senior and junior County Championship commitments coinciding and several juniors in the senior rankings, it means that many of the lower-ranked players will have opportunities to represent Berkshire this season. Full lists with previous rankings in parentheses.

MEN

1. R. Thornton (1)
2. D. Basden (2)
3. A Chilvers (-)
4. P. Trott (4)
5. D. Reeves (5)
6. D. Campbell (6)
7. R. Harrison (9)
8. A Foster (-)
9. S. Montgomery (8)
10. R. Rosinski (10)
11. S. Douglas (11)
12. G. Roberts (12)
13. N Heaps (3)
14. R. Chester (7)

WOMEN

1. C. Reeves (2)
2. K. Mashford (3)
3. C. Basden (4)
4. J. Goodwin (5)
5. C. Houghton (6)
6. H. Masters (-)
7. K. Witt (-)
8. M. Johnson (-)

BOYS

1. P. Trott (1)
2. D. Reeves (2)
3. S. Douglas (3)
4. G. Roberts (5)
5. A. Hicks (4)
6. A. Wellman (6)
7. R. Halliday (8)
8. I. Mead (11)
9. B. Szczerba (10)
10. C. Taylor (7)
11. R. Moysie (-)
12. C. Johnson (-)
13. T. Heaps (12)
14. R. Johnson (-)

GIRLS

1. C. Reeves (1)
2. K. Mashford (2)
3. K. Witt (4)
4. M. Smith (7)
5. J. Puslow (-)
6. J. Thorpe (8)
7. J. Douglas (9)
8. C. Rogers (6)
9. A. Gordon (-)
10. M. Johnson (5)
11. C. Ingham (3)

HUNTS. AND PETERBRO. NOTES

by DAVID OBEY

BEST FORGOTTEN

Last month proved a gloomy period both for the county teams and for the representative sides from the three member leagues.

On the county front the seniors, sadly missing Paul Charlton, played Suffolk in their first match since his death. The visitors, with a youthful team headed by England No. 2 junior John Kitchener proved far too strong and ran out 9-1 winners. For Hunts. Alan Albon, with a comfortable success against Mick Palmer, was the only scorer, although Barbara

Pace (nee Webb) went down narrowly in the singles and Albon/Len Saywell failed only by the narrowest margin in the men's doubles after holding 4 set points.

Earlier in the afternoon the junior county team, entertaining Essex II proved a disappointment, going down 8-2. For Hunts. Tim Speller, displaying undoubted ability but limited concentration was the only singles scorer, beating his rival No. 1 in a thrilling encounter. Had he earlier shown the same application against the visitors' No. 2 the pattern of the whole match may well have been different. As it was, only the girls' doubles combination of Belinda Chamberlain/Jean Allinson, unbeaten this season, provided another success.

In the national knock-out cups all the member leagues have now been eliminated. Peterborough went out 5-4 to Northampton in the Carter Cup (Peter Berna 3) whilst Hunts. Central lost to Kettering by the same score. Tim Speller was unbeaten in this match.

In the Rose Bowl Peterborough lost to Bury St. Edmunds 5-4 in a very closely contested match but in the same competition St. Neots went down 8-1 to Cheshunt.

Watford, as so often in the past, proved far too strong for St. Neots in the Wilmott Cup, so completing a month which is best forgotten as far as county table tennis is concerned. Even the coaching centre at Longsands School, St. Neots, has suffered an enforced shut-down with the power crisis. All involved hope for an early re-opening for it is undoubtedly this centre which will play a major role in improving standards in future years.

SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

In the Men's Division Ely, last season's champions, although in second position, have won all their matches and look like retaining their title. Wellingborough, who head the division, have played well but will almost certainly be overhauled by Ely, and possibly Bedford and Cambridge.

In the Women's Division Cambridge hold top place, with a comfortable lead, thanks to Sally Hirst, Valerie Scripps and Janet Rodgers. Bedford and St. Neots are second and third respectively, but North Herts, who are at present in fourth position, look the most dangerous challengers to Cambridge.

In the Junior Division Kettering hold the lead, but again Ely are in a good position in second place and with the power of Paul Day and the Richardson brothers they look like gaining the title. Cambridge lead the Veterans' Section with a very good average. Kettering and St. Neots being in hot pursuit, but I think that this is Cambridge's year.

Owing to the large number of postponed matches and results not to hand the current tables do not give a true picture of the merits of the various teams. Secretaries are requested to do all in their power to re-arrange these postponed matches and to send in their results without delay.

HERALDING HEREFORDSHIRE

by IAN R. CRICKMER

The E.T.T.A.'s newest affiliated League at Leominster reports a successful first half of the season under the Secretaryship of Malcolm Humphries, formerly of Nuneaton. Their fourteen teams include a considerable number of school players, particularly in the District Youth and Sports Centre sides—the Centre is now the venue for regular coaching sessions where four tables are available weekly for the area's youngsters. Most promising amongst these is Mark Charters, of Little Hereford 'C', whose record includes victories over all the members of League leaders, Little Hereford 'B'. In second spot, Cadburys have been well served by John Bacon and "Bumble" Jones, and Eye 'A', level on points, have Doug Murgett outstanding in their ranks.

Pembridge Youth Club head Division II, but second placed Eye 'B' boast the Division's 100 per cent player in the person of Alan Bassett. Little Hereford's 'D' team are well placed to mount a second-half challenge through the Tandler brothers, Tom and Terry, and other players to have made their mark are M. Hill (Tenbury Y.C.), N. Palmer (Eye 'B') and O. Clarke and G. Evans (both Pembridge Y.C.).

In the Open Division of the Worcestershire League, Hereford 'A' remain in touch with the leaders following an 8-2 win at Kidderminster, achieved despite the absence of Mike Prosser and Nim Hodges. The visitors led 8-0 before relaxing somewhat, though Steve Phillips, for Kidderminster, was well worthy of his success against Russell Prece.

The Sapphires still lead the way in Hereford Division I, with Ledbury the only realistic challengers—the latter have the most successful player to date, Mick Prosser having lost once only up to Christmas. At the foot of the table Pembridge Poachers lost their first six matches, but then fought two drawn encounters. Spinners are the only undefeated Division 2 side, leading by two points from R.A.F. Wingbats.

Though Civil Service 'B' lead Division 3, they have lost to Rank Xerox, whose 100 per cent record makes them firm favourites with matches in hand. Mothers Pride 'A' have opened up a five points gap at the top of Division 4 where main interest centres on the tussle for second spot involving Herefordians, Painters 'A' and Saunders Valve 'B'.

Saunders Valve are also prominent in Division 5, they and Post Office having shaken off all challengers, but no clear picture has yet emerged in Division 6, where no less than five teams are in contention for honours. Division 7, on the other hand, sees Civil Service 'D' well clear, with maximum points from their first eight matches. The Matthews Cup handicap competition is now under way, and the first result notified showed Civil Service 'A' as victors by 16 points when they visited Pembridge Poachers.

Hereford's youngsters got off the mark in Junior Division Three of the

Midland League when successful 8-2 at West Bromwich. David Anchors was introduced to the visiting team, and the move was fully justified when he captured two singles. Mark Owen did likewise, but top honours were taken on this occasion by Michael Owens, who came through the evening undefeated by being the only visitor to account for West Bromwich No. 1, Nigel Lockley. Subsequently however, the visit of Shrewsbury to Village Farm saw Hereford go under 4-6. Each of the home boys contributed one singles, and the doubles was again taken by Hereford. With Michael Owens playing on this occasion though unwell, Hereford's hopes of a point rested on Mark Owen in the final set, but Shrewsbury held on for an outright win.

At the time of writing, the power crisis has prevented any firm decision concerning the 1974 County Closed championships—these have in recent years been staged at the canteen of Henry Wiggins Ltd., but the factory management has had at present to suspend all sport and social activities. If alternative arrangements prove necessary, it is hoped to hold this popular event in April or May when the League programme has been completed.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by COLIN HAMMOND

A two-minute silence was held at the commencement of the County Closed Championships held at Bingham on Jan. 13 in memory of the late Chairman of the Association, Mr. Ernest Taylor.

Alan Croome had little difficulty in retaining three titles—men's singles, and doubles, with Roger Dawkins, and mixed with Pat Hopkin. Seeded No. 1 he won the singles without dropping a game, his closest set being the semi-final against Brian Mayfield. He then went on to beat Alf Saunders in the final. Alf was the loser in three finals, being partnered by Mayfield and Pat Hammond in the men's and mixed doubles respectively.

Surprising winner of the women's singles was Mrs. Gloria Stocks, the No. 4 seed. She disposed of the No. 2 seed, Pat Hopkin, in the semi-final and went on to beat the No. 3 seed, Sue Osborne (who had defeated the No. 1 seed, Pat Hammond, in the other semi-final). Upsets also abounded in the Intermediate and Junior events. In the former, Martin Kinsella beat top seed Neil Marples before losing in the final to Roger Dawkins. Other fine performances came from Colin Bostock and 14-year-old Glen Streddar, who both reached the semi-finals. In the Juniors, Neil Linfield ousted holder Kinsella and second seed Nicky Kirkland, only to fall to top seed Clive Greenberry 23-21, 22-20 in the final. Neil got revenge by partnering Chris, Stockdale to win the Junior doubles, beating both seeded pairs on the way.

Derbyshire's Derrick Marples beat holder Ron Bolton in the veterans' final, and his daughter, Alison, retained her girls' singles title by beating Ann Morgan in a close-fought final. Pat Hopkin and Sue Osborn combined to take the women's doubles.

NOTTS. WINNING WEEKEND

On Jan. 19 the three County teams were all winners in their respective matches, the Senior and Junior teams notching up their first victories this season.

The Seniors, after making a long trip to Cheltenham, and being handicapped by the absence of County Champion Croome, had a fine win over also - struggling Gloucestershire. Saunders had a great game with victories over R. Morley and W. Dawe and combining with Mayfield to win the doubles. John Ellis had a fine win over Dawe and combined with Sue Osborn to take the mixed. However, he found on-form Chris Sewell too fast as had Mayfield previously. Decisive was Pat Hopkin and Sue Osborn's success in the women's doubles, scraping home deuce in the third.

After a string of heavy defeats and with a reshuffled side, the Juniors were at last victorious in a rather low-key match against Lincolnshire. The Notts. boys proved far too strong all round and the only singles loss was Kinsella's against the hard-hitting Lincs. No. 1. Greenberry and Linfield won both their singles and Linfield and Stockdale's success in the doubles was to prove invaluable. As expected, the visiting girls were too strong for the Notts. pair, Ann Morgan and Karen Mayfield (making her debut).

With maximums from John Burraston and Bolton, and Pat Hammond undefeated in singles and the mixed, with Alan Packer, Notts. veterans had a 6-3 victory over Warwickshire to keep them in second position in the table.

On Jan. 20 Notts. Schools' teams travelled to Leeds to play in the Area Finals against Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Six teams of varying ages made the trip, two teams getting through to the next round, the first Notts. teams to gain such success in this competition.

In the boys' events — U-13, U-15 and U-19—the teams were all from Fairham School, Nottingham. The two younger age groups were outclassed against strong Yorkshire sides, but both beat the Lincolnshire representatives with little difficulty. The U-19 event was a real cliffhanger between the Notts. and Yorks. teams, Fairham—Nicky Kirkland, Clive Greenberry, David Bilton and Louis Wright—played the Yorkshire champions first, and after leading 4-2 and at one time holding commanding leads in the other two sets, the final score was 4-all. Yorkshire having beaten Lincs. 7-1, Fairham then needed an 8-0 victory to win outright. However, this was not to be but they also beat Lincs. 7-1. This meant that a deciding doubles had to be played between Notts. and Yorks. After a close first game, which they won, Notts. took the second fairly comfortably to ensure a place in the next round.

There were no such traumas in the County's other success, the girls U-13 event. The girls from Manvers School, Nottingham, Mandy Tennyson, Elaine Handford, June Pyne and Tracy Hilton, swept all before them, winning both their matches without dropping a game.

The Forest Fields U-19 girls' team beat Lincolnshire after a heavy defeat at the hands of Yorkshire, whilst the

U-15 team from Frank Wheldon School, found the occasion too much for them.

As these are the first Notts. notes for some considerable time I think it fit to mention certain Nottingham achievements in the Midland League. Congratulations to the Men's 'A' side who continue to lead the first division. Also worthy of congratulation is Mrs. Pat Hammond, who celebrated her 150th appearance for Notts. women with a fine maximum against Worcester.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by MIKE RICHARDS

The second half of a season always holds considerable interest as the serious battles for honours in the leagues take on greater significance and as one awaits in anticipation of upsets in one or more of the numerous championships taking place. I hope that the leagues will take the opportunity of a mention in this column by letting me know of local exploits that I may not get to know about.

At the halfway stage the High Wycombe leaders are J. T. Wade who must thank the 100% record of Don Berry for putting them on top for the first time in the club's history.

January normally sees the start of H.W.'s Roland Sewell knock-out handicap cup competition but this may be delayed due to the emergency lighting restrictions causing postponement and difficulties with league fixtures. For the second successive season approximately 135 teams have entered resulting in the competition being divided into two sections with the section winners playing off for the trophy.

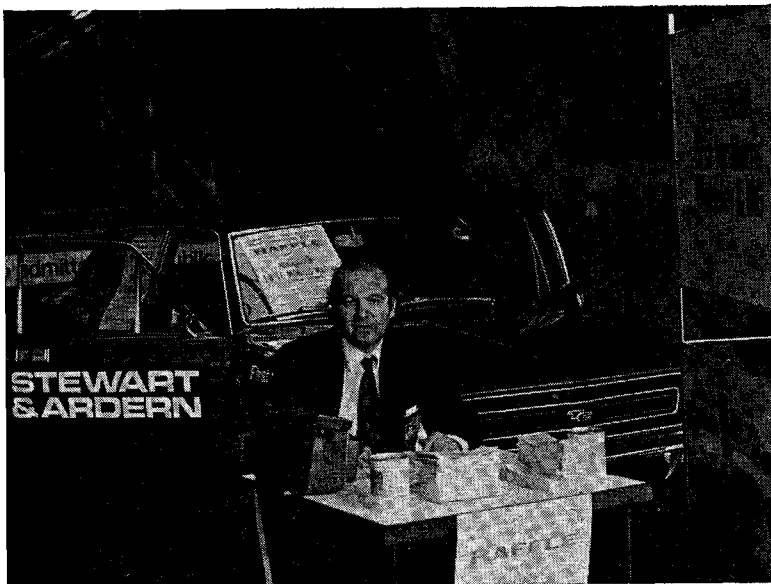
Aylesbury Sports Club have developed into a formidable outfit during the past couple of seasons and are tending to dominate Aylesbury League affairs. Last season their first team achieved the double by winning the League and the Frank Mitchell Memorial Handicap Trophy.

This season the club looks set to take the league title again. Early challengers Dinton have dropped away, despite the assistance of former England international David Creamer, leaving only works team Hazells with any chance of making a serious challenge. In the Trophy competition Sports have four teams in the last 16.

The Bucks. Closed Champs take place at Slough on Sunday, Feb. 17/74. For the good of the County lets hope that youngsters such as Allan Clarke, Chris Leslie, or Stephanie Lines, to name just a few of promise, can find the confidence and determination to force a breakthrough in the senior ranks.

It is hoped to repeat last season's highly successful 1-day Junior Inter-League Championships. As I write the arrangements are being frustrated by the energy crisis but hopefully the situation will improve before April. Local league closed championships will take place at Slough (Mar. 10), Chalfont (Mar. 17) and Aylesbury (Mar. 24).

Aylesbury lost 9-0 to North Herts, in the Wilmott Cup second round but beat Dunstable in the same round of the Carter Cup



Here we have a much better picture of Louis Hoffman at his sales stall at Crystal Palace with the first prize behind him. Have you a ticket?

Photo by Cliff Darley

World Championships Fund Raising

BY LOUIS HOFFMAN

From Australia's International Secretary, Keith Bowler, comes a letter which reads, "I have read with interest of the plans for the fund-raising for the 1977 World Championships. Although associations here are continually undertaking similar projects, I feel that some of our keen internationally-minded people would only be too pleased to do what they could to assist your very worthy cause.

"Don't let any blood rush to your head with visions of any large amount of money, but if you let me have, say 50 tickets in your raffle, I'll see what I can do, in a private capacity, to assist.

"You are engaging in a tremendous project for the good of table tennis and I trust you and the ETTA Executive receive the full support of every player, official and person interested in the sport in England. Also I do hope that however small our effort is, it will also help to make the 1977 World Championships the success I am fully confident this event will be."

On the home front every league secretary in the ETTA was sent a circular in August, 1973, informing them of Fund Raising Plans. With 334 leagues listed, my committee envisaged at least one-third non-participants, leaving 220 leagues, approximately, co-operating.

40,000 books of tickets, ten in a book, at 10p per ticket (equals £40,000) seemed to be the maximum figure we could aim at. We therefore had 40,000 books printed. Replies came trickling back very slowly, the first one on August 23, the 50th on October 4, the 100th on November 21, 1973, and, by mid-January 121 leagues have accounted for the 23,000 books of tickets despatched.

This latter figure includes 3,970 bonus books (books sent to leagues

over and above their allocation). It is this figure which is most encouraging with 16 leagues being involved. Now, with Christmas Draws behind us, I am looking forward to an upsurge of ETTA selling. At Crystal Palace I sold 70 books; all too frequently the comment was "We haven't any in our Area!"

Money is not coming in very fast and certainly not sufficient to record here. It seems all leagues are holding on until the last minute. I can understand, but I wish they wouldn't. I can foresee myself being inundated if it all comes back in the closing week.

I sincerely hope that at all times National Councillors will bring up the seriousness of Fund Raising at all the many meetings they attend and emphasize the importance of sending money and counterfoils back to me

Other Fund Raising.—I have received one donation of £5 from a Lancashire member in answer to my appeal in this magazine earlier in the season. The collecting boxes are going out very slowly but this must be looked at as a long-term policy. A circular explaining the rebates and payment arrangements is sent with every supply of tickets. See you at the 1977 Worlds! Meantime get selling—every ticket sold will help.

LOU HOSPITALISED

Louis Hoffman, the ETTA's World Championships, 1977, Fund Raiser-in-Chief, was admitted to the London Chest Hospital, Victoria Park, Bethnal Green, on Tuesday, January 29th, for heart tests to be carried out. Corrective treatment is the likely outcome of a stay expected to be of a fortnight's duration. Get well soon, Lou, we can't do with you being incapacitated for much longer.—Ed.

ESSEX NOTES

by ALAN SHEPHERD

Undoubtedly the biggest event of recent weeks has been the magnificent victory of Chester Barnes in the English Closed at Crystal Palace, followed immediately by his being restored to his rightful place as the No. 1 player in England. Chester's series of wins in the Tournament firmly vindicated the view that there is no substitute for class. The only sour note was the statement of England Team Captain Les Gresswell as reported by the Press that this was a "freak result". If he was right, then his statement was a real slap in the face for the England Selectors who had just announced their Ranking List with Barnes at No. 1; if he was wrong (and the thought processes of one who can describe successive wins over the players currently ranked at 1, 2 and 4 as freak results defy understanding) then his remarks were disgraceful.

The County team for its match against Cheshire was decimated by the late withdrawals of Chester Barnes, who was engaged in the television studios, David Brown, trying to get his new house sorted out, and Stuart Gibbs, who was ill. This left Ian Horsham with the unenviable task of trying to "come good" when restored to the team at No. 1. He rose to his task superbly and won both his singles. County officials and all Ian's friends will hope that he has now "arrived" as a top player, after all the high hopes we have entertained for him. Equally daunting was Captain Bobby Stevens' job of having to add a playing stint at the last minute to his other duties. He combined with Ian Robertson for a doubles win, but his lack of practice told in his two singles, in which he lost both deciding games. In the circumstances a 4-5 defeat was honourable.

The Juniors were on duty at Harlow a few days after Xmas in the Premier Division matches. Fine wins over Surrey and Suffolk did not compensate, unfortunately, for a very disappointing showing against Middlesex, against whom, in recent seasons, everything seems to go wrong. Les Eadie, who was most consistent throughout the day gave the County every chance when he brilliantly beat Mark Mitchell, but thereafter our youngsters just could not rise to the occasion. All is not lost, however, and I am sure that the team will be anxious to prove their abilities by winning their remaining matches at Loughborough next April.

By the time these Notes appear the Essex Open and the associated Super League matches, will have come and gone, but at the time of writing County Officials are working hard preparing for the big week-end. We hope that their efforts will be rewarded by success.

May I remind all Essex followers of the game that the European League match against Czech-Slovakia is being staged by the Southend League on Thursday 7th March at the Cliffs Pavilion Westcliff, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from the Director of Amenities, Southend Corporation, or through the Local League.

DURHAM NOTES

by FRED J. INCH

Our County Juniors go marching on to victory and once again the question is posed as to whether or not they can make the Premier Division. Their latest victory over Cheshire puts them in the same position as two years ago when they had then beaten Northumberland, Cumberland and Cheshire but went on to lose the all-important match in Lancashire. But this year I feel that they can go one better and I'm sure I speak for all when I record my sincere good wishes to all the players:—Peter Edon (Stockton), Steve Hosking (Stockton), Peter Masters (Philadelphia), not forgetting the girls, Shirley Jenkins (Murton) and Linda Moore (Sunderland).

Alas I cannot report the same progress with our Senior Team as they went down once again to Cheshire but this match was much closer than the 3-7 scoreline suggests with Malcolm Corking (Stockton) winning both his singles; the Women's Doubles being won by Brenda Murtaugh and Cynthia Waite both of Sunderland.

The Senior Second team suffered their first defeat of the season when they lost 1-9 to a very strong Cheshire team when our only win in the Women's Doubles by Mrs. M. Minto and Mrs. B. Charlton.

WILMOTT CUP: Aycliffe got off to a good start with a 5-1 win over Westmorland in the first round, S. Haughney beat B. Towell, G. Baines and R. Wilson; J. Crawford beat Wilson and Baines and M. Sowerby lost to Towell. In the second round, however, they met their match at Ormesby, going down to a North Yorks. team of A. Ransome, J. Walker and D. Alderson (9-0).

CARTER CUP: An excellent victory for Aycliffe Juniors who won 6-3 away to Halifax, including a great win by Ian Carlton over Kevin Beadley, rated as one of the best Under-13 players in the country and chosen to represent England cadets against France. Ian won 20, -14, 21.

The County Closed Championships will again be held at Owton Manor Youth Club, Hartlepool over Easter weekend, April 13/15.

Once again the balls to be used will be Dunlop Barna Super and Stiga tables will be supplied as before by Mitre Sports.



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National Team Competitions

by Keith Ponting

Competitions Proceeding Well Despite Power Crisis

The first thing which has to be said this month is that, despite the power crisis which has resulted in many premises being closed down or having restrictions placed on them, our competitions are proceeding very well with very few hold-ups. This is due entirely to the co-operation of all leagues who have put themselves out and in some cases the home team has actually helped the visitors with the travel arrangements when the petrol shortage was at its worst. I cannot praise leagues too highly and I hope this co-operation will continue in order that our programme can be completed in time.

WILMOTT CUP

The holders, North Yorkshire, have had little trouble so far and Aycliffe found David Alderson, Jimmy Walker and captain Alan Ransome in unbeatable form. A tremendous battle took place at Boston where the visitors, Grimsby, edged home in the last set. Derrick and Neil Marples plus Tony Hunt, gave Chesterfield an easy win over King's Lynn, whilst Ian Smith and Donald Parker were unbeaten for Preston against Halifax.

Geoff Brook, John Kedge and David Hurst, of Huddersfield, won all nine sets against Bolton, and Farnworth found Stockport's Nigel Eckersley, John Hilton and Brian Kean just as unbeatable. Wally Allanson, Peter D'Arcy and John Marshall shared Liverpool's six sets against Bury.

Although Birmingham, by being 5-2 victors, would appear to be comfortable winners, nothing could be further from the truth. The turning point came when Ralph Gunnion, making his last appearance for Birmingham (I wonder) coming from behind and saving five match points before scraping through 25-23 in the third against Ivor Warner. Doug Foulds reversed his defeat by Tony Isaac in the county match and fully extended Mike Johns who was unbeaten for Birmingham. Good win for Dave Yallop over Gunnion. Great match played in excellent spirit. The Nottingham-Leicester match was full of excellent play with Paul Randall in superb form for the visitors with Grahame Hughes turning in his best performance of the season.

The matches involving East Anglian teams resulted in wins for Norwich over Dereham with Chris Bensley, Mike Musson and Stan Honor sharing the spoils, whilst great play by Paul Day saw Ely through against Great Yarmouth. Dave Rawlinson played well for Bedford and was unlucky to lose to Cheshunt's Chris Pickard and Barry White after beating Colin Jackson. Barry White was dominant and overall Cheshunt's victory was never in doubt.

Once again the Seaholme family of David, Geoff and Stuart gave Watford an easy win over St. Neots and despite a fine treble from Stan Hahn, Oxford went down to St. Albans in a real

thriller with Geoff Bax, Frank Wesson and Geoff Giles all playing well. North Herts' unbeaten trio was Richard Jermyn, Mick Harper and Peter Taylor. Tony Condon was the hero for Chelmsford against Southend, Harlow's Neil Brierley had a great win over Stuart Gibbs but Bobby Stevens and Percy Curtis were unbeaten for East London.

The North Middlesex youngsters, Andrew Barden, Robert Aldrich and Graham Blomfield certainly made the senior grade and Dagenham were given no chance. The same can be said of Robert Huson, Michael Close and Richard Philps, of Wembley, who overran Insurance Offices. Once again Laurie Landry lead the way for Willesden against Acton, getting good support from David Tan and David Jemmett.

Three wins each for Geoff Walsh, Selwyn Pokroy and Terry Kirby took Central into the next round. Jimmy Moore won the first set for Leatherhead but then Mike Briggs, Roy Coussens and Dennis McConkey found their form to take Gravesend through. The reliable Brighton team of Robin Stace, Roger Chandler and Sam Ogundipe will again take some beating and gave plucky Crawley no chance, and fine play by Eastbourne's John West helped to win against near-neighbours Hastings.

After losing the first two sets, Basingstoke pulled back to 3-4 but Newbury always seem to have the edge, thanks to Richard Kozlowski, Duncan Campbell and David Reeves. Another thriller at Portsmouth where Steve Wilson fittingly won the last set for the visitors to complete a maximum. Don Berry and Alec Watson were unbeaten for Slough over Maidenhead as was David Welsman for Staines against South West Middlesex in a very close match decided in the final set. Three each for Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding and two from Chris Shetler in Salisbury's fine win over Plymouth which was a lot closer than the score suggests with Bruce's win over Keith James the turning point. Mike Short and Bob Parkins completed the Plymouth team, whose sportsmanship was a credit to them and their league. Once again Exeter went down to their old and friendly rivals Bristol for whom John Hartry was outstanding, getting good support from Brian Reeves and Colin Feltham. Mike Rattue, as usual, carried the Exeter hopes with two fine wins.

ROSE BOWL

Chesterfield's winning trio of Jackie Billington, Mandy Mellor and Sandra Walters were all in fine form with only one set needing a decider. Newcomers, Bradford, started well with Helen Shields and Melody Ludi being unbeaten. Usual finalists, Stockport, had little trouble in their quest for further honours and Di Johnson, Maria Lypnyckyt and Doreen Schofield gave notice that they will again take some beating. Liverpool can be proud of their youngsters Brenda Williams, Suzanne Manning and Barbara Kirkman, who are all showing how to make the grade against the seniors and gave Blackpool no chance.

A comfortable win for Leicester with Pat Kilsby in excellent form giving strong support to the Leicester starlets, Karen Rogers and Anita Stevenson. Dot Deeley was in fine form for West Brom against Derby

and won all three with ease. A very close match at Bury St. Edmunds with the home team just getting home against Peterborough. Sally Hirst and Janet Rogers were the stars for Cambridge over Great Yarmouth, as were Sandra Harding and Sue Felstead for North Herts against Watford.

Barbara Hammond was always in control for Bedford and the same can be said for Christine Basden and Janet Thorpe, who starred for Reading. St. Neots' 65 miles drive down the A1 to Cuffley was all the pleasure they got from their day out as the Cheshunt team of Eileen Simpson, Kathy Rowden and Angela Mitchell were all in top form. Despite the fine play of Wembley's Marjorie Walker, they went down to Willesden, who won the last two sets to clinch victory.

North Middlesex were pleasantly surprised by the margin of their victory over London Civil Service, who included one of their own Vice-Presidents, former Middlesex county player, Margaret Cherry, in their team. Barbara Tregoning outstanding for N.M. Sheila Johnson won the first set for Tonbridge but after it was all Gravesend with Mrs. P. Butcher and Mrs. S. Armitz unbeaten. The holders, represented by Shelagh Hession, Judy Williams and Diane Court, are again on the rampage, and Medway had no answer. The dedicated players of Dagenham—two Internationals and an under-13 runner-up, proved too strong for the "play for fun" Insurance Offices team who put up a gallant display in fine sporting spirit.

A really excellent performance by the Southend ladies, coming back from being 1-3 and then 2-4 down, highlighted by a brilliant win by Linda Barrow over England No. 3, Lesley Radford. Former Dorset county player, Jenny Vass, again carried Byfleet through into the next round as did Linda Wales and Sue Kavallierou for Worthing against Hastings. Christine Davies was Southampton's outstanding player against Portsmouth for whom Sheila Foster played well, and further long the coast Joyce Coop and Julie Reading were unbeaten against newcomers Poole. One of the best teams in the competition, Guildford, again had an easy win with Susan Henderson, Linda Howard and Ruth Miles too strong for plucky Maidenhead.

Another easy win, this time by Newbury with Heather Masters, Caroline Reeves and Jackie Godwin in great form. Nice to see Plymouth enter again after a lapse of several years. They started well against Stroud with Mavis Scott and Nancy Hollywood always in control well supported by young Kathy Rowe. Jean Golding, lone winner for visitors. Exeter started their campaign well thanks again to Pam Mortimer and Maureen Spray. 13-year old Mary Wakely, making debut, scored one set. Interesting feature of this match saw Pam Mortimer playing against her niece, Julie Mortimer, from Cheltenham.

CARTER CUP

Last season's beaten finalists, North Yorkshire, seem set to get there again and David Alderson, Robert Wiley and Andrew Kilburn easily accounted for Bradford. Peter Taylor was the star for Chesterfield, well supported by M. Howarth and R. Allen. Hull

made short work of Grantham through Malcolm Noble, Michael Thirkettle and Michael Harrison, whilst a good treble from Nigel Hallows helped Bolton through against Preston, Peter Brugge was unbeaten for Manchester as was Graham Hoy for Bury. The first five-in-a-row was good enough to put Birmingham through against West Bromwich with Allan Cotton, Doug Johnson and Dave Shropshire all impressive. The Worcester-Leicester match was very close with the visitors winning three out of the four close sets to clinch victory. A great fight back from 13-18 down in the second and 5-10 in the third by Kevin Hall against Andrew Oakley gave Leicester the winning lead.

Haverhill took a hammering from Ely's Keith and Bryan Richardson and Roy Claringbold and as usual John Kitchener was unbeaten for Ipswich against Norwich. Tim Speller's fine play was all in vain as Kettering just got home in the final set. Another lone maximum was recorded by P. Berna, of Peterborough, but, again it was not good enough against Northampton, who just won through. Better luck for Christopher Leslie whose three wins were enough to take Aylesbury into the next round. North Herts have a good team, Watford will vouch for that as Paul Mason, Gary Harding and Richard Jermyn gave them no chance.

Carey Willson, Terry Newman and David Hinks shared the six sets for Southend against Braintree and Silvertown just got home against Chelmsford with Leslie Eadie beating David Newman in the final set. All one way for Barking's Peter Hunt, Devinda Sehmbi and Alex Abbott. Under-rated Kevin Caldon was in good form for Dagenham, his three wins being their lot. He and Jonathan Proffitt produced an excellent tussle. Wembley's Michael O'Mahoney took the opening game against Andrew Barden of North Middlesex but this served to inspire Andrew to his best form against which Michael had no answer. Bob Hunt scored Wembley's lone win over Martin Wells and Mark Mitchell displayed his usual accuracy. Yes, Alan Shepherd does think his lads will hold on to their trophy.

Thames Valley will also take some beating and Max Crimmins, Steven Boxall and Martin Shuttle all excelled against High Wycombe for whom Keith Bartlett played well. Former winners, Bromley, had a convincing win over North West Kent with Ian Collins unbeaten as were Crawley's Michael Douglas, Gerald Pugh and Mark Wragg. Hastings had no chance against Brighton in only having two players on view. Two wins each from David Reeves, Alan Hicks and Garry Roberts were enough to put Newbury through and Bournemouth's trio of John Robinson, Graham Hill and Stephen Wilson had things pretty well their own way against plucky South West Sussex. Bracknell had high hopes when Roger Halls won the first set but it was not to be as Tom Wright, Phillip Boyle and Clive Payne took over for Basingstoke. The same can be said of Simon Douglas, Paul Trott and Andrew Wellman who dominated against Guildford.

BROMFIELD TROPHY

Susan Holmes was brilliant for Derby but her efforts were wasted as Wolverhampton's Janet Carr, Heather Johnson and Rosamund Hodgkiss got

enough between them and finally won in the final set. Not so close at Leamington, however, as Karen Groves, Margaret Allen and Beverley Green from Birmingham overwhelmed them. Another youngster in brilliant form was Grantham's Suzanne Hunt but Kettering's trio of Anne and Mandy Wallis and Valerie Feakin scored six sets between them.

Cheshunt's journey by train to Wisbech was well worth while as they won in 100 minutes and were able to catch their train home 3 hours early, thanks to the kindness of Wisbech's Cyril Habstead, who drove the team and officials from March to Wisbech and back. Well done, Cyril. Former winners, Barking, had to take a back seat on this occasion as the Romford team of Cathy Stonett, Carol Taylor and Jane Livesey outplayed them. Another easy win for Thames Valley who kept up with their boys to convincingly beat North East London Youth thanks to Sue Tame, Kay Greenough and Stephanie Clarke. Linda Wales was on her own for Worthing with a brilliant maximum, but again, it was no good, as Basingstoke just edged home.

Holders Guildford seem determined to keep the Bromfield Trophy if this win is anything to go by. Nicolette Leslie, Jayne Mitchell and Diane Ellitt really kept the flag flying against Bracknell. A fine match between the youngsters of Exeter and Plymouth with the visitors just deserving to win thanks to the fine play of Devon's No. 1 girl, Elaine Lamb. Kathy Rowe and Nicola Fine also played well for Plymouth as did Mary Wakely, Lesley Heptinstall and Susan Tilley for Exeter. The Bournemouth girls Jane Harvey, Janet New and Julie Reading were all outstanding against Bristol, who wondered what had hit them.

Cross Channel

Differing in only one respect from that published in the Jan issue (Page 26)—Chris Read of Cumberland for Chris Rogers (Leics)—England's Cadet team duly participated in the Anglo-French Training Camp held at Crepes Sports Centre, Houlgate, Normandy over the period Dec 26-31, 1973.

Competition was the key-note of the Camp and proceedings began on the opening day with a Round Robin for both sexes with 12 boys and 8 girls participating (6 and 4 from each country).

David Newman of Essex came out top boy with N. Daviand (France) winning the counterpart girl's competition. Final placings were:—

	P	W	L
D. Newman (Essex)	11	10	1
D. Reeves (Barks)	11	9	2
E. Hanonge (Fr)	11	8	3
M. Shuttle (Surrey)	11	8	3
Y. Hogrel (Fr)	11	7	4
B. Hogrel (Fr)	11	6	5
R. Idowu (Ches)	11	5	6
C. Read (Cumb)	11	5	6
J. Sudron (Fr)	11	5	6
M. Durand (Fr)	11	2	9
K. Beadsley (Yorks)	11	1	10
D. Bonnard (Fr)	11	0	11

GIRLS			
N. Daviand (Fr)	7	6	1
S. Lawdeau (Fr)	7	5	2
S. Plombin (Fr)	7	5	2

B. Chamberlain (Hunts)	7	4	3
A. Tierney (Yorks)	7	4	3
C. Moles (Fr)	7	2	5
S. Hunt (Lincs)	7	1	6
K. Witt (Berks)	7	0	7

Day 2 was devoted to team matches using the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup systems followed by the mixed European League system with the following results:—

SWATHLING

England 'A' 6, France 'A' 1.
England 'B' 6, France 'B' 3.

CORBILLON

England 'A' 2, France 'A' 3.
England 'B' 3, France 'B' 2.

EUROPEAN

England 'A' 5, France 'A' 2.
England 'B' 3, France 'B' 4.
England 'C' 4, France 'C' 3.

In the individual competitions which occupied the final day, David Reeves beat Martin Shuttle to win the boys' event with C. Moles accounting for S. Plombin in the final of the girls' event.

Overall our boys were considerably stronger than the French, while the French girls held the edge over our girls who were inexperienced in close matches. The attitude of the boys was excellent but the same cannot, unfortunately, be said of the girls who appeared wanting in both ability and application.

VENUE SWITCH AT BRIGHTON

Following the commandeering of Brighton's Dome and Corn Exchange for General Election purposes, this season's Norwich Union International Championships, scheduled to run from February 28th to March 2nd, will now be part-switched to the Borough's seafront Metropole Hotel.

The whole of the team championships involving thirteen national sides, together with all rounds of the individual events up to and including the semi-finals, will now take place in three of the Metropole's exhibition halls with the finals session, on the Saturday afternoon, reverting to the municipally owned Dome.

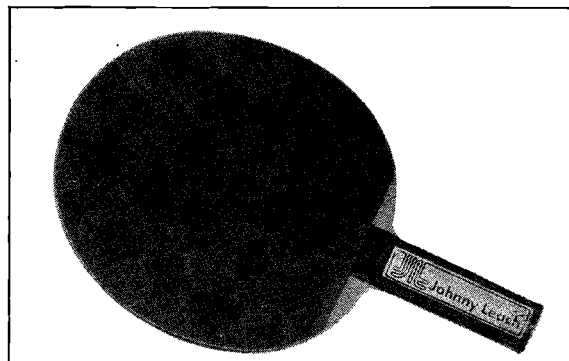
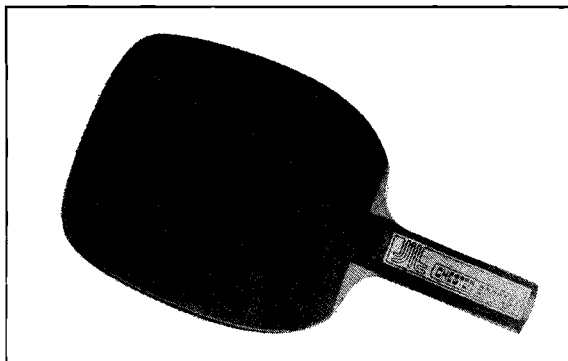
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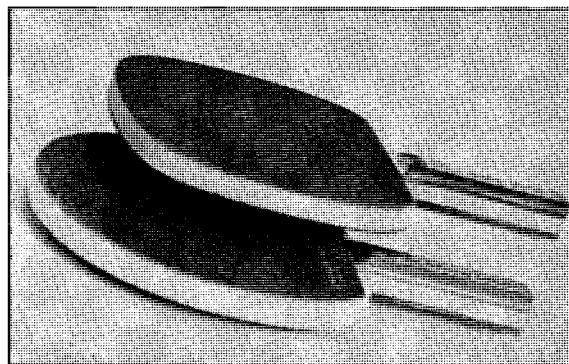
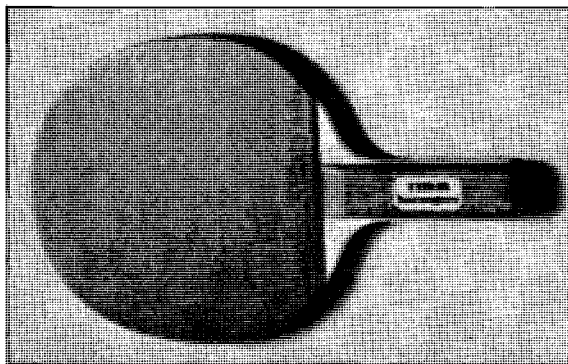
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February 28th to March 2nd, 1974.
FINALS

Saturday, March 2nd, 1974 at 2 p.m.

Hon. Referee: J. M. Wright (NR)
Assistant Referee: L. A. Chatwin (NR)
Organiser: G. M. Daniels
Assistant Organiser: J. P. Heritage

PROVISIONAL TIMES OF PLAY

Thursday, February 28th —

International Team Championships 9.30 a.m., 2.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.
(FINALS) Admission (All day) 60p (children half-price).

Friday, March 1st —

9.15 a.m. — Men's Singles, Men's Doubles
and Women's Singles.
2.00 p.m. — Men's Singles, Men's Doubles,
Women's Singles, Women's Doubles.
6.30 p.m. — Quarter-finals and Semi-finals —
Men's Singles,
Semi-finals Men's Doubles,
Women's Singles and Women's Doubles.
Admission (All day) 60p (children half-price).

Saturday, March 2nd —

9.15 a.m. — Mixed Doubles (to Semi-final stage).
Men's and Women's Veteran Singles.
Admission (Morning only) 40p (children half-price).

2.00 p.m. — FINALS

Admission: £1.20 and 60p (10% reduction for parties of 10 or more).
Rover tickets priced £1.20 for admission at any time except to the Finals
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**ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION, 21 CLAREMONT,
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In the Coaching Field

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

Most of us associate Christmas with a period of merry making, or just a holiday from work. This time, due to the fuel crisis, many found that this holiday was prolonged and even extending into the New Year.

This was not the case with the three Staff Coaches who all had heavy programmes. Peter Simpson was involved with the Universities, and I must confess to having little information as regards table tennis activities in such spheres. It is only when I read about the world championships for students somewhere on the continent that I realise the amount of participation prevailing.

I will persuade Peter to write a few notes on the subject and include them in a future issue. Maybe we shall find out how our representatives for such competitions are chosen.

Bryan Merrett has been at Lilleshall with the Warwickshire juniors. This course is an annual event and is booked for many years to come. On speaking to Jim Lane (The Boss) at Lilleshall, I found that to book any residential course at the Sports Centre for any period that includes a weekend, you have to think beyond 1980!

For those who have attended a

course at this centre will know, that in any one week, four or five major sports can all be involved in training at the same time. It is not unusual to hear strange terms being bandied across the dinner table, only to find that you are sitting next to a tennis or gymnastic coach, and some of the names used to describe movements in gymnastics are very strange indeed.

It is the mixing of the sports that I find so interesting at this centre. You might find that during a most enlightening discussion on some aspect of table tennis, usually held in the lounge after a meal, that a couple of the most active participants expressing their views, are actually doing a course on weightlifting or golf.

Peter Hirst went to France with the English Cadets. These are boys and girls under 14 years of age and I believe this was a competitive get-together with their French counterparts. For most of the juniors, this must have been their first taste of continental table tennis and would prove a valuable experience.

I am up-to-date on the coaches refresher course, held at Lilleshall during the week Jan. 1-5, for I attended the full course.

The centre was fully occupied during this period, which was well to be observed at meal times when all places at the tables were in use and I think the dining room caters for about 120 people.

We had places for 22 coaches on the course, all of which had been booked well in advance, as is usual

with the course, and some people had been refused, being too late with their entry.

Peter Hirst explained that the programme would include, as well as the normal stroke production, and attention to service, such items as communication, planning practice, footwork and the Proficiency Scheme.

We had excellent co-operation from Bryan Merrett who had his course for Warwks. juniors running at the same time and we were able to use some of the juniors to help in our coaching programme.

This was especially so when it came to the analysis of strokes, for the coaches were able to study 12 tables, each involved in different exercises covering the whole gambit of table tennis strokes.

Bryan had already supplied us with his own analysis of each player's good and bad points, and during a discussion group held later, we were able to compare our findings.

There was a demand for more discussion groups of this nature, and of theory in general and after listening to groups in discussion at other centres and on other courses around the country, a number of common points are emerging which appear problematic to many coaches.

One of the main points being—when do coaching sessions cease to provide coaching and become just practice sessions? Secondly, what kind of practice is most beneficial and when does it become just a knock-up?

The coaches on the Lilleshall course showed a genuine interest in providing their charges with the best genuine coaching they could offer and enquired of Peter such points as, what age should children start playing? How much coaching a week would be most beneficial and types of bat rubbers most suited for beginners.

I have listed these points for they are not peculiar to this group and these questions are echoed all over the country, experienced as well as inexperienced coaches seeking help in this region.

One of the reasons why coaches should attend such courses as this

one at Lilleshall. A question that must arise on nearly all courses I have attended is how many tables should a coach attempt to control? And how many juniors should be accepted for x number of tables.

Peter Hirst did his best to answer these questions, but added that opinions would vary from coach to coach and the children involved, although there is no definite rule regarding questions such as this, many good ideas on how to conduct your own coaching sessions come out in the discussions that follow. Methods used by one coach as commonplace, often prove to be the answer to someone else's problem.

On the Friday we spent some time talking about assessment of coaches and how to make improvements on the existing qualifications. This brought us onto the Proficiency Award Scheme now supported by Halex Table Tennis Limited.

For those who are not aware of current requirements for coaching qualification, any student wishing to be assessed for his Club Coach badge, must be up to Silver Award standard, and 1-Star Diploma demands the Gold Award standard.

A more searching look should be taken of the instructions for these awards by both students and coaches. Players wishing to be considered for these awards are often ignorant of what is required or misinterpret the notes printed on the form.

With beginning of the new Halex Proficiency Award Scheme, it may be a good opportunity to make a close study of the forms when they become available in the very near future.

I have now met a good cross section of coaches from all parts of the country. Each coach usually at some point in the conversation will ask, why don't you write about, or why don't you include so-and-so in your notes?

The reason I do not include any of these items is because I don't know about them until you tell me! If you want to see it in the magazine and it is relevant to coaching, send it to me and I will endeavour to have it printed.



Seated (third in from the right) is our scribe John O'Sullivan with Staff Coach Peter Hirst next to him.

Photo by Röger Price, Newport, Salop.

HALEX ENGLISH UNDER 13 SINGLES COMPETITIONS

by IAN R. CRICKMER

Arrangements have now been completed for three more Regional centres of the competitions, additional to those given in the January issue. The further details are:—

Region 3.—Saturday, 27 April. Drill Hall, Sandon Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Region 4.—Saturday, 27 April. Cheltenham Y.M.C.A., Vittoria Walk, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Region 6.—Sunday, 28 April. Meadway Sports Centre, The Meadway, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire.

This leaves arrangements still to be finalised for Regions 7 and 8.

The National Finals will again be held at The Abbey Sports Hall, Abbey Stadium, Birmingham Road, Redditch (12-30 p.m.) on Saturday, 25 May.

The new Coventry Centre, which had been under consideration as a finals venue, may by that time not be fully operational.

Entries from affiliated Leagues, and nominations from organisations and coaches for consideration under the special entrant regulations, close on 15th February, forms being returnable to I. R. Crickmer, 12 Cypress Street, Barbourne, Worcester, WR3 8AU.

MIDDLESEX JUNIOR OPEN

by JOHN WRIGHT

277 competitors from 17 counties (including a large Ormsby contingent) contested the 12 titles at a Middlesex Junior Open on January 12th/13th mercifully unhampered by the "energy crisis".

From the 850 sets played it is difficult to pick outstanding results, but special mention must be made of one boy and one girl. The boy was Surrey's Ian (Wimpy) Girdler who struggled with County colleague Gary Stewart in round 2 and then had a great 17, -18, 14 victory over England no. 6 Robert Wiley. Round 4 saw the end of Gerald Pugh 16, 16 and in the quarters it was "Goodbye" to David Iszatt (England 10) by 17, 18. The first game of the semi against Les Eadie was also grabbed, but a second would not come and Ian went out 13, -13, -16.

Angela Tierney, from the Ransome stable, also had a tournament to remember, with two titles (Under-15 and Under-13 singles), two runners-up awards (Under-15 and Under-13 doubles) and the semis of Under-17 doubles. The Ormsby girls had some excellent results with Carole Knight never troubled in Under-17 singles where the unexplained absence of top-seed Elaine Tarten eased her passage.

Andrew Barden picked up both the major boys titles, the doubles with Andrew Bawden (!) and Adam Proffitt did likewise in the youngest

age-group (doubles partnership with Brindley Tyler) David Newman also scored a double-success, in the U/15 event where his partner was Kevin Caldron. The long trip from Hull proved successful for Julie McLean who also gained two crowns from the Under-17 and Under-15 doubles partnered on each occasion by Angela Mitchell.

Play finished at a few minutes past nine on each evening.

Results:—

Boys' U/17 Singles:

Semi-finals:

Eadie bt Girdler -13, 13, 16;

Barden bt Douglas 16, 19.

Final:

BARDEN bt Eadie -14, 15, 19.

Consolation final:

G. HAMILTON (Northants) bt J.

Amiss (Kent) 19, 17.

Boys' U/17 Doubles: Semi-finals:

A. Bawden (Essex)/Barden bt G.

Pugh (Sussex)/Douglas 23, 18.

Eadie/Iszatt bt D. Bangerter/S.

Lyons (Surrey) -19, 14, 16.

Final:

BARDEN/BAWDEN bt Eadie/Iszatt

18, -20, 17.

Girls U/17 Singles:

Semi-finals:

McLean bt Tame 15, -7, 16;

Knight bt Mitchell 7, 12.

Final:

KNIGHT bt McLean 14, 17.

Consolation Final:

SUE DOVE (Middx) bt Jo Douglas

(Berks) 17, 15.

Girls U/17 Doubles: Semi-finals:

McLean/Mitchell bt Anne Wallis/

Mandy Wallis (Northants) 21, -18,

12;

Greenough/Tame bt Knight/Tierney

12, -18, 20.

Final:

McLEAN/MITCHELL bt

Greenough/Tame 19, 19.

Boys' U/15 Singles:

Semi-finals:

Jermyu bt Shuttle 15, 15;

Newman bt Proffitt 10, 20.

Final:

NEWMAN bt Jermyu 14, 14.

Consolation final:

I. Kenyon (Kent) bt J. Gibbons

(Middx) 20, -19, 15.

Boys' U/15 Doubles: Semi-finals:

Boxall/Seager bt R. McClavin/D.

Wells (Middx) 18, 18;

Newman/K. Caldron (Essex) bt

O'Mahony/Proffitt 12, 12.

Final:

NEWMAN//CALDON bt Boxall/

Seager -15, 16, 11.

Girls U/17 Singles:

Semi-finals:

Tierney bt Mitchell 16, -19, 19;

Lister bt Witt 18, 12;

Final:

TIERNEY bt Lister 11, 18.

Consolation final:

DOVE bt Anne Temple (Surrey)

-9, 16, 14.

Girls' U/15 Doubles: Semi-finals:

McLean/Mitchell bt Mandy Smith

(Berks)/Witt 11, 8;

Carne/Tierney bt Belinda

Chamberlain (Hunts)/Dove 15, 18.

Final:

McLEAN/MITCHELL bt Carne/

Tierney 12, 15.

Boys' U/13 Singles: Semi-finals:

S. Harmer (Beds) bt D. Bennett

(Norfolk) 16, 13;

A. Proffitt (Herts) bt I. Plummer

(Yorks) 15, 16.

Final:

PROFFITT bt Harmer 11, 10.

Consolation Final:

R. SCOTT (Surrey) bt S. Woodgate

(Surrey) 17, -19, 13.

Boys' U/13 Doubles: Semi-finals:

Bennett/Stonell bt D. Macdonald

(Surrey)/Harmer 18, 14;

B. Tyler (Middx)/Proffitt bt K.

Beckett (Yorks)/Plummer 8, 16;

Final:

PROFFITT/TYLER bt Bennett/

Stonell -18, 11, 22.

Girls' U/13 singles: Semi-finals:

Tierney bt Smith 14, 13;

Jill Purslow (Berks) bt Anne Wallis

(Northants) 11, 15.

Final:

TIERNEY bt Purslow 19, 11.

Consolation final

GILLIAN HEATH (Berks) bt Kim

Vincent (Surrey) -21, 16, 24.

Girls U/13 Doubles: Semi-final

Smith/Witt bt Helen Robinson/

Janice Trattle (Yorks) 14, 14;

Douglas/Tierney bt Alison Gordon

(Berks)/Purslow 19, 11.

Final:

SMITH/WITT bt Douglas/Tierney

18, -16, 15.

DUNLOP SPORTS COMPANY APPOINT MARKETING MANAGER

Julian Cox, aged 30, has been appointed manager of Dunlop Sports Company with effect from 1st January, 1974. In this new position, his responsibilities will include product range development for home and overseas markets, advertising and promotional activities and after-sales service.

Educated at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, Julian first joined the Company as a management trainee in 1961. For six years he was an area manager in South-East England and also has experience of the advertising and golf departments of the Company. Until his new appointment, he was an assistant to the marketing director, Mr. David Sealey.

Although an all-round sportsman, Julian Cox's main interest is golf, playing to a handicap of 2. He has represented Hertfordshire and the Berks, Bucks and Oxon County teams. At present he is secretary of the Dunlop (London) Golfing Society. Married with two young children, he lives at 76 Newberries Avenue, Radlett, Hertfordshire.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by JOHN PIKE

NEW CHAIRMAN

Following the death of Malcolm Scott just before Christmas, Don Pritchard is now the new chairman of the County, with Alan Deeley, the former county captain, his deputy. Roy Colclough, the county secretary, takes over as the E.T.T.A. representative.

In the Norwich Union championships at Crystal Palace last month, John Fugh did well before going out to the eventual winner, Chester Barnes. This is the sort of form Staffs will need if they are to reach the County Championships play-off this season. The match at Leicester could well decide the issue, but whatever the outcome, Staffs have done much better this season after a lapse of two or three years.

On the local scene, West Bromwich continued their winning ways in the Rose Bowl with a smart 5-2 win at Derby.

Halex Golden Rackets

Nicky Jarvis and Jill Hammersley, each with 54 points, head the charts in this season's Halex Golden Rackets scheme in which points are allocated in conjunction with 3-Star Open tournaments.

Leading contenders with points compiled by Laurie Landry from the results appertaining in the Humber-side, Midland Counties and Middlesex 3-Star Opens are:—

Men

N. Jarvis (Yorks.)	54
D. Douglas (Warwks.)	31
D. Neale (Yorks.)	23
A. Hydes (Yorks.)	22
J. Walker (Yorks.)	16
B. Burn (Warwks.)	14
T. Taylor (Essex)	12
I. Horsham (Essex)	10
D. Parker (Lancs.)	10

Women

F. Hammersley (Bucks.)	54
L. Howard (Surrey)	51
K. Mathews (Middx)	30
L. Radford (Essex)	25
S. Henderson (Surrey)	24
S. Hession (Essex)	20
S. Lisle (Ches.)	16
A. Stevenson (Leics.)	13
J. Williams (Sussex)	13

International T.T. Club of England

FIRST RECIPIENT

by Brian Wright

Following the death of the Chairman and founder member of the club, Geoff Harrower, the members felt that a commemorative perpetual trophy should be presented annually to "a person who had made a significant contribution to table tennis in England." The trophy to be named the Geoff Harrower International Club Trophy.

The presentation to the first holder was made at the club's annual rubber bat open at Barnet in January and by a unanimous vote the first winner was Laurie Landry, largely for his work on both the administrative and playing side of the game. In particular, together with being an active player at international level for both seniors and juniors he has still found time to carry out many varied and important administrative positions in the game ranging from National Councillor to Committee Member of his local Willesden and District League.

NEW HOTELIER

Mrs. Helen Hamilton (nee Elliot), the former Scottish international, has relinquished her position as International Secretary of the Scottish Table Tennis Association. Helen and her husband are to take over the proprietorship of the Hillcrest Hotel, 15 Lindum Terrace, Lincoln, in the near future.

Denis George, of 17 Camsail Road, Roseneath, Dumbartonshire, takes over Helen's former position with the STTA, with Lesley Barric, of 212 Bellrock Street, Glasgow, remaining as Hon. General Secretary.

CONTROVERSY

JOHN WOODFORD launches into editorship

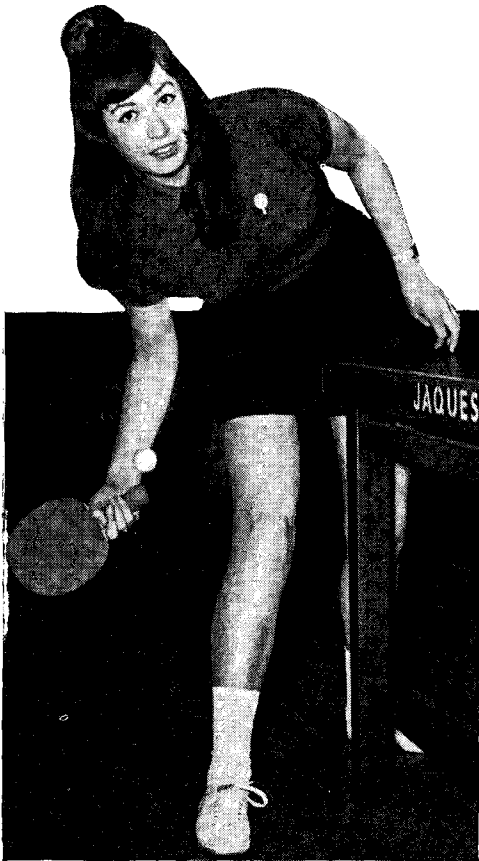


PHOTO: TERRY CONNOLLY

Official Magazine of the EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TOP Spin

20
PAGES
of
LOCAL
TABLE
TENNIS
NEWS



So now it looks as though we can forget petrol rationing lets turn to something a little less controversial and a little more constructive—local league magazines. The letter from Derby's Chris Francis highlighting the vast coverage given to table tennis in Sweden is further evidence that in Britain we do not get our fair share of space at national, regional and even sometimes local levels, compared with many foreign countries.

Local magazines can be produced provided, in my view you can round-up a team of between four and six keen individuals willing to share the donkey work for a monthly publication for eight or nine issues per season.

For years I had toyed with the possibility of producing something worthwhile here in Eastbourne. Suddenly, at a meeting of clubs last November, the suggestion of starting one was put forward; suddenly I discovered that we had the people to share the writing for a 20-page magazine and others willing to do heavy typing work for the stencils. I volunteered to edit and as no-one seemed to object, we were in business!

A first class front cover was in our view essential even if it meant spending a few pounds. This we did (illustration herewith) and it all seems well worth the effort. Incidentally, our player on the cover is the Eastbourne women's champion Miss Diane Gard. This cover was printed on 1,000 sheets so that we could use

it for five issues at 200 copies each month, lasting us until the end of this season. With a little revenue from advertising (I am sure we could get more) we are finding that next season we could make a small profit selling at 4p a copy, although the present price is 3p.

Perhaps we owe an apology to the Leicester T.T.A. for pinching their title "Top Spin", a fairly obvious choice of title, but were unaware that Leicester were first until our first issue came out—we do not think anyone would worry about that particular point.

The big trap that the vast majority of local magazines fall into is that the writing is too factual and too many lists of scores and other "dry" material. An amalgam of facts and fun should be aimed at and of course as many names of players should appear as possible. I've never found any one bold enough to admit that they like to see their names in print, but there is no doubt that for the vast majority it boosts their adrenalin flow quite substantially, unless its adverse publicity! We believe that readers enjoy seeing names in the magazine almost as much as in the local press.

This is not the substitute for the press who locally, at least give fair portions of space to table tennis in many towns although there are exceptions. We are now into our second issue and are assured of a sell-out. I would recommend that starting

from scratch it should not be attempted without a team of four including divisional secretaries who must be prepared to write material, supply tables and results by a dead-line, which must be kept rigidly if the project is to be judged efficient.

A quick breakdown on content—from the 20 pages of words, each of seven divisions occupy two pages (Table, scores, chat) the remaining six comprise Forthcoming Events, inter-town matches, leading article, stories on cup matches, a leading personality, "Ping Chat" (miscellany of odd items) plus such things as a contributed article to the beginnings of the local league many, many moons ago. One un-named fanatic here has even prepared a table tennis crossword with mainly local associations for a future issue!

I am hoping that these notes might inspire a few leagues to join in the fun of giving birth to a bright and breezy new magazine next season. So there is the recipe, find your team headed by someone who can put it together and you should break even at about 4 or 5p per copy. I shall be happy to answer by letter any further questions on starting a magazine based on our experience here in Eastbourne.

Footnote: Even if you do decide to start a magazine, don't worry about it! What wonderful advice is contained in four sentences from E.T.T.A. chairman Charles Wyles when he was interviewed not long ago—so good its worth repeating—"I am a happy man. I have never worried. It does not worry me what might happen tomorrow. Things will look after themselves".

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by GEORGE YATES

The seven-sports Bolton Sunday Schools' Social League, which was formed in 1890 and thought to be the oldest organisation of its kind in the country, changed its name on Friday, January 25th, 1974, to the Bolton Sports Federation.

"Many people thought the old title had become a misnomer," said Mr. Harry Axford, the league's organising secretary and treasurer. "Since welfare organisations and secular clubs were allowed to join 15 years ago, they have swollen to 84% of the membership."

The league, also thought to be one of the largest amateur sporting associations in the country, promotes football, hockey, badminton, rounders, tennis, billiards and snooker, and table tennis.

Henceforth the SSS will be dropped by the Bolton League, who have done so much in the table tennis sphere since it came into being in 1932, but will remain affiliated to the newly-created Bolton Sports Federation.

Taking time off recently from the rigours of administering the affairs of Alpha Films in the Bolton League, secretary Bill Thornton turned his attention to negotiating the ski slopes of Austria.

It proved no easier a task and from Kitzbuhel via Munich, "Battling" Bill was returned home by air with a double fracture of his left leg, to be met by clubmate Clive Heap at Manchester Airport.

Having had to cancel the Lancashire 2-Star Open because of the energy crisis and the Manchester League's postponement of their Closed Championships within the same period, has caused a dearth of competition in local circles.

Still flourishing, however, is the 12-division Lancashire and Cheshire League, whose fixtures have been little effected. Stockport, with wins over Preston (last season's champions), Sale, Manchester and Farnworth, continue to set a hot pace and have already established a 2 points lead over Liverpool in Division 1. Promotees Blackburn and Sale languish at the foot of the current table which reads:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Stockport	4	4	0	0	30	10	8	
Liverpool	4	2	2	0	26	14	6	
Bolton	4	2	0	2	21	19	4	
Farnworth	4	1	2	1	20	20	4	
Preston	3	1	1	1	17	13	3	
Manchester	4	1	1	2	16	24	3	
Blackburn	4	0	2	2	17	23	2	
Sale	3	0	0	3	3	27	0	

Burnley, the Div. 2 (North) leaders, have recently been held to 5-5 draws by both Blackpool and Preston "A" but, in Div. 2 (South), Chester have maximum points from 5 matches and head Macclesfield by 2 clear points.

Manchester still head the Junior Division 1, having won all their five matches to date, but second placed Bolton were surprisingly held to a draw by Liverpool, who claimed their first point of the season as a result.

Manchester beat Blackpool 8-2 to retain top position in the Women's first division. Susan Lisle again won her three singles and shared in the doubles win. Janice Green and Myra Lypnyckyj each contributed two sets.

Leading positions:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Manchester	4	4	0	0	35	5	8	
Liverpool	4	4	0	0	34	6	8	
Blackpool	4	2	0	2	17	23	4	
Wirral	3	2	0	1	15	15	3	

Both Blackpool and Liverpool have full points from their three engagements in the Youth Division with current leaders St. Helens, having played two matches more but lost 1-9 to Liverpool.

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From the Editor's Postbag

NO EASY ANSWER

There is no easy answer to the *cri du coeur* in the letter from Chris Francis in the January issue on the coverage (or lack of it) of table tennis in England by press and television at national level. The problem is inherent in the status assigned to the game in this country, not only by those outside the sport, but also by a great majority of affiliated players themselves. To them, it is a pastime, a recreation, a sort of indoor youth club activity, in which the participant needs only to don a pair of plimsolls, pick up a bat and knock a ball back and forth over a net on a table. The concept of violent physical exertion and body movement is unreal to them. Contrast this to the mushrooming indoor sport of squash, where even a comparative beginner will crawl from the court exhausted, immediately conscious of the game's physical demands on the player.

It is this great majority of players which questions the benefits of E.T.T.A. or county affiliation, because they require nothing (apart from the laws of the game) from the national and county bodies. The lack of national publicity is of no real concern, for the names or events mean little to them. There is nothing wrong in playing table tennis purely as a recreation or pastime. However, the non-aspirants retard development of the sport by generating inertia at local level and by their unwillingness to contribute in realistic terms towards the finances of the game at higher levels.

Chris Francis cited the extensive press coverage given in Sweden to the Swedish Open Championships. Well, perhaps the Swedes don't have our space-consuming predilection for racing and football. But, more important, there is a significant difference in the sport at the grass roots level—in general, a Swedish table tennis club has a much larger membership than its English equivalent; it is often part of a sports club and has facilities at a sports centre. Sometimes it is sponsored by a local firm; BTK Linne, Gothenburg, for example, who visited Hull in Easter, 1973, are sponsored by Tor Line, operators of the Gothenburg-Immingham ferry service. A top player, or players, may even be paid by the club. Our own top players do of course take "coaching" jobs at holiday camps, but such jobs are hardly the recipe for a player's international success, although they have become a now regular source of income for the players.

There are no local leagues or counties as we know them in Sweden, although "area" individual championships are held. The clubs participate in a national league, both men's and women's, nationwide at the top, progressively becoming more regional, in the lower divisions. Other European countries operate similar systems.

Our own 4-tier club-league-county-national system also creates inertia

and conflicts within the administrative ranks when interest and objectives do not coincide. The County Table Tennis Championships, for example, still jealously guards its independence from the E.T.T.A. When, on 18th January, 1964, the old N.E.C. became the new larger National Council, with a voice for every county, the message was "spread the gospel", particularly into schools. Now, 10 years later, the voices have collectively so little to say that there have been proposals to reduce the National Council meetings to two in number, one at the start and one at the end of the season.

No-one would deny that the game has developed in the last 10 years. But perhaps the Development Committee should be looking more at the foundations of the game than at the

superstructure. There might be more than to shout about.

TONY ROSS

70 Davenport Avenue,
Hessle,
East Yorkshire,
HU13 0RW.

GRADING SCHEME UNNECESSARY

Mr. Bernard Yarnold's letter in the December issue prompts me to write to Table Tennis News for the second time this season.

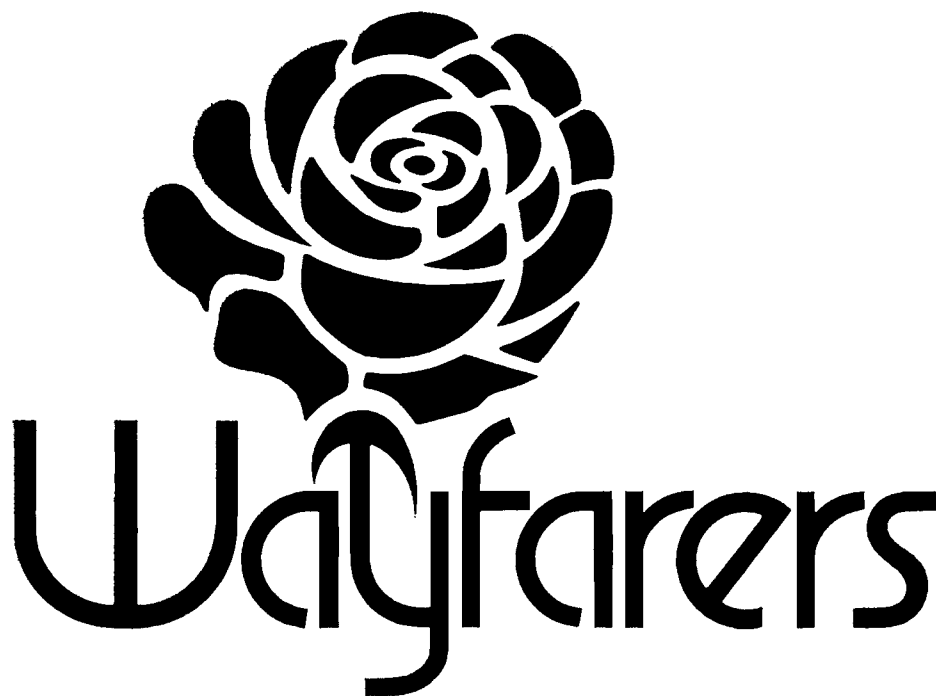
Whatever the merits or demerits of a grading scheme for tournaments are, I must strongly disagree with his contention that "as long as the number of entries don't dramatically decline, junior tournaments will re-

main alive and kicking." Progressively fewer people, I suggest, will go through the rigours of organising a tournament unless it has a high standard entry.

Most juniors are not, as Mr. Yarnold implies, so ignorant that they don't care who is seeded at a tournament, or so naive that they think that the win is all that matters regardless of the quality of the opponent. Granted, some youngsters new to the tournament circuit do fall into these categories, but with experience they soon change their outlooks.

Juniors enter tournaments not only to try to get through a few rounds if possible, but also to gain the chance to play against and to watch and learn from the top players. An

continued on next page



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FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

aspiring up-and-coming junior will hope to make his breakthrough against the 'stars'. Another aspect, often ignored, is that youngsters like to mix socially and make friendships with the England ranks. To sum up, juniors don't enter the opens to gain superficial success; they enter to improve.

If junior tournaments are to survive, it is essential that all the top players regularly enter them. It does not need a logician to perceive that in a tournament with a high percentage of top players standards will go up. Competition will be tough after the first or second round. The ranked junior will benefit from the pressure in having to maintain and improve his ranking against fellow ranks and the inspired efforts of the up-and-coming player.

However, when a tournament has an entry bottom heavy with weakish players overall standards will decline, and this is not only to the detriment of the also-rans but also to those few ranked players who have been courageous enough to enter. It is an unfortunate fact that this position operates in this country today.

I have no room to discuss the relative advantages and disadvantages of a grading scheme as compared with junior tournaments as they are at present run. Suffice it to say that despite its obvious good points, a grading scheme would be rendered unnecessary if all England-ranked juniors regularly entered the junior opens. (I think that the idea of 3-Star Junior Opens has great merit).

I do believe that this would be, in the long run, to the advantage of all players concerned, good or bad. The E.T.T.A. should do all in its power to ensure high standard entries to junior tournaments in the future.

KENNETH MUHR

"Summerfield"
46 High Ditch Road,
Fen Ditton,
Cambridge, CB5 8TE.

DISTURBING FEATURE

I shall be obliged if you will allow me to reply to the letter from Mr. Inch published in January. His statements are a trifle distorted, and perhaps understandably somewhat biased, but nevertheless his facts are in the main basically correct.

First of all it was not I who decided to make no allowance for players travelling long distances. This was a condition of entry laid down by the organisers and quite clearly stated on the entry form. Submission of an entry form must imply acceptance of all conditions laid down. Mr. Inch first spoke to me at 09.45 but I have no intention of quibbling about the seven minutes (or indeed any of his other statements).

He and I are clearly on common ground in agreeing that it was after 09.30. The aggrieved players were due to play at 09.00 and the records shewed that they were scratched at 09.30. Three hundred players entered the Tournament and in eleven events there was something like 650 matches to be played. Everyone of these matches were individually timed, but even so those players who were due to play at 09.00 were not scratched until 09.30. That was the time at which we finished playing the 09.00

matches. It can be seen that after only half an hour we were already running 15 minutes late and this was wholly attributable to the late arrival of some of the 09.00 players.

Mr. Inch criticised the schedule because Round 4 in the top quarter was due to be played before Round 1 in the bottom quarter. There is nothing wrong in this, itself, and if he has not done so I invite him to read the Referees Handbook on Page 24. His other criticism about the final of the U-13 GS event is not understood. Helen Robinson did not reach the semi-final of that event but in any case the finals of all events were staged individually early in the evening.

Mr. Inch put forward as his main excuse for arriving late the fact that he was restricted to a 50 m.p.h. speed limit and he has again made the point in his letter. The 50 m.p.h. limit was not announced at 3 a.m. on that morning (the time he said he set out to do a 300 mile journey before 09.00). We all knew well before then. It appears from his penultimate paragraph that he may be in the habit of arriving late and if this is so perhaps it is time he took a more responsible attitude.

The Tournaments are run for a large number of players and organisers have to consider the interests of all the players not just a few individuals. Mr. Inch may not realise that some of those players who arrive in good time are very upset when they are kept waiting for a match because of the late arrival of an opponent. He may not realise either that a number of those players clamour for an immediate scratching of the defaulting player. There are two sides to the question.

A disturbing feature of this matter is that Mr. Inch seems to think he can get special treatment and/or use his influence as a National Councillor. He drew my attention to the fact that he was a National Councillor and it was reported to me that he went round the hall saying that he was a National Councillor and more would be heard, or words to that effect.

I note that he signed his letter as a National Councillor. It seems to me that unless he wrote on behalf of or with the approval or authority of the National Council, this is grossly improper.

Sir may I simply sign myself,

J. FREEMAN

"Julis",
29 Haywood Way,
Reading Berks.,
RG3 2HE.

PRACTISED OCCUPATION

"Knocking" the Referee, whether of the football or table tennis variety, has long been (and probably will long continue to be) a much-practised occupation, but I am sorry to see my friend Fred Inch taking up the sport in your columns last month ("Referee without a heart").

One of the responsibilities of a Referee is the control of play; this gives him the right to "scratch" a player who is not ready to play when due. No Referee will lightly "scratch" a player and I feel that John Freeman was not unreasonable in so doing after having allowed 30 minutes grace. Had he been advised that late arrival of a party was

likely, and more time been requested, he might well have been able to give further time; this was, apparently, not done. On the contrary, with a party having an extremely long journey he might well have anticipated either an overnight stay near the venue (this was done by the Ormesby party which came to the recent Middlesex Junior Open) or, with the petrol difficulties then current, he might have thought the group was not coming at all!

Sorry, Fred, of course you and your players were disappointed at the decision, but it was made by a competent official who had the best interests of the tournament as a whole at heart, and my sympathy is with him in this. I hope that your players will continue to enter Southern tournaments, and despite your immediate reaction to this letter, that we may see you at the MJO next season.

JOHN M. WRIGHT.

124 Rusthall Avenue,
Bedford Park,
London, W4 1BS.

NO CALL FOR CHANGE

How nice it is to see Berkshire Notes in *Table Tennis News* — well done Roy Cole of the Didcot League; but please Roy let's hear more about the Local Associations who are after all Berkshire. However in last month's issue I must point out that we are not all in favour with the new County Closed set-up for Junior events i.e. cadets U-14 and Juniors U-17 events only, and I for one would hate to see them introduced to Junior Open Tournaments throughout the country.

The argument put forward about playing against more older and experienced players bears no weight at all as the up and promising under-11 will enter all Junior events open to him or her quite possibly doing well in the U-11 and 13 class and getting their experience in the U-15 and 17 age group as well.

Another main point which must stare us all in the face in Berkshire is that when I look through the County's Junior ranking list, both boys and girls, I see that so many of our now top players did so well in both U-11 and U-13 table tennis.

Finally, it is quite obvious that this season's County Closed Junior events will be down on total entries, so I do hope the Berkshire County Committee will think again next season.

HUGH BARTHOLOMEW,
Coaching Secretary,
Maidenhead & District T.T.L.

228 Cookham Road,
Maidenhead, Berks.

LASTING MEMORY

Well, we have had our second Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace. The excitement is over as to who our English champions are for the next year. We had some predictable results, we had some unexpected ones, and I suppose the last memory one would take away from Crystal Palace was the courage of Denis Neale — a very wet Denis Neale.

Friday is the great powerhouse day, when there is virtually activity all day long on all the tables, when the comparatively unknowns meet the

seeds and the favourites. Saturday afternoon, with all the tables except one cleared away, and the harsh television lights — all of this provides great atmosphere, but I must say that on the two occasions I have attended Crystal Palace my attention has been held by the Thursday evening players more than any others. The enormous entry for the men's singles produces a necessary qualifying competition. This year well over 70 came, with all the South London transport problems and all the other problems in which the country is immersed at the moment. Most of these 70-plus players knew they had little chance of surviving until Friday's competition, and yet there was a wonderful atmosphere about the Thursday evening.

It has often been said that in sport the important thing is taking part and not necessarily winning. How truly the Thursday evening players exemplified this glorious principle.

JOHN M. McDONNELL
Public Relations Manager

Norwich Union Insurance Group,
P.O. Box No. 4,
Norwich, Norfolk 88A.

SCANT RESPONSE

To the newspapers *Table Tennis* is a dirty word. About two seasons ago I wrote to the *Sunday Express* complaining at the lack of news coverage in respect of several national table tennis events played at Crystal Palace. They promptly replied that the results were on Page 31 and that, furthermore, they would try and print more in the future.

London Evening News have in fact kept their promise in trying to feature table tennis whenever possible. The Sun replied that because of the lack of spectator interest their policy was not to feature T.T. I find this rather strange as they feature fishing almost daily. In a last desperate bid, a letter addressed to my local Ilford Observer failed to bring forth a reply. What can you do?

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WRITE TODAY FOR CATALOGUE

PONTEFRACT 1 STAR OPEN

MELODY CALLS THE TUNE by George Yates

Ranked no higher than No. 5 senior and No. 3 junior in her native Yorkshire, Bradford's Melody Ludi, aged 14, won her first senior open singles title at the Pontefract 1-Star Open played at the Assembly Rooms, Market Place and Micklegate Methodist Hall on January 26th, 1974.

In the final of the women's singles event Melody beat the vastly more experienced Mrs. Beryl Voss, of Mablethorpe, having previously accounted for Suzanne Hunt and Judith Walker. Miss Walker, a junior international, had beaten Miss Ludi to retain her girls' singles title.

Partnered by Julie McLean, of Hull, Miss Ludi also figured in a women's doubles success over Miss Walker and Sylvia Broadbent.

There was a numerically high entry for the men's singles, won by Northumberland's Peter Hoyles, who, in an entertaining final proved that bit too steady for Cheshire's 44-year-old "ace," veteran Derek Schofield, to master, unlike Nigel Eckersley, his semi-final victim.

Among the entries unaccepted in a late rush were those of holder Tony Clayton and Laurie Landry. Both found themselves without an engagement when the Glamorgan Open was called off.

Lancashire's Peter Morris, who lives in Oldham but plays for Manchester in the Lancs. and Ches. League, won his first open title when beating Steven Gray, of Hull, in the

final of the boys' singles. But how about the win obtained by Bolton's Johnnie Scowcroft in the first round of the men's singles, who beat P. Swift, of Sheffield, 21-0, 21-10! It can't be a record, can it?

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Schofield (Ches) bt D. About (Ches) 14, 18;
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt J. Hilton (Ches) 17, 18;
R. Priestley (Yorks) bt N. Graver (Yorks) 12, 13;
P. Hoyles (Nthld) bt P. Glynn (Warwks) 16, 15.
Semi-finals:
Schofield bt Eckersley 19, -16, 14;
Hoyles bt Priestley -15, 16, 10.
Final:
HOYLES bt Schofield 17, -18, 19.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Walker (Yorks) bt C. Grayson (Yorks) 20, 18;
M. Ludi (Yorks) bt S. Hunt (Lincs) 18, 14;
P. Waldron (Yorks) bt L. Simpson (Yorks) 14, -16, 19;
B. Voss (Lincs) bt S. Broadbent (Yorks) 12, -16, 13.

Semi-finals:
Ludi bt Walker 6, 17;
Voss bt Waldron 14, 16.
Final:
LUDI bt Voss 19, 12.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
P. D'Arcy (Ches)/Eckersley bt W. Allanson (Lancs)/Schofield 15, -14, 14;
Hilton/B. Kean (Ches) bt L. Browning (Yorks)/A. Jones (Nthld) 10, 16.

Final:
D'ARCY/ECKERSLEY bt Hilton/Kean 19, 20.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Broadbent/Walker bt Grayson/J. Kinnersley (Yorks) 14, -15, 15;
Ludi/J. McLean (Yorks) bt M. Corner/B. Norman (Yorks) 7, 18.
Final:
LUDI/McLEAN bt Broadbent/Walker 13, 17.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Eckersley/Voss bt Priestley/Ludi -14, 12, 18;
Browning/Simpson bt S. Kosmowsky/J. Richardson (Yorks) 18, -12, 18.
Final:
ECKERSLEY/VOSS bt Browning/Simpson 20, 18.

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
P. Morris (Lancs) bt J. Evans (Ches) 17, 4;
K. Beadsley (Yorks) bt A. Summerscales (Yorks) 17, -16, 15;
M. Hanson (Yorks) bt G. Evans (Ches) 18, 19;
S. Gray (Yorks) bt M. Thirkettle (Yorks) 16, 19.

Semi-finals:
Morris bt Beadsley 11, 18;
Gray bt Hanson 22, 13.
Final: MORRIS bt Gray 15, 13.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Walker bt Richardson 14, 19;
M. Featherstone (Lincs) bt M. Bird (Yorks) -16, 19, 12;
McLean bt H. Dorman (Yorks) 5, 13;
Ludi bt Hunt 11, 10.

Semi-finals:
Walker bt Featherstone 4, 14;
Ludi bt McLean -16, 8, 19.
Final:

WALKER bt Ludi -21, 10, 7.
Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
Schofield bt Browning -15, 17, 18;
M. Tew (Ches) bt G. Smith (Lancs) 16, -12, 21.

Final:
SCHOFIELD bt Tew 15, 16.

CHINA REGRETS

Liu Ching-hua, 2nd Secretary at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in London, wrote to ETTA Chairman, Charles M. Wyles, on January 14th, 1974:—

"I wish to convey to you a message from the Chinese Table Tennis Association. As you know, the Chinese team will play an invitational tournament game in February in Peking. After the event, they will prepare for another match to be held in April in Japan.

"The full engagement will prevent the Chinese team from coming to this country. The Chinese Table Tennis Association wishes to renew its sincere thanks to you for your kind invitation."

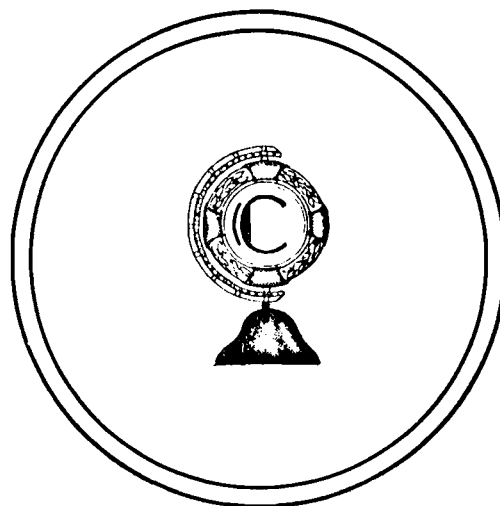
It had been hoped that China would have been represented in the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton and to have engaged England in an international match at the Albert Hall, London, for which a provisional booking had been made.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Brian Burn, the Warwickshire County player, has removed from 48 Lynton Road, South Harrow, to 15 Sherbourne Gardens, London, N.W.13.

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Melody Ludi holds her first senior open tournament trophies won at Pontefract. The prominent one was for the women's singles; the silver vase for the doubles. Behind are some of her other prizes.

Photo by courtesy of Telegraph and Argus, Bradford.

TABLES TO 20th JANUARY, 1974

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorks.	5	5	0	0	34	11	10
Warwicks.	4	3	0	1	18	18	6
Cheshire	5	3	0	2	21	24	6
Essex	4	2	0	2	24	12	4
Middlesex	4	2	0	2	19	17	4
Surrey	4	2	0	2	19	17	4
Bucks.	4	0	0	4	10	26	0
Lancs.	4	0	0	4	8	28	0

2nd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Kent	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Surrey II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Berkshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Middx. II	3	0	0	3	12	18	0
Hampshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

2nd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorks. II	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Cheshire II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Northmbl.	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Lincs.	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Lancs. II	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Durham	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

2nd MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leics.	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Derbys.	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Warwicks. II	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Staffs.	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Notts.	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Gloucs.	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

2nd EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambs.	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Essex II	3	2	0	1	23	7	4
Beds.	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Herts.	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Norfolk	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Northants.	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

2nd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glamorgan	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Somerset	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Wilts.	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Worcs.	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Devon	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Dorset	3	0	0	3	4	26	0
Cornwall	4	0	0	4	4	36	0

SOUTHERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Kent II	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Hants. II	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Bucks. II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Berks. II	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Oxfords.	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

NORTHERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire II	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Derbys. II	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Durham	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Cumberlnd	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Northmbl.	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcs. II	3	3	0	0	18	12	6
Staffs. II	3	2	0	1	22	18	4
Glam. II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Herefords	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Monmouths	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Shropshire	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

EASTERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex III	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Suffolk	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Herts. II	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Norfolk II	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Northants. II	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Cambs. II	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Hunts.	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

JUNIOR PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Essex	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Leics.	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Cambs.	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Surrey	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Warwicks.	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Suffolk	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

JUNIOR SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey II	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Hampshire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Sussex	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Kent	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Essex III	4	1	0	3	19	21	2
Herts. II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Berks. II	4	0	1	3	15	25	1
Oxfords.	4	0	0	4	1	39	0

JUNIOR NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorks. II	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Durham	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Lancs.	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Cheshire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Westmorlnd	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Cumberlnd	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Northmbl.	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

JUNIOR MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derbys.	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Warwicks. II	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Lancs. II	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Lincs.	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Notts.	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Staffs.	4	0	1	3	8	32	1
Leics. II	4	0	1	3	6	34	1

JUNIOR EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex II	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Herts.	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Beds.	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Hunts.	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Northants.	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Bucks.	4	0	1	3	13	27	1
Norfolk	3	0	1	2	8	22	1
Cambs. II	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

JUNIOR WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berks.	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Dorset	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Gloucs.	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Worcs.	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Devon	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Wilts.	4	0	1	3	10	30	1
Somerset	4	0	1	3	9	31	1
Glamorgan	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

VETERAN SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	4	4	0	0	24	12	8
Kent	4	3	0	1	21	15	6
Herts.	5	3	0	2	23	22	6
Hunts.	2	1	0	1	11	7	2
Hants.	2	1	0	1	9	9	2
Oxfords.	3	0	0	4	13	23	0
Wilts.	3	0	0	3	7	20	0

VETERAN MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts.	4	3	0	1	24	12	6
Warwicks.	4	3	0	1	21	15	6
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	16	11	6
Staffs.	4	1	0	3	16	20	2
Leics.	4	1	0	3	15	21	2
Worcs.	3	0	0	3	7	20	0

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by PAULINE JACKSON

TRAVEL IN HOPE

At the time of writing, Northumberland's three County teams will all be in action on Saturday, Jan. 19. The first team travel to Louth to play Lincolnshire, and will be hoping to avenge last season's home defeat, when they lost with a badly-weakened team. The second team also have an away match—against Derbyshire II at Derby—while the junior team are hosts to Westmorland juniors. Both these teams will be looking for their first wins of the season.

In the Wilmott Cup, Northumberland narrowly lost 5-4 to Stockton, Peter Hoyles and Ron Kettlewell winning two each. Andrew Clark, hero of the first team's last County match against Durham, unfortunately

failed to win a set, but undoubtedly gained valuable experience for the future.

Northumberland's women should have played Aycliffe in the Rose Bowl, but were unable to agree a date and Northumberland eventually received a walk-over into the next round. With County champion Barbara Kearney turning out for North Yorkshire this season, a good run in this competition will prove extremely difficult.

The fuel crisis and the 3-day week have affected a lot of the Northumberland League fixtures, and quite a few matches have had to be postponed. The teams affected are mainly those who have their home venues in offices and factories; however, those who have home venues in sports centres or YMCA's are still fulfilling their fixtures normally at present.

Byker C.C., who were last season's Northumberland League Division 1 champions, are our representatives in the Stiga National Club Championships, this season being sponsored by Stiga AB and UK distributors, Mitre Sports of Huddersfield. They have a bye in the first round, and in the second will meet the winners of the match between St. James (Carlisle) and Spittal (Berwick).

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by ALAN G. BIRKS

CUP COMPETITIONS

After four rounds of the Lincolnshire TTA's competitions seven teams remain unbeaten and two of the three league tables show last season's winners once again leading the way.

In the *Haigh Cup* Grimsby, last season's holders, are one of the three teams with 100 per cent records, the others being Gainsborough and Boston. Two players who have won all their sets so far are G. King (Boston) who has played in all four matches, and M. Sheader (Grimsby) who has played in only two.

Mention must also be made of P. Jackson (Spalding) who, against Grimsby, beat P. Taylor and S. Morley but lost to B. Allison, all in three, and R. Leong (Scunthorpe) who in his four matches has lost to only G. King and A. Patrick (Gainsborough).

In the season's only clash of giants so far, Grimsby always held the upper hand over visiting Lincoln and ran out winners by 7 sets to 3. Each of the home players won two singles whilst for the losers, C. Judson beat Taylor and Allison and J. Radley beat Morley.

Boston, last season's runners-up, are the only team with maximum points in the *Butcher Cup*. One of their players, M. Vaughan, is still unbeaten after playing in three of his team's four matches. For the Grimsby team, second at the moment, A. P. Dibdin, has won all his twelve singles.

Scunthorpe did not enter the *Bullin Cup* this season and so the women's league is reduced to seven teams. The holders, Spalding, led by County No. 2, Jean White, have won their 3 matches including a 7-3 victory over Grimsby who finished runners-up last season.

Meanwhile Louth, who ended last year next to the bottom of the table with only two points, have been

strengthened by the arrival of Mrs. Beryl Voss, the County No. 1. They have beaten both Lincoln and Grantham 6-4 and have drawn with Grimsby. Both Mrs. Voss and Miss White are unbeaten.

Leading positions:

Haigh Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gainsboro'	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Grimsby	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Boston	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Lincoln	4	3	0	1	33	7	6

(continued from page 28)

K. Richardson bt Rogers 12, 18; lost to K. Hall -19, 12, -18.
B. Richardson lost to G. Hall -19, -16; bt K. Hall 15, 19.
Day/K. Richardson bt G. Hall/Rogers 18, 15.
Miss C. Ellis lost to Stevenson -16, -16.
B. Richardson/Miss S. Ellis lost to K. Hall/Rogers -10, -20.
Ellis/Ellis lost to Rogers/Stevenson -16, -9.

Yorkshire 8, Warwickshire 2

Wiley bt Pilgrim 16, -22, 16; bt A. Cotton 6, -20, 15.
Kilburn bt Pilgrim 16, 18; bt R. Mountford 19, 19.
D. Renton lost to Cotton 17, -19, -16; bt Mountford 8, 16.
Kilburn/Renton lost to Cotton/Pilgrim 17, -11, -16.
Knight bt Groves 13, 12.
Wiley/Walker bt Mountford/Green 15, 19.
Knight/Walker bt Green/Groves 17, 11.

Leicestershire 4, Yorkshire 6

Rogers lost to Wiley -20, -7; bt Kilburn 21, -17, 21.
G. Hall bt Wiley -17, 19, 19; lost to Souter -15, 13, -20.
K. Hall lost to Kilburn -8, -17; lost to Souter -15, -9.
G. Hall/Rogers lost to Kilburn/Souter -19, -18.
Stevenson bt Knight -13, 17, 19.
K. Hall/Rogers bt Wiley/Walker 15, 19.
Rogers/Stevenson lost to Knight/Walker -17, -15.

Warwickshire 4, Cambridgeshire 6

Pilgrim lost to Day -12, 18, -19; lost to K. Richardson -18, -13.
Johnson lost to Day -13, -13; bt B. Richardson 13, 15.
Cotton lost to K. Richardson 21, -9, -17; bt B. Richardson 11, 14.
Cotton/Shropshire lost to Day/B. Richardson 19, -18, -10.
Groves bt Newman 16, -20, 16.
Mountford/Green lost to K. Richardson/C. Ellis -18, -12.
Green/Groves bt Newman/C. Ellis 15, 14.

Middlesex 9, Suffolk 1

M. Mitchell bt J. Kitchener -15, 19, 14; bt K. Savage 10, 9.
A. Barden bt S. Ball 11, 19; lost to Kitchener -14, -19.
R. Huson bt Savage 14, -19, 12; bt Ball 15, -18, 19.
Huson/Mitchell bt Kitchener/Savage 14, 17.
Miss A. Mitchell bt Miss J. Langridge 4, 11.
Barden/Mitchell bt Ball/Langridge 15, 18.
Miss J. Champion/Miss M. Sangster bt Miss R. Henderson/Miss D. Wootton 8, 9.

A fine win by Mark Mitchell in a long opening set over John Kitchener, and Middlesex never looked back.

Surrey 1, Essex 9

S. Lyons bt R. Potton 11, 14; lost to L. Eadie -16, -11.
D. Bangarter lost to Eadie -19, -15; lost to D. Iszatt 20, -16, -25.
M. Crimmins lost to Iszatt -10, 13, -13; lost to Potton -14, -19.
Bangarter/Crimmins lost to Eadie/Iszatt -19, -19.
Miss S. Tame lost to Miss E. Tarten -14, -21.
Lyons/Miss K. Greenhough lost to A. Bawden/Tarten 18, -12, -11.
Greenhough/Tame lost to Miss S. Smith/Miss S. Sutton -18, 11, -14.
Too much tension here, as witness 25 'let' services in the first game of

David Bangarter and Leslie Eadie. Some "Niggle" in the Bangarter-Iszatt set which concluded the match.

Essex 2, Middlesex 8

Eadie bt Mitchell 18, -11, 15; lost to Barden 14, -11, -12.
Potton lost to Barden -13, -11; bt Huson 13, 17.
Iszatt lost to Huson 12, -15, -16; lost to Mitchell -16, 19, -19.
Eadie/Iszatt lost to Huson/Mitchell -17, -13.
Tarten lost to Mitchell -17, -17.
Bawden/Tarten lost to Barden/Mitchell -14, -19.
Smith/Sutton lost to Champion/Sangster -13, 21, -13.

Andy Barden recovered from 5-10 in 3rd v. Eadie, Jill Champion and Marilyn Sangster scared their supporters when losing the second of GD from a good position and then trailed 3-8 in 3rd—then they led 19-11!

Suffolk 2, Surrey 8

Kitchener lost to Bangarter -19, -19; bt Lyons 16, 15.
Ball lost to Lyons -11, -15; lost to Crimmins -18, -15.
Savage lost to Crimmins 19, -16, -18; lost to Bangarter -18, 21, -15.
Kitchener/Savage bt Bangarter/Crimmins -14, 16, 11.
Langridge lost to Tame -17, -7.
Ball/Langridge lost to Lyons/Greenhough -10, 13, -17.
Henderson/Wootton lost to Greenhough/Tame -14, -7.

Surrey made rather heavy weather of this, but a good win for Bangarter over the luckless Kitchener.

Middlesex 8, Surrey 2

Barden bt Bangarter 14, 12; bt Lyons 11, 14.
Mitchell bt Lyons 11, 13; bt Crimmins 14, 10.
Huson lost to Crimmins 7, -16, -18; lost to Bangarter -16, 19, -20.
Huson/Mitchell bt Crimmins/K. Seager 18, 5.
Mitchell bt Tame 9, 11.
Barden/Mitchell bt Lyons/Greenhough -14, 13, 17.
Champion/Sangster bt Greenhough/Tame 17, -16, 20.
Middlesex lucky to take GD, but otherwise well in control.

Suffolk 2, Essex 8

Kitchener bt Potton 5, 13; bt Eadie 15, -19, 16.
Savage lost to Eadie -20, -21; lost to P. Hunt -17, -16.
D. Jennings lost to Hunt -10, -8; lost to Potton -8, 19, -17.
Ball/Savage lost to Bawden/Hunt 15, -22, -12.
Wootton lost to Sutton -14, -10.
Ball/Langridge lost to Bawden/Sutton -9, -16.
Henderson/Langridge lost to Smith/Tarten -16, -10.

Kitchener gained ample revenge for his Eastern Division thrashing earlier this season from Robert Potton.

JUNIOR SOUTH

Essex III 4, Surrey II 6

Jayne Mitchell swung this the visitors way with a 19, 24 victory over Penny Abbott. Devinder Sehmbi swamped Keith Seager and then accounted for Martin Shuttle -8, 13, 17 in a splendid set. Story-book finale for Jonathan Hardiker (moving to Wales) beating Stephen Boxall -11, 20, 24 after being 0-9 in 2nd.

Kent 5, Berkshire II 5

Sussex 10, Oxfordshire 0

Keith Evers looked good on debut, and Alan Reed opened his County account.

JUNIOR NORTH

Durham 6, Cheshire 4

Durham's most rapidly improving player, Peter Masters, lost narrowly to Roger Idowu 16, -17, 19 but later assured his team of at least a draw beating John Hook 18, 10. Steve Hosking, who with Peter Edon had played very well, wrapped matters up v. Idowu 13, -19, 17.

Northumberland 4, Westmorland 6

Eddie Thomas and Glen McCauley each had a 1 x BS win for the hosts, and Andrew Clark weighed in with his usual two (he is having a most successful season). The visiting girls' experience stood them in good stead although the home pair showed marked improvement.

Yorkshire II 6, Lancashire 4

David Renton shocked Lancs. with his opening set win over Nigel Hallows 16, -8, 15 and Yorks. were never behind. Reserve Ian Smith starred and went home unbeaten from a match where some fine tt was played. Stephen Souter also unbeaten, improves with every outing.

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Lancashire II 7, Staffordshire 3

Leicestershire II 0, Derbyshire 10
Only one team in this: Derbys. look Premier material.

Nottinghamshire 6, Lincolnshire 4

JUNIOR EAST

Buckinghamshire 2, Northamptonshire 8

Huntingdonshire 2, Essex II 8

Hunts. never really got to grips with the problem despite a fine 18, -6, 19 win for Tim Speller over Kevin Caldon.

JUNIOR WEST

Dorset 7, Devon 3

This Dorset side, new this season, must be the team of the year. Their intentions were clear from the outset when Richard Trim worried the experienced Keith James, and although Keith took this, the next 5 went to the hosts. Two more appearances by Devon's No. 1 made the score 5-3, but John Robinson clinched the match and then Richard made it 7-3. Janet New's win -18, 19, 17 over Elaine Lamb the highlight, with Janet trailing 11-14 in 2nd, then bringing out serves and forehand smashes to take control. The March 9th meeting with Berks. crucial, and my money would be on the experienced team.

Gloucestershire 7, Glamorgan 3

Chris. Sewell warmed up for the senior match v. Notts. and was the only unbeaten player (and all two-straight).

Somerset 1, Berkshire 9

Wiltshire 3, Worcestershire 7

The improved Kevin Edwards won both singles, and Wilts. a little unlucky not to draw with two sets lost at -16 in 3rd. Kenwyn Hazell might have made the difference, but reserve Ruth Farmile played well.

VETERAN SOUTH

Hertfordshire 3, Essex 6

Following their defeat of Hants., Essex have this division "sewn-up" and the men in particular are playing very confidently at present. A very rare blank evening for Jack Baxter. Essex want to enter a 2nd veteran team—they look strong enough to.

Hertfordshire 6, Oxfordshire 3

Good hitting from both teams, but

defence held the key. 5 sets went the distance, but the result not really in doubt.

Wiltshire 3, Kent 6

VETERAN MIDLAND

Staffordshire 3, Leicestershire 6

Warwickshire 3, Nottinghamshire 6

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 8th June, 1974, in the Norfolk Room of CAXTON HALL, commencing 2-00 p.m. As many of you will no doubt know, Caxton Hall is in Caxton Street, Westminster, London, SW1, very near St. James's Park Underground station (District and Circle lines) and is about halfway between the Houses of Parliament and Victoria station. By rule 38(a),

"Proposed alterations to the Rules may be submitted only by a County in membership or by two Officers of the Championships and shall be received, in writing, by the Secretary by the last day in February, such proposals to be acknowledged by the Secretary within 7 days. All proposals so received shall be circulated to all Counties in membership during March, and amendments or alternative proposals dealing with the same substance shall be accepted for consideration by the Annual General Meeting if submitted in writing and received by the Secretary not later than the last day in April."

STATE OF EMERGENCY

It seems probable that a number of Counties may have difficulties of various kinds because of the present situation. The Officers expect and hope that all matches will be played with continuation of the friendly "give and take" spirit which has built up in the past 27 seasons. Venues could well present problems and should it be necessary to consider using a venue which may be of doubtful quality it is important that the visiting County be advised of this in advance.

REFEREES' CONFERENCE

The National Umpires and Referees Committee are making preparations for a Referees' Conference at Sheffield University on the weekend of March 30th/31st, 1974. Invitations have been extended to National Referees, Tournament Referees, Referee examination candidates and persons who have previously refereed an Open Tournament but have not yet qualified. If the number of places available are not taken up by people within these categories, there could be a few vacancies and as the content of the Conference programme will also be of interest to keen Open Tournament organisers, application for such vacancies should be made to Colin Clemett, 7 Brookmead Way, Havant, Hants., PO9 1RT BEFORE the end of February.

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

"CONNIE" BOWS OUT AT THE TOP

After a long (the match programme said 18 years but the player thought it was 17!) career, "Connie" Warren has announced his retirement from County play. My records go back only to 1964-65, but since then "Connie" has played 64 times for his County with the splendid record (particularly for a player usually at No. 1) of 88 wins and 40 defeats (all the defeats in the Premier). The County scene will miss you, C. J.

PREMIER

Buckinghamshire 3, Warwickshire 6

P. Shirley lost to B. Burn -13, -14; lost to P. Glynn -9, -8.
A. Watson lost to Burn -16, -14; lost to R. Gunnion -16, -13.
D. Berry lost to Glynn -21, -19; bt Gunnion 16, 18.
Berry/Watson lost to Burn/Gunnion -14, -15.

Mrs. J. Hammersley bt Miss D. St. Ledger 8, 13.

Shirley/Hammersley bt Glynn/ St. Ledger 23, 22.

A fine XD win for Jill Hammersley receiving occasional help from brother Paul when he was not obstructing her! Pat Glynn in great form v. Shirley—hardly missing a ball—but he could have gone down to Don Berry who had earlier opened his Premier account.

Cheshire 5, Essex 4

M. Johns lost to I. Horsham -14, 19, -16; bt I. Robertson -18, 11, 21.

J. Hilton lost to Horsham -14, -16; bt R. Stevens 17, -18, 16.

N. Eckersley bt Robertson 20, 19; bt Stevens -17, 14, 18.

R. Hampson/Hilton lost to Robertson/Stevens -17, 20, -19.

Miss S. Lisle lost to Mrs. L. Radford -19, -8.

Johns/Lisle bt Horsham/Radford 21, 16.

The 180 crowd at Crewe for this twice-changed-venue match kept on their toes. Splendid win by Nigel Eckersley over Ian Robertson to level the match at 4-all (and to complete his first Premier "double") and then John Hilton succeeding against Bobby Stevens for the victory.

Surrey 4, Middlesex 5

C. Warren bt A. Barden 18, 17; bt R. Aldrich 19, 10.

R. Chandler lost to Barden -17, -19; lost to D. Tan -12, -13.

R. Yule bt Aldrich 17, 12; bt Tan 17, 13.

Chandler/Warren lost to Aldrich/Tan 14, -15, -12.

Mrs. S. Henderson lost to Mrs. K. Mathews -13, -18.

Yule/Henderson lost to Barden/Mathews -12, -13.

The men's doubles decided this cliff-hanger with "Connie" unable to

inspire Roger Chandler. Then poor Roger was crushed by David Tan to record a win the visitors hardly dared have hoped for. Susan Henderson played some quite brilliant shots v. Karenza Mathews which included some fine hits, but could not sustain the effort.

Yorkshire 8, Lancashire 1

D. Neale bt A. Boasman 17, 19; bt P. Bowen 14, 15.

N. Jarvis bt Boasman 17, 14; bt W. Allanson 16, 18.

A. Hydes bt Bowen 16, 12; bt Allanson 16, 15.

Hydes/Neale bt Boasman/Bowen 15, 14.

Miss J. Walker lost to Mrs. D. Johnson -5, -14.

Jarvis/Walker bt Allanson/Johnson -18, 24, 13.

Although well beaten the Lancs. team went down with credit. None more so than Di Johnson who hammered poor Judith Walker.

2nd SOUTH

Hampshire 3, Kent 7

Hants. reserved their best play for the doubles sets, all of which they took. Clive Morris is playing pretty well this season, but I wouldn't have expected him to inflict a 6, 2 defeat on Chris Shetler.

Berkshire 6, Middlesex II 4

The last 4 sets to Berks. for an exciting win. Best clashes were WS with some stirring rallies before Angela Mitchell beat Caroline Reeves -10, 12, 23; and the win by Duncan Campbell -16, 18, 22 over Melvyn Waldman to put Berks. ahead (5-4) for the first time. Bob Thornton unbeaten, but XD at -19, 19, 20 looked tight!

Sussex 7, Surrey II 3

2nd NORTH

Durham 3, Cheshire II 7

Malcolm Corring outstanding, with wins by 19, 16 over Brian Kean; and 11, 12 against Phil Mayman. Durham's other success from WD where Brenda Murtagh and Cynthia Waite renewed their old partnership where they left off.

Lancashire II 0, Yorkshire II 10

Lincolnshire 4, Northumberland 6

2nd MIDLAND

Gloucestershire 4, Nottinghamshire 6

One of the sides had to score its first point of the season, and Notts. deserved to take both. Roy Morley allowed Alf Saunders to get into his rhythm, with fatal results and all the visitors defended well. This did not unduly worry Chris Sewell, who won twice — nice to see you're recovered, Chris!

Leicestershire 7, Staffordshire 3

Last season Leics. came to the Challenge from second place and

narrowly failed to secure a Premier place. As the only 100% team in this division, they could well go forward this season as champions and with strength in depth must fancy their chances.

Warwickshire II 5, Derbyshire 5

Alan Fletcher and Doug. Foulds the best on view. Warwicks. maintained 100% doubles record, and Karen Groves again did well.

2nd EAST

Essex II 4, Bedfordshire 6

Despite a great start from David Bowles, who retained his unbeaten singles record v. Peter Taylor -20, 21, 14 in the first set, Beds. took the honours. David Randall twice came back from 15-20 v. Firoz Nilam but succumbed -21, -21 and Beds were home!

Norfolk 5, Hertfordshire 5

The start delayed by a breakdown and Herts. arrived cold and dispirited. In the circumstances they were probably relieved to escape with a point after trailing 1-3 and 2-5.

Northamptonshire 3, Cambridgeshire 7

2nd WEST

Cornwall 2, Wiltshire 8

Highlight the John Bassett v. Terry Bruce clash, with the more varied play of the latter, coupled with a good approach, helping him to a -20, 20, 11 result. Sheila Rapsey — too steady in WS for Alison Boyce — featured in both home wins, the doubles at -16, 16, 19 with Sandra Hirst.

Worcestershire 5, Somerset 5

Worcs. pulled back well from 1-4 to lead 5-4 but after losing the first game of the final set Tony Kinsey's consistency saved the day for Somerset: at -15, 5, 8 over Brian Belcher. Two good, straight-game wins by Bob Brown for the hosts.

SOUTHERN

Berkshire II 7, Buckinghamshire II 3

A good deal of friendly rivalry here with players knowing each others games well. Berks. led 4-0, but three on the trot for Bucks. brought the match back to life before Berks. wound matters up with some comfort.

Kent II 3, Sussex II 7

7 sets, including the first 5, needed a decider. In Diane Gard and Angela Mock Sussex had trump cards although Ray Tilling won twice for Kent and Les Etheridge piped Gerald Pugh -20, 17, 25 in a thriller.

Oxfordshire 1, Hampshire II 9

NORTHERN

Cheshire III 9, Durham II 1

Not such a walkover as the score implies, although Cheshire on top. Well don Pat Allen — she won WS although dropping WD.

Derbyshire II 9, Northumberland II 1

MIDLAND

Glamorgan II 4, Worcestershire II 6

After 22 years of trying, Worcs. bring points back from Glamorgan! Anti-loop Mervyn Wood again took 2, as did Nick Bottomley and this pair combined to lift MD: the other visiting success obtained by Sheila

Foley and Diana Moss in WD after two, very tight games.

Herefordshire 8, Shropshire 2

Many new Counties have a long wait for their first success, but Herefords. managed it on the 3rd attempt. They owed much to players with previous Worcs. experience as Russell Preece, Mike Prosser, and Margaret Newcombe were all unbeaten. How will they fare against their old County, who feel they are at last in with a division winning side at this level.

Staffordshire II 9, Monmouthshire 1

EASTERN

Cambridgeshire II 3, Norfolk II 7

6 sets went the distance, including all three women's won by Northants. respectively at 13, 19, 19 in the 3rd. Brian Jones won 2 x MS for Cambs. and unlucky to be on the losing side.

Huntingdonshire 1, Suffolk 9

JUNIOR PREMIER

Cambridgeshire 2, Yorkshire 8

P. Day bt R. Wiley 11, 11; bt A. Kilburn -12, 12, 16.

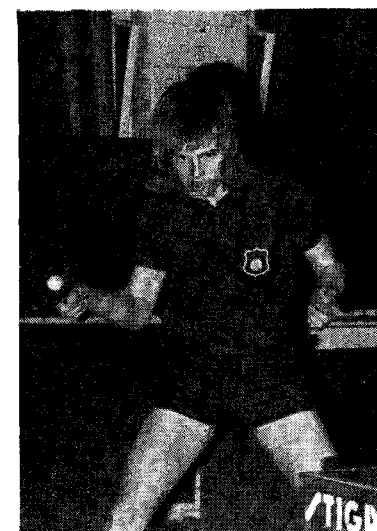
K. Richardson lost to Wiley -16, -12; lost to S. Souter -13, -18.

B. Richardson lost to Kilburn -17, -13; lost to Souter -10, -12.

Day/K. Richardson lost to Kilburn/Souter -22, 17, -12.

Miss S. Ellis lost to Miss C. Knight -22, -7.

B. Richardson/Miss R. Newman lost to Wiley/Miss J. Walker 18, -13, -11.



In the absence of David Alderson, Ormsby's Robert Wiley led Yorkshire's defence of the Junior Premier Division title at Nuneaton on 29/30 December, 1973.

Photo by Tony Ross.

Warwickshire 1, Leicestershire 9

K. Pilgrim lost to C. Rogers -11, -16; lost to G. Hall -8, 14, -11.

D. Johnson lost to Rogers -17, -14; bt K. Hall 22, 9.

D. Shropshire lost to G. Hall -20, -18; lost to K. Hall -8, 14, -11.

Pilgrim/Shropshire lost to G. Hall/Rogers 19, -13, -14.

Miss K. Groves lost to Miss A. Stevenson -14, -10.

Johnson/Miss B. Green lost to K. Hall/Miss K. Rogers -20, -15.

Green/Groves lost to Rogers/Stevenson -9, -15.

Cambridgeshire 5, Leicestershire 5

Day bt Rogers 15, 5; bt G. Hall 12, 16.

(continued on page 27)

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