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HAPPINESS IS RELATIVE



This month's Star Features

CHARLES MURTON WYLES, O.B.E. *interviewed by Gilbert Pool*
I.T.T.F. NEW WORLD RANKINGS

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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SOLDIER ON

To be in possession of a neat and tidy package of completed score cards is the fond hope of every match secretary in the land at the halfway stage of the season.

But few indeed will be the number whose league tables are slap bang up-to-date with no backlog of fixtures and all fines paid.

More than likely postponed fixtures will still be unplayed and the spectre of power cuts provides a far from encouraging prospect for the second half of a season fraught with frightening possibilities.

Ally such cuts with a drastic curtailment in carefree travel and the knots will become even more difficult to untangle making the lot of a match secretary a veritable nightmare.

Hibernation might well be the answer but, even in the event of a Spring thaw, the season stands to be ruined by such a course of action.

Far better to soldier on and make more use of a weekend's daylight hours in an endeavour to keep abreast of the season's programme.

Come the summer months, short though they may be, the following season is not all that far away! And who would really want a summer season for which is, ideally, a winter sport!

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On the International Front

by THE EDITOR



RUSSIA WIN AT AYLESBURY

In spite of Nicky Jarvis coming back from a first game deficit to beat Anatoli Strokotov, the 1971 European youth champion, England went down to 5-2 defeat at the hands of Russia before a capacity crowd of 700 at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury in their fourth European League Premier Division match on Dec. 5.

Down 10-13 to Strokotov in the second game of a pulsating opening set, Jarvis made a fighting recovery as indeed did the Russian in the decider when he pulled up from being 9-16 in arrears to stand just one point behind at 19-18 in favour of the Yorkshireman who then obtained the two points that mattered. Earlier in the proceedings the Soviet player had been pulled up for suspect services.

In the second set Denis Neale also made a fight of it against the Soviet champion Stanislav Gomozkov whose backhand kill is reputed to be the fastest in the world. After losing the opening game, at 19, Neale equated the set score only to fade in the decider.

Biggest disappointment of the evening was the failure of Jill Hammersley whose famed chop-defence was nullified by the expertise of Zoya Rudnova, a penhold player Jill had beaten, admittedly over five games, in the Hungarian Open.

This was a set England had hoped to win, the resultant loss seeming to have an adverse affect on Neale and Desmond Douglas whose resistance was purely token against Gomozkov and Sarkis Sarkhayan in the subsequent men's doubles encounter.

And so the slide continued with Neale, partnered by Karenza Mathews, going down to Gomozkov and Miss Rudnova in the mixed to give the Russians a decisive 4-1 lead. There followed the set of the night with Jarvis leading Gomozkov 17-9 in the third game with the set seemingly in his pocket. But it was not to be as the Russian refused to go down and after equating the game score at 20-all he went on to win 23-21.

Neale concluded the match, as it had started, with a home win being a comfortable winner over Strokotov after losing the opening game. Scores in match order were:—

N. Jarvis bt A. Strokotov -13, 17, 18.
D. Neale lost to S. Gomozkov -19, 14, -14.

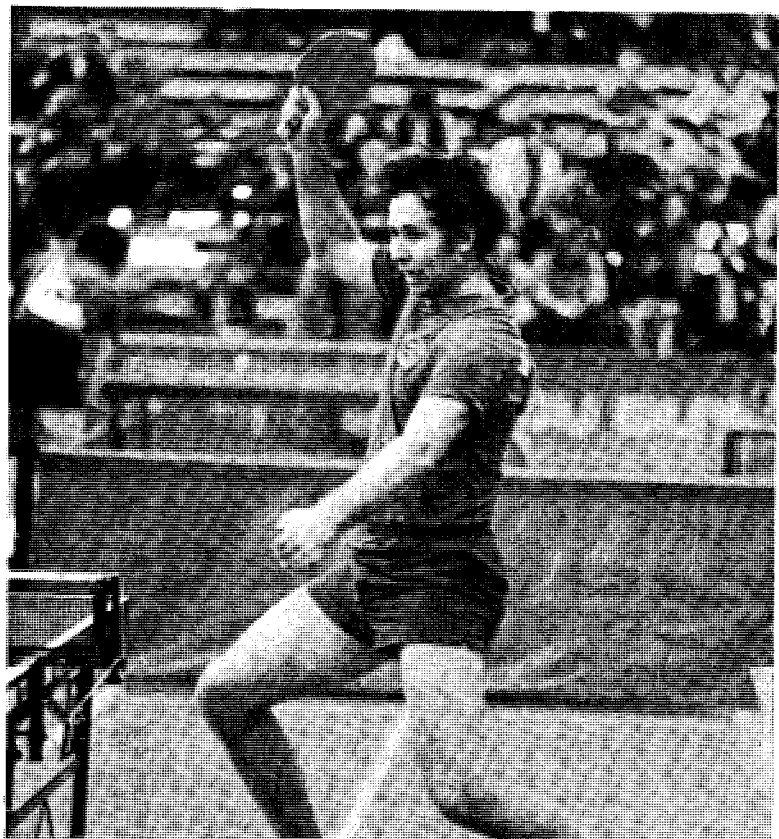
J. Hammersley lost to Z. Rudnova -18, -16.
D. Douglas/Neale lost to Gomozkov/S. Sarkhayan -13, -9.
Neale/K. Mathews lost to Gomozkov/Rudnova -14, -14.
Jarvis lost to Gomozkov -19, 15, -21.
Neale bt Strokotov -12, 14, 11.

On the same evening, in Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia's match against Hungary followed similar lines with Milan Orlowski bringing off a home win in the first set, when he beat Gabor Gergely, but apart from a mixed success by Orlowski and Alica Grofova, over Istvan Jonyer and Judit Magos, it was the Hungarians who called the tune to run out 5-2 winners. Scores:—

M. Orlowski bt G. Gergely 19, 20.
J. Kunz lost to I. Jonyer -20, -17.
A. Grofova lost to J. Magos -11, -23.
Kunz/Orlowski lost to Gergely/Jonyer -19, -14.
Orlowski/Grofova bt Jonyer/Magos 14, -17, 17.
Orlowski lost to Jonyer -20, 15, -20.
Kunz lost to Gergely -13, -15.

In Allehallen, Vara on the previous evening, Sweden crashed their way through to their fourth successive victory by beating Austria 7-0. Only two of the seven sets needed a third game, the first in which Stellan Bengtsson dropped the second game to Rudolf Weinmann and the women's singles in which Birgitta Radberg was taken the distance by Eva Bogner. Aloof from such protraction Kjell Johansson made short work of newcomer Herbert Suda and Weinmann, and further brought his weight to bear in the men's doubles in partnership with Bengtsson. Scores:—

S. Bengtsson bt R. Weinmann 16, -17, 12.
K. Johansson bt H. Suda 14, 9.
B. Radberg bt E. Bogner 16, -20, 12.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Suda/Weinmann 17, 11.
B. Persson/Radberg bt Weinmann/Bogner 16, 11.
Bengtsson bt Suda 7, 14.
Johansson bt Weinmann 9, 16.



Stanislav Gomozkov, the Soviet champion, who master-minded England's defeat at Stoke Mandeville.

Photo by Tony Ross



Birgitta Radberg of Sweden, taken to a deciding game by Austria's Eva Bogner in Vara.

Table as at 31.12.73:—

| | P | W | L | F | A | Pts |
|----------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Sweden | 4 | 4 | 0 | 24 | 4 | 4 |
| Hungary | 4 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 9 | 3 |
| U.S.S.R. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 2 |
| England | 4 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 16 | 2 |
| Czechoslovakia | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 1 |
| Fed. Germany | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 0 |
| Austria | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 0 |

Fixtures for Jan. 10/74 are:—
U.S.S.R. v. Sweden; Hungary v. Austria and Federal Germany v. Czechoslovakia. England's next engagement is not until March 5, versus Czechoslovakia at Southend, their sixth and final match being away to Sweden on March 13.

In Division 2, Group "A", Poland defeated Netherlands 5-2 with the other December fixture between Luxembourg v. Belgium having been postponed to Dec. 29. The outstanding result from Group "B" for November was a 6-1 away win for Greece over Spain. Tables:—

Group "A"

| | P | W | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|---|-----|
| Poland | 3 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 7 | 3 |
| Denmark | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| Netherlands | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| Luxembourg | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Belgium | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 0 |

Group "B"

| | P | W | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Greece | 2 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 2 |
| France | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| Italy | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Switzerland | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 0 |
| Spain | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 0 |

World Classifications

England's Denis Neale is moved up eleven places, from No. 27 to No. 16, and Jill Hammersley is advanced six places, from No. 25 to No. 19, in the new Individual Classifications issued from the Office of the International Table Tennis Federation on Dec. 7/73.

Based mainly on the results obtained in the 32nd World Championships in Sarajevo, in April of last year, China's Hsi En-ting and Hu Yu-lan take over the No. 1 positions previously occupied by Stellan Bengtsson of Sweden and Lin Hui-

ching of the People's Republic of China.

In the 30-strong lists European male players outnumber their Asian counterparts by 17 to 13 but the women equate at 15-all. Significantly, apart from Hsi En-ting, only one other Asiatic appears in the top ten men—namely Hsu Shao-fa of China at No. 9. On the other hand, Alica Grofova, who was not classified in the previous list, Beatrix Kishazi and Birgitta Radberg are outnumbered 7 to 3 by Asians in the women's top ten.

Milan Orlovski takes the biggest leap in the men's list by rising 12 positions from No. 18 to No. 6 while, in company with Hsi En-ting and Neale, Dragutin Surbek is advanced 11 places. But from not being listed in the previous classifications Sarkis Sarkhayan comes in at No. 7 and Janos Börzsei at No. 14.

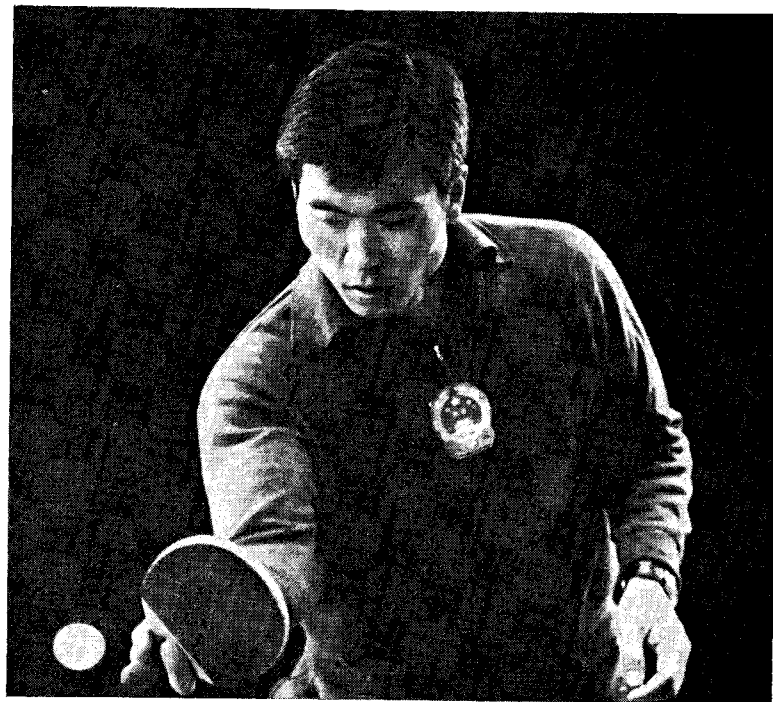
Miss Grofova apart, Park Mi Ra of South Korea has had her status advanced 16 places in coming up from No. 21 to No. 5 in the women's list just one leap ahead of Miss Radberg, whose 15-place advancement takes her from No. 24 to No. 9. New rankings (previous positions in brackets) are:—

Men

1. Hsi En-ting (China) (12)
2. S. Bengtsson (Sweden) (1)
3. K. Johansson (Sweden) (5)
4. D. Surbek (Yugo.) (15)
5. A. Stipancic (Yugo.) (11)
6. M. Orlovski (Czech.) (18)
7. S. Sarkhayan (USSR) (—)
8. J. Secretin (France) (17)
9. Hsu Shao-fa (China) (10)
10. I. Jonyer (Hungary) (3)
11. M. Kohno (Japan) (9)
12. S. Gomozkov (USSR) (19)
13. Liang Ko-liang (China) (20)
14. J. Börzsei (Hungary) (—)
15. Li Ching-kuang (China) (8)
16. D. Neale (England) (27)
17. Y. Imano (Japan) (—)
18. T. Tasaka (Japan) (6)
19. E. Schöler (F. Germany) (13)
20. W. Lieck (F. Germany) (25)
21. J. Kunz (Czech.) (—)
22. Tiao Wen-yuan (China) (4)
23. I. Korpa (Yugo.) (22)
24. Li Fu-jung (China) (—)
25. N. Hasegawa (Japan) (2)
26. M. Karakasevic (Yugo.) (23)
27. Choi Sung Kuk (S. Korea) (—)
28. N. Takashima (Japan) (24)
29. Yu Yi-tse (China) (7)
30. A. Strokatov (USSR) (—)

Women

1. Hu Yu-lan (China) (4)
2. Lee Ailesa (S. Korea) (6)
3. A. Grofova (Czech.) (—)
4. Chang Li (China) (13)
5. Park Mi Ra (S. Korea) (21)
6. Y. Ohzeki (Japan) (5)
7. B. Kishazi (Hungary) (7)
8. Chung Hyun Sook (S. Kor.) (—)
9. B. Radberg (Sweden) (24)
10. Cheng Huai-ying (China) (19)
11. Z. Rudnova (USSR) (10)
12. M. Alexandru (Rumania) (15)
13. S. Yokota (Japan) (20)
14. J. Magos (Hungary) (12)
15. E. Antonian (USSR) (—)
16. Cheng Min-chih (China) (2)
17. Lin Mei-chin (China) (—)
18. T. Edano (Japan) (29)
19. J. Hammersley (England) (25)
20. H. Reidlova (Czech.) (—)
21. B. Silhanova (Czech.) (—)
22. A. Gedraitite (USSR) (—)
23. I. Vostova (Czech.) (11)
24. M. Resler (Yugo.) (—)
25. W. Hendriksen (F. Ger.) (—)



China's Hsi En-ting who takes over from Stellan Bengtsson as the World's No. 1. Photo by Central Press Photos Ltd.



Czechoslovakia's Alica Grofova the beaten finalist in Sarajevo now world-ranked at No. 3. Photo by Cliff Darley



Another European in the men's top ten Anton Stipancic (Yugoslavia) at No. 5.



Milan Orlowski of Czechoslovakia who is advanced twelve positions in the new Classification list.

Photo by Tony Ross

26. M. Hamada (Japan) (8)
27. T. Abe (Japan) (—)
28. Yang Chun (China) (—)
29. Chou Pao-chin (China) (9)
30. D. Schöler (F. Germany) (17)

Out from the previous list are S. Itoh (Japan) (14), Pak Sin Il (N. Korea) (16), T. Klampar (Hungary) (21), T. Inoue (Japan) (26), Kim Chang Ho (N. Korea) (28), Choi Seung Kuk (S. Korea) (29) and J. Turai (Czechoslovakia) (30) of the men and Lin Hui-ching (China) (1), Li Li (China) (3), Y. Konno (Japan) (14), T. Kowada (Japan) (16), Cha Kyung Mi (N. Korea) (18), A. Simon (Fed. Germany) (22), M. Fukuno (Japan) (23), M. Polackova (Czechoslovakia) (26), Y. Takasi (Japan) (27), S. Federova (USSR) (28) and Chung Huyn Sook (S. Korea) (30) of the women.

EUROPE CLUB CUP

Ormesby, the English Club champions, took their departure from this season's Europe Club Cup competition when beaten 5-4 on Teesside by Boo KFUM, Saltsjo, the Swedish Club champions, on December 12th.

Despite a treble from Denis Neale over Ulf Thorsell, Anders Johansson and Tomas Berg which, together with Nicky Jarvis beating Berg in the opening set, afforded Ormesby a 4-3 it was the Swedes who gathered strength in the last two sets.

In the penultimate one Johansson had a 2-straight win over Jarvis and a disappointing Jimmy

Walker went down to Berg in the decider. Scores:—

D. Neale bt A. Johansson -15, 20, 15; bt T. Berg 17, 12; bt U. Thorsell 19, -21, 18.

N. Jarvis bt Berg 19, 19; lost to Thorsell -17, -23; lost to Johansson -13, -23.

J. Walker lost to Thorsell -15, -19; lost to Johansson -13, 18, -17; lost to Berg 20, -16, -16.,

IRISH OPEN

Russia's Sarkis Sarkhojan beat his fellow countryman Stanislav Gomozkov to win the men's singles title in the Irish Open Championships played at Dublin on December 8th. Again it was an all-Russian affair in the final of the women's singles with Asta Gedraitite beating Zoya Rudnova.

Results:—

MS: S. Sarkhojan bt S. Gomozkov 15, -15, 20.

WS: A. Gedraitite bt Z. Rudnova 19, -19, 22.

MD: Gomozkov/Sarkhojan bt T. Caffrey/J. Langan (Ireland) 19, 9.

WD: Gedraitite/Rudnova bt K. Senior/B. Thompson (Ireland) 4, 14.

SCOTTISH AFFAIRS

Veteran Bertie Kerr was a triple crown winner in the *Scottish Midlands Open* played at Dundee on November 10. In the men's singles he had final victory over Ram Bhalla who he partnered to success in the men's doubles. Kerr's third success came in the mixed when partnered by Grace McKay the junior who beat Lancashire's Kathleen Cropper to win the junior girls' title.

Lesley Barrie added the women's

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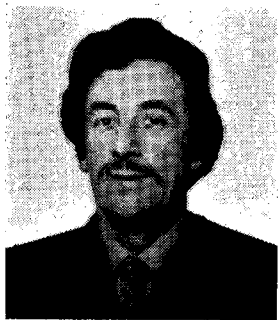
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JOHN WOODFORD

looks at petrol rationing

By the time this article appears in print petrol rationing might have started. I have been trying during the past fortnight to estimate the possible affect of rationing on the crowded and crammed table tennis programme. The most damaging thing that could happen would I feel, be a ban on Sunday motoring.

Locally. I think leagues will carry on much as usual. After all, the real backbone of the game is the chap who plays and enjoys his local league match week after week. It will need more than petrol rationing to stop him reaching his local club or even a match some five miles or more at a village pub. That side of the game is in my view, safe.

What is not too sure is events that require travelling up to about a hundred miles, especially team matches such as the national team competitions, especially when a team knows they are on a hiding to nothing. I am sure that the strongest sides are going to have some trouble persuading weaker teams to make long journeys. Keith Ponting will work diligently to keep going.

Even more tenacious when it comes to making sure the show must go on will be John Wright's skipping of the County Championships.

Crowds at County Championships matches are bound to be less. Counties will also have to face the possibility of their expenses doubling or tripling if teams have to travel by train and stay over-night but it may be possible for travelling players to be accommodated overnight at the home of the local players and officials.

Present difficulties have already shown that when it comes to tournaments the players will get there by hook or by crook or even by hitch-hiking, so I am convinced that the major tournaments open and closed will be largely un-affected, except by a reduction in the numbers of spectators. Audiences for international matches will also be more difficult to come by.

A lot of leagues produce monthly magazines as we saw by last season's competition but many more only dream about it, often because they don't know the best way to go about it and they haven't got the manpower to do it. My own league in Eastbourne has just got a new one off the ground, 20 pages, printed cover, but the rest duplicated in three weeks from the word go. The main re-

quirement is four or more willing people. Leagues who would like to have a go in this time of shortage of space in newspapers should watch for the case history of Eastbourne's "Top Spin" magazine in the next issue of "Table Tennis News".

DURHAM NOTES

by **FRED J. INCH**

GREAT START

What a great start for our County Juniors winning their first two matches against Cumberland and Northumberland in convincing manner and may I say "Well Done" to all our players especially to newcomers Peter Masters (Philadelphia) and Linda Moore (Sunderland) who I'm sure are learning fast by playing alongside the experienced Peter Edon and Steve Hosking of Stockton and Shirley Jenkins of Murton.

I must also congratulate our Second Senior Team who have also won their first two matches and I am sure that the blend of youth and experience in this side is paying dividends and commiserations to our First Senior Team who have lost two so far but I'm sure that 1974 will see a change for the better in their fortunes.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all concerned for their con-

tributions in making the first Durham Open a huge success despite the very cold weather and the power crisis and although many people helped I wish to make special mention of VG Foodstores (Joshua Wilson and Bros Ltd) whose sponsorship made the event possible.

If the World Championships are to be held in our country in 1977 we need an effort from all leagues and members throughout the country to help-projects like the National Raffle now being run and although we have some leagues, such as Stockton, who have already asked for a further supply of tickets, there are others who have not even replied to a circular that was sent out to them and if this is so in your league it is now time to take action and send for them to Louis Hoffman, The Bungalow, 33a Grove Avenue, Muswell Hill, London. N.10.

Durham County players selected for the 1974 Area 10 Squad are:— Boys U-21—Peter Edon (Stockton), U-17—Paul Crawford (Stockton), Paul Ellison (Houghton), Paul Henderson (Sunderland), Eric Mints (Houghton), Keith Paxton (Sunderland), Peter Masters (Houghton), U-14—Geoffrey Inch (Houghton), Mark Murphy (Stockton) and Robert Taylor (Houghton). Girls U-17—Julie Inch (Houghton).

Best wishes for 1974 to all officials and players.

singles title to that she won in the East of Scotland. Slowly recovering from a wrist injury Elaine Smith, the Scottish No. 1 woman is expected to be playing again soon. Results:—

MS: R. Kerr bt R. Bhalla -13, 19, 12.

WS: L. Barrie bt P. Fleming 19, 15.

MD: Bhalla/Kerr bt R. Brown/R. Clark 18, -20, 10.

WD: Fleming/G. MacKay bt M. Murray/M. Neish 17, 19.

XD: Kerr/McKay bt J. Wilson/Fleming 12, -10, 20.

BS: C. Mathew bt. A. Mathew 19, -12, 19.

GS: Mackay bt K. Cropper 18, 21.

NORFOLK NOTES

by **J. S. PENNY**

THE NORFOLK CLOSED Championships were held for the third successive year in the great Sports Centre of the University of East Anglia. This season they were full of interest. At the start, the question seemed to be: Would the 18-year-old John Fuller, of Yarmouth, retain his title against the unknown strength of the Berkshire No. 1, Bob Thornton, now playing for Norwich Y.M.C.A.? But we reckoned without the No. 7 seed, Mick Musson, of Norwich C.E.Y.M.S., who excelled himself on the day, and beat Thornton at 20 in the third in the semi-finals, then went on to oust John Fuller for the Championship. Fuller had beaten the unseeded S. Francis, of Norwich Lads' Club, in the other semifinal. Betty Cassell became Women's Champion for the 14th time, when she beat Edna Fletcher, who has won the title 7 times. With Nan Ford, Betty defeated the Edna Fletcher/Joan Rodwell combination, who had held the W.D. title since 1967-8, then playing with Bob Mitcham in the Mixed, she put paid to Thornton and the Yarmouth Junior, Paula Ribbans. As a result of this treble she retained the Victor Ludorum. Results:—

M.S.: M. Musson bt J. Fuller 16, -11, 15.

W.S.: Mrs. B. Cassell bt Mrs. E. Fletcher 10, 18.

V.S.: G. Wood bt J. Bishop 14, 17.

M.D.: Fuller/Musson bt D. Skedge/S. Francis 18, 19.

W.D.: Mrs. Cassell/Mrs. N. Ford bt Mrs. Fletcher/Mrs. J. Rodwell 19, 9.

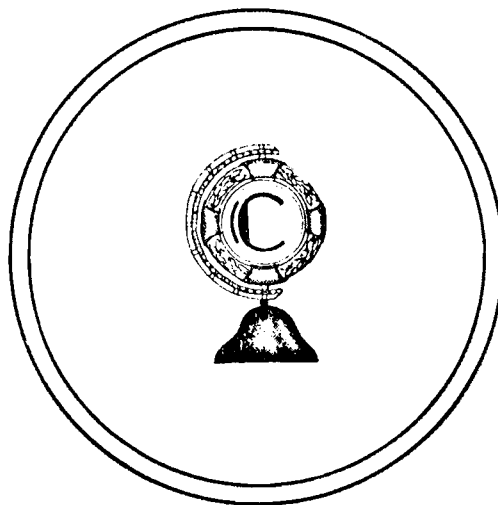
XD.: R. Mitcham/Mrs. Cassell bt R. Thornton/Miss P. Ribbans 20, 18.

In County Championship matches played in the last month, Norfolk went down 9-1 to Essex II, Betty Cassell and Edna Fletcher winning their doubles against Elaine Tarten and Sue Beckwith; but Norfolk II turned up trumps against Huntingdonshire to the tune of 8-2 at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. Our Juniors visited Northampton but could win only 3 of their 10 sets.

There has been a suggestion from one of our leading seniors that Norfolk should organise a Super League on the lines of the "Sunday Times" Super League: four teams of three (one of which is a Junior)—teams to play each other twice a season. We must see what transpires!

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In the Coaching Field

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

I have just been looking through the programmes of the Staff Coaches and have noted that Bryan Merrett's is made out until the end of March. Looking at his travels. I think Kuwait will have to increase their oil supply at least 50% to keep him on the road.

The beginning of January is full of important tournaments, both Junior and Senior, and with the petrol situation being what it is it will be the juniors who will suffer most.

Where on previous occasions some kind hearted parent would fill his car full of the local juniors and travel to the other end of the country to attend a tournament there is now the problems of petrol stations closing over the weekends putting the return trip in jeopardy.

Much of a Staff Coach's time is taken up by the Panels and Panel Squads. The system of 10 panels instituted by the National Coaching and Schools Committee, had a very uneven start.

Some panels were very active right from the start but others found difficulty in constituting a programme, then finding the personnel to make it function.

The position of Panel 8, to cite one of the less active panels, was made more obvious by the very full programmes operating in the adjoining Panels 9 and 10. It was therefore with great interest I attended a course held at the Lady Mabel College of Education in Rotherham arranged by Peter Simpson with a great deal of help from Cyril Villiers of the Sports Council.

Eighty-nine juniors were selected from Panels 8, 9 and 10 to attend this course which ran from Dec 15-22. Each junior received a letter of invitation plus two other letters to be taken to the Headmaster or Headmistress of their school.

One of these letters, addressed to the Head, requested that the second letter be forwarded to the local education authority, suitably endorsed, supporting a request for grant aid. One of the major successes of the course was that, in some cases, juniors received direct aid from their schools, but in all cases, the Heads co-operated by submitting applications many of them being fairly confident that some assistance would be received by their pupils.

This was to be the biggest and most ambitious course for panel juniors ever held in this country. It was originally planned that 20 coaches would be attending the course but business commitments made it impossible for some to be absent for a week and we were therefore forced to manage with a small nucleus supported by coaches coming in for the odd day.

This arrangement proved quite satisfactory and although there was little free time for anyone, nobody complained of being overworked. All reported at midday on the Saturday and all were allocated single bedrooms.

Although each bedroom had its

own washing facilities there were sufficient bathrooms, showers and toilets on the two floors to prevent any hold-ups, and on no occasion did I ever find that a bathroom was not available when I wanted one.

Having mentioned the residential accommodation. I should stress that I have stayed in many hotels around the country, and most of them would not come up to the standard offered at Lady Mabel College.

This standard was also reflected in the meals which although prompting complaints from the juniors because of the lack of chips—which would appear to be their staple diet—must be near the top of the league for quality and quantity experienced by table tennis courses in the country.

The programme for the following week was drawn up with each day being divided into four periods each of 1½-2 hours. To make planning easier the juniors were also divided into four groups and after each period changed to a new activity.

The programme was purposely left very flexible, for it was intended to arrange some outdoor events, such as cross country runs, as an when the weather permitted. Work each day included table work, Stiga machines (3) and discussion groups.

Recreation periods could be spent in a glorious new swimming pool or playing such games as 5-a-side football, net ball and so on. When it came to actual play on the tables, except for a very small minority, the standard was surprisingly high, especially in the Under-14 age group.

The one big disappointment was the lack of juniors of any age group from Yorkshire itself. In the past this county has been the yardstick, in the north, against which other juniors have been judged. On this occasion, except for a few players from Bradford and Hull, there was a marked absence.

During the course a Quiz was held and the students were split into 21 groups of four. Fifty questions were set by Alan Ransome and myself. It was a pity that Alan had to leave before we marked the papers, for some of the answers would have given him a new insight into table tennis.

Albert Shipley being awarded the OBE; Jake Charrington starting the coaching scheme in England; Gordon Steggall being the ETTA Chairman: the cup awarded to the World Champions men's team being anything from the "Swift" Cup to the "Jules Rimet"!!! And one way to lose a point, was to hit the ball before it arrived on your side of the net!!!

Although the answers provided us with some hilarious moments, and we had purposely included questions which we thought nobody would be able to answer, thinking it would be a good method of instilling information, scores were remarkably high. The winner scored 71 points out of a possible 80 but there were many in the 60's, the lowest score being 45. They were obviously more knowledgeable than we gave them credit for.

This course was big and, in some ways experimental for this was the first time we had been to Lady Mabel College or handled such a large number of panel juniors for a full week.

On reflection, we always tend to remember the more pleasant aspects, but we did have our problems and

one of the most irritating was the number of balls used during the duration of the course. Of those used on the three Stiga machines, by Thursday the 344 we started with had been reduced to 90 which meant sufficient for only one machine to be adequately operated. Playwise, on one day, for 15 tables, I gave out 7 dozen balls!!

There would appear to be some sort of underground competition amongst the juniors on such courses as to who can come away with the most balls.

Otherwise the course must be counted as a success, for Peter Simpson is now armed with a tremendous amount of information, especially on match play, of which he not only has the results, but a comprehensive crosscheck chart of all the scores, drawn up by Dave Williams, a new coach to these courses.

The juniors departed with added knowledge (I hope) and are more aware of the standard of other players in neighbouring panels. We departed for home on Saturday a.m., having loaded 24 tables into a van, being definitely wiser, if not a little tired.

The Panel Courses are now taking on a much greater importance, and juniors reaching the top will have to come via their respective panel squads. So please, keep us informed on your panel activities for they could have a great bearing in the next assessment camps.

On Jan 1 I was due to attend a course for coaches at Lilleshall. As this course is usually a sell-out, I will give my report in a future article.

ESSEX NOTES

by ALAN SHEPHERD

SUPER LEAGUE FOR TILBURY

I am sorry if followers of the County were disappointed by the absence of this column from the December issue but I can only plead that the copy was sent to the Editor at least two weeks before his dead line. No doubt he will blame the Post Office!

The really big news is that the Super League, sponsored by the Sunday Times will be staged during the Essex 2-Star Open at St. Chads School, St. Chads Road, Tilbury on the week-end of 9th-10th February 1974. Essex ping afficianados are in for a treat with the certainty of seeing the likes of Neale, Hydes, Douglas, Clayton, Johns, Jarvis, Warren and Walker battling it out in the Super League and in the Tournament itself. No doubt Trevor Taylor and Chester Barnes will add their own challenge and that is something really to look forward to.

Chester made his seasonal debut in our 9-0 win against Bucks in the County Championships and we hope that he will be regularly available. Our youth policy seems to be bearing fruit as Graham Blomfield, David Bowles, David Randall, Elaine Tarten and Sandra Sutton—average age 18—comprised our second team against Northants, winning 10-0, while Les Eadie, Bob Potton and David Iszatt (all only 15) were in the third team which beat Hunts 9-1.

Our players have had some splendid tournaments wins. Shelagh Hession started the ball rolling by

taking the North Middlesex title off Karenza Mathews. Then, at the North of England Ian Horsham beat Tony Clayton. At the Humberside Ian beat Mike Johns where Ian Robertson had a good win over J. Krier, the Luxembourg international. He also beat Johns and Donald Parker in the Super League. Our No. 1 Junior Les Eadie (who incredibly is not regarded as good enough to be in the top 20 England ranked juniors) followed up wins over Laurie Landry (Middlesex) and Nigel Eckersley (Cheshire) by blasting off Tony Clayton (Yorks) in the Middlesex Open by the astonishing scoreline 21-13 21-10! Our other unranked junior, Robert Potton, proved that his North Middlesex Open win over Andrew Barden was no flash in the pan by knocking over John Kitchener of Suffolk, the England No. 2 junior, by 21-17 21-11 in a County match. If these two boys are not recognised soon one really is going to wonder what they have to do to obtain recognition. Move to Ormesby, perhaps?

Latest County rankings are as follows:—

MEN:

1. Trevor Taylor
2. Chester Barnes
3. David Brown
4. Ian Horsham
5. Ian Robertson
6. Stuart Gibbs
7. Bobby Stevens
8. Ken Beamish
9. Graham Blomfield
10. Steve Smith
11. David Bowles
12. David Randall
13. Les Eadie
14. Faizal Mauthoor
15. Robert Potton

WOMEN:

1. Shelagh Hession
2. Lesley Radford
3. Janet Hellaby
4. Elaine Tarten
5. Susan Beckwith
6. Sandra Sutton
7. Linda Barrow
8. Marilyn Thacker
9. Gillian Locke
10. Jane Livesey

BOYS:

1. Les Eadie
2. Robert Potton
3. David Iszatt
4. Peter Hunt
5. David Newman
6. Andrew Bowden
7. Kevin Caldon
8. Devinder Schmbi
9. Alex Abbott
10. David Reynolds

GIRLS:

1. Elaine Tarten
2. Sandra Sutton
3. Jane Livesey
4. Sheila Smith
5. Penny Abbott
6. Janet Boulter
7. Lynn Chamberlain
8. Carol Taylor
9. Alison May
10. Helen Gore

STOOD DOWN

Following on the cancellation of the Yorkshire Junior 2-Star Open, scheduled to have been played over the weekend of Jan. 5/6, Keith Ponting writes from Devon with the sad news that, owing to the continuing energy crisis, the Exeter Junior 1-Star Open has also been cancelled. This latter tournament was calendared for Feb. 16,

Sad Tidings

Regret is expressed that owing to the advent of the three-day week publication of Table Tennis News has been held up and subsequent issues are likely to be similarly delayed whilst the energy crisis prevails. Every effort will be made to publish the magazine, albeit belatedly, month by month and correspondents are requested to adhere to the 15th of the month deadline date, at least for the time being.

Scandinavian Open

It is with further regret that a write-up of the Scandinavian Open played at Malmo over the period Nov 30 — Dec 2 cannot be afforded the readership due to Les Gresswell having had his car stolen when attending the Middlesex 3-Star Open at Picketts Lock.

Happily the car has since been recovered, unscathed, but a brief case containing the relevant notes and individual scores of events at Malmo was missing.

Jill Hammersley with her Hungarian partner, Beatrix Kishazi, were the winners of the women's doubles event beating Czechoslovakia's Alica Grofova and Hana Reidlova -16, 12, 12.

Yugoslavia's Dragutin Surbek was the winner of the men's singles with a 3-2 success over Gabor Gergely of Hungary. In this event England's Denis Neale was beaten by Tommy Andersson of Sweden who triumphed 14, -16, -22, 19 and 21. China's Li Yuan-cheng accounted for Desmond Douglas 15, 11 and 11.

Stellan Bengtsson and Kjell Johansson of Sweden won the men's doubles title with a 3-0 final victory over Surbeck and Anton Stipanovic, mixed title going to Lu Yuan-sheng and Liu Hsin-yen of China when

finally opposed by the Czechs Milan Orlovski and Grofova.

In the women's singles Jill Hammersley was beaten in the semi-final by China's Yu Chin-chia whose compatriot Liu Hsin-yen accounted for Federal Germany's Wiebke Hendriksen.

Represented by Istvan Jonyer and Gergely. Hungary won the men's team event beating Czechoslovakia 3-0 in the final whilst for the host country Sweden Ann-Christin Hellman and Birgitta Radberg, triumphed 3-2 over China in the counterpart women's event.

Anglo-Russian Internationals

by JOHN BOYD and ALBERT SHIPLEY

AFTER their European League fixture, the Russian team played a friendly match against England the following evening at Cheltenham Town Hall. The teams entered to a fanfare sounded by the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and to applause from the 600 spectators including the Mayor and Mayoress of Cheltenham, the Sheriff of Gloucestershire, and other distinguished guests.

In the first set of the evening Anatoli Strokotov gained revenge for his defeat at Stoke Mandeville, when he beat Denis Neale, 20, 15. But then Desmond Douglas levelled the scores by beating Sarkis Sarkhoyan 21-18, 9-21, 21-16; although Sarkhoyan may have been unsettled when his services fell foul of the umpire, this was nevertheless, a fine performance by Douglas, whose lightning reactions drew admiration from the spectators.

Then the Russians went back into the lead when Zoya Rudnova beat Karenza Mathews, but Neale and Douglas only just failed to bring

England level, going down 20-22 in the third.

After the interval Rudnova and Asta Gedraitite put the Russians further ahead, but in the next set England had a great chance to reduce the leeway. Linda Howard waltzed through the first, conceding only eleven points to Gedraitite and in the second led 17-14 and then 20-18; but with victory apparently in her grasp, Miss Howard yielded the next four points.

Miss Gedraitite, having been allowed to escape, made no mistake in the third. This set was followed by a remarkable incident (which, one hopes, will not be taken as an example by too many local league players present); Strokotov (whose service had also fallen foul of the umpire) carefully examined the contents of two complete boxes of balls before finally finding one to his satisfaction in the third box.

Douglas, encouraged by the spectators, again played well but was unable to clinch the vital points in the third. Finally came what was probably the best set of the evening, when Neale, at last finding his best form, beat Sarkhoyan. Both players unhesitatingly went for their shots and one of the loudest cheers of the evening greeted Neale when he won 22-20 in the second. Neale himself said: 'I've done it' as he made the winning hit.

Although the Russians won the match 6-2, everybody went home satisfied, having seen some splendidly competitive table tennis. At the reception after the match, Mr. Charles Wyles complimented the Cheltenham Association on their organisation of the match and said he hoped it would not be long before another match was staged at Cheltenham Town Hall. His hopes were shared by all present, even organising secretary John Boyd, who, in addition to his other duties, had also to act as interpreter, when the Russians turned up without one.

D. Neale lost to A. Strokotov -20, -15.

D. Douglas bt S. Sarkhoyan 18, -9, 16.

Mrs. K. Mathews lost to Miss Z. Rudnova -13, -15.

Neale/Douglas lost to S. Gomozkov/Sarkhoyan -17, 17, -20.

Mrs. Mathews/Miss L. Howard lost to Miss A. Gedraitite/Miss Rudnova 16, -15, -15.

Miss Howard lost to Miss Gedraitite 11, -20, -13.

Douglas lost to Strokotov -13, 16, -15. Neale bt Sarkhoyan 15, 20.

The third encounter between the two countries took place before another capacity crowd at Campus School, Rainham, Kent and again it proved to be an unhappy experience for the home players

Fresh from his triumph in the Irish Open, Sarkhoyan had too much talent for a Nicky Jarvis whose timing had been lost on the dash down from the Yorkshire Open. Stanislav Gomozkov showed Alan Hydes the power of his forehand in addition to the celebrated backhand and cruised home a comfortable winner.

Shelagh Hession was unfortunately drawn to play the mighty Zoya Rudnova for her international debut and after an understandably nervous first game, got into her defensive rhythm in the second but the pene-

trating hit of Rudnova, especially on the angles, saw her home in straight games.

The men's doubles provided a ray of hope for England and the winning of the second game by Hydes/Jarvis brought substantial applause from the enthusiastic crowd. With a lead in the later stages of the decider and several set points after 20-all, the English pair had their chances.

With the score standing at 6-0 in favour of the Russians it was left to Jill Hammersley to prevent the 'whitewash' which she did with consummate ease, her variation of chop completely beating the young Asta Gedraitite.

The presentation of this event was a first-class effort by the Medway Towns League and sponsorship by the Evening Post ensured an atmosphere free from worry for the local officials. Highlight of the opening ceremony was the presentation of bouquets to the women players by the eight-years-old twin daughters of Mike Lauder. The final seal of approval to the evening was the presence of no less than three Mayors, plus one Council Chairman, a civic welcome extraordinaire! Scores:— England 1, U.S.S.R. 7.

Jarvis lost to Sarkhoyan -17, -18.

Hydes lost to Gomozkov -18, -11.

Miss S. Hession lost to Miss Rudnova -10, -16.

Hydes/Jarvis lost to Gomozkov/Sarkhoyan -12, 19, -24.

Jarvis/Mrs. Hammersley lost to Strokotov/Miss Gedraitite -18, -18.

Hydes lost to Sarkhoyan -12, -19.

Mrs. Hammersley bt Miss Gedraitite 13, 12.

Jarvis lost to Strokotov -12, -10.

R.A.F.T.T.A.

by WO L. B. Hemingway

Support Command (RAF) and Strike Command (WRAF) were the 'A' Team winners of the Royal Air Force TTA's Inter-Command Championships played at RAF Stanmore on Nov. 15-17, 1973.

None of the male players achieved 100% success although Ch/T Brian Cullis lost only one set, going down to Flt. Lt. Alan Davey, who in turn dropped two. Cpl. Dave Grey made an impressive start and looked favourite to lead the averages until losing 2 sets in fairly quick succession to the Nos. 1 and 2 of Training Command. Sgt. Canavan was the 'dark horse' of the championships, joining the select few by also dropping only 2 sets.

S.A.C.W. Jenny Miller was the only competitor to win all 8 sets and despite seven wins by WO(W) Mo Hughes, Support Command narrowly failed to make it a double. Strike Command's strength in depth proved invaluable in taking the title and were the only team in which all their players won more sets than they lost. Sqn. Ldr. Veitch-Wilson and WO(W) Jacobs both won 5 of their 8 sets.

The championships were concluded by a speech from Sqn. Ldr. N. Shorrick, the Secretary of the RAFTTA, who complimented the Referee, Ch/T S. W. Ford, on his efforts in providing an excellent tournament. Mrs. I. G. Broom, wife of the President of the RAFTTA, Air Vice-Marshal I. G. Broom, presented the prizes



Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia) winner of the men's singles title in Malmo.

OPEN TOURNAMENT SURVEY

by Mike D. Watts, George R. Yates, Albert W. Shipley, Fred J. Inch, Alan Ransome, Alan Crook & Laurie Landry

The non-arrival of top seed Trevor Taylor, and fourth seed Peter Taylor took some of the shine off the 6th **Southend 2-Star Open** held once again at the Cecil Jones School. However a large entry of 230 competitors was received, and this gave the younger element a chance to shine, and this they did in fine style.

Winner of the men's singles was Paul Day who accounted for Mike Johns in the final. Earlier Day had beaten Bobby Stevens, 15 in the third, Stuart Gibbs in the quarters and then Errol Caetano, the Canadian No. 1.

Caetano himself showed good form in beating third seed Alan Hydes. In the other half Johns did not have too easy a passage taking a third game to beat Clive Morris and likewise against David Brown in the quarters. Mike's opponent in the semi-final was John Kitchener, the talented Suffolk junior and scores of 16, -17, 22 gives some indication as to how well the current England Juniors are playing at the moment.

In the women's singles Lesley Radford made no mistake in beating Canada's Violetta Nesukaitis in the final after being taken the distance by local girl Mrs. Linda Barrow who actually led 19-16 in the decider only to lose the next five points!

Essex juniors Les Eadie and David Iszatt caused all the shocks in the men's doubles beating D. Bowles/D. Randall in Rd. 4; Caetano and Peter Gonda in the quarters and then Morris and Barry Hill in the semis. And in the final too they had their share of glory in winning the second game only to lose the decider to Hydes and Johns.

A further success for youth over experience came in the mixed when Day and Elaine Tarten beat Johns and Di Court in the final. Both pairs had to survive deciding games prior to, Johns and Mrs. Court having a hard quarter-final struggle against Ian Robertson and Janet Hellaby.

The junior girls' singles produced one shock when Caroline Reeves beat Angela Mitchell but the Berkshire girl failed to make any real impression on Miss Tarten. Ken Beamish triumphed again in the vets singles with a final win over new veteran Tony Conden from Chelmsford.

That the tournament ran well, and to time, must obviously reflect on the referee Gordon Lightfoot who performed his job admirably to the delight of the organisers and, obviously, the players. Apart from the Canadians, the Commonwealth was further represented by Anne Stonestreet and Kathy Fraser from New Zealand. Australia should have been represented too but despite an entry being received from Gary Munday, their No. 5, he failed to arrive.

In a protracted day's play at Liverpool on Nov. 24, Denis Neale was a much-relieved player to edge home against his Ormesby clubmate Nicky Jarvis to win the men's

singles title in the **Merseyside 2-Star Open**.

Apart from Brian Burn, who scratched, two other seeded players failed to reach their objectives, the first to go being Jimmy Walker who was ousted in the second round by Liverpool inter-league player Pete D'Arcy who won -16, 16, 20! Mike Johns was the other faller going down -18, 19, -19 to David Alderson, who subsequently lost to Des Douglas in the quarters.

Alderson, England's top junior making a welcome comeback to tournament play despite still being troubled by a bothersome leg injury, had a repeat experience in the boys' singles final to that which he had in this same tournament last season.

On that last occasion he appeared to have the title in his bag when leading Douglas 10-1 and 17-14 in the third and yet failed to win another point. This time, again in the decider, he led Andy Barden 19-13 and didn't get another point!

Another demoralised junior was Mark Mitchell who had the misfortune to meet Ormesby's Stephen Souter who appeared to have had his game supercharged by his 'mechanic' Alan Ransome who always has his bag of tricks available for pit stops. It was hardly worth Souter coming in after the first game but he had to while away the time somehow as Laurie Landry commiserated with his young bewildered charge.

It was certainly a devastating blow to the morale of the Middlesex player and one was reminded of a similar result obtained by Lancashire's Bryn Farnworth against Brian Wright, in a Cheshire Junior Open many years ago, at a time when the latter was a prominent England junior. In other words, it has all happened before without dire consequences.

Another junior having cause to



Violetta Nesukaitis of Canada, winner of the women's singles title in the Merseyside 2-Star Open.

Photo by Cliff Darley.

blush was Anita Stevenson, the England No. 1, beaten in the semis by Carole Knight who went on to account for Karen Rogers in the final.

With so many top juniors taking part in the Merseyside Open it was little wonder that the **Kent Junior 2-Star**, played over the same weekend, at Folkestone, suffered the absence of ranked players.

But, with the 'big cats' away, David Iszatt led a merry romp by Essex players who dominated the later stages of the boys' singles to the extent of having three out of the four semi-final contestants. Peter Hunt was the one to spring a surprise when he ousted Steve Lyons but, up against Iszatt in the final, was never in it.

In the counterpart girls' event, Susan Tame had a real set-to with Angela Mitchell before the Surrey girl made it in the final.

December opened with the very first **County Durham 1-Star Open** played at Durham Technical College, Framwellgate Moor on Sunday, Dec. 2 which was in the capable hands of National Umpire and Tournament Referee Bob Edon of Stockton.

Ormesby Club members dominated the proceedings with the biggest shock coming in the men's doubles with Tony Martin and Brian Alderson beating big brother David partnered by club manager and coach Alan Ransome, the latter being ousted in the 3rd round of the men's singles by Peter Edon. Consolation came for Alan in the mixed in partnership with Carole Knight.

Brenda Murtagh and Cynthia Waite put up a great fight in the women's doubles but eventually had to succumb to the topspin of Miss Knight who went on to beat Barbara Kearney in the same fashion in the women's singles final.

David Alderson returned to the tournament scene with a bang and there were no signs of his recent leg injury when he played Jimmy Walker in the men's singles final.

On the following Saturday in the **Yorkshire 2-Star Open** at Harrogate, Denis Neale beat his Ormesby clubmate Jimmy Walker in the final of the men's singles. Neale won the first game comfortably and the second after recovering from a 3-points deficit in the later stages.

Walker beat Nicky Jarvis for the second time this season while Neale disposed of Alan Hydes. All four seeds reached the semi-final without too many problems.

The surprise result of the day came in the women's singles when Beryl Voss of Mablethorpe beat the second seed, Anita Stevenson. Mrs. Voss went on to reach the final and put up a good display against Susan Lisle before going down -17 in the third.

Miss Lisle's closest call came in the semi-final when she pipped Ormesby's Carole Knight 19, -11, 20. Susan went on to win the triple crown by

taking the mixed, with Jimmy Walker, and the women's doubles with Miss Stevenson.

Gillette Industries donated £100 prize money for the **Reading Junior 1-Star** played at Bulmershe Centre, Woodley over the weekend of Dec. 8/9 with the major titles being won by Mark Mitchell and Sandra Sutton.

Final tourney of the old year was the **Halex Middlesex 3-Star Open** at Picketts Lock, Edmonton over the weekend of Dec. 15/16.

There was a top class entry for this one with Chester Barnes figuring in the men's singles draw (v. Des Douglas) but because he hadn't heard that the tournament was still running despite the power crisis, he failed to put in an appearance on the Saturday! Word got to him however and he duly made a belated appearance on the following day when he partnered Trevor Taylor in the men's doubles only to lose to Douglas and Neale in the semi-final, having earlier dropped a game to Andy Barden and Paul Day.

Reported to be "under the weather" Denis Neale, the top seed, was ousted in Rd. 3 by Donald Parker who subsequently bowed out to "Connie" Warren. Nicky Jarvis duly won the title, his second 3-Star Open success of the season, with final victory over Trevor Taylor in three games.

Earlier Mark Mitchell had taken Jarvis to three but Essex junior Les Eadie sprang a big surprise when, in Round 2 he disposed of Tony Clayton 10 and 13 but, thereafter, lost to David Tan.

Like Jarvis, who was successful at Hull, in the Humberside 3-Star, Jill Hammersley performed a similar feat in winning the counterpart women's event with final victory over Lesley Radford who had the distinction of beating Karenza Mathews who, in the quarters had been taken to three by top junior Anita Stevenson.

Karenza made amends by winning two doubles titles, the women's with Linda Howard and the mixed with Neale. Favourites to take the men's doubles Neale and Douglas were surprisingly beaten by Jarvis and Walker who had previously beaten that most successful of combines Clayton and Laurie Landry.

Southend 2 Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Kitchener (Suffolk) bt I. Robertson (Essex) -12, 18, 14;
M. Johns (Ches) bt D. Brown (Essex) 11, -19, 15;
P. Day (Cambs) bt S. Gibbs (Essex) 18, 19;
E. Caetano (Canada) bt A. Hydes (Yorks) -14, 15, 17.

Semi-finals:
Johns bt Kitchener 16, -17, 22;
Day bt Caetano 22, 18.

Final:
DAY bt Johns 16, 12.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals:
L. Radford (Essex) bt D. Court (Middx) 12, 15;



The Editor has a consoling word for Anne Stonestreet of New Zealand, the losing women's singles finalist at Liverpool.

Photo by John O'Sullivan.

V. Nesukaitis (Canada) bt S. Hession (Essex) -20, 16, 11.

Final:
RADFORD bt Nesukaitis 19, 12.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
L. Eadie/D. Iszatt (Essex) bt B. Hill (Surrey)/C. Morris (Kent) 19, 18;
Hydes/Johns bt A. Barden (Middx)/Day 18, 19.

Final:
HYDES/JOHNS bt Eadie/Iszatt 19, -12, 11.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Court/Radford bt K. Mashford/C. Reeves (Berks) 11, 17;
Hession/Nesukaitis bt L. Barrow/S. Sutton (Essex) 14, 12.

Final:
HESSION/NESUKAITIS bt Court/Radford 15, -21, 18.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Johns/Court bt Brown/Radford 17, 16;
Day/E. Tarten (Essex) bt K. Beamish (Essex)/Hession -8, 19, 13.

Final:
DAY/TARTEN bt Johns/Court 12, 19.
Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
Day bt Kitchener -19, 13, 18;
M. Mitchell (Middx) bt Barden 9, 19.

Final:
MITCHELL bt Day 16, 15.
Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
Tarten bt Mashford 14, 19;
Reeves bt A. Mitchell (Middx) 19, 13.
Final:
TARTEN bt Reeves 6, 16.
Veteran Singles: Final:
BEAMISH bt A. Conden (Essex) -4, 19, 19.

Merseyside 2 Star

Men's Singles: Quarter finals:
D. Neale (Yorks) bt B. Johns (Ches) 11, 6;
A. Hydes (Yorks) bt J. Krier (Luxem) 17, 14;
D. Douglas (Warwks) bt D. Alderson (Yorks) 19, -19, 8;

N. Jarvis (Yorks) bt A. Clayton (Yorks) 17, 19.

Semi-finals:
Neale bt Hydes 17, 12;
Jarvis bt Douglas 14, -13, 19.

Final:
NEALE bt Jarvis 19, 23.
Women's Singles: Quarter finals:
S. Lisle (Ches) bt C. Knight (Yorks) 17, 11;

A. Stonestreet (N.Z.) bt K. Rogers (Leics) 17, 9;
A. Stevenson (Leics) bt K. Fraser (N.Z.) 16, 7;
V. Nesukaitis (Canada) bt J. Richardson (Yorks) 9, 4.

Semi-finals:
Stonestreet bt Lisle 19, 21;
Nesukaitis bt Stevenson -22, -19, 17.

Final:
NESUKAITIS bt Stonestreet -20, 17, 16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Hydes/Neale bt E. Caetano/P. Gonda (Canada) 20, -13, 17;
Douglas/Jarvis bt Krier/D. Parker (Lancs) 10, 17.

Final:
HYDES/NEALE bt Douglas/Jarvis 15, 11.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Lisle/Stevenson bt Fraser/Stonestreet 15, 16;

M. Mellor (Dbys)/Rogers bt J. Black/B. Williams (Lancs) 8, 9.

Final:
LISLE/STEVENSON bt Mellor/Rogers -14, 15, 16.

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Alderson (Yorks) bt C. Rogers (Leics) 8, 10;
R. Wiley (Yorks) bt N. Hallows (Lancs) -11, 9, 15;
A. Barden (Middx) bt A. Kilburn (Yorks) 14, 13;
S. Souter (Yorks) bt M. Mitchell (Middx) 4, 8.

Semi-finals:
Alderson bt Wiley 11, 21;
Barden bt Souter 13, 13.

Final:
BARDEN bt Alderson -19, 12, 19.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Stevenson bt Mellor -19, 9, 12;
Knight bt K. Cropper (Lancs) 16, 17;
Williams bt J. Banks (Lancs) 7, 7;
Rogers bt M. Ludi (Yorks) 19, -19, 17.

Semi-finals:
Knight bt Stevenson -12, 14, 14;
Rogers bt Williams 12, 21.

Final:
KNIGHT bt Rogers 14, -19, 20.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
D. Schofield (Ches) bt E. Mandaluff (Lancs) 13, 12;
L. Browning (Yorks) bt G. Brook (Yorks) 22, 12.

Final:
SCHOFIELD bt Browning 8, 18.

Kent Junior 2 Star

U-17 Events

Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Newman (Essex) bt V. O'Brien (Kent) w.o.
D. Iszatt (Essex) bt A. Abbott (Essex) 16, 16;
M. Douglas (Sussex) bt J. Proffitt (Herts) 17, 17;
P. Hunt (Essex) bt S. Lyons (Surrey) -12, 18, 18.

Semi-finals:
Iszatt bt Newman 14, 20;
Hunt bt Douglas -20, 19, 11.

Final:
ISZATT bt Hunt 14, 10.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
A. Mitchell (Middx) bt K. Greenough

(Surrey) 13, -19, 8;
L. Wales (Hants) bt J. Champion (Middx) 18, 14;
S. Dove (Middx) bt B. Chamberlain (Hunts) -19, 18, 15;
S. Tame (Surrey) bt S. Sutton (Essex) 14, -15, 16.

Semi-finals:
Mitchell bt Wales -9, 16, 16;
Tame bt Dove 13, 18.

Final:
TAME bt Mitchell -17, 20, 18.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
A. Bawden (Essex)/Lyons bt K. Richardson (Cambs)/M. Shuttle (Surrey) -16, 19, 11;
M. Crimmins/K. Seager (Surrey) bt Douglas/G. Pugh (Sussex) 15, -17, 19.

Final:
BAWDEN/LYONS bt Crimmins/Seager -17, 14, 15.

Girls' Doubles: Final:
GREENHOUGH/TAME bt Champion/Campion 11, -14, 12.

Mixed Doubles: Final:
LYONS/GREENHOUGH bt Iszatt/Wales 16, 15.

U-15 Events
BS:
Seager bt R. Jermyn (Herts) -17, 13, 7.

GS:
Wales bt D. Collar (Kent) 10, 13.

BD:
S. Boxall (Surrey)/Seager bt A. Proffitt (Herts)/Proffitt -19, 13, 12.

(continued on next page)

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Open Tournament Survey cont.

GD:
S. Smith (Essex)/Sutton bt P. Abbott/J. Boulter (Essex) 15, 12.

XD:
J. Proffitt/Wales bt Jermyn/Chamberlain 15, 21.

U-13 Events

BS:
A. Stonnell (Essex) bt A. Proffitt 23, -12, 15.

GS:
K. Witt (Berks) bt J. Purslow (Berks) 11, 13.

BD:
S. Harmer (Beds)/Stonnell bt K. Boulter/G. Sandley (Essex) 7, -21, 8.

GD:
J. Douglas (Berks)/Witt bt M. Abbott/H. Gore (Essex) 17, 14.

U-11 Events

BS:
R. Bergemann (Hants) bt C. Wilson (Hants) 12, 12.

GS:
A. Gordon (Berks) bt M. Abbott 16, 14.

Durham 1 Star

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:
D. Alderson (Yorks.) bt G. Munday (Australia) 14, -13, 12;
J. Walker (Yorks.) bt B. Alderson (Yorks.) -14, 13, 12.

Final:
ALDERSON bt Walker 16, 14.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:
C. Knight (Yorks.) bt C. Waite (Durham) 10, 13;
B. Kearney (Northld.) bt B. Murtagh (Durham) 14, 11.

Final:
KNIGHT bt Kearney 16, 14.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
B. Alderson/A. Martin (Yorks.) bt W. Reay (Durham)/Walker 17, 13;
D. Alderson/A. Ransome (Yorks.) bt P. McQueen/D. Svenson (Durham) 9, 10.

Final:
B. ALDERSON/MARTIN bt D. Alderson/Ransome -7, 22, 15.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Kearney/Knight bt B. Charlton/M. Minto (Durham) 11, 16;
Murtagh/Waite bt L. Bainbridge/C. Walker (Durham) 19, -18, 21.

Final:
KEARNEY/KNIGHT bt Murtagh/Waite 20, -8, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Ransome/Knight bt J. Crawford (Durham)/Waite 8, 23;
Martin/Kearney bt P. Edon (Durham)/Walker 11, -16, 21.

Final:
RANSOME/KNIGHT bt Martin/Kearney 12, 10.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
A. Jenkins (Durham) bt G. Bissett (Durham) 16, 18;
C. Davison (Durham) bt J. Caygill (Durham) 12, 12.

Final:
JENKINS bt Davison 8, -18, 7.

Consolation Singles: Final:
S. Haughney (Durham) bt P. Webster (Durham) 17, 19.

Yorkshire 2 Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Neale (Yorks.) bt G. Munday (Australia) 8, 13;
A. Hydes (Yorks.) bt N. Eckersley (Ches.) 13, 12;
J. Walker (Yorks.) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 12, 17;
N. Jarvis (Yorks.) bt A. Ransome (Yorks.) 14, 19.

Semi-finals:
Neale bt Hydes 18, 12; Walker bt Jarvis 18, 18.

Final:
NEALE bt Walker 11, 19.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
S. Lisle (Ches.) bt B. Kearney (Nthld.) 20, 17;
C. Knight (Yorks.) bt S. Holmes (Derbys.) 17, 13;
M. Deakin (Derbys.) bt B. Kirkman (Lancs.) 7, -15, 11;
B. Voss (Lincs.) bt M. Ludi (Yorks.) 21, 18.

Semi-finals:
Lisle bt Knight -19, 11, 20; Voss bt Deakin 18, -11, 17.

Final:
LISLE bt Voss 15, -19, 17.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Jarvis/Walker bt B. Johns (Ches.)/Johns 18, 19;
Hydes/Neale bt D. Alderson (Yorks.)/Ransome 9, 12.

Final:
HYDES/NEALE bt Jarvis/Walker 15, 10.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Lisle/A. Stevenson (Leics.) bt Deakin/Holmes -17, 20, 17;
Kearney/Knight bt S. Broadbent (Yorks.)/M. Mellor (Derbys.) 10, 21.

Final:
LISLE/STEVENSON bt Kearney/Knight 13, 10.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
P. Ward (Yorks.)/Voss bt A. Groome/P. Hopkin (Notts.) 16, 17;
Walker/Lisle bt Ransome/Stevenson 14, 15.

Final:
WALKER/LISLE bt Ward/Voss -18, 16, 14.

Veteran Singles: Final:
D. MARPLES (Derbys.) bt T. Donlon (Ches.) 13, 12.

Reading Junior 1 Star

Under-17 Events

Boy's Singles: Semi-finals:
M. Mitchell (Middx) bt S. Lyons (Surrey) 11, 16;
D. Bangarter (Surrey) bt M. Shuttle (Surrey) 20, -22, 22.

Final:
MITCHELL bt Bangarter 11, 13.

Girl's Singles: Semi-finals:
K. Greenhough (Surrey) bt A. Mitchell (Middx) 20, -11, 19;
S. Sutton (Essex) bt S. Tame (Surrey) 19, 16.

Final:
SUTTON bt Greenhough 16, 10.

Boy's Doubles: Semi-finals:
L. Eadie/D. Iszatt (Essex) bt A. Proffitt/J. Proffitt (Herts) 13, 19;
A. Bawden (Essex)/Lyons bt A. Abbott/D. Schmbi (Essex) 22, 14.

Final:
BAWDEN/LYONS bt Eadie/Iszatt 20, 15.

Girl's Doubles: Semi-finals:
P. Abbott (Essex)/Sutton bt J. Mitchell/S. Roebuck (Surrey) 15, 18;
K. Mashford (Berks)/Mitchell bt E. Lamb (Devon)/J. Thorpe (Berks) 20, -19, 13.

Final:
ABBOTT/SUTTON bt Mashford/Mitchell 11, 16.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Iszatt/Tame bt Mitchell/A. Mitchell 17, 19;
Lyons/Greenhough bt C. Pugh/C. Randall (Sussex) -18, 13, 15.

Final:
LYONS/GREENHOUGH bt Iszatt/Tame -17, 15, 15.

Under 15 Events

Boy's Singles: Semi-finals:
D. Newman (Essex) bt M. O'Mahoney

(Middx) 16, -17, 15;
Shuttle bt S. Boxall (Surrey) 7, 16.

Final:
NEWMAN bt Shuttle 16, 18.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
Abbott bt J. New (Dorset) -18, 21, 16;
Sutton bt S. Dove (Middx) 14, 19.

Final:
SUTTON bt Abbott -18, 16, 15.

Under-13 Events

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
A. Proffitt bt G. Inch (Durham) 6, 10;
A. Stonnell (Essex) bt C. Wilson (Hants) 11, -27, 16.

Final:
STONNELL bt Proffitt 18, -12, 12.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
M. Smith (Berks) bt A. Gordon (Berks) 16, 19;
K. Witt (Berks) bt J. Douglas (Berks) 17, 20.

Final:
WITT bt Smith -15, 20, 9.

Under 11 Events

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
Wilson bt G. Sandley (Herts.) 17, 14;
R. Bergemann (Hants) bt C. Wright (Berks) 7, 12.

Final:
WILSON bt Bergemann 18, 18.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
M. Abbott (Essex) bt Gordon 12, 11;
H. Robinson (Yorks) bt M. Reeves (Berks) 18, 4.

Final:
ABBOTT bt Robinson 7, 11.

Middlesex 3 Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
C. Warren (Surrey) bt D. Parker (Lancs.) -13, 15, 16;
N. Jarvis (Yorks.) bt A. Griffiths (Wales) 12, 14;
D. Douglas (Warwks.) bt J. Walker (Yorks.) 15, 13;
T. Taylor (Essex) bt D. Tan (Middx.) 11, 18.

Semi-finals:
Jarvis bt Warren 21, 17; Taylor bt Douglas -11, 18, 9.

Final:
JARVIS bt Taylor 18, -15, 14.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Hammersley (Bucks.) bt A. Stonestreet (NZ) 19, 14;
L. Howard (Surrey) bt S. Lisle (Ches.) 16, 9;
L. Radford (Essex) bt S. Hession (Essex) 14, -14, 12;
K. Mathews (Middx.) bt A. Stevenson (Leics.) -18, 12, 12.

Semi-finals:
Hammersley bt Howard 18, 10;
Radford bt Mathews 19, -16, 15.

Final:
HAMMERSLEY bt Radford -19, 13, 10.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Douglas/Neale bt C. Barnes (Essex)/T. Taylor 15, 14;
Jarvis/Walker bt M. Johns (Ches.)/Warren 12, 19.

Final:
JARVIS/WALKER bt Douglas/Neale -19, 16, 17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Howard/Mathews bt Radford/E. Tarten (Essex) 19, 19;
Hammersley/S. Henderson (Surrey) bt Lisle/Stevenson -21, 16, 13.

Final:
HOWARD/MATHEWS bt Hammersley/Henderson 18, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Neale/Mathews bt Jarvis/Hammersley 17, 18;
I. Horsham (Essex)/Radford bt P. Beck (Kent)/M. Walker (Middx.) 13, 13.

Final:
NEALE/MATHEWS bt Horsham/Radford 17, 11.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
K. Beamish (Essex) bt D. Somers (Middx.) 19, 14;
P. Leckie (Bucks.) bt D. Harris (Herts.) 10, 9.

Final:
LECKIE bt Beamish 18, 14.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by WALTER REEVES

A visit by Peter Simpson to assess the next batch of Coaching Candidates, was coupled with a training session for selected young Derby players at the Lancaster Youth Centre, Derby. Successful candidates included Dennis Salmon, Dave Stills and John Wren, all from Derby Mechanics Institute, Keith Smart (St. Andrews) and Ian Wheeldon of Matlock.

Following the assessment was a meeting of County Coaches chaired by Peter Simpson who explained the new Coaching set-up. Peter explained how a player must come through the squad system to stand a chance of making the England Squad. Coaching is at present on localised areas in the South and North of the County based upon Derby and Chesterfield. The emphasis has changed with Derby now leading on the junior front in place of Chesterfield, and it was the hope of the meeting that a Junior Training Squad could be formed to further the improvement in the playing standard within the County. Mrs. Kath Foulds the County Coaching Secretary was given various ideas to put before the County Committee for their approval so that some progress may be made by March/April of this year.

The County 1st team played better against Nottinghamshire and reversed last seasons result by winning 6-4. It was Tony Hunt who saved the team by winning his two singles after Doug Foulds had suprisingly lost both his. and in combination with Foulds, winning the Mens' Doubles. In fact the doubles sets all went Derbyshire's way and it appears that our doubles strength, which has in the past been our strong point, it is once more returning.

Early rounds of the County Challenge Cup have now been played with no surprises. but most of the score-lines have been 6-3, although there have been some very close individual sets. Only one claim so far when a team failed to notify a playing date within the stipulated time.

County League matches have commenced but the early returns give no real indication of form. It would appear that the competing towns are playing players below Midland and County Championship standard which is the purpose of the new set-up in the hope that this will improve the level of competition.

Common problems of travel for Midland and County League matches may or may not be worsened if petrol finally goes on ration, as late public transport within the County is too early for most match finishing times. This will perhaps mean a neutral venue during the week. with recourse to some weekend matches. I am sure that with a little effort and goodwill on both sides play will still be possible if perhaps just a little more difficult.

From the Editor's Postbag

PROPOSAL BACKED

Despite this being my second letter in successive months in reference to John Woodford's "Controversy", I cannot set my pen to paper quickly enough over his article in the December issue, which touches on a subject close to my heart.

At this point I'll quote Trevor Boulton, a teacher friend of mine, and qualified coach. "As a teacher, I have always valued table tennis as a game which provides young people with an energetic yet disciplined outlet for their natural exuberances, while giving ample opportunities for development of their mental faculties".

It is vital that discipline of a group of school children be maintained at tournaments, but activities such as table tennis allow high spirits to be contained within playing the game. Chaos can be created on a school outing, because the occasion does not allow children the scope to let off steam in a constructive way. (Remember those "interesting" trips to country houses and museums?). Only pupils with a teacher who shares their enthusiasm for table tennis will attend Open tournaments, and the youngsters' approach may be convivial, yet disciplined throughout.

As regards the entry of a keen youngster into the local league, I don't think the position is as rosy as John Woodford imagines. We have an excellently-run schools league in Coventry, but were it not for me and my colleagues scouting for talent at the annual schools' championships (chiefly to build our future City squads), many keen players would never enter the local league, and ultimately be lost to the game.

I feel that many teachers do not have the time or inclination to encourage their pupils to play table tennis outside school, and I don't think there are many local league officials prepared to find new talent and get them fixed up with a club. I hope I'm wrong!

The E.T.T.A. must maintain the drive to encourage the game among young people, as this is where the future popularity, and hence strength, of our sport lies. The proposal to allow all school children the opportunity to play in Junior Opens gets my full backing.

BERNARD YARNOLD

52 Mill Hill,
Baginton,
Coventry, CV8 3AG.

"POT HUNTERS" BARRED

To take up the point made by John Woodford in the December issue of his (always interesting) column, Cheltenham TTA rules contain the following: "The Management Committee reserves the right to refuse the registration of any player they consider to be playing in a Division well below his known playing standard".

I should add that this rule applies only to our league programme and

that all players, playing in the league, have to register for a specific team. If the Registration Secretary believes that this rule is being infringed in any particular case, he refers it to the Management Committee, who make a decision. As with all Management Committee decisions, anybody who is not satisfied, has the right of appeal. But, in fact, we find that players tend to approach the Management Committee for a decision themselves, if they feel they are liable to have their registrations rejected.

Over the past few years we have considered some 5 potential infringements of this rule. Clearly the Management Committee has little sympathy for people they consider to be "pot hunting". Decisions become more difficult in cases where a good player lives in an outlying area, is reluctant to travel, say, 15 miles for every home game, and wants to play for his local side, which is in a division lower than his playing standard, and, where a good player, past his best, has been coaching a junior side and wants to play with them.

In such cases the factors we pay most attention to are whether the team concerned is likely to secure promotion as a result of the stronger player playing for them, which it is most unlikely they would get without him and whether the player concerned is stepping down too far. If permission is granted for a player to step down, the player is obliged to agree to play regularly so that results are not distorted, i.e. if two teams are striving to avoid relegation and the good player plays twice against one team but not against the other, this would distort the results.

I am sure I am correct in saying that the principle underlying this rule is generally accepted in our league and that its application, so far, has also been accepted. There has been only one case (where a player, in the top ten Division 1 averages one season, wanted to join, the next season, his local side in Division 3) in which we refused a registration and the player concerned, though he did not lodge an appeal, dropped out of the league. In all other cases the Management Committee decision has been accepted.

JOHN BOYD,

Hon. Sec. Cheltenham TTA.

376 Old Bath Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucs.
GL53 9AD.

UNWARRANTED CONCLUSIONS

Whilst appreciating that John Woodford requires each month to hit upon some current topic within the game, which justifies the title of his column, "Controversy," we wonder if he has not, in the December issue, come to several unwarranted conclusions on the subject of Junior Open tournaments, and the participation therein of certain non-affiliated schoolchildren. The proposal, which has been taken back by National Councilors for consideration by their respective counties, seeks merely to return to the situation which existed prior to the 1972 E.T.T.A. Annual General Meeting. At that meeting, the rules which permitted a Schools' League, club or organisation to affiliate to the Association without payment of a fee

were rescinded; this was in line with the policy whereby Good Standing status was given to the E.S.T.T.A. and, in consequence, to its constituents.

Quite unwittingly, as Open tournament regulations refer specifically to affiliated players, an additional effect was to debar members of hitherto affiliated Schools' Leagues, clubs and organisations from entering Open tournaments via that provision. This right is that which the present proposal seeks to restore; as it existed for many years up to 1972, and, as far as I am aware, gave rise to no abuse, why is it now thought so reprehensible to revert to the previous status quo?

Contrary to the suggestion that a keen youngster can take full advantage of the manifold activities of the E.T.T.A., there are in fact numerous youngsters capable of a high standard of play whose table tennis activities have perforce to be confined to the weekend.

Bear in mind that their paramount allegiance is to school work, progress in their studies and extraneous calls for out-of-school activities; add the difficulties created by late finishes to evening League matches and their dependence on parents or adult players for match transport, and it will be seen that regular week-evening table tennis is not possible for many schoolchildren.

Are we, on technical grounds, and on unsubstantiated surmise going to thwart their interest in table tennis, believing that, duly encouraged, they will come into a position of full affiliation when schooldays are behind them?

I. R. CRICKMER

E. J. MITCHELL

St. Bede's Middle School,
Holloway Lane,
Redditch, B98 7HA.

REFEREE WITHOUT A HEART ?

On Saturday, Dec. 8/73, I travelled 300 miles, by car, accompanied by five promising young players, Julie Inch, Helen Robinson, Peter Masters, Paul Ellison and Geoffrey Inch who had entered the Reading Junior 1-Star Open.

The three boys were due to play at 9 a.m. and when we arrived at 9-35 a.m. it was distressing to find that all three had been scratched from the U-15 BS event. When I approached the Tournament Referee, John Freeman, at 9-38 a.m. asking why he had scratched all 3 players especially after they had travelled such a long distance and two of them, Masters and Ellison, had only entered one event, his reply was that to him players were only numbers and he did not know where any of them came from and that he had also scratched 6 other players of which number two had appeared, also after 9-30 a.m.

After pleading with him to allow all four boys, who were there, to play he flatly refused and after looking at his scheduling I found the reason was that in the top quarter of the draw, in which all our three players were drawn and scheduled to play at 9 a.m., Round 4 in this particular

quarter was to be played before Round 1 in the bottom quarter. In fact, there was a Round 1 match in this quarter still on the table at 11-30 a.m., although our boys were scratched some two hours earlier—and the tournament was being played on 10 tables!

One of our other players, Helen Robinson, reached the final of the U-13 GS and the time which lapsed between the last of the semi-finals and the final was approximately one hour. For me this proved that a competent Referee would have made some allowance for players undertaking long journeys especially when the 50 mph speed limit had been imposed that day and the petrol situation was, to say the least, serious. Such sarcastic comment as "You should have started out 2 hours earlier" was not well received when he had just to roll out of bed to be at the tournament.

I am glad that Tournament Referees like John Freeman, with no heart, are few and far between. In my journeying on the tournament circuit I have found that the people in charge are normally very competent and able to adapt when help is needed such as in my case.

One thing is certain, that when John Freeman's name appears on an entry form as Hon. Referee our players will not be entering in future and I am certain that the same will go for quite a few more who were at Reading on Dec. 8/73.

FRED J. INCH,

National Councillor, Durham CTTA

Kimberley,
107 Dairy Lane,
Houghton-le-Spring,
Co. Durham.

UNAWARE OF PROBLEMS

John Woodford is obviously unaware of the problems of schoolchildren and Open Tournaments.

While young people affiliated to the E.S.T.T.A. are neither unorganised or disorganised, they may reach the highest standard and still be barred from Tournaments and County play unless there is a Schools League in the area or they are able to find a place in a Club.

The latter is the main problem as most clubs in some areas are either Works Clubs or private clubs unable to entertain new members. This situation is not only discouraging for the players but even more so for the teachers whose efforts are bounded by E.S.T.T.A.

I believe it is necessary for E.S.T.T.A. members to be eligible not only for Junior, but all Tournaments and County service too if talent, much needed, is to flourish.

DOLLY HARMER,

Chairman, Beds. S.T.T.A.
84 Brooklands Drive,
Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

COVER PICTURE

Belinda Chamberlain, a member of the Buckden and St. Neots Table Tennis Clubs provides the frontispiece of this New Year issue. Belinda was one of ten youngsters chosen to attend the Junior (cadet) training camp in Houlgate, Normandy, last month.

Photo by John Baguley, 14 Acacia Ave., St. Ives, Huntingdon.

County Notes Supplement



DEREK MUNT

Photo by Cliff Darley

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by BERNARD YARNOLD

MUNT TO MARRY

In the County Championships, Cheshire handed out a blow to Warwickshire's hopes of attaining honours in the premier division this season. The lively home side, with John Hilton in top form, sent the Warwickshire team back down the Motorway smarting under a 7-2 defeat. It might have been a different story had Des Douglas not been on duty for England at the Scandinavian Open.

Not much joy for the County "B" side either, in their outing to Staffordshire. Having pasted Gloucestershire 8-2 just a few weeks previously, and looking set for the title again, the team struggled to a 6-4 defeat. Only "Andy" Jones, with two doubles wins, seemed to be playing up to the usual standard. The fighting qualities of Paul Judd were undoubtedly missed. Paul played in place of Douglas at Cheshire, and although losing both singles, showed up remarkably well for his first outing in the senior side for four years.

The Junior "B" team continue their devastating march with another 10-0 victory, this time over Leics. "B". Let's hope the "A" team of Kevin Pilgrim, Duggie Johnson and Alan Cotton can emulate their colleagues in the first session of Junior Premier matches to be held at Nuneaton on December 29. But it's going to be tough!

Quote from Warwickshire first team player Derek Munt, "I will be getting married in late December and expect to be cutting down on my appearances throughout the rest of the season". Fortunately, Derek does not intend to ration his games for the County, but his presence at tournaments and in Birmingham's Midland League side will be limited. Derek has played for the County senior side since he was 16, and holds the No. 13 spot in the current England ranking list.

The two administrative positions

vacated by the late Alf Hill (obituary appeared in the November issue) have been filled. Birmingham TTA deputy chairman Dick Griffin steps up to fill the post of Chairman, the position Hill acquired three years ago when Griffin then stepped down owing to ill health. Long-serving member of the Birmingham management committee, and present League Secretary, Les Ashmore takes on further responsibility as the County Treasurer.

Warwickshire players figured prominently in the final stages of the Midland Counties Open held in November. Douglas had revenge for his semi-final singles defeat by French No. 1 Secretin when he partnered Linda Howard to win the mixed title against Secretin and Carole Knight. Brian Barn partnered Alan Hydes to take the men's doubles. Other local players to produce shock results were Pat Glynn, shrugging off the effects of a near-serious car crash the previous evening, to beat Middlesex first-teamer Bob Aldrich; Tony Isaacs, who put out Scottish No. 1 Junior John McNee; and Judd, who felled another leading junior, Chris Rogers, of Leicester.

Not to be outshone by their seniors, Warwickshire junior players took most of the honours in the Woodfield Charity Open. Pilgrim, the County's No. 1, was giving little away in taking the boys' singles trophy; and Karen Groves, leading the County girls' list, forged a wonderful victory in the girls' singles. This was a personal triumph for both players, who took their first-ever open titles. Cotton and David Shropshire produced some fine aggressive play to overcome Derbyshire's experienced pair, Vickers and Yallop, in the boys' doubles final.

The Warwickshire area finals of the English Schools' TTA national competition took place at Brandwood School (Birmingham) on Saturday, December 1. The host school edged home in the U-19 event, beating Heart of England School (Mid-Warwick) who just failed on set average. With County Juniors Johnson and Richard Mountford in the team, Washwood Heath (Birmingham) had no trouble

in trouncing Woodlands (Coventry) in the U-16 final. However, Woodlands showed the potential talent of their players when winning the U-13 final against Handsworth Grammar (Birmingham). For Woodlands, Martin Smith looks an exciting prospect. In the girls' final, Camp Hill (Birmingham) beat Barrs Hill (Coventry) 7-1.

Birmingham Management Committee has allocated £50 for the sponsorship of juniors to Open tournaments this season. The players to benefit from this scheme include the eight top boys and three top girls in Birmingham.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

IN an Eastern Division match at Haverhill Sports Centre, Cambridgeshire failed to lay the Hertfordshire bogey, but did the next best thing by sharing the points and so kept alive their chance of a place in the Promotion Challenge matches. When they were trailing by 3 sets to 1 the situation looked grim, but Paul Day, Mick Harper and Linda Woodcock rallied the team with fine wins. Linda is proving a splendid addition to the team and it was refreshing to see a player in a natural attacking style, irrespective of the state of the match. Despite changes in the doubles combinations, only Day and Harper were able to win in close sets. Tony Littlechild and Sally Hirst played well, but with the state of the match at 4-all both players were tense and not giving of their best. Although Day was successful in both his singles, he was taken to 3 by both Chris Pickard and Jack Bender. Linda Woodcock was also taken to 3 by Barbara Peters, but won fairly comfortably in the third.

Cams 2nd gave a great performance at Cuffley, when they drew 5-all with a strong and experienced Herts 2nd team who were current leaders in the division. At one stage Cams trailed 2-5 but fought back magnificently to earn a point. The star of the match was Soham's 14-year-old Keith Richardson, who gave his best County performance to date by winning both his singles against David Seaholme and Colin Jackson, also partnering Brian Jones in a M.D. success. Richardson hit with great power and consistency from all angles and had his more experienced opponents reeling under his onslaught. Paul Chisnall, returning to the County team after a year's absence, also had a good match and was mainly responsible for the County's great comeback. He partnered Carol Ellis to a mixed win to make the score 5-3 and then looped to great effect against the ultra-defensive Seaholme, to reduce the arrears even further. However, this was to be Richardsons' night, and it was fitting that he should win the last set against Jackson to earn Cams a point.

In Junior East, Cams 2nd lost to Hunts by 8-2. Tony Holmes was involved in both Cambridgeshire's wins, beating Paul Brooker and combining with Derek Kiddle to take the Boys' Doubles.

In the Wilmott Cup Cambridge lost 5-2 to Chelmsford, who thus gained revenge for their defeat of two seasons ago. Littlechild and David Tiplady were the two successful Cambridge players in an otherwise disappointing

match. In a Rose Bowl Match at Norwich, Cambridge (who were represented by their South East Midlands Team) trounced the home trio 9-0 with the combination of Valerie Scripps, Jean Rodgers and Sally Hirst.

Paul Day won his first Men's Open Singles title at Southend when he beat Englands' No. 9, Mike Johns. On his way to the final Day defeated Bobbie Stevens and Stuart Gibbs, which was no mean feat. In the final of the mixed Day, partnered by Elaine Tarten, beat Johns and Diane Court, and in the Men's Doubles, partnered by Andrew Barden, he reached the semi-final before going out to Hydes and Johns. This was the Soham player's first defeat after 14 hours of play and these results justify his inclusion in the senior ranking list at No. 14.

In an East Anglian League match against Wymondham, Cambridge continued their winning sequence in this competition when they were successful by 7 sets to 3. However, it was not achieved without difficulty, for Wymondham's Ray Goreham, using an unorthodox rubber bat, caused the shock defeats of Littlechild and Chisnall. Wymondham also took the Men's Doubles, but two singles victories from John Thurston and a clean sweep by Sally Hirst and Deborah Clarke in the Women's events, assured Cambridge's success.

In the Cambridge League, University Press suffered their first defeat when the lost 3-7 to their close rivals Soham. Day made one of his rare appearances for Soham and won three, as did Mick Palmer, to give the current champions a comfortable win. In a later match, however, Soham were beaten 6-4 by Y.M.C.A. I, so that these three teams are now locked in a battle for championship honours. A tense struggle is taking place at the bottom of the division, with only 4 points separating 6 clubs. Fire Brigade, Soham II and N.C.I. II are just in front of Guildhall and Telephones, with Y.M.C.A. II being pointless at the bottom of the table. Torchbearers II and University II have 100% records in Division 2 and look strong promotion favourites, with Impington also challenging strongly despite a 5-5 draw against Fisons, who are fading after a promising start.

DIVISION 1

| | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Press 1 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 14 |
| Soham 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| YMCA 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 11 |
| University 1 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| NCI 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Wilburton 1 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 |

DIVISION 2

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| Torchbearers 2 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Impington 1 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 13 |
| University 2 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Fisons 1 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| Camb. Ev. News | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 |

March League, who recently staged a County Match in the Eastern Division between Cams. 2nd and Norfolk 2nd, are now keen to extend their activities against other towns and no doubt will see their way clear to enter various competitions next season.

The position of the Juniors, especially in the Cambridge area, is most disconcerting and I am of the opinion that something drastic will have to be done if they are to regain their former glory.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by IAN R. CRICKMER

The County League Tables have an unfamiliar look after the two opening series of fixtures, with Malvern heading Division 1 and Halesowen in the Division 2 lead. Malvern have beaten Kidderminster 8-2 away and Evesham 9-1 at home—these latter two have fared even worse in their other matches! Dudley have produced the most significant result so far in beating Cookhill 6-4, and the latter must make up this leeway if intent on capturing the title yet again. Halesowen's position in Division 2 occasions no surprise, as Bryan Belcher and Mervyn Wood look safe to take all their singles against basically much weaker opposition. Indeed their 7-3 margin over Kidderminster was achieved despite a courageous maximum by former County lady Sheila Randle, and the two sets they dropped at Evesham were taken at the expense of Pat Weston. Only Worcester, who had to struggle to beat Evesham 6-4, look capable of presenting any challenge to Halesowen.

By the time these notes are read, the Junior County Closed will have been played on 6 January—indications with a few days to go before entries closed were of a disappointing attendance: one wonders if the comparative strength in relation to the rest of the County of Worcester's trio of boys has deterred other potential entrants from "having a go!" A reminder that the Senior Closed is to be at The Leys Sports Hall, Woodrow, Redditch, on Sunday, 17 February—entry forms must be with the Tournament Secretary, Mrs. D. M. Moss, 38 Goodwood Avenue, Battenhall Manor, Worcester, WR5 2HR, by Friday, 25th January.

The Worcester boys had a good 7-2 win over Nottingham in Round 1 of the Carter Cup at Worcester: Andrew Oakley was the homester to record a maximum, with Claxton and Lancaster both falling to Kirkland. Though drawn at home again in Round 2, this is versus the formidable Leicester team, conquerors of Coventry in a match arranged for 16 December.

Recent Midland League fixtures have seen Worcester juniors lose 3-7 at Derby, when minus John Lancaster, but repeat their success against Nottingham to the tune of 9-1. Kidderminster's boys, despite the optimism of their mentor, Ian Knights who himself teaches in West Bromwich, were ousted from the Carter Cup at the first hurdle by West Bromwich 6-3. Boy of the match award went indubitably to Kidderminster's No. 2, Steve Gibbons, with three wins, but sadly without support from his team-mates.

Congratulations to three Worcestershire members for differing achievements—to Joyce Lloyd on taking the Woodfield One Star Open ladies' singles, one of the Midlands' coveted titles. Joyce would be the first to admit that her way was eased by the absence of the title-holder and No. 1 seed, English No. 11 Anita Stevenson, but her determination and tenacity provided an object lesson to the many young players at Wolverhampton. Secondly to Doug Young, becoming well-known as Worcestershire's representative on the tournaments' circuit,

on his nomination as Honorary Referee of the Wayfarers English Junior Closed at Leicester on April 20 and 21, and thirdly to Derek Baddeley on his part in the present Liberal revival in achieving election to Malvern Hills District Council for Langland Ward. To be a Councillor in Malvern presumably means having influence in high places!

The Redditch League did not get under way until November 5, there being only ten teams grouped in one division for this season. The opportunity was taken to decide the 1972/73 individual championships at the end of November with twenty-eight players competing. The Open Singles was taken by Colin Hammond, whose final opponent was Richard Warby, by scores 21-11, 21-16. Hammond paired again with Eddie Mitchell to win the doubles, defeating Dave Hamer and Steve Hales (ex-Great Yarmouth) 21-16, 21-16 in the final. The restricted singles, for last year's Division II players and League newcomers, was won by Malcolm Wheeler, who won 21-15, 21-12 in his final against a nameless, erstwhile player now better known as compiler of this magazine's Worcestershire and Herefordshire notes.

Finally, I must end on a note all too familiar in recent issues. Worcestershire Chairman, Doug Moss, pays tribute to a former colleague:—"It is sad to record the recent tragic death, as the result of a road accident, of Ron Weston at the age of 52. Ron started playing table tennis before the Second World War; at the age of 16, he played for the Y.M.C.A. team which won the Worcester Division 1 championship. During the war, whilst stationed in Ireland, he played with and against Jack Carrington and Johnny Leach. On returning home, Ron played regularly for the Worcester City team in the Midland and Western Counties Leagues. This was in the days when Worcester played their representative matches, often watched by as many as 300 spectators, in The Shirehall's sumptuous surroundings. Ron's immaculate style, in the Victor Barna mould, was well appreciated. He won the Worcester men's singles championship on two occasions—there are still those who consider his 1946/47 final against Dick Guise to have provided the finest play ever seen in the finals of this event. Ron was no less a stylist at cricket. He played for many years for Worcester City Club, scoring several centuries in the delightful setting of the County Cricket Ground at New Road, Worcester."

SIGNALLING SURREY

by TED SIMPKIN

The absence of news from Surrey this season has indicated not the demise of this still formidable force but only the lack of a volunteer to take on the post of Press Secretary. In fact the County is so short of key officers that the evergreen Fred Joyce is this year's Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Fortunately, the poor response from the local leagues' administrative ranks has not been reflected in the game itself where all the County teams are enjoying a reasonable amount of success, and where the Juniors, under the dedicated guidance of Mick

Kercher, have begun to show real promise of great things to come.

Positions in the National Rankings have been attained by Susan Tame (10) in the girl's list, and for the boys, David Bangerter (8). In subsequent issues I hope to be able to give news from all Leagues in Surrey, and so reflect the tremendous interest there is in the sport in the stockbroker belt. I have been told of the official recognition recently given to the Guildford League's Junior coaching scheme when Bryan Merrett, Ron Crayden and Leo Thompson visited the training centre and awarded Coaching Diplomas to John Diggins, Ted Woodgate and Dennis Baggott.

After hard, sustained and dedicated work this scheme is now well established and thinking ahead; it has two boys, Simon Vine and Christopher Bennett in the County under-17 ranking list, and four girls, Nicolette Leslie, Jayne Mitchell, Diane Elliott, and Suzanne Roebuck in the girls' list. With Jayne and Suzanne respectively top girl at U-15 and U-14 the prospects are exciting. Steve Lyons (9), Martin Shuttle (holder of the National Under-13 title) (17) and Max Crimmins (19).

After two successive Closed Championships held in Guildford—the second of which was played in the magnificent Sports Hall of the University of Surrey and was an outstanding tournament success but a financial disaster, the County have decided to separate the men from the boys, (and the girls from the women), by holding separate senior and junior events this year. The Junior championships will be staged at the Beverley School New Malden, on the weekend of Feb. 16/17 and will be organised by Norman Hooper, whose main headache will be the vital search for sponsorship.

Failing the coming forward of any volunteer from the County Committee or Leagues to run the Senior tournament, the President, C. A. Bourne, has come to the rescue and will be in charge at the Monkshill School, Farnborough Avenue, South Croydon on Sunday, Mar. 10. Entry forms from Mrs. J. M. Bourne, "Sunny Patch", Walpole Avenue, Chipstead, Surrey. CR3 3PP. Phone: Downland 54933.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by MIKE RICHARDS

Following encouraging performances in their first two matches the County first team crashed heavily to a strong Essex side losing 0-9 at Bletchley.

Admittedly the side was weakened by the absence of Jill Hammersley who was participating in the Scandinavian Open and Alec Watson due to business commitments. Nevertheless the result was a great disappointment. Don Berry made his county first team debut and Jean Williams came in for Hammersley.

On the same day the second team made a long but fruitless journey to Bournemouth for a Southern Division match with Hants. Forced to make changes from the selected side the opportunity was taken to play Mick Dean, Brian Savage and Ann Catchpole, all three players making their Bucks, debut, John Leith and Peter Sears scored in the 2-8 defeat with the three debutants failing to hold on to winning positions.

The Juniors have made an unexpectedly poor start only managing a draw from three matches. Keith Bartlett has been very steady but mostly defensive as so too has Ian Edwards. Chris Leslie showed some inconsistency in the first two matches tending to rush his game but was excellent in winning his two in the 2-8 defeat by Herts. Juniors.

Disappointing though the junior results have been the County has a pool of promising boys and girls. However, the County committee is considering setting up a Development Committee to co-ordinate junior activities as it is felt that there are youngsters with potential in the leagues and schools who are not being pushed forward or encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities to improve their game.

It is good to hear that Tylers Green and Aylesbury Sports Club of the High Wycombe and Aylesbury leagues respectively have entered the men's section of the Stiga National Club Championship. Aylesbury have also taken advantage of the change in rule with regard to entry into the women's section by inviting the ladies of the Thame Club to enter.

In the first round of the Wilmott Cup, Aylesbury beat Luton 5-1 and their Junior Boys had a bye to kick off in the Carter Cup.

Finally, a word to those leagues whose activities have not been mentioned in this column. Please drop me a line now so that you can be mentioned in next month's issue.

WESTERN LEAGUE BULLETIN

by GROVE MOTLOW

Bristol, at home to Newport, were beaten 6-3, the Welshmen's victory being well-earned thanks to a maximum by John Bloomer who did well to beat Bristol's young "star" Chris Sewell at 19 in the decider. Alan Harrison had win's over L. Stewart and B. Brady the former also losing to Tony Watkins. For Bristol, Sewell won two and Barrie Brady one.

Plymouth, at home to Bournemouth, were surprisingly beaten 5-4 with six of the sets going into a deciding game. At 4 sets all S. Wilson clinched victory for the visitors when he beat Keith James 23-21 in the third! Wilson then brought off a brilliant maximum with T. Smith winning the other two. Cyril Bush, rarely for him, was without a win Plymouth's sets being obtained by James (2) and one each for Bob Parkins and David James.

Salisbury had a fairly comfortable 7-2 home win over Exeter going into a 4-0 lead. Mike Rattue for the visitors had the answer against both Shetler and Bruce but, like his team-mates, failed to stop the gallop of Bill Moulding.

In the Women's Section, Devizes found Joyce Coop well on form for Bournemouth who triumphed 5-4 with Joyce winning all her three supported by a set each from Celia Hutchings and Jean Smith. Alison Boyce won two for Devizes but lost easily to Mrs. Coop. Helen Rushby did well to beat Bournemouth's Jean Smith while Marguerite Alexander beat Celia Hutchings.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID COSWAY

THE County 1st Team have not had a good start to the season and although they have taken individual sets close, the overall deficit of 2-8 against Sussex and 1-9 against Surrey II must make relegation a real threat. Not only is the performance of the present team a disappointment but the fact is that there are no up-and-coming players on the horizon to take their place.

In the Sussex match only a Chris Shetler win against Emecz and a Shetler/Keith Summerfield doubles lifted the gloom, while against Surrey only the mixed was won. Unfortunately Shetler had to withdraw from the Surrey match at the last minute through illness and the County had the tricky problem of finding a replacement. Really none of the second team were up to promotion so the choice was between Ray Lush and Steve Wilson.

Lush, a regular in the championship-winning veterans' team, had been picked to play against Essex on the same day, while Wilson was required for the Junior League leaders also against Essex. Eventually Lush played to the disappointment of his veteran colleagues but one must get one's priorities right and the first team must take preference over what is—despite the fanatics who may argue otherwise—a secondary competition.

The experimental 2nd team went down in their first match 3-7 to Sussex II but they followed this with a good win over Bucks, II by 8-2. The Isle of Wight's Jim Daley—the first county representative from the Island that I can remember—won both singles, while Martin Gilbert (South East Hants) and Dave Nicholson (Basingstoke) won one set each. Lesley King won her singles and combined with Pat Wales to win the women's doubles.

Their third win of the season, by 6-4 against Essex III, makes the possibility of the Junior Team going forward to the play-offs a problem for the County to face. Not only would the actual going to the play-offs be an expensive operation but playing in the premier could prove even more expensive. In addition with the top two boys in the current team, Wilson and Kevin McQuade not eligible next season, there are not yet any signs of new juniors coming through to take their place. In the Essex match only two of the six wins came from the boys' singles with Hampshire winning all the doubles and girls' events.

What an acquisition Linda Wales is proving to Hampshire! She is unbeaten in the County teams this season and is the first player to be nationally-ranked since the junior days of the "Holes" twins. It is good to see the national selectors do know table tennis is played this far south and they should now have a look at Steve Wilson before issuing their next boys' rankings. Having pointed out the strange fact in my last report that the County current No. 1 junior girl, Sue Harding, was only playing in one girls' doubles event, I must now report a change—she was not playing in the doubles either in the Essex match!

The veterans' chances of retaining their title took a severe jolt when they went down 3-6 to Essex. Without their No. 1, Lush, Maurie Shave, of Southampton, made his debut and was responsible for the only men's singles victory. Daphne Gray was responsible for the other two with the women's singles and mixed.

An interesting situation exists in the inter-town league mixed Division I with three teams battling to take the title from Portsmouth. Basingstoke and Southampton have maximum points while Bournemouth have only dropped one point—a draw with Portsmouth. In this draw Wilson was unbeaten for Bournemouth as was Lush for Portsmouth. Portsmouth women's strength with Daphne Gray and Sheila Foster winning four of their five sets was the deciding factor in denying Bournemouth a win. Portsmouth's hopes of retaining their title, however, received a setback when they went down 4-8 to a depleted Southampton team. Summerfield won his two singles for Southampton but this time Portsmouth's women let them down with Christine Davies and Lesley King winning all five of their events.

Aldershot and Basingstoke "B" lead the second division with two wins and these teams meet in January in a match which will obviously decide the title although both look set for promotion. Men's Division holders, the Isle of Wight, look set to retain their title with four wins to their credit. Their last victory by 8-2 over their closest rivals, Basingstoke, gives them a clear lead at the top. In fairness to Basingstoke I must mention that their team for this match was below strength in view of their top players being unable to make the afternoon trip to the Island for business reasons.

Bournemouth are run-away leaders of the junior first division and include in their victories a 10-0 drubbing of champions Southampton. No excuses from Southampton for this, for only one set went to three and looking down the scores one sees a number of single figure games. Adding to the Hampshire strengths of Wilson and Julie Reading in this team are Dorset's Graham Hill and John Robinson to give this Bournemouth quartet a depth which I cannot see any other team matching. Basingstoke are in second place but have already gone down 2-8 to Bournemouth.

In the second junior division the situation is the same with the unbeaten Bournemouth "B" team leading the field having already beaten their closest rivals, Basingstoke "B" 7-3, with Richard Bergemann unbeaten. How good it is to see the coaching activities in Bournemouth and Basingstoke paying off with strength in quality and depth that the larger cities are unable to match. In the veteran division, three unbeaten sides with Southampton leading from the two Bournemouth teams.

At one time it looked as if the Hampshire Closed would not be held this season. Southampton were due to stage it but the lack of a suitable venue at an economic price ruled them out for the season. What a sad reflection on the City! However, Portsmouth stepped into the breach with the provision of the Wimbledon Park indoor sports centre which, with

fixed lighting and tables available, one of the major tournament expenses is saved. Why can't other cities have the foresight of Portsmouth! The tournament will now be run by the Hampshire Committee during March.

SUSSEX NOTES

by ROBIN PIERCE

A big welcome to Eastbourne's John Ridgway who volunteered to take over the vacant position of senior match secretary at the County's December executive meeting. He will have plenty of problems now that the energy crisis is beginning to bite so hard.

Out in the arena the three Sussex teams won their ties against Berkshire in the latest round of County Championship fixtures.

Emile Emecz and Steve Marley, due to an administrative error, played in the wrong order at Reading and this fact did not escape the eagle eyes of John Wright. The scoreline was amended to 7-3.

At the plush Sun Alliance Sports Centre, Horsham, most of the errors came from the members of the Sussex Southern Division side. The 8-3 win looks very convincing but a draw seemed possible until Diane Gard waltzed away with the women's singles. I can't see the stronger counties letting us getting away with it so easily. Our team needs to be much more match tight.

Without Gerald Pugh, the Crawley lad was on loan to the seniors, Bernard Rowley's boys and girls found it harder going before they beat Berkshire. Only an inspired performance from Mike Douglas allowed them to leave Littlehampton as 6-4 winners.

A Sussex seeding list has just been issued. This list includes players who represent other counties but are also involved in events within our jurisdiction. There are one or two shake-ups so the selectors have retired to their underground bunkers. I wonder if there ever has been a ranking list which has pleased everyone?

Men:

1. Alan Hydes (Littlehampton),
2. Roger Chandler (Brighton),
3. Sam Ogundipe (Brighton),
4. Emile Emecz (Crawley),
5. Steve Marley (S. W. Sussex)
6. Mike McLaren (Littlehampton)
7. Robin Stace (Brighton)
8. Gerald Pugh (Crawley),
9. Keith Horton (Crawley)
10. Pat Metters (Worthing)
11. Mike Douglas (Crawley)
12. Dennis Funnell (Hastings),
13. Keith Jackson (Haywards Heath),
14. David Pickard (Eastbourne),
15. Andy Meads (Crawley),
16. John Beasley (Eastbourne).

Women:

1. Judy Williams (Eastbourne)
2. Suzanna Kallierou (Worthing).
3. Diane Gard (Eastbourne),
4. Linda Wales (Worthing),
5. Pat Pearce (Crawley),
6. Angela Mock (Eastbourne),
7. Sue Franklin (Hastings),
8. Pauline Murrell (Eastbourne),
9. Pat Wales (Worthing),
10. Norma Millward (Crawley).

On the Wilmott Cup scene Brighton smashed Croydon 5-1. Emile Emecz caused the one upset when he defeated Sam Ogundipe in straight games.

Brighton girls were routed 8-1 by Byfleet. It is ten years since Brighton has been able to field a decent side.

Claims and counter-claims abounded before the on-off-on Eastbourne/Worthing Rose Bowl clash got underway.

Perhaps Eastbourne should have relied on their publicity machine for reaching the next round after all. On the table they failed to hold the initiative and lost 6-1.

Suzanna Kallierou and Linda Wales were unbeaten for the winners. Linda, who will just be 15 by the time you read these notes, has developed attacking strokes to go with her known defensive skills. Her game, therefore, has the firmest foundations.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by ALAN G. BIRKS

Both the County Senior and Junior teams have now played two matches and there are some interesting similarities in the results. Both teams have two points the Seniors from an overwhelming 8-2 win over Lancashire II and the Juniors as a result of drawn matches against Leicestershire and Staffordshire; and in all four matches the women's singles and doubles have been won by Lincolnshire so that the leading lady in each team, Beryl Voss and 13-year-old Suzanne Hunt, remains unbeaten.

The retirement of John Beaumont (Spalding) and the unavailability of Cleve Judson (Lincoln) means that there is an opportunity for some of the younger players to come into the reckoning. With Brian Hill (Boston) retaining his form wonderfully well and setting a fine example, the rejuvenation of Matt Shearer (Grimsby) together with the arrival of Beryl Voss, who was the Notts, number one last year, and the fact that Jean White is playing as steadily and well as ever, the senior team is blending together happily as a very good looking side.

Although the first match was lost to Yorks, II, and one feels that most teams will suffer a similar fate, much of the glory went to Hill when he defeated Jimmy Walker, ranked No. 7, 22-20, 21-23, 21-16. The second match produced the wonderful success over Lancs, II at Spalding. This first recorded victory over a Lancashire team represented a great all-round performance for which credit is due to all the players. Again, mention must be made of Hill's thrashing of Bob Kelly, the Lancs. team No. 1, 21-9, 21-6. Some consolation for Lancs, in that the hard hitting John Marshall, in his first senior appearance, won both his singles.

Meanwhile the juniors, with Colin Boyd (Scunthorpe) now established as the No. 1 have got off to a steady and encouraging start. One feels that the excellent coaching efforts of Dennis Worrell and his staff of hard working coaches is reaping reward. County sessions were held during the summer and continue at regular intervals at various centres, and junior coaching takes place throughout the County at Grantham, Grimsby, Lincoln and Louth with coaches going into schools in many cases. When youngsters of the quality of Miss Hunt (Grantham) come along, all the time and effort become worthwhile.

HERALDING HEREFORDSHIRE

by IAN R. CRICKMER

NO INDICATION

Although Hereford began their programme in the Open Division of the Worcestershire County League with a 10-0 away win over Evesham, there was certainly no indication of the final score in the opening set, won by Nim Hodges against David Payne by the interesting scores 12-21, 33-31, 21-11! Subsequently, a 2-8 defeat ensued when Cookhill travelled to Allensmore—the only Hereford wins came from Mick Prosser and Richard Owens, who both beat Bob Wiltshire. However at 1-3 down, the next four sets were all taken to three, and all lost. Hodges was particularly unfortunate to lose to Colin Hammond at 22-24 in the decider.

Four Hereford youngsters attended the Area 6 assessment of the Midlands/South West Panel at Lea and Ferrins, Worcester at the end of November. All show considerable promise, but opposing teams will meet names problems if the County Association achieves its next ambition of entering a junior team in 1974-75; the four are Mark Owen, Michael Owens, Sharon Owen and Elizabeth Owens. Their coaches are their fathers, Stan Owen and Richard Owens.

Smart and Brown Sapphires stayed top of Division One of Hereford League with a 6-4 win over Village Farm Challengers, the highlight being Owens' win over Hodges 23-21, 23-25, 21-16. Owens, a left-hander, was playing with his right forearm encased in plaster following a farm accident, and his success decided that he would play similarly attired in the County match versus Monmouthshire.

Ledbury remain within striking distance of the Sapphires and there were, at the end of November, only three points separating the second placed team and the bottom but one team of the Division. By contrast, Spinners are the only undefeated team in Division 2, and Rank Xerox of Mitcheldean went into December with 100% points at the head of Division 3. A fine battle ensued when Mothers Pride 'A' and Painters 'A' clashed at the head of the Fourth Division—Peter Mackley accounted for his opposing No. 1 Laurie Steele 13-21, 21-14, 36-34 in leading the bakers to a 7-3 win.

Setting the pace in Division 5, Saunders Valve 'A' and Bulmers Woodpecker neither dropped a point in the first two months of the season. Wiggins 'C' head the Sixth Division with two games in hand, having been helped by a giant-killing act in which Civil Defence 'C' went under 3-7 to Mothers Pride 'B' in the latter's first success.

Civil Service 'D' could take some stopping in Division 7, and their clash with Tupsley Colts just before Christmas will have had a vital bearing on the outcome of this Division.

The County team's visit to Monmouthshire at Newport contained much that was encouraging from the Herefordshire point of view—full credit to all eleven players (of both teams) for giving their best to pro-

duce an entertaining encounter despite the numbing effect of a venue without heating because of the National Emergency. Russell Preece and Nim Hodges, both by beating Tony Watkins, recorded their first successes in the Herefordshire red, as did Richard Owens (with plaster!) in the mixed doubles. The mixed often suffers an anti-climatic effect from following immediately after the clash of the No. 1 men, but in this match it produced some absorbing tactical play, and several scintillating rallies of a very high order. The whole team should feel encouraged for the vital tussle with visitors Shropshire on January 19.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by TONY ROSS

200 NOT OUT!

In November, Walter Edmundson, Malcolm Gee and Peter Ballesta completed their 200th consecutive league and cup match for Bradford team Lidget Green Congs. without change. The occasion was marked by a dinner at which Bradford chairman and county secretary Frank Briggs was chief guest. The long run began back on 21st September, 1966. In addition, Malcolm Gee had not missed a single match in 10 years.

Yorkshire sides have been busy knocking each other out of the national team competitions. In the Wilmott Cup, Leeds succumbed 6-0 to the power of the holders, North Yorkshire, whilst Halifax administered a rather surprising 6-3 chop to Bradford. David Lamb was unbeaten for Halifax, with Brian Dawson winning two sets and Steve Milnes one. Messrs. Shutt, Yeats and Gomersall had one win each for Bradford. Huddersfield's John Kedge, David Hirst and Geoff Brook were too much for Sheffield, winning 8-1. Mick Askham took Sheffield's consolation win, beating Hirst, but David Sykes and Brian Broadhurst had fought to show for their labours.

In the Carter Cup, Bradford scored a 5-1 victory over neighbours Leeds, for whom Robert Hazelwood was their sole winner. Bradford's David Renton and Philip Halmshaw were undefeated. Visitors to Sheffield, Stockton went away happy after a 5-1 win, but Sheffield's Brian Baxter could look back on a meritorious 15, 17, 19, win over England-ranked Peter Edon. Although winning 2 sets, Halifax starlet Kevin Beadsley could not stop a 6-3 triumph by visitors Aycliffe. North Yorkshire's David Alderson, Robert Wiley and Andrew Kilburn steam-rolled Northumberland to the tune of 6-0. Hull had a first-round walk-over Boston.

In the Yorkshire Club championships, the men's 'Montague Burton Challenge Cup' is now well into the second round. First round results were: Albion—Victoria 6-0; Hermits—Wadsley Bridge 5-4; Olympia—Wellesley Park 1-8; Crookes YMA—Barnsley North End 3-6; Harrogate Wanderers—Old Crossleyans 2-5; Hull YPI III—Bootham Cons. 1-5; Huddersfield YMCA w/o Fulford Rd. WMC I; King Cross Lib. Club w/o Fulford Rd. WMC II; Fulford Rd. WMC III—Moor Allerton 0-9; Knaresboro SC I w/o Rayner Sports; Ormesby w/o Hull YPI I; WLD Textiles—ShIPLEY Cons. 3-6.

The second round draw and results

so far are: Barnsley North End v. Huddersfield YMCA; Wellesley Park v. Peglers; Albion—Clayton Heights 4-5; King Cross Lib. Club—Hermits 0-8; Hull YPI II v. Knaresboro SC I; Moor Allerton—Knaresboro SC II 5-4; Ormesby w/o Shipley Cons.; Old Crossleyans—Bootham Cons. 5-2.

Richard Priestley was Hermits' unbeaten match-winner in their first round victory over Wadsley Bridge's Ken Foster, Tony Sanderson and Brian Baxter. Jim Yeats went down only to Ken Foster, but Steve Kosmowsky was without success for Hermits. Clayton Heights' second round 5-4 win at Albion was quite a tussle, with Bob Shutt and Paul Cottenham each winning two and Ian Gomersall one for the Bradford side. For the Sheffield team, David Sykes and Brian Broadhurst won two each, but Roy Brothwell did not win a game.

An unbeaten Barnsley League record of over 40 sets and extending over 3 seasons was dented during a top-of-the-table clash between Barnsley North End and Ace with the defeat of North End's Roy Ward by Melvin Starkie.

More records went during two Bradford-Barnsley Yorkshire League matches. In the Veterans' Division, Barnsley's Brian Starkie tasted defeat in this division for the first time in 3 years, at the hands of Eddie Payne, but Barnsley had the last word, beating the current veteran champions 5-4. This match lasted 4½ hours, during which time the Bradford II veterans team travelled to Sheffield, played a match, had tea and returned to find their first team colleagues still battling away!

In the Women's Division, Bradford inflicted upon Barnsley a 9-1 hammering, Barnsley's heaviest defeat in this division for 10 years.

The clash between Division 1 leaders Sheffield I and Middlesbrough I resulted in a 6-4 win for the Teesside visitors. Sheffield's successes were by David Rayner, 23-21 in the third over county captain Alan Ransome, by both Mick Askham and Brian Broadhurst over Tony Martin, and a David Sykes/Broadhurst doubles. David Alderson and Ray Kelly, Ormesby's Australian import, were both unbeaten, but both had previously lost one set in their team's 8-2 defeat of Leeds, Alderson to Alan Jones and Kelly to Len Browning. Close behind the leaders are Huddersfield I, led by John Kedge, who have dropped 1 point, to Bradford I, York I and newly promoted Harrogate I head Division 2, whilst 3 teams share the points at the top of Division 3—Wakefield I, Leeds II, both unbeaten, and promotees Castleford/Pontefract I. York II and Northallerton II top Divisions 4 and 5, with Bradford and Barnsley the leading women's and veterans' teams.

Middlesbrough I lead Junior Division I, but have suffered one loss, 2-7 away to Doncaster, in the mistaken belief that the match was a second division and thus a second team fixture. The Middlesbrough side's wins were confined to the XD and GS sets. However, as Middlesbrough II, the same players head Junior Division 2, together with Leeds II, who are also unbeaten with the same sets average.

A stalwart of women's table tennis for many years in Bradford, Betty Clough has retired from competitive play. She was the first player to make

100 women's Yorkshire League appearances and has been 7 times Bradford champion.

The Halifax Association has donated a trophy, to be called the 'Halifax Cup', for Division 5 of the Yorkshire League. Halifax III won this division last season, in the first year of its formation.

Two 12-year-olds, Kevin Beadsley (Halifax) and Angela Tierney (Middlesbrough) were Yorkshire's representatives in the party of England under-14s who travelled to France on 26th December for a 4-day joint Anglo-French training camp. Kevin is a product of Halifax's Wellesley Park coaching centre, whilst Angela is an Ormesby protegee in the Carole Knight tomboy image.

Hull's former junior international Alan Fletcher, currently in his final year at college in Aston, Birmingham, made a recent debut for Warwickshire II in the 2nd Division (Midland) and was a surprise winner of the Warwicks Closed MS title on 11th December. Another former Hull player also now contributing to Warwicks table tennis affairs is Phil Burwell.

SOMERSET NOTES

by MIKE HAWKINS

MIXED FORTUNES

Somerset County Table Tennis has had mixed fortunes in the last month, with the Seniors doing well against Cornwall and the Juniors losing narrowly to Gloucestershire Juniors by a 6-4 margin.

Tony Clayton is proving to be an added attraction in the County this season. The Yorkshire and England player is playing alongside Chris Sewell in the Bath League for Oldfield Park Baptists, who are strong favourites to take the title from Pitmans, whom John Hartry, County player, played for in recent seasons.

Two young players to note for their rapid improvement and good displays at County Senior and junior level are Miss Jill Wilson (Bridgwater) and Jeremy Musselwhite (Bath). Bridgwater are producing some talented young players for the future and one of these, Ian Prescott, should be kept a close watch on.

Weston-uper-Mare 'A' and Failand 'A' lead the Somerset Div. 1 Inter-Town League table, whilst Bath 'B' and Weston 'B' are both leading Div. 2. The Percy Boys' Open tournament held recently at New King St., Bath, is proving to be a big success each year and a popular event amongst some top county stars, past and present, such as Ron Bowles, a very keen veteran competitor.

Several players from the Evesham district entered this season, and Ian Currie from the Percy Club and many others who help him on his committee must take full credit for making this annual tournament in Somerset a great success.

Although we down here in Somerset are not heard of in table tennis circles in the north, all concerned are aiming to put Somerset Table Tennis where it belongs, at the top of the England tree, and who knows in the not too distant future Somerset will be represented at some National level.



Charles Murton Wyles, OBE, flanked by his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wyles, poses in front of Buckingham Palace after his investiture on December 4/73.

Photo by courtesy of Monitor Press Features Ltd., London.

Charles Murton Wyles, O.B.E.

interviewed by GILBERT POOL

CHARLES Murton Wyles has climbed to the topmost twig of the international table tennis tree via the counter of a grocer's shop in Broadstairs, Kent.

Today the man who used to play table tennis on a makeshift table in the dining room with his brother, John, flits around the world watching little ping pong balls bouncing back and forth on the green tables.

When he is not having tea with Chou En Lai, or being dazzled by the bright lights of Bangkok, he is away from his sea-front home at Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, escorting England players at tournaments.

Occasionally, when he thinks he needs some hard-earned rest, he books a flight to Tehran, in Persia, where he spends a few weeks relaxing with daughter Evelyn.

He was acclaimed two years ago when he became the first person from the West to lead a sports party into China in 22 years. And, last month, in his fourth year as Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, he travelled to London to receive an OBE from the Queen for his work in the game.

Mr. Wyles, born in Sturry, Canterbury, in 1912, a stocky, balding man who always looks cheerful, talked to me as he relaxed in bed after a late-night reception in London.

FORMED OWN CLUB

"Mine has been a rocket career," he said. "I never sought it. It was given to me. Mind you, I knew everybody in table tennis.

"I played for Kent, where John and I formed our own club (Seabrook Club in Hythe) and helped form the county association, after which I was chosen to represent it on the English Table Tennis Association.

"I had only been in the ETTA for six months and I was elected vice-chairman. Then the chairman resigned

and I became chairman in only another six months."

Then, too, came the first trip to China, soon after the sad death of his wife, Ethel, leaving behind daughter Evelyn and son Kenneth.

"China was the real apex," said Mr. Wyles, "and Chou En Lai gave up so much of his time." This experience was repeated early this year when he took his second trip into Peking.

"I admire the Chinese because they have brotherly love. I think they live Christ-like lives—but without Christ."

PLYMOUTH BROTHER

Mr. Wyles, a member of Hastings Winkle Club, was brought up strictly as a Plymouth Brother. But he has rebelled against this and confesses he is not religious. Convent school did not appeal to him when he was young, and one day he played truant and the sisters found him hiding at a near-by railway line.

"I think one tends to rebel against one's parents when one is brought up strictly. The religious atmosphere has stood me in good stead, but I am very happy without it. I am a happy man. I have never worried. It does not worry me what happens tomorrow. Things will look after themselves."

Today, the former Chatham High School boy who went to the same school as Edward Heath and went to church twice on Sundays and was told by his parents "you must not smoke, you must not drink," enjoys the good life.

He has just turned 61, but his world is one of the young. He loves young people, and his sharp sense of humour and open mind make him popular.

"I don't have the problem of the age gap. I am quite prepared to accept what young people do. It's the only way to keep young, isn't it?"

"Most of my friends are young. The age gap is missing because I am so much with them."

FEELS TIRED

Although some thought at the time of his second visit to China that he was "cracking" under the pressure of work, he told me many times: "I have never been so fit in my life."

He admits he often feels tired, but this is because the game keeps him very busy. In the year of the first China visit he spent a third of his time away from his home.

"I don't have time for anything else besides table tennis," he told me. A younger man may have to take over soon, but I'm not in a hurry to go."

His first ambition was not to stay in the family bakery business, but to be a politician. He is a former Socialist, and was a member of Hollingbourne Council for three years. Today, he prefers to sit on the fence.

But sport and politics don't go together for him. His one big hate is what many people call "ping pong politics." And his dream is a villa in the south of Spain.

From the Editor's Postbag

MATTER OF TIME

Having recently attended the Scandinavian Open Championships in Malmö, Sweden I feel I must write and tell you something about the amount of table tennis coverage in the Swedish newspapers.

As you are aware the minor sport of table tennis in this country receives scant publicity in some national newspapers, none in others, and perhaps one or two weekly columns in a local newspaper. Although the Norwich Union International and English Championships are the "showpieces" of the season they receive few reports in the newspapers.

During each of the three days of the Scandinavian Open, most Swedish newspapers devoted two or three entire pages to table tennis, with large action photographs (particularly of course of Swedish players) the likes of which are never seen in England.

The women's team event, won by Sweden, was televised at night as if it was "Match of the Day" and there was an interview with Ann-Christan Hellman about her team's victory over the Chinese. Next day the women received rave notices. Kjell Johansson was even interviewed by Swedish TV immediately after his defeat in Round 3 by Jaroslav Kunz of Czechoslovakia, and when Bengtsson and Johansson won the men's doubles event more interviews and rave notices in the newspapers followed. English TV commentators would not dream of giving such lengthy interviews to any English player.

Posters advertising the tournament were to be seen all over Malmö and the weekly guide book "What's on in Malmö" even contained a full page article on the championships.

Perhaps with the playing strength increasing as it is in this country, it is only a matter of time before there is a better coverage of table tennis by the press and television.

Comments from any readers of Table Tennis News would be welcome.

CHRIS FRANCIS

9 Hobart Close,
Mickleover,
Derby, DE3 5LJ.

KENT NOTES

by BRIAN A. JORDAN

At the halfway stage of the season Canterbury "A" were the surprise leaders of the First Division of the Kent Senior League. This division is invariably won by one of the Metropolitan Associations such as N.W. Kent, Beckenham, Woolwich or Bromley and no doubt this will again be the case this season for well as Dennis Whittaker and Brian Maxted are playing for Canterbury they have a tough programme ahead and it is difficult to see them remaining at the top by April. The champions last season, Bromley "A" have only played twice at the time of writing but they have six points to their credit following a shock decision by the Kent Executive Committee to award the Canterbury "B" v. Bromley "A" match to Bromley. The fixture according to the official Kent Handbook should have been played on Nov. 18 but Bromley refused to play on that date as it clashed with a Tournament at Hastings.

Ordered by the Kent Executive to offer further dates Canterbury did this but the four offered were declined by Bromley and when Canterbury refused to suggest any further dates the points were awarded to Bromley. Not surprisingly Canterbury are contemplating an appeal to the English Table Tennis Association to have the match declared void. Meanwhile favourites for the title this year must be either N.W. Kent who can include Henry Buist and Andy Mitchell, both players with experience in the top division of the County Championship, or Beckenham "A" for whom former county player Ken Baker is in fine form.

In the Second Division Beckenham "C" were recently leading the table and looking set to stay on top but their match with Beckenham "B" has been declared void with Bromley "C" being awarded a 10-0 walk-over against Beckenham "B" the two top places are now occupied by Bromley "C" and Bromley "D".

To what extent the energy crisis may affect the programme of the League is not yet apparent but the Canterbury Junior Inter-Association Tournament has been postponed from January 6 primarily because of the petrol problems in December and the absence of trains on Sundays. The Canterbury Committee are hopeful that a date will be found later in the season, even in April or May, to stage this popular tournament.

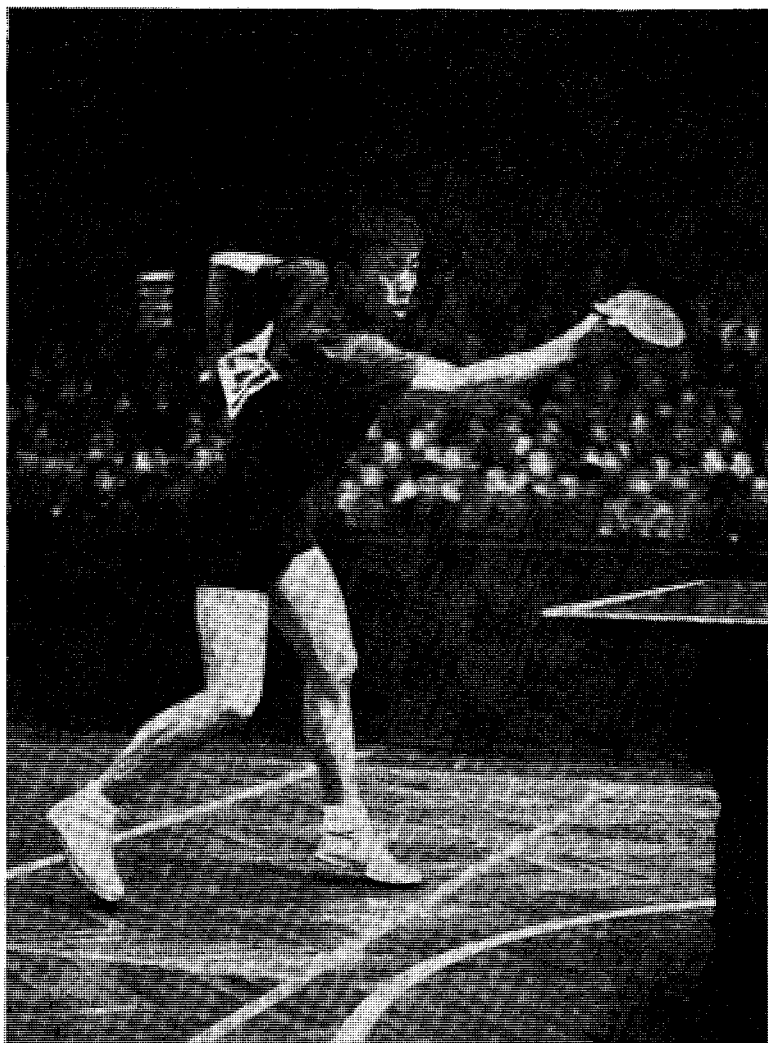
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China's 1973 National Table Tennis Championships

by LI PAO-HUA



National men's singles champion Li Chen-shih.

Playing in a national tournament for the first time, Li Chen-shih of the Chinese People's Liberation Army captured the men's singles title at the 1973 national table tennis championships which closed in Wuhan, capital of Central China's Hupeh Province, on October 29.

The 24-year-old armyman played a faster game with stronger attack to defeat a number of China's world championship participants, including Li Ching-kuang, Hsu Shao-fa, Tiao Wen-yuan and Chou Lan-sun, for the title.

Li Chen-shih is one of the many promising newcomers who came to the fore in the national championships. With 102 teams and 457 players competing, the championships had the largest field of entry in the annals of Chinese table tennis.

Another feature of the championships was the emergence of many promising women players. Twenty-one-year-old Yu Chin-chia of Kwangtung Province defeated the reigning world women's singles champion Hu Yu-lan and other good players to become the runner-up in the women's singles.

She was practically unknown in last year's championships.

Although there were no separate events for them, junior players under 20 made up more than half the field. The youngest player was only 11.

Matches were closely contested. Twenty-nine men's team contests went to the maximum nine matches and 39 women's team contests were played to the maximum five matches. None of the players remained unbeaten. The defending national champion Hopei "A" team including Hsi En-ting, the current world men's singles champion, and two other world championship veterans, Li Ching-kuang and Wang Wen-jung, finished 7th in team standing.

In the men's team final, the People's Liberation Army team lost to the Liaoning "A" team 1:5. Wang Chun, a 20-year-old new player from Liaoning, used a clean cutting stroke defensive game to foil the strong attack by Li Chen-shih and Lu Chufang of the army team. Like Chang Hsieh-lin, the 1971 world mixed doubles champion, Wang Chun uses a pen-holder grip and cuts the ball spinning low over the net.

The championship matches showed a greater variety of stroke plays, in particular by young players, although the traditional emphasis on speed, power, accuracy and tactical flexibility continued to dominate the game.

The championships opened on October 16 and lasted two weeks. This was not only because field of competitors was large but also because arrangements were made for the teams to exchange experience before and after their matches. Adhering to the principle of "friendship first, competition second", the players had joint practice sessions before matches and summed up experience together afterwards. They learned from and helped one another so as to cement friendship and unity and make common progress.

Chinese table tennis veterans Hsu Yin-sheng, Li Fu-jung, Chang Hsieh-lin and others who gathered at Wuhan as observers were unanimous that the championships showed further progress in Chinese table tennis.

Following are the current championship winners in the various events:—

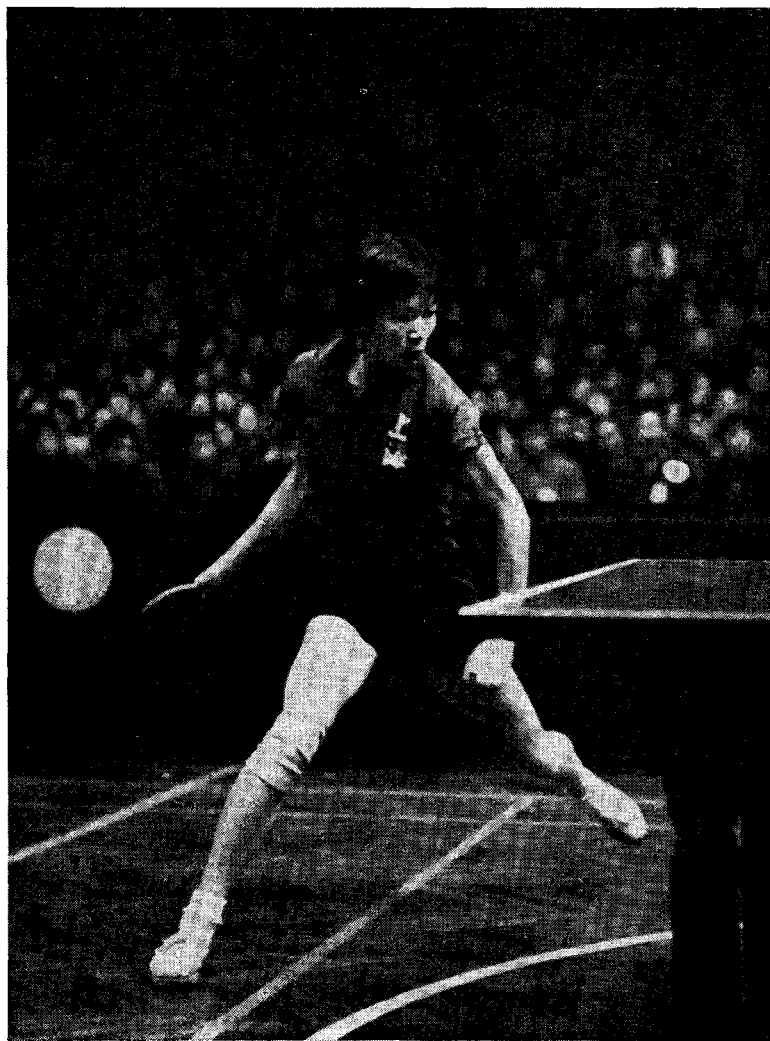
Men's team event, Liaoning "A" team; women's team event, Shanghai "A" team; men's singles, Li Chen-shih; women's singles, Huang Hsi-ping; men's doubles, Liang Ko-liang and Li Cho-min; women's doubles, Hu Yu-lan and Liu Hsin-yen; mixed doubles, Li Chen-shih and Wu Shih-pao.

SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE

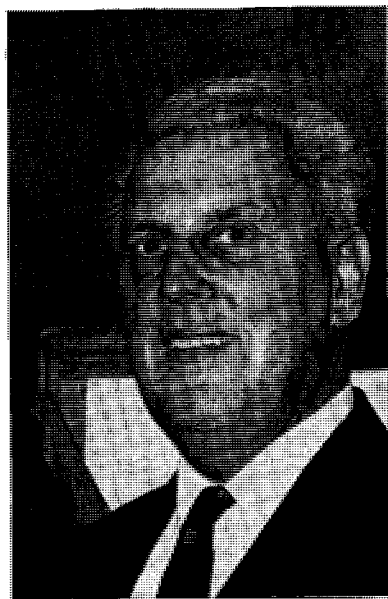
by LESLIE CONSTABLE

Wellingborough, Ely, Cambridge and Bedford are the top four teams in the Men's Division, with Ely in the best position. Ely had a 7-3 win over St. Neots, but Cambridge, although beating Peterborough 8-2 and Kettering 9-1, were surprisingly beaten 6-4 by Wellingborough. Bedford had two good 9-1 victories over St. Neots and Peterborough respectively, and Wellingborough beat Wisbech 9-1, which took them to the head of the division. New team Haverhill have at present failed to register a point, but I am sure that in future matches this will be more than rectified.

Cambridge are riding high in the Ladies' Division and, with two resounding victories against Peterborough and Kettering respectively, are all set to capture the title. North Herts are close behind, but Cambridge are in such good form that they will take a lot of catching. In the Junior Division Wellingborough had a good 10-0 victory over Cambridge, but then were beaten by Wisbech and Haverhill by 6-4 margins in each case. In this division Kettering are doing well as also are North Herts, but as yet the position is very open. In the Veterans' Section Cambridge are once again striving to take the title and the team of John Thurston, Ron Nunn and John Baird look likely to do just this.



National women's singles champion Huang Hsi-ping.



A Tribute to Malcolm Edward Scott

by
MAURICE GOLDSTEIN
President E.T.T.A

On the 12th December, 1973, Table Tennis lost one of the few remaining colourful characters — with the passing of Malcolm Edward Scott — a loss to Staffordshire, the Midlands, and to all devotees of the game.

His friends, and they were many — will be saddened by the news.

He was no great player, but loved to play — to watch — and above all, to administer — at all levels — the game in which he was totally absorbed.

No 'Yes Man' he held provocative views on several aspects of the game, particularly on finance and coaching. He became well known for those outspoken views and criticism of actions of which he disapproved.

Recollections of my first contact with him before the war, are a little hazy, but I do recall him challenging the late and great Adrian Haydon — after an exhibition following a Dinner Dance. The only one who had the temerity to do so.

Malcolm came into prominence immediately after the war, and when we next met, he was Chairman of the Wolverhampton League — an office he held for several years, before his elevation to the Presidency.

Staffordshire at that time was divided into two Associations — North and South, and the twain could not meet. At last a meeting was held — amalgamation was agreed, eventually — and Malcolm became Staffordshire's first and only Chairman.

At about the same time — 1950 — he was elected Chairman of the Midland League, the largest town competition in the country — also an office held without a break.

Connections with the E.T.T.A. dates back to his election to the old N.E.C. in 1951. During the next 22 odd years, he served on many sub-committees — Management, Coaching, Discipline, Tournament, Umpires, etc., etc., — and to each he added his own brand of enthusiasm.

And I must not forget the part he played in the formative years of the

County Championships, to which he devoted yet another slice of his time.

I think his proudest moment came with the award of the Life Membership badge — which he richly deserved, and of which he was so proud.

His absorption overcame the setbacks he encountered to his ambition to administer the game at top level, even his rejection from the Management Committee, and more recently the Coaching Committee. Despite it, he retained his love of the game to the end.

Farewell Malcolm — we have lost a great councillor, and a firm friend.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

By JOHN COOPER

AT the Gloucestershire Closed, held on ten tables at Beaufort Sports Centre on Sunday, November 18th, 1973, young Chris Sewell beat Roy Morley in straight games for the Men's crown after earlier beating William Dawe (Jnr.) to the under-17 boys' title. A tiring Sewell then lost to Dawe (Jnr.) in the final of the under-21's and, with partner Julie Mortimer, finished runners-up in the Mixed to Morley and Judy Day, who won on an "edge" at 24 in the third!

Veteran Peter Cruwys stood in as Morley's partner in the Men's Doubles and beat Paul Drew and Ray Sewell. Vanessa Cruwys was runner-up to Jane Dovey in the U-15 girls': Jane then continued her table tennis career by beating Donna Vowles to gain the U-17 girls' title.

Paul Lewis did very well to beat N. Stopher in the U-15 boys' as did D. Morgan to beat David Beard in the U-13 boys'. In the women's final Mrs. Golding beat Mrs. Giles.

The County Coaching squad are thankful to have the continued use of Fromside Youth Centre where Peter Cruwys held another girl's session on Saturday, December 1, and we are grateful for the attendance of Bryan Merrett and, of course, to the coaches from the participating Leagues.

The County Junior League is now well under way following the rule change to play teams of 3 girls and 3 boys separately. Gloucester girls beat Bristol girls 8-2 and the boys went one better winning 9-1.

Our youngsters have been taking part in the ETTA coaching assessments with Paul Webb, Jane Dovey and Debbie Cruwys going to the Worcestershire/Herefordshire/North Glos. session and the Hodgetts brothers, Stopher, Paul Lewis, Vanessa Cruwys, Donna Vowles, Wendy Simmonds, Sally Tyler, Kim Morris and R. Wolfe going to the Wilts/Somerset/Bristol/South Glos., session. "Star" juniors Sewell and Dawe were "excused" from attendance at these sessions. They were both to be used in the senior match against Leicestershire but they joined Paul Lewis on his sick bed instead. That's our excuse for losing 10-0!

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by JOHN PIKE

Staffordshire table tennis will never be quite the same again. The man that started it all over 20 years ago, Malcolm Scott, died on December 12th. and with him went the memories and the devotion, the like of which we shall never see again. Table tennis was his life, not only in Staffordshire, but throughout the whole country, where he was respected by players and officials alike. A founder member of the Wolverhampton Association and the Highfield Centre, here was a man that became a national figure in the game, and I think it is fitting that a tribute to him, from his closest friend, Maurice Goldstein, appears here on this page. With those words from the president of the E.T.T.A. we send our deepest sympathy to his widow Kay, and son Russell, at this sad time in their life.

This tragic news of our county chairman overshadowed all else in a month that saw the Staffs teams again believe in themselves. The "A" team.

with Tony Isaacs, Keith Fellows and Gail Round, all playing well. beat Warwickshire 6-4, while the juniors shared the points in their game with Lincoln.

West Bromwich have a contrasting record in the Midland League. Their women's team have already crushed Wolverhampton, Notts. Birmingham and Worcester, but their men are still seeking their first point after three 6-4 defeats. Dick Coley, a veteran in two years time, is having a very good season. so too is Dorothy Deeley who made her county comeback against Leicestershire. The Highfield Centre, with a new course starting on January 15th, staged the Staffordshire Schools' tournament. The host club, Cannock, and Tettenhall College dominated the event.

Nearly £40 was given to the Wightwick School for Handicapped Children following the 1-star Woodfield tournament. A good effort this by all concerned. This same venue will be used for Staffs Restricted tournament on January 13th, while the Wolverhampton Closed this year moves to Wombourne. Tower House is the new home and this could well solve a venue problem in the future. So much happened in 1973, it is only a tragedy that the year should end with the death of our chairman, Malcolm Scott. His memory will live on.

'THE COACH' — ERRATA

ON page 7 of the November issue (No. 17) of that excellent publication "The Coach," so ably edited by Jack Carrington, it erroneously stated that yellow table tennis balls were no longer legal.

The current laws of table tennis clearly state that the ball may be either white or yellow.

It is rare indeed for Jack to make a technical error and his apologies included a suggestion that the headline for this correction should be something akin to "Man Bites Dog!" I would have thought it more a case of "the biter bit."

Table Tennis Player/Coaches Wanted

The New South Wales (Australia) Table Tennis Association seeks applications from Table Tennis Player/Coaches for official positions with our State Association.

Several positions are available to playing coaches who are able to coach at all levels from Juniors to International standards.

These positions can either be full-time Table Tennis coaching and playing or, if desired, part-time Table Tennis with part-time business positions and employment can be guaranteed in any area. Terms can be negotiated but must be for a minimum of two seasons in Australia.

Salary will also be negotiable and will depend on experience and ability as a Player/Coach and/or Player. Return fares to and from Australia will be paid and accommodation provided.

This is an outstanding opportunity for the right people very interested in the sport of Table Tennis and can either be a short term project or a future for life if so desired.

Applicants should apply in writing to the address below giving full details of their previous playing and/or coaching experience.

Keith Bowler,
Special Projects — Coaching,
New South Wales Table Tennis Association,
P.O. Box 2865, Sydney,
Australia.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by ROY COLE

With two sets of County Championship fixtures completed, three of our four teams are yet to win; only the junior first team is proving successful with wins over Devon and Glamorgan. The second junior team is, clearly, lacking the experience to carry them through, and hopefully this will build up during the season.

The senior teams are suffering from a shortage of manpower predicted at the beginning of the season, Bob Thornton being the only player showing the skills necessary for consistent success. To add to our troubles, Joyce Taylor has now decided to hang up her bat after only one match of her County Championship come-back. She will be missed just as Arthur Chilvers is being missed at present.

However, we have been more fortunate in other respects. We are pleased and grateful that some local businessmen have agreed to put into practical effect their indirect interests in our sport by sponsoring the staging of some of our matches. This has meant an up-grading of the venues and the release of other hard-earned money for coaching and other purposes.

Talking of coaching, we are pleased to see two of our younger players named to take part in the annual invitation Anglo-French intensive experience course for Cadets (under-14's) to be held this year in Paris on Boxing Day. They are Karen Witt, of Reading, and David Reeves, of Newbury. Good luck to both of you. Actually, you will have returned before this is published, so be sure to let us know of your impressions.

It seems that the terminology of Cadets for under-14's and Juniors for under-17's is becoming standard through Europe. In Berkshire we believe it will give the youngest players something higher to aspire to, and also more practice against older, more experienced players and this should lead to more rapid progress. For these reasons we have decided to use these categories instead of the traditional under-11, 13, 15 and 17's for our Closed Championships this season and we hope to see them in an increasing number of British tournaments and other events.

Finally to report the outcome of the first half of the county's annual inter-town tournament. In this event, teams from the five constituent leagues in the county play each other over two weekends. It is one of the events which help our team selectors by indicating current form and also providing a "shop window" of new talent.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by DENNIS MILLMAN

SUCCESS at last. The County Juniors, at home to Norfolk, produced a first class performance and the first win of the season at County level, thanks to a fine Gary Alden performance. Gary won both singles and joined with Gary Hamilton to take the boy's doubles. Mandy Wallis was also in great form, as she and Nicholas Swingler recorded their first county wins.

In the South East Midlands League, Northampton has had success in all divisions, except Veterans, where the

skills and subtlety of Chris Arnall have been sadly missed. However Northampton has played few matches, and it is Wellingborough and Kettering, taking advantage of an early programme, who are setting the pace. Wellingborough's Men's side started particularly well, with Kettering's Juniors and Veterans well placed.

Kettering Town and Finedon Allen Road remain the only unbeaten sides in Wellingborough's First Division, with Finedon leading by a solitary point, despite Kettering's more impressive record against the stronger sides particularly an excellent 7-3 win against Old Grammarians, strengthened for the occasion by the inclusion of County No. 1 Rod Marchant, who recorded a maximum. Roth-

borough 'A' are also in close contention, thanks in the main to Kevin Alden, who currently leads Wellingborough News Sport Table Tennis Top 20 Competition, although sharing the distinction with Colin Ealey and Geoff Fletcher from Division 5B. All three players have played in every league match and still remain unbeaten.

In the Kettering League the lead has now been regained by Queensberry 'A', and it is Queensberry's Geoff Atkinson, the former Hunts player, who leads the recently released mid-season averages. The Top Ten in the Premier Division Rankings are:— 1) Geoff Atkinson (Queensberry 'A') 2) Dennis Millman (Kettering Town 'A') 3) Terry Sutton

(Kettering Town 'A') 4) Alun Thomas (Burton Latimer 'A') 5) John Palmer and David Huddle (Queensberry 'A') 7) Dick Cole (Kettering Town 'A') 8) Steve West (Rothborough 'A') and Anne Wallis (Wellingborough Town) 10) Dave Pipe (Kettering Town 'B'). Leaders in other Divisions are as follows:— First Division—Malcolm Tomlinson (Dainite). Second Division—Chris Orgill (Corby Town). Third Division—Jim Chaburn (Kettering Town 'E'). Fourth Division—Ken Jarvis (Burton Latimer 'F').

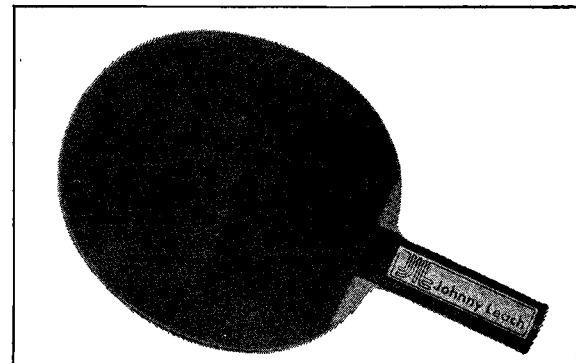
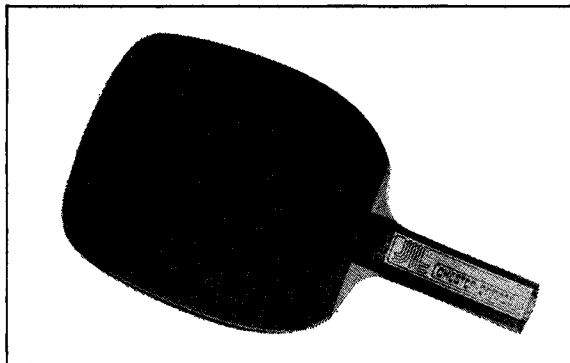
To give wider county coverage, information from the Northampton, Daventry and Towcester Leagues would be much appreciated, in time for the next issue of Northants Notes.



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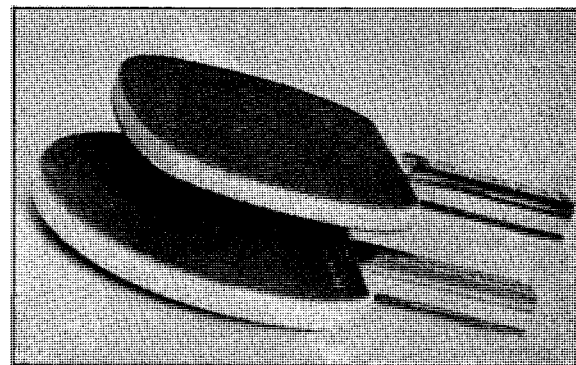
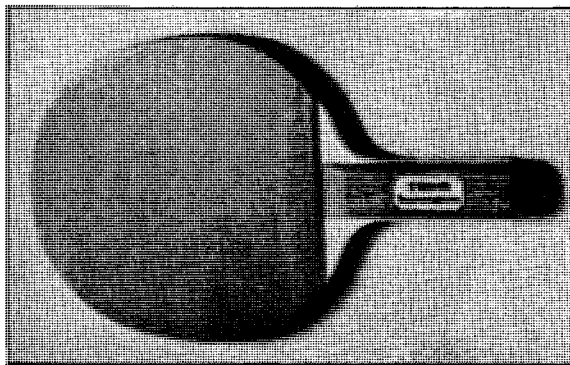
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National Team Competitions

by Keith Ponting

HOLDERS CLEAR FIRST HURDLE

WILMOTT CUP

A North Yorkshire League trio comprising Dave Alderson, Alan Ransome and Tony Martin saw the holders through the first round without reply from Leeds. Ron Kettlewell, Peter Hoyles and Malcolm McMaster were also in devastating form as Northumberland crushed Carlisle 9-0 while in the other Zone 1 encounter Aycliffe, represented by John Crawford, Stephen Haughney and Michael Sowerby proved too strong for Westmoreland whose only win was recorded by Brian Towell.

There were only two matches in Zone 2 with Tony Hunt, Derrick and Neil Marples securing the five sets necessary to dispose of a plucky Wisbech team and S. Barrett, I. Barber and C. Hewitt obtaining five for Kings Lynn against Grantham. Rather close scores prevailed in this latter encounter as in evidence between Hewitt and F. Leadbetter which went to the former 37-35, 17-21, 23-21!

A full programme in Zone 3 with Preston's Donald Parker winning three against Burnley. David Lamb did likewise for Halifax against Bradford and Nigel Hallows got Bolton through with a similar performance against Blackpool as did John Kedge and Geoff Brook for Huddersfield against Sheffield.

Unbeaten in Zone 4 were Wally Allanson for Liverpool against Chester. Nigel Eckersley and John Hilton for Stockport against Manchester. Farnworth had a good win over Macclesfield with Bryn Farnworth, Bob Kelly and Clive Heap in the ascendancy.

In the all-Midland Zone 5, good play by Doug Foulds, Ivor Warner and Roland Hutchinson enabled Derby to win comfortably over Leamington. The 'local derby' between Leicester and Hinckley was hard fought with the Leicester captain Paul Randall never troubled. He was given good support by Grahame Hughes and 13-year-old Chris Rogers, the latter making his debut in this competition. Nottingham's John Ellis, Brian Mayfield and Roy Corbett were too strong for Peterborough as were Richard Cooper, Derek Munt and Tony Isaac for Birmingham against West Brom.

Stan Honor, Chris Bensley and Steve Francis were all on target for Norwich in Zone 6 as were Wesley Haydock and John Fuller for Gt. Yarmouth. David Henderson's fine maximum for Beccles counted for nothing as Ely got home by the odd set. Two wins each for Dereham's Paul Walsh, David Hardy and Willie Webster crushed Wymondham despite a good performance from Steve Bassett.

Star Man for Cheshunt, over Kettering in Zone 7, was Barry White who replied to the Herts selectors in the only way possible by winning his sets in straight games. Chris Pickard also won three with Alan Lamprell

obtaining two going down to Geoff Atkinson, Gordon Cockram and Stan Roberts called the tune against Hunts Central as did David Rawlinson for Bedford in opposition to Northampton. 'Old Faithful', Stan Hahn led Oxford to a good win over Dunstable whilst Aylesbury's Chris Leslie, Bob Enright and John Paul easily overcame Luton. North Herts have a formidable team and reliable Mick Harper along with Peter Taylor and Richard Jermyn had little trouble against newcomers Didcot. Other triple winners in this zone were Geoff Bax and Geoff Giles for St. Albans over Chiltern.

Steve Whiteley was outstanding for Chelmsford against Cambridge in Zone 9 as were David Iszatt and Neil Brierley for Harlow against Hertford. Southend's Mike Watts and the Bawden brothers, Andrew and Martin, proved far too strong for a plucky Haverhill trio.

In Zone 11, M. Close, R. Philips and R. Huson showed good form for Wembley who beat London Civil Service and former winners, Willesden, got the better of London Banks with Laurie Landry getting a maximum and Peter Partos making a re-appearance after 9 years! Mike Wilson won two for Banks.

A team effort from Jimmy Moore, John Callcut and Peter Mathews helped Leatherhead beat East Grinstead in Group 12 while D. Somers was the hero for Central London against Tonbridge.

Brighton have a strong team in Zone 13 and Roger Chandler, Sammy Ogundipe and Richard Stace had little trouble against Croydon. Mike Douglas, Keith Horton and Gerald Pugh had the edge for Crawley and so too did John Beasley who obtained a treble for Eastbourne over Byfleet.

England international Alan Hydes, as expected, won three for Littlehampton against Portsmouth in Zone 14 but it was not enough as Cliff Jacobs, Ray Lush and Steve Kitcher between them took five. Playing two juniors, David Reeves (14) and Gary Roberts (16), Newbury did well to account for Southampton with young Reeves claiming a treble.

David Nicholson, David Wise and Bernard Harrison shared six sets for Basingstoke against S. E. Hants as did Paul Shirley, David Welsman and Gordon Chapman, in Zone 15 for Staines against High Wycombe. From leading 4-3 Reading went under to Slough whose fight was carried by Don Berry, Alec Watson and Peter Leckie with the latter administering the coup-de-grace.

Ian Redfearn dominated for S.W. Middlesex against Bracknell and, in Zone 16, Tony Clayton, making his first appearance for Bristol along with Paul Drew and Colin Feltham, were far too strong for plucky newcomers Pool. Results:—

Leeds 0 North Yorkshire 6
Northumberland 9 Carlisle 0
Aycliffe 5 Westmorland 1
Wisbech 0 Chesterfield 5
Grantham 1 Kings Lynn 5
Burnley 2 Preston 5
Halifax 6 Bradford 5
Blackpool 4 Bolton 5
Huddersfield 8 Sheffield 1
Chester 2 Liverpool 7
Macclesfield 1 Farnworth 8
Stockport 7 Manchester 2
Derby 5 Leamington 1
Leicester 6 Hinckley 2
Nottingham 5 Peterborough 1
West Bromwich 2 Birmingham 5

Dereham 6 Wymondham 3
Bury St Edmunds 0 Norwich 9
Beccles 4 Ely 5
Gt Yarmouth 8 Lowestoft 1
Kettering 1 Cheshunt 8
Hunts Central 1 St. Neots 8
Northampton 2 Bedford 7
Dunstable 1 Oxford
Aylesbury 5 Luton 1
North Herts 7 Didcot 2
Chiltern 2 St. Albans 7
Cambridge 2 Chelmsford 7
Haverhill 0 Southend 9
Wembley 5 London C. S. 1
London B. H. 2 Acton 6
London Banks 3 Willesden 6
Leatherhead 5 East Grinstead 1
Tonbridge 0 Central London 5
Croydon 1 Brighton 5
Aldershot 1 Crawley 5
Byfleet 3 Eastbourne 5
Littlehampton 3 Portsmouth 5
High Wycombe 0 Staines 6
Slough 5 Reading 4
Bracknell 3 S. W. Middlesex 5
Bristol 9 Poole 0
Hertford 1 Harlow 8

ROSE BOWL

Chesterfield's winning combination of Mandy Mellor, Jackie Billington and Sandra Walters had things pretty well their own way although a fine win for Nottingham's Pat Hopkin over Miss Mellor was registered in the first set. Another strong team comprising Suzanne Manning, Barbara Kirkman and Julie Black took Liverpool through in straight games against Warrington.

Connie Bane's sound defence saw Northampton off to a good start but from then on it was all Leicester, the visitors finding Karen Rogers in sparkling form to record a fine maximum supported by Pat Kilsby and Barbara Webster. Evelyn and Jean Allison were outstanding for Peterborough against Dereham as were Sally Hirst, Valerie Scripps and Janet Rodgers in Cambridge's easy win over Norwich.

There were two very close matches in East Anglia with Edna Fletcher the heroine for Yarmouth in their 5-4 win over close rivals Lowestoft while Janet List equalled the feat for Bury St. Edmunds in a similar result over Ely.

Fine play by Barbara Pace and Belinda Chamberlain saw St. Neots home against Hunts Central. Luton led most of the way through a close struggle against Cheshunt and were only in arrears after the final set. They led 2-0 3-1 4-3 before the visitors pulled it out of the fire. Joyce Reeves was very impressive for Luton. Bob Bridges tells me it was a bit of a job travelling from one end of Hertfordshire to the other on the first snowy night of the winter with a 50 mph speed restriction.

Wembley kept up with their men by beating Harlow in fine style Mrs. B. Clayton being their 'star' player well supported by E. Britton and M. Seilly. A very close and exciting match between London Civil Service and Acton resulted in 5-4 win for the 'Service'. Marie Know tells me the girls were so excited they couldn't fill the score sheet in correctly. Hard luck for Acton's Celia Abrahams who played brilliantly to win her three but Margaret Cherry Mrs. Know and Doris Moors just had the edge.

Mrs. P. Butcher was always in control for Gravesend and the same can be said for Pauline George and Jenny Vass for Byfleet. Jane Livesey, Valerie Lauder and Cathy Stonell had little trouble against Chelmsford, similarly Margaret Dignum, Suzanne

Kavallierou and Linda Wales for Worthing against old rivals Eastbourne.

Kathleen Nunn played brilliantly for Maidenhead against S. W. Middlesex but it was a lone effort as Shirley Ryan, Mary Stafford and Pam Spooner each won two. Triple winners for Newbury were Joyce Godwin and Carol Houghton. Ann Waters scored a great win over Caroline Reeves. Another lone winner was Jean Williams of Slough whose efforts were to no avail as Marion Rogers, Gail McCulloch and Jean Nicholson scored enough to credit Leatherhead with a win. Results:—

Nottingham 1 Chesterfield 5
Warrington 0 Liverpool 9
Leicester 6 Northampton 1
Dereham 1 Peterborough 8
Norwich 0 Cambridge 9
Lowestoft 4 Great Yarmouth 5
Bury St. Edmunds 5 Ely 4
Luton 4 Cheshunt 5
Hunts Central 2 St. Neots 7
London C. S. 5 Acton 4
Wembley 7 Harlow 2
Romford 5 Chelmsford 0
Bromley 2 Gravesend 7
S. W. Middlesex 3 Maidenhead 6
Brighton 1 Byfleet 8
Leatherhead 6 Slough 3
Basingstoke 1 Newbury 8

CARTER CUP

Newcomers Bradford started their campaign well with Philip Halmshaw, David Renton and Stephen Waring all giving a good account of themselves against Leeds. Brian Baxter of Sheffield got his team off to an opening win but then Peter Edon, Stephen Hosking and Paul Crawford got into their stride and won the next five. Ian Carlton starred for Aycliffe as did Robert Wiley, Andrew Kilburn and David Alderson for last season's finalists and former winners North Yorkshire.

Carlisle took a hammering from Westmorland's Brian Towell. Ron Wilson and Geoff Baines and Manchester's Roger Idowu, Peter Morris (with a maximum) and Peter Brugge comfortably overcame Liverpool. Poor Steve Gibbon played his heart out for Kidderminster but, alas it was not enough as two wins each for Nigel Lockley, Kevin Hodgets and Roger Stinton saw West Brom through. Derby's David Yallop was another triple winner whose efforts went to waste as Alan Cotton, Douglas Johnson and David Shropshire scored too many for Birmingham. Leicester's strong side overwhelmed a Coventry team despite good play by Peter Griffiths.

Andrew Oakley was impressive as Worcester got the better of Nottingham. So too was Douglas Bennett for Norwich against Dereham. The Beccles captain Simon Ball played a real captain's part by winning all his sets but, again, it was not enough with Haverhill's Danny Page. Alan Randall and Bobby Warner winning two each. John Kitchener and Kevin Savage were unbeaten for Ipswich against Wisbech and again Gregory Baker was the hero for Peterborough over Bedford.

Three wins each for Paul West and John Horne took Northampton into the next round and for Watford Stephen Lippiatt completed a treble in his final set against Oxford. Seven in-a-row was a good start for Chelmsford, John Hardikar and Steven Greep taking the honours whilst Les Fadic, Bob Potton and Steve Webb

had a clean sweep for Silvertown over Colchester.

Keith Bartlett was always in control for High Wycombe being well supported by Ian and Alan Edwards. Good play by Trevor Sanders who won two for S.W. Middlesex. North Middlesex last season's winners, started well with Martin Wells, Andy Barden and David Tan easily getting the better of Acton. Tom Ward did well as East Grinstead narrowly won against Worthing as did Jeff Brixton, Steve Maltby and Peter Parsons in Southampton's domination of Maidenhead.

David Reeves, Alan Hicks and Garry Roberts won two each for Newbury without reply from Littlehampton and, for Bournemouth, Graham Hill, Stephen Wilson and John Robinson did likewise. A fine treble from Colin Easton of S.E. Hants set the stage for the closest possible finish with S.W. Sussex. In the final set Nigel Strudwick stood a game and -19 down before recovering to win the tie for S.W. Sussex.

RESULTS:-

- Bradford 5, Leeds 1.
- Sheffield 1, Stockton 5.
- Halifax 3, Aycliffe 6.
- Northumberland 0, North Yorks. 6.
- Carlisle 0, Westmorland 5.
- Manchester 7, Liverpool 2.
- Kidderminster 3, West Bromwich 6.
- Derby 4, Birmingham 5.
- Coventry 1, Leicester 6.
- Worcester 7, Nottingham 2.
- Dereham 3, Norwich 6.
- Haverhill 6, Beccles 3.
- Ipswich 6, Wisbech 3.
- St. Neots 2, Northampton 7.
- Peterborough 5, Bedford 2.
- Watford 6, Oxford 3.
- Dunstable 7, Luton 2.
- Silvertown 9, Colchester 0.
- Harlow 1, Chelmsford 8.
- Acton 1, N. Middlesex 8.
- High Wycombe 7, S.W. Middx. 2.
- Southampton 9, Maidenhead 0.
- East Grinstead 6, Worthing 3.
- S. W. Sussex 5, S. E. Hants 4.
- Littlehampton 0, Newbury 6.
- Didcot 0, Bournemouth 6.

ESSEX JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

Detailed results of the Essex Junior 2-Star Open played over the weekend of Sept. 1/2 at Harlow and omitted from Alan Shepherd's write-up were:-

U-17 Events

- B.S. s-f:**
J. Kitchener (Suffolk) bt S. Souter (Yorks.) 12, 13;
A. Kilburn (Yorks.) bt S. Lyons (Surrey) 14, -8, 13.

Final:
KITCHENER bt Kilburn 10, 22.

- G.S.:**
E. TARTEN (Essex) bt C. Knight (Yorks.) 19, 20.

- B.D.:**
L. EADIE/D. ISZATT (Essex) bt Kitchener/D. Newman (Essex) 12, -12, 14.

- G.D.:**
C. STONELL (Essex)/TARTEN bt J. Reading/L. Wales (Hants.) 17, -20, 13.

- X.D.:**
G. PUGH/C. RANDALL (Sussex) bt R. Wiley (Yorks.)/Knight 11, 13.

U-15 Events

- B.S.:**
NEWMAN bt K. Richardson (Cams.) 18, -14, 20.

- G.S.:**
J. CAMPION (Middx.) bt Wales 16, 16.

- B.D.:**
NEWMAN/K. SEAGER (Surrey) bt D. Iddiols/S. Isted (Kent) 19, 13.

- G.D.:**
S. SMITH/S. SUTTON (Essex) bt B. Chamberlain (Hunts.)/Wales 15, -25, 11.

U-13 Events

- B.S.:**
A. STONELL (Essex) bt D. Bennett (Norfolk) 18, -16, 17.

- G.S.:**
J. DOUGLAS (Berks.) bt A. Tierney (Yorks.) 20, -17, 15.

U-11 Events

- B.S.:**
R. BERGEMANN (Hants.) bt G.

Sandley (Hunts.) 14, 6.

- G.S.:**
H. ROBINSON (Yorks.) bt A. Gordon (Berks.) 15, 14.

RAIL FARE CONCESSIONS FOR JUNIORS

The E.T.T.A. has been accepted as an Authorised Organisation in a scheme operated by British Railways whereby persons who are under 18 years of age may obtain rail tickets at Child rates (normally under 14), provided their journey is to an event held under the auspices of the E.T.T.A.

The scheme operates by the E.T.T.A. issuing a signed Certificate of Identity which is presented at the time the rail ticket is purchased,


thus enabling the competitor to obtain the reduced fare.

It would be helpful, therefore, if tournament organisers could indicate this fact on their entry forms and at the closing date for entries send to the E.T.T.A. a list of those players who have applied for the concession. The E.T.T.A. offices will then despatch the relevant number of certificates of identity which can be forwarded to the players with their notification of playing times.

In view of the present fuel crisis this concession may encourage entries which would otherwise not have been obtained and there would appear to be no reason why this scheme could not equally apply to a County Closed Championship.

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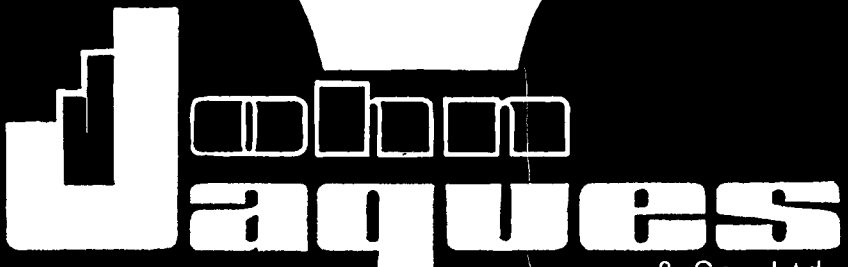
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COUNTY DIARY

FIXTURES FOR JANUARY, 1974

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|---|
| PREMIER | Jan. 19 | Buckinghamshire v. Warwickshire. Cheshire v. Essex, The Ballroom, Rolls Royce Works, Crewe. (7 p.m.) Surrey v. Middlesex, Larkhall Primary School, Gaskell Street, Clapham, SW4. (7-15 p.m.) Yorkshire v. Lancashire, Hillsboro' Boys' Club, 393 Langsett Road, Sheffield. (7-15 p.m.) |
| 2 SOUTH | Jan. 12 | Hampshire v. Kent, Tanners Brook Infants School, Elmes Drive, Millbrook, Southampton. (6-30 p.m.) |
| | .. 19 | Berkshire v. Middlesex II. Sussex v. Surrey II. |
| 2 NORTH | Jan. 19 | Durham v. Cheshire II. Lancashire II v. Yorkshire II, Briarcroft Youth Centre, Leigh Road, Atherton. (2-30 p.m.) Lincolnshire v. Northumberland. |
| 2 MIDLAND | Jan. 19 | Gloucestershire v. Nottinghamshire, Grosvenor Street Hall, Cheltenham. (7 p.m.) Leicestershire v. Staffordshire, Knighton Park TTC, 168 Avenue Road Extension, Leicester. (7-15 p.m.) Warwickshire II v. Derbyshire. |
| 2 EAST | Jan. 19 | Essex II v. Bedfordshire. Norfolk v. Hertfordshire. Northamptonshire v. Cambridgeshire, Recreation Centre, Northampton Road, Kettering. (7 p.m.) |
| 2 WEST | Jan. 19 | Cornwall v. Wiltshire. Devon v. Dorset. Worcestershire v. Somerset, Cripplegate Pavilion, Tybridge Street, Worcester. (7-15 p.m.) |
| SOUTHERN | Jan. 19 | Berkshire II v. Buckinghamshire II. Kent II v. Sussex II. Oxfordshire v. Hampshire II, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford. (6-30 p.m.) |
| NORTHERN | Jan. 19 | Cheshire III v. Durham II, YMCA, Church Road, Gatley, Cheadle. (3 p.m.) Derbyshire II v. Northumberland II. |
| MIDLAND | Jan. 13 | Glamorgan II v. Worcestershire II. |
| | .. 19 | Herefordshire v. Shropshire. Staffordshire II v. Monmouthshire. |
| EASTERN | Jan. 19 | Cambridgeshire II v. Northamptonshire II, New Methodist Community Centre, St. Peter's Gardens, Wisbech. (7-15 p.m.) Huntingdonshire v. Suffolk, St. Paul's Church Hall, Lincoln Road, Peterborough. (7 p.m.) |
| JUNIOR SOUTH | Jan. 19 | Essex III v. Surrey II, St. Luke's, Jude Street, Canning Town. (2-30 p.m.) Kent v. Berkshire II, Gladstone Hall, Gladstone Road, South Willlesborough, Ashford. (3 p.m.) Sussex v. Oxfordshire. |
| JUNIOR NORTH | Jan. 19 | Durham v. Cheshire. Northumberland v. Westmorland. Yorkshire II v. Lancashire, Hillsborough Boys' Club, 393 Langsett Road, Sheffield. (2-15 p.m.) |
| JUNIOR MIDLAND | Jan. 19 | Lancashire II v. Staffordshire, Briarcroft Youth Centre, Leigh Road, Atherton. (6-30 p.m.) Leicestershire II v. Derbyshire, Knighton Park TTC, 168 Avenue Road Extension, Leicester. (2-30 p.m.) Nottinghamshire v. Lincolnshire. |
| JUNIOR EAST | Jan. 19 | Buckinghamshire v. Northamptonshire, Bletchley Leisure Centre. (2-30 p.m.) Cambridgeshire II v. Hertfordshire, New Methodist Community Centre, St. Peter's Gardens, Wisbech. (2-30 p.m.) Huntingdonshire v. Essex II. Norfolk v. Bedfordshire. |
| JUNIOR WEST | Jan. 12 | Dorset v. Devon. |
| | .. 19 | Gloucestershire v. Glamorgan, Grosvenor Street Hall, Cheltenham. (2-30 p.m.) Somerset v. Berkshire, Butler and Tanner Canteen, Locks Hill, Frome (3 p.m.) Wiltshire v. Worcestershire. |
| VETERAN SOUTH | Jan. 12 | Hertfordshire v. Essex, Brookside Boys' Club, Buckden Road, Borehamwood. (6-30 p.m.) |
| | .. 19 | Hampshire v. Huntingdonshire, Indoor Sports Centre, Wimbledon Park, Southsea. (7 p.m.) Hertfordshire v. Oxfordshire, ICI Plastics Division, Bessemer Road, Borehamwood. (7 p.m.) Wiltshire v. Kent. |
| VETERAN MIDLAND | Jan. 19 | Staffordshire v. Leicestershire, Chasetown Institute, High Street, Chasetown, Nr. Walsall. (6-30 p.m.) Warwickshire v. Nottinghamshire. |
| | .. 26 | Worcestershire v. Cheshire. |

The information given above is correct at the time of compilation, but the Emergency Restrictions currently in force may cause late changes.

top players are JOOLA-fans



top players are JOOLA-fans

Norwich Union English Championships

by GEORGE YATES

NEALE DOUSED

True to his promise the tracksuited Denis Neale duly plunged into the swimming pool off the 10 metre board at Crystal Palace after his defeat by Chester Barnes in the final of the men's singles event in the Norwich Union English championships. formerly known as the English closed.

A rejuvenated Barnes, who first won this particular title in 1963, at the age of 15, claimed his fifth success — one more than Neale when he bounded back after losing the opening game to beat England's top-ranked player in the next three, albeit by desperately close margins.

Competitively inactive for the past two seasons apart from a brief appearance in the Norwich Union international championships at Brighton in March last year when he lost to Kjell Johansson of Sweden in the first round, Barnes suddenly undermined the alleged progress made by England's elite squad over the same period. Not only was it Neale who took the count at Crystal Palace but the seeded scalps of Trevor Taylor (2), Nicky Jarvis (3), and Jimmy Walker (7) were also claimed by the one time enfant terrible of English table tennis whose avowed intent to put the clock back was fully realised.

Consolation was afforded Neale when in partnership with Alan Hydes and Karenza Mathews he won the men's and mixed doubles events and Mrs Mathews had her disappointing loss to Linda Howard in the women's singles offset by a further success when she partnered her conqueror to a retention of their women's doubles title.

In the final of the women's singles Miss Howard had little to offer in opposition to the holder, Jill Hammersley, whose nightmare survival against Judy Williams in the quarter-finals never looked likely to be repeated.

Finals: Men's Singles:

G. C. Barnes (Essex) beat D. Neale (Yorkshire) 16-21, 21-17, 22-20, 23-21.

Women's Singles:

J. P. Hammersley (Buckinghamshire) beat L. C. Howard (Surrey) 21-12, 21-15, 21-13.

Men's Doubles:

A. Hyde and Neale (Yorkshire) beat N. Jarvis and J. Walker (Yorkshire) 21-19, 18-21, 15-21, 21-10, 21-13.

Women's Doubles:

L. C. Howard (Surrey) and K. Mathews (Middlesex) beat D. Court and L. Radford (Essex) 21-13, 19-21, 21-10, 16-21, 24-22.

Mixed Doubles:

Neale and Mrs. Mathews beat D. Douglas (Warwickshire) and Miss Howard. 17-21, 22-20, 15-21, 21-10, 22-20.

A fuller report will appear in the February issue:-

BARNES REGAINS THRONE

In the wake of his triumph in the English championships Chester Barnes has been reinstated into the English Table Tennis Association's national rankings and takes over the No. 1 position from Denis Neale, his final victim at Crystal Palace.

Trevor Taylor formerly ranked at No. 2 is dropped two places as Nicky Jarvis retains his No. 3 position. Derek Munt (Warwickshire) previously at No. 13, is omitted.

In the women's list, Jill Hammersley retains her No. 1 position, but Karenza Mathews, who was at No. 2, goes down to No. 4 behind Linda Howard, her conqueror at Crystal Palace, and Leslie Radford. Carole Knight, aged 16 of Middlesbrough, is the only newcomer on the distaff side taking over at No. 12 position from Elaine Tarten. of Essex.

NEW RANKINGS (previous positions in brackets): —

MEN

- 1—C. Barnes (Essex) (—)
- 2—D. Neale (Yorks) (1)
- 3—N. Jarvis (Yorks) (3)
- 4—T. Taylor (Yorks) (2)
- 5—D. Douglas (Warwicks) (4)
- 6—A. Hydes (Yorks) (5)
- 7—T. Clayton (Yorks) (6)
- 8—J. Walker (Yorks) (7)
- 9—D. Parker (Lancs) (12)
- 10—C. Warren (Surrey) (8)
- 11—M. Johns (Cheshire) (9)
- 12—B. Burn (Warwicks) (10)
- 13—P. Taylor (Beds) (11)
- 14—P. Day (Cams) (14)

WOMEN

- 1—J. Hammersley (Bucks) (1)
- 2—L. Howard (Surrey) (4)
- 3—L. Radford (Essex) (5)
- 4—K. Mathews (Middlesex) (2)
- 5—J. Williams (Sussex) (6)
- 6—S. Hession (Essex) (3)
- 7—S. Lisle (Lancs) (8)
- 8—S. Henderson (Surrey) (9)
- 9—A. Stevenson (Leics) (10)
- 10—K. Rogers (Leics) (11)
- 11—D. Court (Essex) (7)
- 12—C. Knight (Yorks) (—)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Obituary

PAUL CHARLTON

A black cloud has settled over the Huntingdonshire table tennis scene with the tragic death in a road accident on Dec. 14/73 of the No. 1 player Paul Charlton.

Paul, 21, and playing better than ever this season was widely known in county and South East Midlands League circles. His playing record was impressive for although he had never won the county singles title as a senior he had been a finalist on more than one occasion.

For the last 5 seasons he had won the Peterborough Closed singles title and the men's doubles too. The county men's doubles had twice gone his way and the S.E. Midlands League doubles in 1968-69. The same year he became the first ever male from the county to win an "open" when he became the Fenland Open junior champion.

This quiet, modest young man will be sadly missed by his friends and opponents alike and by none more than your correspondent, his doubles partner over the last five seasons.

David Obee

The West Midlands Standing Conference of Sports Organisations

by Alan J. Cavell

National Councillor, Shropshire TTA

Prior to 1973 the representative for table tennis on the W.M.S.C. of S.O. was Maurice Goldstein. When he was elected the President of the E.T.T.A. and thereby deeply involved in many more activities, I took over in what has proved to be a most eventful year.

The quality of the men nominated by other sports as their representatives indicate the importance they attach to the W.M.S.C. of S.O. President, vice-presidents, chairmen and

secretaries of national sporting organisations have been elected. Representatives must be able to interpret and communicate the needs of their particular sport and I have been fortunate in being a member of the National Council.

The West Midlands area covers the counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Only the Shropshire and Staffordshire county TTA's and the Birmingham and District TTA have joined the W.M.S.C. of S.O.

The W.M.S.C. of S.O. provides information to the West Midlands Sports Council about the needs of its members for facilities: the West Midlands Sports Council then puts its allocation of money (£300-£400,000 per year) into projects incorporating those needs. If table tennis organisations in the West Midlands have any worthwhile projects in mind they should send details to me to integrate into a Regional scheme.

In reply to an urgent request from the W.M.S.C. of S.O. for details of probable table tennis requirements, I have submitted a document setting out a case for a Regional table tennis centre, with space for 12 tables, at Birmingham, and sub-regional centres, each with space for 4 tables, at 15 towns in the Region. It is clear that if table tennis bodies within the West Midlands do not co-operate with the W.M.S.C. of S.O., money for the development of our game will not be forthcoming directly from Government funds.

Another project being considered, at the request of other sports, is the setting up of Regional offices to provide secretarial and clerical assistance to Sporting organisations. If set up, will table tennis associations make use of it for preparing and sending out entry forms, duplicating reports, etc?

The W.M.S.C. of S.O. also organises conferences on many topical subjects and promotes activities such as "SPORT FOR ALL." The themes for 1974 will be "Family Participation" and "Improvement of Communication" I await your letters.

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WRITE TODAY FOR CATALOGUE

TOURNAMENT DIARY

| Date | Title and venue | Organising Secretary |
|----------|--|--|
| January | 26 Pontefract 1-Star Open, Assembly Rooms, Pontefract, Yorkshire | Gordon L. Johnson, 17 Rhodes Crescent, Pontefract, Yorks. |
| 26/27 | Kent 2-Star Open Marine Pavilion, Folkestone, Kent. | John P. Heritage, 26 Cradle Bridge Drive, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. 'Phone: Ashford 26873. |
| 26/27 | Burford Junior 2-Star, Burford School, Burford, Oxon. | M. J. Chalk, Old Grammar School, Burford, Oxon, OX8 DRN. 'Phone: Burford 2003. |
| February | 2/3 Basingstoke 3-Star Open, Sports Centre, Basingstoke, Hampshire. | Mrs. A. Waters, "Deilfield," Fox Lane, Newfound, Basingstoke, Hants. 'Phone: Basingstoke 780510. |
| 9 | South Yorkshire 1-Star Open, Middlewood Hospital, Middlewood Road, Sheffield 6, Yorks. | J. M. Broomhead, 18 Willis Road, Sheffield, S6 4FJ. 'Phone: Sheffield 24066 Ex. 20 (business). |
| 9/10 | Essex 2-Star Open, St. Chad's School, St. Chad's Road, Tilbury, Essex. | Ron E. Locke, 10 Corporation Street, Newham, London, E15 3HD. 'Phone: 01-555 0981. |
| 10 | North Bournemouth 1-Star Open, Winton YMCA, Jameson Road, Winton, Bournemouth, Hants. | C. B. Cashell, 16 Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth, BH9 2RN. Bournemouth 59910. |
| 16 | Exeter Junior 1-Star Open, YMCA, Exeter, Devon. | Keith T. O. Ponting, 21 Southport Avenue, Redhills, Exeter, Devon. 'Phone: Exeter 78642. |
| 16/17 | Teesside 3-Star Open, Thornaby Pavilion, Teesside. | Alan R. Ransome, 21a Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Teesside. 'Phone: 0642 34214. |
| 24 | West Midlands Junior 2-Star, Harry Mitchell Recreation Centre, Broomfields, Smethwick, Warley, Worces. | Maurice Goldstein, 415 Moseley Road, Birmingham, B12 9DD. 'Phone: 021-440 2759. |
| February | 28 NORWICH UNION INTERNATIONAL Mar. 2 CHAMPIONSHIPS, Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton, Sussex. | E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Sussex, TN34 1HA. |
| February | 15/16 Leinster Open, Oblate Fathers, Inchicore. | IRELAND Clarence A. Moore, 78 Orby Drive, Belfast, BT5 5AG. 'Phone: Belfast 59923. |
| January | 26 West of Scotland Open | SCOTLAND R. F. Cummings, 131 Templeland Road, Glasgow. |
| February | 3 Edinburgh Junior Open, Meadowbank Sports Centre. | Mrs. J. McKenzie, 19 Roull Road, Edinburgh. 'Phone: 031-334 1373. |
| 16 | Lanarkshire Open | J. Fisher, 44 Kilmeny Drive, Coltness, Wishaw. |
| January | 26 Glamorgan Open. | WALES Mrs. S. Sturgess, 52 Llanedeyrn Road, Cardiff, Glamorgan. |
| March | 9/10 WELSH OPEN, National Sports Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. | Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans, 198 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff, CF2 6BQ. 'Phone: Cardiff 757241. |

Cardiff Open

Victory for Tyke over Scot

by H. Roy Evans



Tony Clayton, winner at Sofia Gardens.

Yorkshire's Tony Clayton took the Cardiff Open men's singles title with a 2-straight win over Scotland's Richard Yule but he was made to fight harder in the semi-final when Graham Davies took him to three very good games. Yule, too, at one time appeared in danger of losing his final place when opposed by Alan Griffiths, but the Scot was just too steady in the decider.

The women's final was an all-New Zealand affair, with Kathy Fraser getting the better of her country woman Anne Stonestreet. Here, too, the Welsh girls Sandra Pickering and Margaret Phillips made the New Zealanders struggle.

Tony Holmes and Jeff Bowden did some giant killing in the men's doubles, eliminating Clayton and Laurie Landry, but going down in straight games to Davies and Griffiths in the final.

Most satisfying feature of this tournament, played on Dec 8, was the size of the junior entry—55 in the boys' singles, and this prompted the Welsh Association to run a junior only event on Sunday, Dec 23, at the National Sports Centre. Over 100 entries were received and the juniors enjoyed very much a group system of play. Results:

CARDIFF OPEN

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

A. Clayton (Yorks) bt G. Davies (Wales) 10, -15, 13;
R. Yule (Scotland) bt A. Griffiths (Wales) 16, -12, 16.

Final:
CLAYTON bt Yule 10, 17.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals:

A. Stonestreet (NZ) bt M. Phillips (Wales) 12, -17, 18;
K. Frazer (NZ) bt S. Pickering (Wales) 12, -14, 17.

Final:
FRASER ht Stonestreet 20 -8, 13.

Men's Doubles:

DAVIES/GRIFFITHS bt J. Bowden/A Holmes (Wales) 19, 15.

Womens Doubles:

FRASER/STONESTREET bt J. Beer/A. Coombes-Jones 12, 14.

Mixed Doubles:

CLAYTON/G. THOMAS (Wales) bt Yule/Stonestreet -19, 14, 19.

Boys' Singles

A. THOMAS (Wales) bt Johnson -17, 18, 17.

Girls' Singles:

P. ALLEN (Ches) bt A. Hepple (Ches) 20, 10.

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

Juniors—

1. Wayne Barnard
2. Gwyn Griffiths
3. Clarke Davies
4. Colin Rees
5. Nigel Blowing
6. Tony Badcock
7. Michael Jones
8. Gary Owen
9. John Williams
10. Malvyn Evans
11. Paul Dunn
12. Bryn Barnard

Girls—

1. Jill Curtis
2. Debbie Coulthard
3. Beverlea Prangley and Sandra Coulson

Cadets—

1. Anthony Crook
2. Paul Davies
3. Stephen Jordan
4. R. Wheatley.

HUNTS. AND PETERBRO. NOTES

by DAVID OBBE

Still unbeaten: that's the proud boast of Belinda Chamberlain and Jean Allinson, who in their most recent county junior match, against Cams II, scored their third consecutive 100% success. Belinda once again took the singles and paired with Jean for the doubles, paving the way to an 8-2 win for the county. Tim Speller and Peter Berna were also in good form with two singles wins apiece while Paul Brooker chipped in with one.

On the same night a much weakened senior side travelled to Norwich to meet Norfolk and were soundly

beaten 8-2 by the home side, only Barbara Pace (Women's singles) and Pace/Diane Bushby (women's doubles) scoring for the visitors.

Big news of December was undoubtedly the selection of Belinda Chamberlain as one of 4 England girls to attend a post Christmas cadet training camp in France from which a team was to be chosen to play the host country at the end of the training session.

On the home front last month saw all the three member leagues in national knock-out competitions. In the Wilmott Cup St. Neots easily overcame Hunts Central 8-1 and in the Rose Bowl too they were similarly uncharitable with a 7-2 win.

In the Carter Cup St. Neots went down 7-2 to Northampton but at the North end of the County Peterborough fared better putting out Bedford 5-2. Peterborough's women's team again started its usual successful run in the Rose Bowl with a comfortable win at Dereham.

Latest youngster to inspire hopes of a brighter future for the County is Melanie Ringrose from St. Ives. This diminutive figure, just 10 years old and in her first season of table tennis, did really well to reach the quarter-finals of the Essex Open U-11 age group and the semi-final of the Newbury Open U-11. Mark Fisher, also from St. Ives went out in the quarter-finals of the U-13 at the Reading Open. These are performances full of promise and augur well for future years.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by PAULINE JACKSON

A brilliant performance by top junior boy Andrew Clark was the highlight of Northumberland's excellent 7-3 win over Durham at Berwick.

Fourteen-year-old Andrew, making his senior debut in place of the unavailable Alan Jones, won both his singles in fine style against Jimmy Crawford and Fred Short, and also teamed up with his mother, Phil, to win the mixed against Short and Brenda Murtagh. These wins proved

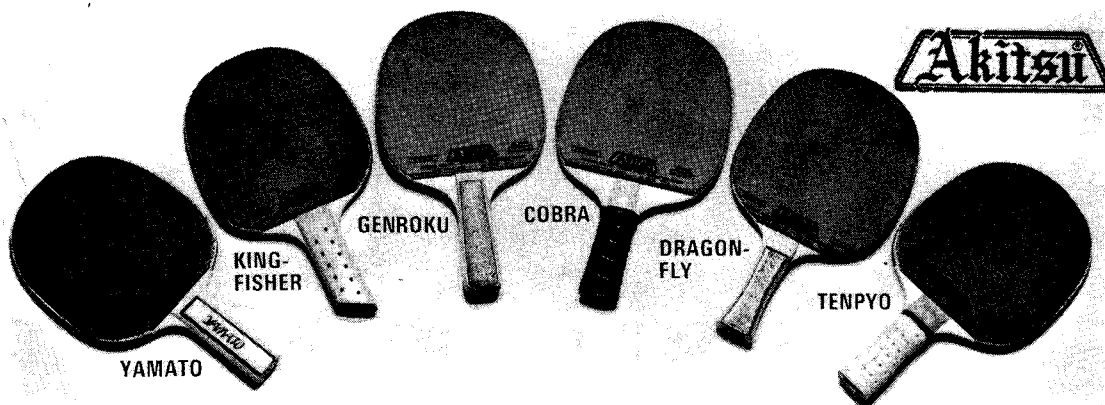
vital, as although our women also emerged unbeaten, Peter Hoyles surprisingly lost both his singles, which meant that the result was in doubt right to the end.

Earlier in the day, Andrew had also made his presence felt in the junior match against Durham, although the team lost by 7-3. His two boys' singles wins included a repetition of last season's win over Peter Edon, who is currently ranked No. 14 in England, and he also shared in a boys' doubles win with Glenn McCardle over Edon and Steve Hosking. If he can keep up performances like this, the breakthrough to the England junior rankings cannot be far away.

The second team again disappointed by losing 8-2 to Durham II at South Shields, although to be fair, some sets were much closer than the match score would suggest. Dave Armstrong was a comfortable winner over Chris Neath for the only men's singles success, and surprisingly enough, the second win was gained in the women's doubles, when the last-minute pairing of Pauline Jackson and Daphne Russell were successful against Maureen Minto and Betty Charlton. I say "surprisingly," because while our record in men's and mixed doubles has been reasonably good, women's doubles have always been a thorn in the flesh of the second team, and in fact this is only the second win since the second team came into existence in 1970.

In the first round of the Carter Cup, Northumberland were hosts to a strong North Yorkshire side, who fielded David Alderson, Robert Wiley and Andrew Kilburn—all England-ranked juniors. The Northumberland team of Andrew Clark, Glenn McCardle and Eddie Thomas put up a fighting performance, but as expected, were easily outclassed by 6-0.

The Northumberland Closed tournament, originally scheduled for Nov. 17, unfortunately had to be postponed owing to the fact that the venue at the Canteen at the Department of Health and Social Security was being redecorated. It is hoped, however, to hold this tournament after the New Year, possibly at the beginning of February.



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CHESHIRE NOTES

by BRIAN KEAN

FAULTLESS PERFORMANCE

STAR performer of the month must be the anti-spinner from Hyde, John Hilton. John's faultless performance in helping Cheshire overcome Warwickshire 7-2 must mark his arrival in the big time. Two fine wins against Judd and Burn round off what must be his most successful run ever. His recent roll of scalps include Welsh number one Alan Griffiths, Ransome, Boasman, Bowen, Hoyles and Mancunian defender, Jeff Ingber.

While our first team were accounting for Warwickshire, our second string succumbed to the might of Yorkshire 2nd's. In this 7-3 reverse it was pleasing to see Roger Hampson make a successful come-back, a comfortable win over Kedge was evidence of an imminent return to the front line. A one hundred per cent debut was enjoyed by Cheshire's "Florence Nightingale," Christine Hancock, in our junior's 8-2 victory over Westmorland. This proves a fair depth of female talent in our ranks when you consider the strength left on the bench.

Moving into the Inter-League sphere, Stockport blasted a double-barrelled blow to Manchester's hopes in the Lancashire and Cheshire League and Wilmott Cup matches. Margins of 8-2 and 7-2 were evidence of the Stockport side's superiority. Nigel Eckersley proved the trump card with two fine hat-tricks while Messrs. Schofield, Hilton and Kean provided the finishing touches in their respective appearances.

A five-all draw was the result of the finest league match for many years in Manchester's League Division 1. The Y.M.'s of Manchester and Gatley provided this spectacular which spotlighted nine county players.

However I feel if Manchester were to adopt a 3-a-side league it would produce three or four title-chasing teams instead of the usual two. Continuing on the League front, Stockport's implementation of three-a-side is proving successful, the first division now has four good sides chasing the honours, this, of course is a healthy state of affairs.

The introduction by Lenny Elias of the Stiga Robot proved a great success at the County practice session held at Stretford's Sports Centre on Dec. 9. The machine was used mainly for pressure training allied to mobility. Regular practice would be most useful in improving footwork, however with experience the robot can be used in improving other aspects of the game. At last I think we have the answer to Mike John's weight problem!!!

NEXT TOP SQUAD SESSION AT STRETFORD WILL BE FEB. 24/74.

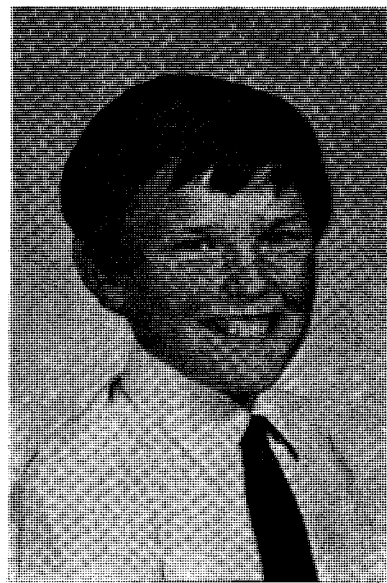
HONOURABLE MENTION SPOT

This month's special mention will be considerably smaller than previous articles, the reason being the young man, Altrincham's Trevor Gatley, has barely completed twelve months in Table Tennis.

Twelve-year-old and a little over a third of his years in height, a product of the club bearing the same name, these are the limited facts on this

little "stick of dynamite." It is Trevor's enthusiasm that could make him Cheshire's leading Junior in a few years, enthusiasm which would see him walk over five miles of broken glass barefoot just to play Table Tennis.

His introduction to the game came in the Seamans' Moss Club, Altrincham, where the potential was quickly spotted by Graham "Jacko" Jackson, who guided him along the paths of T.T. righteousness to Gatley Y.M.



At the moment all Trevor is showing is potential, but provided he works hard and remembers the ladder to success has endless rungs, and these rungs have to be conquered one by one, he should enjoy a rosy T.T. career.

HALEX ENGLISH UNDER-13 SINGLES COMPETITIONS

by Ian R. Crickmer

AS indicated in the December issue, the Under-13 Singles competitions come within the scope of the extensive sponsorship given to the E.T.T.A. by HALEX Table Tennis Limited. Entry forms for the season's competitions were distributed to all League secretaries with Information Bulletin No. 3 in December, and are returnable by Friday, 15th February, to the National Organiser at 12 Cypress Street, Barbourne, Worcester, WR3 8AU.

The regulations permit the National Team Competitions Committee to accept entries also from E.T.T.A. coaches and from schools' organisations.

Entry forms for the use of such officials and organisations are available on request to the National Organiser.

Play in the eight Regional centres will be on one of the days of the weekend Saturday and Sunday, 27th and 28th April, on the following basis:

Region 1 — Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire.

Region 2 — Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Shropshire, Staffordshire.

Region 3 — Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland.

Region 4 — Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.

Region 5 — Cambridgeshire, Essex, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk, Suffolk.

Region 6 — Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex.

Region 7 — Hampshire, Kent, Surrey, Sussex.

Region 8 — Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire.

Arrangements have so far been made for three of these regions, in which play will be on Sunday, 28 April, in all three instances:—

Region 1 — Ormesby T.T.C., off Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Teesside.

Region 2 — Stretford Sports Centre, Great Stone Road, off Chester Road, Stretford, near Manchester.

Region 5 — Haverhill Sports Centre, The Pightle, Haverhill, West Suffolk.

The National Finals, with one boy and one girl coming forward from each of the Regions, are to be on Saturday, 25th May, at a Midlands venue, which it is hoped may be in the Coventry area.

WOODFIELD 1 STAR OPEN

by JOHN PIKE

RANDELL STRIDES TO VICTORY

Writing this in a Leeds hotel seems far removed from that cold weekend in Wolverhampton at the end of November when the Woodfield Club held their 1-star tournament.

This event, which gives its proceeds to a local charity, was again very well organised, and playing no small part in this was Jean Hodgkiss and, making his Woodfield debut, the tournament referee from Worcester, Doug Young.

With the clock fast approaching midnight Leicester's Paul Randell became the new holder of the men's singles, and what a cracking final this was with Barry Meisel. At one stage it looked very much as if the title would be on the way down the M1 to London, but then Randell got in his stride and produced some of the best table tennis seen at the Woodfield club for a very long time.

By contrast, the women's singles was a disappointment with Worcester's Joyce Lloyd holding too many aces for the up-and-coming Derbyshire youngster, Marilyn Deakin. Joyce completed a useful double by winning the mixed with Cannock's John Pugh, but failed in her hat-trick bid when finishing runners-up in the women's doubles with Janet Hunt against the Warwickshire pair, "Andy" Jones and Di St. Ledger. Warwickshire also did well in the junior events with Kevin Pilgrim and Karen Groves taking the boys' and girls' singles respectively, and this was followed by Shropshire and Cotton claiming the boys' doubles.

It was good to see Dorothy Deeley back on the tournament scene again and she did well in her first major outing to reach the final of the mixed with Stan Ward. Stan went one better in the men's doubles by winning the title with John Pugh.

Albert Fullard, the president of the Woodfield club, presented the trophies, along with the Sports Editor of the Express & Star, Brian Clifford.

Results:

MS: Semi-finals:

B. Meisel (Kent) bt M. Newman (Leics) 11, 15;

P. Randell (Leics) bt A. Isaacs (Staffs) 8, 12.

Final:

Randell bt Meisel -18, 5, 10.

WS:

J. Lloyd (Worcs) bt M. Deakin (Derbys) 5, 13.

MD:

J. Pugh/S. Ward (Staffs) bt J. Illife (Leics)/Newman 17, 18.

WD:

A. Jones/D. St Ledger (Warwks) bt J. Hunt (Worcs)/Lloyd -17, 10, 14.

XD:

Pugh/Lloyd bt Ward D. Decley (Staffs) 22, 10.

BS:

K. Pilgrim (Warwks) bt D. Yallop (Derbys) 19, -16, 16.

GS:

K. Groves (Warwks) bt H. Garrett (Ches) -14, 19, 12.

BD:

A. Cotton/D. Shropshire (Warwks) bt P. Vickers (Derbys)/Yallop 20, 21.

GD:

Garrett/A. Heppell (Ches) bt R. Hodgkiss/G. Round (Staffs) 21, 17.

FS:

R. Etheridge (Kent) bt A. Summerfield (Ches) 16, 4.

CROSS CHANNEL

A party of ten players, all aged under 14, travelled to Houlgate in Normandy on Boxing Day to participate in a Franco-English training camp arranged by the French TTA.

The party was led by National Trainer, Les Gresswell and Staff Coach Peter Hirst. Players making the journey were:—

Boys — David Newman (Essex), Kevin Beadsley (Yorks.), Martin Shuttle (Surrey), Roger Idowu (Ches.) David Reeves (Berks.) and Christopher Rogers (Leics.).

Girls — Karen Witt (Berks.), Suzanne Hunt (Lincs.), Angela Tierney (Yorks.) and Belinda Chamberlain (Hunts.).

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Nottinghamshire 0, Lancashire II 10
Staffordshire 5, Lincolnshire 5

Suzanne Hunt and Marie Featherstone came back from 6-14 in 2nd of GD to win -12, 19, 16 and level the match for the second time. Thrice more Lincs. were down, then levelled, the last time through Nath Neal 18, 16 over Stephen Nickless. Fine set between the top boys with Robert Legge just having the better of Colin Boyd 20, -20, 17 in a fluctuating set.

JUNIOR EAST

Buckinghamshire 2, Hertfordshire 8

Herts. too experienced and led 6-0 before Chris Leslie pulled one back.

Essex II 7 Bedfordshire 3

A touch of class from Andrew Bawden, who didn't drop a game, and some power-play from Jane Livesey who equalled that. Nice 17, -17, 12 win by Martin Harlow over Jonathan Hardiker—long rallies here with each boy looking for the opening. Beds. stuck well to their task.

Huntingdonshire 8, Cambridgeshire II 2

The 3rd 100% from Belinda Chamberlain and Jean Allinson, backed up by two singles each from Tim Speller and Peter Berna, and one from Paul Brooker.

Northamptonshire 7, Norfolk 3

Encouraging signs for the future from two very young teams. Gary Alden and Mandy Wallis unbeaten and swaying the match Northants. way.

JUNIOR WEST

Berkshire 9, Glamorgan 1

Somerset 3, Gloucestershire 7

Wiltshire 2, Dorset 8

Worcestershire 4, Devon 6

Keith James the mainstay of the visiting team although pushed a bit by Simon Claxton. The visiting girls also unbeaten but not that much to choose between them and the Worcs. pair. Devon took all the 4 sets which needed a decider.

VETERAN SOUTH

Essex 6, Hampshire 3

The absence of Ray Lush (on 1st team duty) a blow for Hants. who had not lost with him in the team (or Cyril Bush either). Percy Curtis gave Essex the start they wanted in a long set v. Bush, and this became 3-0 before Hants, took XD. MD to Ken Beamish and Vic Ireland 13, -18, 19, then Daphna Gray again to record Hants. second success. Beamish clinched the match v. Bush, Ireland battled long and hard to take L. Cooper, and in anti-climax Curtis fell to M. Shave.

Kent 5, Oxfordshire 4

Wiltshire 2, Hertfordshire 7

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire 6, Leicestershire 3

A very tight match, with Brian Baldwin overcoming Charlie Jacques -17, 17, 16 and Alf Barber winning a real cliff-hanger 17, -19, 20 from Bryan Hall. Then Mike Tew crushed Fred Day for a rather flattering scoreline.

Nottinghamshire 7, Worcestershire 2

Warwickshire 6, Staffordshire 3

TABLES TO 15th DECEMBER, 1973

Table with columns: Premier, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Yorks, Essex, Surrey, Warwick, Cheshire, Middx., Bucks., Lancs.

Table with columns: 2 South, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Surrey II, Sussex, Kent II, Middx., Berks., Hants.

Table with columns: 2 North, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Yorks. II, Ches. II, Lincs., Lancs. II, Northld., Durham.

Table with columns: 2 Midland, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Leics., Derbys., Staffs., Warwks. II, Notts., Gloucs.

Table with columns: 2 East, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Essex II, Cambs., Herts., Beds., Norfolk, Northants.

Table with columns: 2 West, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Glam., Somerset, Worcs., Wilts., Devon, Dorset, Cornwall.

Table with columns: Southern, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Kent II, Sussex II, Hants. II, Bucks. II, Berks. II, Oxfor.

Table with columns: Northern, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Durham II, Ches. II, Derbys. II, Cumbld., Northld.

Table with columns: Midland, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Glam. II, Worcs. II, Staffs. II, Monmths., Shrops., Herefd.

Table with columns: Eastern, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Essex III, Herts. II, Norfolk II, Suffolk, Cambs. II, Hants., Northants. II.

Table with columns: Junior South, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Surrey II, Hants., Kent, Sussex, Essex III, Herts. II, Berks. II, Oxfor.

Table with columns: Junior North, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Yorks. II, Lancs., Durham, Cheshire, Cumbld., Westmorl., Northlmd.

Table with columns: Junior Midland, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Warwks. II, Lancs. II, Derbys., Lincs., Leics. II, Staffs., Notts.

Table with columns: Junior East, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Essex II, Herts., Hunts., Beds., Northants., Bucks., Norfolk, Cambs. II.

Table with columns: Junior West, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Berks., Dorset, Gloucs., Devon, Worcs., Somerset, Wilts., Glam.

Table with columns: Veteran South, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Essex, Kent, Herts., Hunts., Hants., Oxfor., Wilts.

Table with columns: Veteran Midland, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows: Warwks., Cheshire, Notts., Staffs., Leics., Worcs.

LINCS. CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS
by A. G. BIRKS

Held at the Clee Sports Hall, Grimsby, these Championships were well organised and proved to be as popular as ever with some keenly contested sets and a fine standard of table tennis throughout the day.

The men's singles attracted an entry of 66 and the third round saw the fall of two seeded players when Cleve Judson was beaten by C. Boyd and J. Radley lost to D. Armstrong. In the fourth round, however, Boyd was beaten in straight games by S. Morley (Grimsby) 18, 13 and Armstrong went down to Mick East -12, -17.

Meanwhile, the reigning title holder, Brian Hill had accounted for T. Brant (Scunthorpe), G. Johns (Grantham), A. Black (Grimsby) and the seeded B. Allison (Grimsby), to meet Morley at the semi-final stage. In the other quarter, two seeded Grimsby players met in the fourth round with M. Shearer beating P. Taylor -12, 18, 16. In the semi-finals Hill disposed of Morley whilst Shearer and East had a lengthy exciting struggle which resulted in a win for Shearer. In the final Hill beat Shearer to

retain the title without losing an end in the process.

One of the finest matches of the day was the final of the Women's Singles between Mrs. Beryl Voss and Miss Jean White the County Nos. 1 and 2. After a most enthralling encounter Mrs. Voss's looped aggression beat Miss White's wonderful defensive play. It was felt to be one of the finest women's matches seen in Lincolnshire for many years and it was a shame that there had to be a loser. Mrs. Voss, who played for Nottinghamshire before moving to Mablethorpe, has quickly established herself at the top of the women's rankings.

The junior events were largely localised affairs with Scunthorpe providing three of the four semi-finalists in the boys' events and Grantham three of the girls' semi-finalists.

At the end of the tournament, the trophies were presented by the Chairman of the Lincolnshire Table Tennis Association, Mr. J. J. Robertson, who thanked the Grimsby Association and all those who had worked so hard to make the day such a happy and successful one.

Results:—
M.S. s-f:
B. Hill (Boston) bt S. Morley (Grimsby) 11, 7;
M. Shearer (Grimsby) bt M. East (Boston) 24, -21, 13.
Final: Hill bt Shearer 17, 18.
W.S. s-f:
B. Voss (Mablethorpe) bt C. Moran (Grimsby) 19, 21;
J. White (Spalding) bt C. Judson (Lincoln) 10, 9.
Final: Voss bt White -18, 18, 19.
M.D:
East/Hill bt R. Norton (Lincoln)/Shearer -16, 15, 17.

W.D:
J. Robinson (Boston)/Voss bt M. Burgess (Spalding)/White -6, 10, 19.
X.D:
D. Armstrong (Boston)/White bt Hill/Moran 8, -14, 21.
B.S: C. Boyd (Scunthorpe) bt J. Charlesworth (Scunthorpe) 18, -15, 17.
G.S:
S. Hunt (Grantham) bt J. Burbage (Grantham) 18, 15.
V.S:
B. Edlington (Gainsborough) bt J. Radley (Lincoln) 16, -21, 10.

"TWENTY-ONE UP"

The Editor acknowledges with thanks receipt of the publication "Twenty-One Up" written and compiled by Tom Honey, Hon. Secretary/Treasurer of the Cornwall T.T.A.

Well illustrated, the publication records a history of the Association's first twenty-one years compiled from official records, newspaper and magazine reports, and the recollections of many players whose names appear in the pages of the book.

Modestly priced at 75p (second class postage 8p extra) the book can be had from Mr. T. M. Honey, The Beehive, Trelyon, St. Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2PG, and is thoroughly recommended, being of special interest to many players in the South West corner of England.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. of the English Table Tennis Association will be held on Saturday, July 13/74 at a London venue.

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

VETERAN'S CHAMPION

In common with a great many other table tennis organisations, the County Championships mourn the passing of Staffordshire's Malcolm Scott whose connection had been life long and who, in more recent times, took unto himself the cause of the older player resulting, this season, in no less than thirteen English counties having veteran teams competing in two divisions.

Chester Barnes made his anticipated comeback for Essex in last month's matches but Yorkshire, with four successive victories to their credit, seem set on retaining their Premier title.

PREMIER

Buckinghamshire 0, Essex 9

P. Shirley lost to C. Barnes -7, -15; lost to I. Robertson -20, -8.

L. Wooding lost to Barnes -8, -9; lost to S. Gibbs -13, -14.

D. Berry lost to Robertson -14, -19; lost to Gibbs -18, -18.

Berry/Shirley lost to Gibbs/Robertson -17, -17.

Miss J. Williams lost to Mrs. L. Radford -13, -13.

Wooding/Williams lost to Barnes/Radford -16, -14.

The visitors, including Chester Barnes for the first time this season, never seriously extended only Paul Shirley threatening to take a game (v. Ian Robertson). Most entertaining set between Shirley and Barnes, with the last laugh being with Jester Chester.

Cheshire 7, Warwickshire 2

M. Johns lost to B. Burn -19, 17, -14; bt D. Munt 11, 20.

J. Hilton bt Burn 18, 18; bt P. Judd 18, 19.

D. Schofield bt Munt -19, 13, 18; bt Judd -12, 12, 19.

Johns/B. Johns lost to Burn/Judd -14, 16, -19.

Miss S. Lisle bt Miss D. St. Ledger 13, 19.

Hilton/Lisle bt Munt/St. Ledger 6, 7.

John Hilton gave Cheshire a great start beating Brian Burn and the lead stretched to 4-0 before the visitors took M.D. But this was not the signal for another Warwicks revival as Susan Lisle made sure of the match and Cheshire picked up two more M.S. Evergreen Derek Schofield trailed Paul Judd 3-11, 4-14 in 3rd of important set 3 before winning. He later completed his first Premier double since early '69.

Lancashire 4, Surrey 5

D. Parker bt C. Warren 15, 19; bt R. Yule 21, 20.

A. Boasman lost to Warren -14, 18, -17; lost to C. Strathearn -21, -13.

P. Bowen lost to Yule -18, -8; bt

Strathearn 21, -5, 16.
Boasman/Bowen lost to Warren/Yule 19, -16, -19.

Mrs. D. Johnson lost to Miss L.

Howard -18, 10, -15.

Parker/Johnson bt Strathearn/Howard 14, 14.

After Donald Parker had battled heroically to give Lancs. a 4-3 lead the Red Rose county let slip a fine opportunity to collect their first points of the season in a memorable match the result of which was always in the balance.

Yorkshire 7, Cheshire 2

D. Neale bt M. Johns 11, 19; bt B. Johns 16, 16.

N. Jarvis bt M. Johns -19, 14, 19; bt N. Eckersley 15, 8.

A. Hydes bt B. Johns 7, 22; bt Eckersley 10, 13.

Hydes/Neale bt B. Johns/Eckersley 12, 11.

Miss C. Knight lost to Miss S. Lisle -14, -15.

Jarvis/Knight lost to M. Johns/Lisle -7, -15.

The first set needed a decider, but all else was two-straight in a rather disappointing match.

Middlesex 2, Yorkshire 7

A. Barden lost to D. Neale -3, -14; lost to N. Jarvis -11, -17.

M. Mitchell lost to Neale -12, -9; lost to J. Walker -20, -12.

D. Tan lost to Jarvis -13, -14; lost to Walker -20, -18.

R. Aldrich/Tan lost to Jarvis/Walker -11, -13.

Mrs. K. Mathews bt Miss C. Knight 15, 14.

Barden/Mathews bt Neale/Knight 18, 12.

Of Yorkshire's men only Jimmy Walker looked vulnerable being taken to 'deuce' by both Mark Mitchell and David Tan in opening games. Not one of the nine sets needed a decider.

2nd SOUTH

Berkshire 3, Sussex 7

The use of Emil Emecz and Stephen Marley in the wrong order cost Sussex Emecz's win 16, -12, 13 over Derek Basden.

Middlesex II 4, Kent 6

Kent's 6-1 lead rather flattered them, but Middlesex took the last 3 sets for a better result. Dick Philips and Malvyn Waldman led 20-17 in 3rd of MD only to go down -18, 15, -20 to Henry Buist and Clive Morris. Morris impressive, crushing both Philips and David Tan.

Surrey II 9, Hampshire 1

Fine double for Susan Tame who beat Joyce Coop 17, -8, 22 and combined with Kay Greenough to take WD 19, -14, 17 from Joyce and Christine Davies. Surrey won 5 of the 6 sets which went the distance.

2nd NORTH

Lincolnshire 8, Lancashire II 2

A thoroughly deserved first-ever win over these opponents. Great team performance but pride of place must go to Brian Hill who completely outclassed Bob Kelly 9, 6. Mrs. Beryl Voss maintained her unbeaten record for her new county, and some consolation for the visitors from the debut performance of John Marshall who won both singles.

Northumberland 7, Durham 3

Phil Clark, Barbara Kearney, Andrew Clark (all for hosts) and Malcolm Corking all had a splendid day and Northumberland owed much to their trio. Corking had a grand win over Peter Hoyles, hitting some backhands which had to be seen to be believed.

Yorkshire II 7, Cheshire II 3

2nd MIDLAND

Derbyshire 6, Nottinghamshire 4

A high-entertainment match in arctic conditions. Particularly good performances by Tony Hunt, Marilyn Deakin, Alan Croome and Pat Hopkin.

Leicestershire 10, Gloucestershire 0

Only when Roy Morley led Chris Rogers 20-18 in 1st, and Jean Golding led Anita Stevenson 16-10 in 1st, did Gloucs. really threaten. But young Rogers recovered to win 20, 7 as did Anita to win 18, 10.

Staffordshire 6, Warwickshire II 4

Excellent win for Staffs. who again dropped all three doubles. John Pugh gave them a good start beating Richard Cooper, Tony Isaac recovered from 6-12 in 3rd to account for Pat Glynn, and then Keith Fellows (the best player on the day) hit well to defeat surprise inclusion Alan Fletcher, the former Yorkshire player. Very nice -10, 18, 17 win for Gail Round to beat the very difficult Andrea Jones—Gail improves on every outing. But Staffs. do something about the doubles.

2nd EAST

Cambridgeshire 5, Hertfordshire 5

Herts. led 3-1 trailed 3-4, led 5-4 before Michael Harper beat "Digger" Lamprell 11, 19 for the draw. Paul Day unbeaten, though needing the decider in both MS, and another nice win for Linda Woodcock v. Barbara Peters.

Essex II 9, Norfolk 1

Some exciting play, particularly in David Bowles 16, 15 win over Mick Broughton.

Bedfordshire 8, Northamptonshire 2

2nd WEST

Cornwall 1, Somerset 9

Dorset 2, Wiltshire 8

Glamorgan 7, Worcestershire 3

Glamorgan 7, Devon 3

SOUTHERN

Hampshire II 3, Sussex II 7

Four "first-timers" for Hants. Best set Linda Wales (ex-Sussex) v. Diane Gard, with Diane just getting home 17, -22, 20.

Hampshire II 8, Buckinghamshire II 2 Kent II 10, Oxfordshire 0

Sussex II 8, Berkshire II 2

Sussex more match-tight at vital stages. Great recovery from 12-18 to 20-19 in 3rd by Keith Horton v. Alf Foster. But the anti-loop man kept his cool to record a splendid -16, 16, 23 victory.

NORTHERN

Cumberland 1, Derbyshire II 9

Durham II 8, Northumberland II 2

MIDLAND

Monmouthshire 6, Herefordshire 4

John Bloomer unbeaten for the hosts, and young Alan Harrison took his chance well with two MS successes. Dick Owens, only selected for XD, played very large part in Herefords success in that set and this new team of experienced players kept fighting all the time.

Shropshire 2, Glamorgan II 8

Worcestershire II 6, Staffordshire II 4

The first win for Worcs. II over Staffs. II — they had to wait 11 matches for! Two nice MS wins for anti-loop Mervyn Wood, both from apparently losing positions, and unbeaten Brian Keates looked the best of the visiting men. Great credit to Sheila Foley who tenaciously outlasted Ros Hodgkiss 26, 18.

EASTERN

Hertfordshire II 9, Norfolk II 1

An early lead for the visitors when Bob Mitcham beat David Seaholme, but they got no more. Late replacement Doug Bennett (13) looked good and for the hosts Colin Jackson as impressive as usual.

Norfolk II 8, Huntingdonshire 2

Suffolk 2, Essex III 8

Great win for Robert Potton 17, 11 over John Kitchener—he led 17-5 in 2nd!

Hertfordshire II 5, Cambridgeshire II 5

Keith Richardson thrice a winner for Cambs.

JUNIOR SOUTH

Hampshire 6, Essex III 4

Essex led 2-0 but Hants. recovered to take the next 6 for victory. Alex Abbott caught the eye for the visitors and the Hants. girls excelled in GD, won by 14, 4.

Hertfordshire II 1, Kent 9

Kent too strong, but Paul Mason in first match for Herts., did well to pick up their only set.

Oxfordshire 0, Surrey II 10

Andrew Grant-Robertson fought hard for Oxfords., but Surrey much the better team.

Sussex 6, Berkshire II 4

Highlight and turning point Michael Douglas recovery from 5-14 in 3rd to beat Alan Hicks 16, -16, 16. Sussex a bit lucky to pick up all three doubles.

JUNIOR NORTH

Northumberland 3, Durham 7

Andrew Clark outclassed England-ranked Peter Edon 11, 15, but this result apart the visitors better equipped.

Westmorland 2, Cheshire 8

Yorkshire II 10, Cumberland 0

Yorkshire too good for their guests.

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Leicestershire II 0, Warwickshire II 10

Leics. rarely able to extend Warwicks, although Bruce Johnson came close to winning the 9th set.

(continued on page 27)

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