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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 62

March 1974

Price 10p

A SIGN OF THE TIMES



Photo by Tony Ross

This month's Star Features

THE WORLDS, 1977 - WE ARE ON OUR WAY by Tom Blunn
BALKAN JOURNEYINGS by Donald Parker

Published on the 1st of each month, October to May inclusive. Postal subscriptions £1 for eight issues.

Advertisements: Derek R. Tre-mayne, General Secretary, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, Sussex, 'Phone: Hastings 33121.

Circulation: Albert W. Shipley, Administrative Secretary, 21 Claremont, Hastings, Sussex. 'Phone: Hastings 33121.

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WITHOUT LET OR HINDRANCE

Through the 'agency' provided by J. Walter Thompson Merchandising Unit the good ship "Worlds 77" was launched on Wednesday, March 7th, 1974 down a slipway generously provided by Trust Houses Forte at their Grosvenor House 'yard' in Park Lane, London.

It was a champagne affair as be-fitting such an occasion which, in a nutshell, was designed to woo sponsorship for the 34th World Table Tennis Championships to be staged by the E.T.T.A. at the Empire Pool, Wembley, during the last week in March and the first week in April, 1977.

The fitting-out process now be-comes the all-important occupation with no lines of demarcation to prevent would-be helpers from lending a hand, preferably one in a deep pocket.

Having gone to such lengths in floating the project, it behoves each and everyone of us with table tennis at heart to join the union of welders in making the dream become the reality.

Through the Sports Council the Government will provide substantial financial backing as, it is hoped, will the Trade and commerce generally. But leagues will be asked to sound their member clubs, on a team place plus one reserve basis, to play their part as well.

Let there be little of the carping as in evidence from the Glossop and District T.T. League who, at a recent Executive Committee meeting, resolved not to pay any proposed levy on the grounds that if enough money cannot be raised to sponsor such an event by other means then it should not be held.

Surely this must be the minority viewpoint and that a more general one would sanction progression without let or hindrance to an Association which in three years time will also celebrate its 50th Birth-day.

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On the International Front

by THE EDITOR

NEW EUROPEAN RANKINGS

Last month the European Table Tennis Union's Classification Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Lakatos of Hungary, revised the European Ranking Lists which are used for seeding purposes in all European Open International Championships and which will be operable in the 9th European Championships in Novi Sad next month.

Sweden's former world champion Stellan Bengtsson retains his No. 1 position in the men's list as does his fellow countryman Kjell Johansson at No. 2. But from thereon changes have been effected with Hungary's Istvan Jonyer being moved up to No. 3 from being joint sixth with Jacques Secretin of France.

Tibor Klampar is another Hungarian to have been elevated and now occupies the No. 6 position having formerly been joint tenth with Janos Börzsei, also of Hungary. Yet another Hungarian, Gabor Gergely, is leapt from No. 17 to No. 8, the lists now having been cut from 20 places to 16.

On the way down Yugoslavia's Anton Stipancic is relegated from No. 3 to No. 7, his compatriot, Dragutin Surbek, being dropped one position to No. 5 his previous place now being occupied by the Czech, Milan Orlowski.

There are no newcomers to the men's list but England's Denis Neale, who held the 14th position previously, is now omitted as is Ebby Schöler of Federal Germany (13), Yugoslavia's Istvan Korpa (19) and Bo Persson of Sweden (20).

The new men's list reads—(pre-vious positions in brackets):—

1. S. Bengtsson (Sweden) (1)
2. K. Johansson (Sweden) (2)
3. I. Jonyer (Hungary) (=6)
4. M. Orlowski (Czech.) (5)
5. D. Surbek (Yugoslavia) (4)
6. T. Klampar (Hungary) (=10)
7. A. Stipancic (Yugoslavia) (3)
8. G. Gergely (Hungary) (17)
9. S. Sarkhayan (USSR) (8)
10. J. Secretin (France) (=6)
11. J. Kunz (Czech.) (15)
12. A. Stokratov (USSR) (16)
13. J. Börzsei (Hungary) (=10)
14. S. Gomozkov (USSR) (9)
15. W. Lieck (F. Germany) (12)
16. M. Karakasevic (Yugo.) (18)

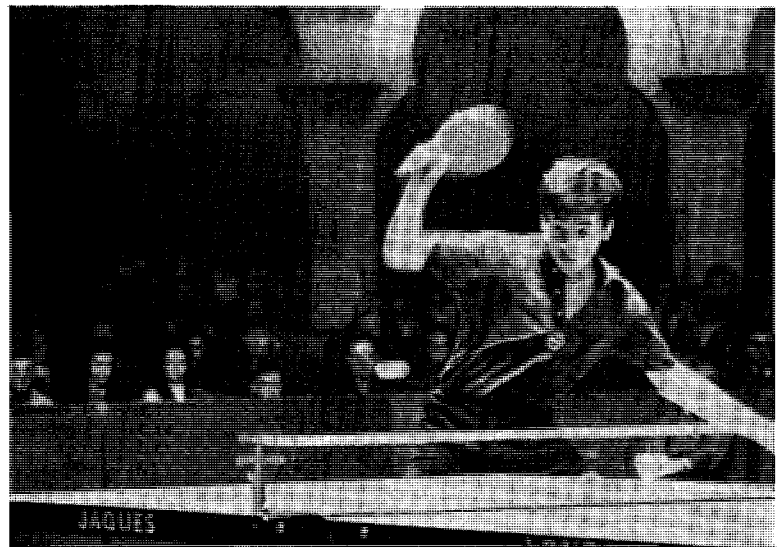
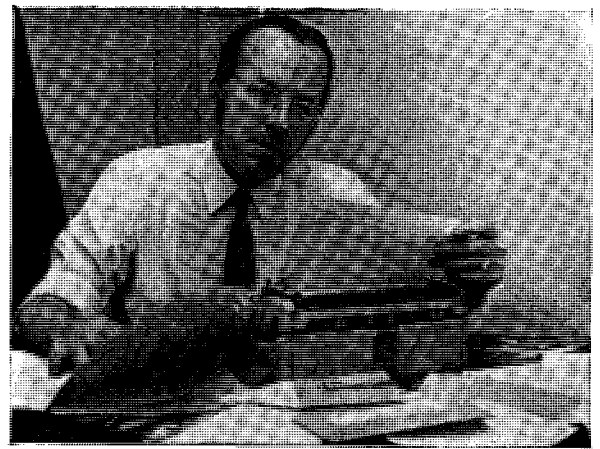
Formerly at No. 1 in the women's list Hungary's Beatrix Kishazi is plunged down to No. 5 her throne going to the Soviet Union's Zoya Rudnova who is no stranger to sovereignty. England's Jill Hammersley, following her good performances in the European Top 12 Tournament, is lifted two positions from No. 8 to

No. 6 but Karenza Mathews formerly at No. 20 is left out in the cold.

Ann Christin Hellman of Sweden, at No. 10, is the only newcomer to the women's list those to go with Mrs. Mathews being:— Ilona Vostova (Czechoslovakia) (7), Diane Schöler (Fed. Germany) (12), Lena Andersson (Sweden) (13) and Mirjana Resler (Yugoslavia) (18).

The new list reads:—

1. Z. Rudnova (USSR) (3)
2. A. Grofova (Czech.) (2)
3. M. Alexandru (Rumania) (6)
4. J. Magos (Hungary) (4)
5. B. Kishazi (Hungary) (1)
6. J. Hammersley (England) (8)
7. B. Radberg (Sweden) (5)
8. W. Hendriksen (F. Ger.) (10)
9. E. Antonian (USSR) (9)



Tibor Klampar, of Hungary, up from joint 10th to No. 6 in the revised European rankings.



Rumania's redoubtable Maria Alexandru, who finished 2nd to Zoya Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) in the E.T.T.U. Top 12 Tournament and moves up from No. 6 to No. 3 in the European ranking list for women.

10. A. C. Hellman (Sweden) (—)
11. A. Gedraitite (USSR) (11)
12. B. Silhanov (Czech.) (15)
13. H. Lotaller (Hungary) (16)
14. H. Reidlova (Hungary) (17)
15. S. Federova (USSR) (14)
16. A. Rangelova (Bulgaria) (19)

EUROPEAN TOP 12 SAAB CUP

Played at Alvhogsborg, Trollhattan, Sweden over the period Feb. 8/10, Istvan Jonyer and Milan Orlowski came out on top in the Round Robin tournament of European masters both claiming 8 wins against two losses, and 25 games against 12, the Hungarian being adjudged the winner by virtue of having the better points average. Jonyer lost his two sets to Surbek and Klampar, Orlowski going under to Klampar and Jonyer.

In the counterpart women's event, won by Zoya Rudnova, England's Jill Hammersley with six wins to her credit, against four losses, finished a creditable fifth. Her complete record was:—

- Lost to M. Alexandru -18, -19, -18;
 Lost to J. Magos -12, -8, 15, -14;
 Beat B. Radberg 11, 19, 13;
 Beat E. Antonian -14, 20, -13, 14, 13;
 Beat A. Grofova 15, 10, 8;
 Lost to Z. Rudnova -13, 17, -12, -18;
 Lost to B. Kishazi 8, 14, -19, -20, -18;
 Beat S. Federova 14, 11, -16, 14;
 Beat A. Gedraitite 14, 18, 12;
 Beat W. Hendriksen -18, 16, -14, 9, 16.

Illness and injury prevented Sweden's Lena Andersson and Kjell Johansson from completing their stints the former retiring, with blood pressure, after losing to Kishazi, Grofova and Radberg. Johansson had wins over Secretin, Gomozkov, Klampar, Börzsei and Lieck, losing to Bengtsson and Sarkhayan, before retiring injured. Finishing records were:—

Men		
1. I. Jonyer (Hu.)	25:12	8:2
2. M. Orlowski (Cz.)	25:12	8:2
3. S. Bengtsson (Sw.)	28:16	8:2
4. T. Klampar (Hu.)	26:14	7:3
5. D. Surbek (Yu.)	21:13	6:4
6. A. Stipancic (Yu.)	22:16	6:4
7. S. Sarkhayan (SU)	16:22	4:6
8. J. Secretin (Fr.)	16:22	3:7
9. J. Börzsei (Hu.)	10:23	3:7
10. W. Lieck (FG)	10:26	2:8
11. S. Gomozkov (SU)	7:30	0:10
12. K. Johansson (Sw.)	(retired)	

Women		
1. Z. Rudnova (SU)	27:8	9:1
2. M. Alexandru (Ru.)	26:10	8:2
3. J. Magos (Hu.)	23:15	7:3
4. B. Kishazi (Hu.)	23:15	7:3
5. J. Hammersley (En.)	22:17	6:4
6. A. Grofova (Cz.)	20:18	6:4
7. B. Radberg (Sw.)	16:23	4:6
8. E. Antonian (SU)	14:25	3:7
9. W. Hendriksen (FG)	16:27	2:8
10. A. Gedraitite (SU)	11:26	2:8
11. S. Federova (SU)	15:29	1:9
12. L. Andersson (Sw.)	(retired)	

FEDERAL GERMAN CLOSED

Played in Saarbrücken over the period Jan. 18/20, Jochen Leiss was the winner of the men's singles event in the 42nd National Championships of the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund his final victim being Ebby Schöler. Winner of the counterpart women's event was Wiebke Hendriksen whose victory in the final was over Monika Kneip. Results:—

- MS: Q-F's:**
 E. Schöler bt C. Acholtz 20, 7, 19;

P. Stellwag bt W. Lieck -16, 15, -16, 17, 18;

J. Leiss bt E. Gomolla 11, -17, 14, 16;
 M. Ness bt K. Schmittinger 19, -17, -15, 7, 19.

Semi-finals:

Leiss bt Stellwag 16, 10, 16; Schöler bt Ness 13, -21, 18, 15.

Final:

Leiss bt Schöler -14, 18, 17, 18.

WS: Q-F's:

W. Hendriksen bt I. Sudmann 13, 19, 13;

M. Kneip bt U. Hirschmüller 18, 14, 12;

J. Trapp bt E. Wetzel 17, 13, 14;
 E. Zemke bt R. Richter -14, 19, 15, 19.

Semi-finals:

Hendriksen bt Trapp 16, 17, 13;
 Kneip bt Zemke 17, -16, 9, 18.

Final:

Hendriksen bt Kneip 10, -17, 9, 13.

MD: Final:

Leiss/Schmittinger bt Lieck/Ness 16, -15, 15, -19, 14.

WD: Final:

Hendriksen/A. Simon bt R. Diebold/Hirschmüller 12, -21, 15, 10.

XD: Final:

Leiss/Kneip bt Lieck/Hendriksen 17, -19, -18, 18, 16.

NEPAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

An International table tennis invitational tournament was held in Kathmandu from Feb. 15/22 marking Nepal's National Democracy Day celebrations. More than 60 players from Burma, China, India, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand took part in addition to those of the host country. The opening ceremony was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sharada. The Chinese delegation was headed by Chuang Tse-tung and China took both the men's and women's team events. The men had concluding victories over India (5-0) and Japan (5-3), India finishing runners-up with a 5-3 win over Japan. 3-1 victories over India and Japan saw Chinese women successful with Japan beating India (3-0) for second place.

Junichi Kasai of Japan beat Wang Chun of China to win the men's singles event, the women's singles title being won by Tomie Edano with final victory over China's Hsu Chien-chin. Niraj Bajaj and M. Dua of India were victorious in the men's doubles beating Norio Takashima and Toshimi Maeda of Japan in the final.

Winners of the women's doubles were Tomie Edano and Mitsuko Shimamoto of Japan, the runners-up being Li Yu-huan and Hsu Chien-chin of China. Wang Chun and Hsu Chien-chin beat their fellow compatriots Li Cho-min and Li Yu-huan in an all-Chinese mixed final.

Prince Dharendra presented gold medals to the winners of the men's and women's team events and the champions and runners-up of the individual events.

SCOTTISH RANKINGS

The Scottish Table Tennis Association announced revised rankings which are:—

Men

1. David Fraser; 2. Richard Yule;
3. Robert Kerr; 4. Eric Sutherland;
5. James Graham; 6. Ram Bhalla;
7. Brian Morgan; 8. John Wilson;
9. Robert Thomson; 10. Archie McCulloch; 11. Michael Thomson; 12. Patrick Forker.

Women

1. Katherine Angus; 2. Lesley Barrie;

3. Grace Mackay; 4. Patrice Fleming (Elaine Smith at the time the rankings were formulated was recovering from injury).

Boys

1. Michael Thomson; 2. Charles Mathew; 3. Alan Mathew; 4. Russell Brown; 5. M. George; 6. Earl Black; 7. A. Alexander; 8. D. Lundie.

Girls

1. Grace Mackay; 2. Elaine Craig. Jim Graham headed the Points Chart from results obtained in open tournament play up to the end of 1973 with 300 pts. Ram Bhalla and Robert Kerr held second place jointly each with 260 pts., with David Fraser on 240.

Michael Thomson (400) and Katherine Angus (350) headed the junior boys and women's listings.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by ROY COLE

FRIENDLY RIVALRY

The 1973-74 Berkshire Inter-Town Competition has seen some extremely close contests. This is a tournament held in two stages, involving the five component leagues of the County, which always brings out friendly rivalry and is a good opportunity for aspiring County players to show their current form.

After the first leg in December some of the divisional placings seemed assured. For instance, in Men's I Reading "A" and "B" had a clear lead over their rivals and Maidenhead "B" and "C" dominated Men's II. But the second half at the end of January saw some great fights by the lower placed teams to haul themselves back into the reckoning. In Men's I Newbury came through to split the two Reading teams and Didcot "B" won three of their four matches to scrape into

second place in Men's II on games average.

The Junior Girls had been tight all along, with three teams having won four out of five at the half-way mark. In this instance it took the final match to decide the outcome, with Newbury taking the honours. Complete results follow.

Men's I:

	W	L	F	A
Reading 'A'	9	1	34	16
Newbury	7	3	31	19
Reading 'B'	6	4	28	22
Maidenhead 'A'	3	7	19	31
Bracknell 'A'	3	7	18	32
Didcot 'A'	2	8	20	30

Men's II:

Maidenhead 'B'	8	0	30	10
Didcot 'B'	4	4	22	18
Maidenhead 'C'	4	4	19	21
Reading 'C'	4	4	17	23
Bracknell 'B'	0	8	12	28

Boys' I:

Newbury	8	0	32	8
Reading 'A'	6	2	32	8
Maidenhead 'A'	3	5	13	27
Reading 'C'	2	6	10	30
Reading 'B'	1	7	13	27

Boys' II:

Didcot	7	1	30	10
Bracknell	5	3	26	14
Reading 'D'	4	4	21	19
Maidenhead 'B'	3	5	15	25
Maidenhead 'C'	1	7	8	32

Ladies':

Reading 'A'	8	0	32	8
Newbury	6	2	29	11
Maidenhead	3	5	14	26
Bracknell	2	6	12	28
Reading 'B'	1	7	13	27

Girls':

Newbury	9	1	39	11
Reading 'B'	9	2	40	10
Reading 'A'	7	3	41	9
Bracknell	3	7	13	37
Maidenhead	3	7	12	38
Reading 'C'	0	10	5	45



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(38 MEMBER UNIVERSITIES)

On the University Scene

by **DEREK OLDMAN**

Sec./ Organiser, U.A.U. Table Tennis

With this season's activities almost drawing to a close it is a good time to sit back and reflect on what has been achieved at University level during the past two terms. The main object of the exercise has been and still is, I suppose, to provide facilities and competition for students to enjoy during and as part of their university education.

During the past few years, however, a second obligation has arisen. With far greater attention now being paid to coaching in schools it is very important that the standards achieved there are not lost when the student goes on to a higher education. These points therefore assume great importance when the season's programme is formulated.

One of the years' highlights is undoubtedly the coaching week at Lilleshall during September when about 40 of the most promising players and established stars are put through their paces by Peter Simpson and Brian Kean, together with two other qualified ETTA coaches. The objects of this course are twofold, firstly to improve personal play, and secondly to acquire the ability to return to university and coach the players of lower standards.

The annual individual tournament was held at Brunel University, Uxbridge, over the weekend December 1st-2nd, 1973. The petrol crisis failed to deter any students and there were 90 entries for the men's events and 44 for the women. The initial rounds of the men's and women's singles were played in groups, the later stages on a k.o. basis. In the men's singles the seedings were torn apart in no time at all. Only two seeded players reached the quarter-finals. At this stage everyone present quite rightly thought that at last Brian Mitchell would win the title after quite a number of years as runner-up. Once again however it was not to be as Robert Oldfield, an almost unknown from Bath University swept aside all opposition to become champion at the first attempt.

ANSWER

Oldfield has in fact represented Suffolk on a number of occasions but this wasn't widely known at the time. The final was a great spectacle with the eventual winner seemingly having an answer for everything Mitchell hit

at him. Defeat for Mitchell in the singles obviously affected his play in the men's doubles when he and his Birmingham partner, Philip Crane, seeded No. 1, were quite easily defeated in the final by the Liverpool pair Philip Clarkson and Paul Tsang.

The girls proved to be far more predictable and six of the seeds reached the quarters. The final was eventually contested by Pat Hammond, a former Lincolnshire junior, playing for University of Kent, who beat the top seed, Val Duffin, in a close semi-final, and Paula Clemett, a first year student from Hull, who had played at junior county level for Kent. In a rather disappointing final Pat Hammond proved to be too strong for her rather nervous opponent. The women's doubles final was an all-Northern affair between the Leeds pair Val Duffin and Sally Marshall playing against Janet Campbell and Viv Price from Sheffield, the No. 1 seeds from Leeds eventually winning in 2-straight.

In the mixed doubles the top seeds, Mike Wright and Val Duffin from Leeds, fought their way to the final. Wright, however, was playing under the strain of a rather bad back injury which had earlier caused his withdrawal from the Men's events. The effort required to beat Mitchell and Beeson in the semi-final proved too great and the final was a walk-over for Ed Moses, the ex-Monmouth junior, and his Sheffield partner, Janet Campbell, who had earlier won an extremely exciting semi-final against Andy Holdsworth and Paula Clemett from Hull.

Another highlight of the tournament was the excellent administration of referee Tony Chatwin, ably assisted by Peter Simpson and the writer.

Scores:—

M.S.: R. Oldfield (Bath) bt B. Mitchell (Birmingham) -12, 19, 20.
W.S.: P. Hammond (Kent) bt P. Clemett (Hull) 9, 12.
M.D.: P. Clarkson/P. Tsang (Liverpool) bt. P. Crane (Birmingham)/ Mitchell 19, 16.
W.D.: V. Duffin/S. Marshall (Leeds) bt. J. Campbell/V. Price (Sheffield) 18, 13.
X.D.: E. Moses (Sheffield)/Campbell w.o. M. Wright (Leeds)/Duffin scr.

NEW LINK

In January a new link was formed with the Scottish U.A.U. when the first representative matches were played between Scotland and the Northern U.A.U. in the Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh. As these matches were played during the Christmas vacation some players were unavailable and eventually the Northern U.A.U. were represented by the Liverpool trio of Clarkson, Tsang and Wilson. This team proved far too strong for the best the Scots could offer and won the match 7-3. Clarkson and Tsang were undefeated but Geoff Wilson, a little below his best, was beaten three times very narrowly.

In the women's match the Scottish team included the Elaine Smith, and while she won her three sets in convincing style, the English trio of Val Duffin and Jane Cherry from Leeds, and Janet Campbell from Sheffield, had far greater strength in depth and this time the score was 6-4 to the visitors, the Scottish pair having won the doubles.

Next on the calendar was the British Universities Championships held at the University of Sussex in Brighton on January 19th-20th, 1974.

There were no major surprises here, with top seeds Jean Krier from Hull, the Luxembourg international, winning the men's singles, and Elaine Smith, from Edinburgh, the women's singles. The beaten semi-finalists were Mike Wright, now fully recovered from injury, and Janet Campbell.

Jean Krier became a triple champion for the second year in succession when, with Andy Holdsworth and then Paula Clemett, he won the men's and mixed doubles respectively. The women's doubles was won by the Scottish pair Smith and Adamson from Edinburgh.

IN COVENTRY

The season then continued with the Annual U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B. matches against the Royal Air Force. This year the venue was at the University of Warwick in Coventry, on Saturday, February 9th. The U.A.U., almost at full strength, were far too powerful for an R.A.F. team which in past years had achieved no little success in this fixture. The 4-man team was Mitchell, Oldfield and Wright, all previously mentioned in this report, together with Tony Morris from Aston University. Oldfield was arrowly beaten by the R.A.F. champion Brian Cullis, but this was the only success achieved by the visitors, the U.A.U. eventually winning 9-1.

The girls were not to be outdone and achieved an equally convincing victory by the same score, the only loss being suffered in the doubles set. With W.I.V.A.B. champion Pat Hammond unavailable, the selected four were Val Duffin and Jane Cherry together with Janet Campbell and Carolyn Little from Sheffield. Carolyn Little is the only player not mentioned before and she is a former Northumberland junior.

While all these events have been taking place the team championships of both the U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B. have been gradually moving towards the final stages. The semi-finals and final of both competitions are due to take place shortly. Teams contesting the U.A.U. semis are Birmingham, Bath, Leeds and Lancaster, with Birmingham starting as favourites, although Lancaster could be "dark horses," having already defeated the reigning champions, Aston.

The women's teams fighting for honours are Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham and Kent, with the first two likely to contest a very close final. By the time this resume is read it will be time to be looking forward and planning next year's programme. Each time round we look for new faces and new champions, who will be next? One thing is certain. Some ex-schools' champions will hit the University scene with a bang.

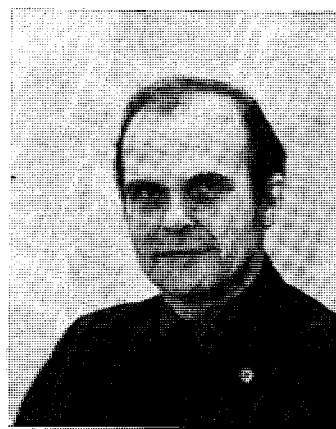
WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN

These are the Junior Closed Championships under their new title and the venue will be Boulevard Building, City of Leicester Polytechnic, Western Boulevard, Leicester on the weekend of April 20th/21st. For the first time, an Under-14 event for boys and girls will be included. Entries close on Saturday, March 16th to Mr. R. Billson, 20 Gracedieu Road, Loughborough, Leics.

TOURNAMENTS 1974-75

Closing date for application to run open tournaments in the 1974-75 season is March 25th, 1974.

New post for Derek Tremayne



Derek Tremayne, general secretary of the English Table Tennis Association, has been appointed Director of Lilleshall National Sports Centre. He takes up his new post in November.

Mr. Tremayne succeeds Jim Lane who has been Director since the Centre was opened in 1951. Lilleshall caters for many different sports from fencing to lacrosse and is well known to soccer fans as a centre used by the national team preparing for internationals.

Aged 43, Derek Tremayne has a Diploma in Physical Education and has experience in grammar, secondary modern and approved schools, and also in further education. He was national athletics coach to the Malawi AAA (1961/62) before returning to England as Administrator to the Midland Counties AAA (1963/66). Married with four children, he has been secretary of the ETTA since 1966.

SOMERSET NOTES

by **MIKE HAWKINS**

TRIPLE CHASE

In the Somerset Inter-Town League there are three teams chasing the Division 1 title. They are Weston-super-Mare "A" (P4 W4 F31 A9 Pts 8), Failand "A" (P4 W3 D1 F32 A8 Pts7) and North East Somerset "A" (P3 W2 D1 F23 A7 Pts5).

Failand "A" and North East Somerset "A" met recently and drew 5-5. This was a good result for N.E. Somerset as Colin Tinknell, the County Chairman, was absent. Brian Reeves played well to win his singles sets, one of these against fellow county teammate John Hartry 12, 12.

Bath "B" are clear leaders in the second division, with Weston-super-Mare "B" second, whilst Bridgwater Juniors are likewise well clear in the County Junior Division.

In reply to Mr. John Woodford's article about the affect of petrol rationing. When he has read these notes he will be convinced that as regards the game of table tennis in Somerset regions, it has had little or no affect. Surely, Mr. Woodford, if a player, no matter what league he plays in, or even the player who plays a casual game, has sufficient interest, nothing will stand in the way.

THE SUNDAY TIMES SUPER LEAGUE

DESMOND'S TEAM THE WINNERS

by JOHN HOPKINS

Desmond Douglas and his team of young stars swept to victory in the Sunday Times Super League which ended in conjunction with the Teesside 3-Star Open championships on Saturday, Feb. 16/74 at Thornaby Pavilion.

Although Douglas and his team lost to Tony Clayton's team 5-4, those four points gave them a total of 26 points from five matches. Douglas led his men like a true captain, winning all his three sets and 14 out of 15 in the competition. It was a triumph for youth in a tournament which had taken the teams to five different centres all over the country.

"Everybody thought I had picked a weak team", Douglas said, sitting watching Andrew Barden play his last set. "But Ian Horsham has been to Japan and China and I knew if we found form we could do it".

All three are teenagers—Douglas and Horsham are 18, Barden is 14. "Our combined ages equal Denis Neale's" joked Horsham.

Neale and Douglas were the two outstanding players in the series. Neale won all the sets he played -12. Douglas, 14 wins out of 15, confirmed his promise. A sleepy looking chap, he thrives on hard hitting opponents. "Our best result was against Nicky Jarvis's team" said Douglas. "Everybody expected us to lose 7-2 or 6-3. But I won all mine and that boosted the others. Ours was a good team—we are young and hungry. We never stop fighting".

Horsham got them going at Thornaby. Attacking Paul Day's erratic forehand he won the opening set in straight games. Then left-handed Douglas polished off his three opponents, all in straight games. Neale's team made a late charge by winning 7-2 but it was too late.

One advantage of having a junior in each team was the advice he would receive from his captain and the experience of meeting top players. As Mark Mitchell, 15, clawed his way to victory over Jarvis, England's No. 3, his best ever result, Neale lived through every point. At the end of each game he talked hard to Mitchell. Final table:—

	P	W	L	Pts.
Douglas	45	26	19	26
Neale	45	25	20	25
Clayton	45	23	22	23
Hydes	45	22	23	22
Jarvis	45	20	25	20
Burn	45	19	26	19

Following the second series of matches at Warley the third venue was at Basingstoke where Lord Porchester, chairman of the Sports Centre trustees, was guest of honour (writes Ken Course).

The competing teams were at full strength—the first time incidentally in the five match series, Basingstoke was the third on the fixture list—and the names listed looked like a table tennis 'Debrett' was how a radio

commentator had described the match list. Tilbury was the next venue in conjunction with the Essex 2-Star and here again it was a success story. Full results from the three centres were:—

at Basingstoke (2.2.74)

CLAYTON 3 HYDES 6

A. Clayton lost to P. Taylor -13, -16; bt D. Alderson 14, -16, 11; lost to Hydes 10, -20, -19.

J. Walker bt Taylor 19, 15; lost to Alderson -19, 12, -19; lost to Hydes -20, 18, -18.

P. Day bt Taylor 20, 16; lost to Alderson -19, 18, -16; lost to Hydes -8, -14.

BURN 5 NEALE 4

B. Burn bt C. Warren 21, -12, 19; lost to J. Kitchener -23, 14, -19; lost to D. Neale -17, -16.

M. Johns bt Warren 21, 15; bt Kitchener 17, -18, 17; lost to Neale -13, -10.

D. Parker bt Warren 8, 15; bt Kitchener 18, -18, 19; lost to Neale -15, -21.

JARVIS 2 DOUGLAS 7

N. Jarvis bt I. Horsham 12, 15; bt A. Barden 19, 16; lost to D. Douglas -18, -16.

D. Brown lost to Horsham -20, -20; lost to Barden 19, -12, -19; lost to Douglas -13, -19.

R. Wiley lost to Horsham -18, -12; lost to Barden -15, -10; lost to Douglas -7, -13.

at Tilbury (9.2.74)

DOUGLAS 6 BURN 3

Douglas bt M. Mitchell 16, 11; lost to Johns -12, -20; bt Burn 13, -14, 17.

Horsham bt Mitchell 7, 18; bt Johns 12, -14, 12; lost to Burn -7, 18, -16.

Barden bt Mitchell 20, 20; lost to Johns 14, -12, -12; bt Burn 15, 25.

HYDES 3 NEALE 6

Hydes lost to Neale -18, -18; lost to Kitchener -14, -18; bt Warren 12, 16.

Taylor lost to Neale -13, 18, -18; bt Kitchener 18, 16; lost to Warren 20, -12, -19.

Alderson lost to Neale -9, -6; bt Kitchener 18, -19, 23; lost to Warren -10, 10, -14.

JARVIS 5 CLAYTON 4

Jarvis bt Clayton 17, -17, 9; bt Day 19, 17; bt Walker 7, -25, 11.

Brown lost to Clayton 14, -19, -16; lost to Day -14, -20, bt Walker -20, 19, 13.

Wiley lost to Clayton -18, -15; lost to Day 18, -17, -17; bt Walker 18, -14, 9.

at Thornaby (16.2.74)

NEALE 7 JARVIS 2

Neale bt Wiley 7, 13; bt Brown 9, -19, 11; bt Jarvis -19, 11, 19.

Warren lost to Wiley -19, -21; bt Brown 12, -13, 12; lost to Jarvis -16, -19.

Mitchell bt Wiley 17, 19; bt Brown 15, 17; bt Jarvis -16, 17, 16.

CLAYTON 5 DOUGLAS 4

Clayton bt Horsham 21, 7; bt Barden 16, 12, lost to Douglas -19, -12.

Walker bt Horsham 13, 11; bt Barden 16, -19, 17; lost to Douglas -15, -13.

Day lost to Horsham -19, -12; bt Barden 17, -19, 11; lost to Douglas -14, -18.

BURN 4 HYDES 5

Burn lost to Hydes 20, -13, -11; bt Alderson -10, 14, 17; bt Taylor 20, 15.

Johns lost to Hydes -16, -20, lost to Alderson -15, 19, -14; lost to Taylor -12, -20.

Parker bt Hydes -20, 19, 20; lost to Alderson -19, -17; bt Taylor 14, -18, 20.



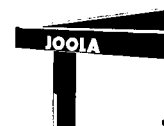
Time to relax with Tony Ross

After the calls of battle thirsts need quenching and in these shots taken by Tony Ross at the "Sunday Times" Super League reception, what better way than with a glass of ale.

The maple leaf of Canada is the focal point in the top picture worn by Errol Caetano behind who is stood David Alderson, and to whose right is Robert "The Tongue" Wiley. Left foreground is Ian Horsham with Nicky Jarvis facing.

Peter and Pat Simpson are the opposites at the second table with Bob Wiley Snr., taking a keen interest in the dialogue as is a pensive Harry Robinson with his bottle of Newcastle Brown.

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Exchange Visit

An official of the Federal German Table Tennis Association living in Frankfurt-on-Main enquires if it would be possible to send his two children to England this year on an exchange basis.

Both children speak school English the girl Gaby, being aged 16 and the boy, Michael, aged 14. They could travel after July 20 for about three weeks stay. It would be necessary, of course, for both of them to be accommodated with the same family.

Contact through the Editor please at 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, BL1 6JH.

Stiga National Club Championships

by JOHN PIKE

Ormesby, the Leeds United of the table tennis world, marched swiftly into the third round of the men's competition with a 6-0 win away from home. Their reward is another away trip, this time to the Fairfield Boys' Club at Stockton.

In the Yorkshire group, Old Crossleyans from Halifax, and Albion, both did well to win 5-1 on opponents tables and now meet in the third round at Sheffield. Stewart Milnes and Mike Stephenson pushed Old Crossleyans through, while Sykes and Vague took the honours in Albion's win at Glossop.

The two Lancashire games both look interesting ties, with the first at Bolton, where Alpha Films take on Little Lever Cricket Club from Bury, and in the all Y.M.C.A. clash, Manchester travel to Gatley. Here Jack Clayton and Kevin Forshaw could just tip the scales for Manchester.

Maurice Billington and Eric Hall were in good form for Mary Swanwick Y.C. in their 7-2 win over Nottingham NALGO and now meet Utopia at Mansfield. The Utopia trio of Tony Hunt, Alan Croome, and David

Brown, crushed the Three Aces Club from Grantham 9-0.

Another 9-0 score-line was at Birmingham where Central Y.M.C.A. beat the Cambridge Club from Walsall. Joe McCorry, Marcus Hall, and Pat Glynn now prepare for their home tie with Norton C.C. who did well to beat Leicester Y.M.C.A. 5-2. Tony Isaacs and Steven Rowe are two players that could see the Potteries side progress a stage further.

Moving over to the Cambridge League and it was Mike Palmer who led Soham to a comfortable 7-2 win over Eaton Socon from St. Neots. Soham now entertain Hertford T.T.C.

It was a close match at Romford where Netteswell beat Dagenite 5-4 to earn a home time with Fairbairn. B. Mailey was unbeaten for the losers.

Perhaps the best result of the second round went to Fellows Cranleigh who beat Larkhall 5-0 at Wandsworth. With six star players on show, it was close all the way, but in the end it was David Brown, Ian Robertson, and Ian Horsham that won the day.

Another London team with a lot of class this season is the Tennyson T.T.C. from Willesden. Following their 5-1 win over Ellenborough, David Tan, Laurie Landry, and Andrew Barden are now at home to Edmonton.

Gravesend Harriers are in the next round but only just. It was left to

Roy Coussens to give them a 5-4 win against Southborough and a home tie with Sedgemoor T.T.C. from Bromley.

Keith Horton and Gerald Pugh gave Gosops Foresters a 5-1 win at Aldershot, while their visitors in the next round, Chessington, crushed Byfleet 8-1.

Down in Hampshire Snobs Sports and Merton meet at Southampton after both teams had easy wins in the previous round. Snobs beat Gas Sports at Poole 9-0, while the Merton team of Trevor Smith, Doug Shipton, and Steven Wilson went to Cockerills and won 8-1.

Some fine play by Alec Watson was not enough to save Tylers Green going down 6-3 to Broadhampstead, and as a result of this win, the Bracknell side are now at home to Reading Y.M.C.A.

The final third round tie is at Weston Y.M.C.A. where Ray Philpott, Roger Morris and Tony Kinsey should feel happy about the visit of the Thatcham Social Club from Newbury.

Moving now into the women's section and here 16 teams will be fighting it out in their bid to win the Stiga-Gainsford Cup. Gainsford, the holders, start the defence of their title with a home game against Blue Circle.

Not to be out done by their men's team, Ormesby should prove too strong for Synthonia at Stockton.

Gatley Y.M.C.A. another team I fancy to do well, are at home to Bolton Colleges, while the only game in the Midlands is at Birmingham where South Yardley take on Chesterfield Y.M.C.A. With young Warwickshire stars like Di St. Ledger and Karen Groves in their side, South Yardley could cause a few surprises this season.

Gillian Locke made sure Grove St. Chads went into the next round when winning the deciding game against Witham Crittalls at Chelmsford. Elliotts from the Medway League also had a close call before beating Byfleet 5-4. Joyce Ellis and Kath Le Milliere just held the balance for the winners, but full marks to Jenny Vass who was unbeaten for Byfleet.

The final game is at Bournemouth where Merton take on Four T's from Southampton.

STIGA E.S.T.T.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1st Stiga English Schools Table Tennis Singles Championships have now been arranged for Sunday, May 26th, 1974 at the Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, when it is hoped that all affiliated counties will send one representative in each Age-Group event. Further details of this ambitious new venture will be given at the Team Finals, when the official announcement of the Championships will be launched with a special Stiga English Schools Pamphlet to be distributed nationally.

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National Team Competitions

by Keith Ponting

ALL HOLDERS STILL IN THE "FRAY"

At this stage in the competitions the four holders — North Yorkshire (Wilmott Cup), Central London (Rose Bowl), North Middlesex (Carter Cup) and Guildford (Bromfield Trophy)—are still very much involved and determined to retain their awards won at Harlow last May. In fact seven of the eight finalists last season are still in, the exception being Cheshunt who have been knocked out of the Bromfield Trophy.

WILMOTT CUP

North Yorkshire's trio of David Alderson, Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker were in convincing form against Stockton whose Malcolm Corking had a fine win over Alderson. Grimsby's long trip to Chesterfield was all in vain as they found Derrick and Neil Marples with Tony Hunt in top gear. A fine win for Huddersfield over Preston, despite a maximum from Donald Parker. Not so close was the Liverpool-Stockport tie as Brian Kean, Derek Schofield and Nigel Eckersley took the first 5 sets.

A thrilling and exciting match took place at Leicester with the home team's Paul Randell absolutely magnificent against Birmingham. A good team performance by the visitors with Ralph Gunnion (who said he had played his last game for Birmingham) saving their blushes in the deciding set. Paul Day led the way for Ely against Norwich well supported by Keith Richardson and Mike Palmer.

Watford were without their regulars against Cheshunt and Barry White, Chris Pickard and Jack Bender had little trouble. Former international Michael Harner was in fine form as North Herts, just got home against St. Albans as were Stuart Gibbs and Bobby Stevens for East London at Chelmsford. Dark horses could be North Middlesex who have impressed with their young players. Against Basildon, Mark Mitchell, Graham Blomfield and Andy Barden were brilliant.

David Tan scored a maximum against Wembley as did Don Berry for Slough in their good win over S.W. Middlesex. Brighton's impressive team of Robin Stace, Roger Chandler and Sam Ogundipe had no trouble beating Eastbourne and the same can be said for Bristol against Salisbury. Bristol are certainly finding Tony Clayton a very useful acquisition. Arthur Chilvers was the hero for Newbury at Bournemouth winning his 3 sets in fine style.

ROSE BOWL

Not to be outdone by the men N. Yorkshire's women won by the same score when represented by Maureen Redman, Carole Knight and Barbara Kearney against Northumberland. Mandy Mellor, Jackie Billington and Sandra Walters again gave Chesterfield a good win, over Bradford, as did Di Johnson, Doreen Schofield and Susan Lisle for Stockport against Liverpool. It proved third time lucky

for Leicester who lost the previous two seasons to West Bromwich. This time however junior stars Anita Stevenson and Karen Rogers emerged unbeaten. Another triple winner was Val Scripps who led Cambridge to a fine win over local rivals Bury St. Edmunds.

Bedford's Barbara Hammond was brilliant against N. Herts. but her efforts were in vain as Sue Felstead, Gill Calver and Sandra Harding won two each. Reading made progress thanks to Mrs. M. Massey. Sylvia Tyler, Barbara Tregoning and Marion Hope carried the hopes of Wembley and convincingly beat N. Middlesex and, of course, Shelagh Hession, Judy Williams and Di Court again romped home against plucky Gravesend. Southend's Linda Budd, Marilyn Thacker and Linda Barrow again showed their mettle against Colchester as did Sue Kavalleriou for Worthing at Byfleet.

The battle of the South Coast ended in a convincing win for Southampton over Bournemouth with Christine Davies, Sandra Harding and Lesley King all in fine form. Guildford are once again heading for the semi-finals and Susan Henderson, Linda Howard and Ruth Miles gave Newbury little chance. Plymouth and Exeter met in this competition for the first time for many years and the seashores were deserved winners. Pam Mortimer won three for Exeter but Nancy Hollywood, Mavis Scott and Elaine Lamb were all too good for Maureen Spray and Susan Tilley.

CARTER CUP

Another convincing win for N. Yorks through David Alderson, Steven Souter and Andrew Kilburn. Mike Harrison was the hero for Hull who overcame Chesterfield. A really close match at Bolton with Westmorland just getting home despite of a treble by Nigel Hallows. Bury found Manchester's Peter Brugge, Roger Idowu and Peter Morris too good for them.

An excellent encounter at Leicester with Birmingham. Chris Rogers was the only one to record a maximum with Dougie Johnson impressing for the visitors. Paul Day carried Ely through against Ipswich as did P. West and J. Horne for Northampton at Kettering. Aylesbury's visitors N. Herts were dominant thanks to Gavin Booth, Gary Harding and Richard Jermyn, and the same can be said of Les Eadie, Robert Potton and Stephen Webb who easily overcame Southend.

A comfortable win for Barking with Alex Abbott and Devinder Sehmbi in excellent form. N. Middlesex again had a convincing win and Mark Mitchell, Martin Wells and Andy Barden were really impressive against Thames Valley. Gravesend won the first set but then Bromley got into their stride and won in fine style thanks to some fine play by David DeWinter. Also unbeaten were Michael Douglas and Gerald Pugh for Crawley who gave Brighton no chance.

Good win for Newbury over Bournemouth considering their No. 1, David Reeves, was taken ill on the day of the match. Reserve Colin Taylor did well to pick up a win. Garry Roberts was steady throughout and Steve Wilson impressive for Bournemouth. Gloucester's Chris Sewell was tremendous playing for Bristol against Plymouth. He was

well supported by Richard Svendsen and Alan Hussey. Steve Sample, Keith James and Terry Fairbanks played well for the Devon side. In a cliff-hanger at Reading the home team won the final set to clinch the match and fittingly Simon Douglas completed his maximum.

BROMFIELD TROPHY

The N. Yorks. youngsters Ann Tierney, Nancy Carne and Carole Knight gave Leeds a rough ride winning easily to keep their league still involved in all four competitions.

Joanne Kinnersley, Carol Grayson and Julie McLean gave Hull a convincing win against Chesterfield as did Gail Round, Janet Carr and Heather Johnson for Wolverhampton over Kettering.

A comfortable win for Leicester at Birmingham through Karen Rogers and Anita Stevenson. Karen Groves took Anita to a decider. If this Leicester team can play in all the remaining matches avoiding England calls they must have a great chance of lifting the trophy. A fine maximum for Angela Mitchell on behalf of last season's finalists, Cheshunt, counted for nought in the final reckoning as Carol Ellis, Ruth Newman and Susan Ellis each won two for Cambridge. Plucky Luton had no answer to Romford's Cathy Stonell, Carol Taylor and Jane Livesey and Sittingbourne were in a similar plight against the Thames Valley trio of Susan Tame, Kay Greenhough and Stephanie Clarke.

Champions Guildford kept their flag flying high when they entertained Basingstoke and it was evident that Suzanne Roebuck, Diane Elliot and Jayne Mitchell will take some beating. A closer match at Crawley but Reading's Kara Mashford, Janet Thorpe and Jill Purslow just had the edge. A brilliant performance by Janet New gave Bournemouth a fine win over Newbury, Janet just getting home 24-22 in the deciding game of the final set against Caroline Reeves.

Junior Rankings

DAVID AND ANITA STILL THERE

Yorkshire's David Alderson and Anita Stevenson, of Leicestershire, remain undisturbed as the country's top juniors in the revised Junior Ranking List issued by the National Selection on February 11th, 1974. New rankings (previous positions in brackets) are:—

Boys

1. David Alderson (Yorks) (1)
2. Paul Day (Cambs) (4)
3. Andrew Barden (Middx) (5)
4. Mark Mitchell (Middx) (3)
5. John Kitchener (Suffolk) (2)
6. Les Eadie (Essex) (—)
7. Chris Sewell (Gloucs) (7)
8. Steven Souter (Yorks) (16)
9. Steve Lyons (Surrey) (9)
10. Robert Potton (Essex) (—)
11. David Iszatt (Essex) (10)
12. Chris Rogers (Leics) (11)
13. Robert Wiley (Yorks) (6)
14. David Bangarter (Surrey) (8)
15. Michael Douglas (Sussex) (13)
16. Andrew Kilburn (Yorks) (15)
17. Maxwell Crimmins (Surrey) (19)
18. Nigel Hallows (Lancs) (12)

Girls

1. Anita Stevenson (Leics) (1)
2. Carole Knight (Yorks) (5)
3. Karen Rogers (Leics) (2)
4. Judith Walker (Yorks) (4)
5. Elaine Tarten (Essex) (3)
6. Angela Mitchell (Middx) (8)
7. Mandy Mellor (Derbys) (6)
8. Susan Tame (Surrey) (10)
9. Linda Wales (Hants) (13)
10. Caroline Reeves (Berks) (12)
11. Kara Mashford (Berks) (14)
12. Julie McLean (Yorks) (—)

Omitted from the previous list are Peter Edon (Durham) (14), Martin Shuttle (Surrey) (17), David Newman (Essex) (18) and Jonathon Proffitt (Herts) (20) of the boys and Brenda Williams (Lancs) (7), Melody Ludi (Yorks) (9) and Susan Holmes (Derbys) (11) of the girls.

As would seem inevitable some junior brings off a fine win coincident with the selectors going into session and one can therefore sympathise with such as Bradford's Melody Ludi, winner of the Pontefract women's singles title and Nigel Hallows of Bolton, who won the Edinburgh Junior Open at a time when such feats were not known at the time the new lists were being compiled.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by BERNARD YARNOLD

Pat Glynn made the most of his inclusion in the Warwickshire top side for the first time in five years by winning both his singles in the County's 6-3 win away to Bucks. The blues of the Cheshire defeat were swept away as the team rallied round captain Ralph Gunnion to take the last three men's sets, after being held at 3-3.

Luckless Paul Shirley found Pat Glynn devastating mood as the latter forged an 8 and 9 win, and Brian Burn supported with two 2-straight wins. Pat and Diane St. Ledger only just lost the most closely-fought encounter of the evening when going down -23, -22 to brother and sister Paul Shirley and Jill Hammersley.

The senior "B" team also put a bad defeat against Staffs behind them, and held Derbyshire to a 5-5 draw. Top county junior Kevin Pilgrim made his senior debut, and although losing both singles, combined with Alan Fletcher to take a close doubles. Credit to the Stratford-on-Avon League who staged the match, noteworthy for tremendous support by local people—the attendance would have been a credit to a Premier Division match.

Wednesday, Jan. 23/74—that's the day that will go down in the annals of the Phoenix TT Club — the day their first team toppled mighty Valves in a Coventry League match by a 6-4 margin. Valves had not lost a match since the '64-'65 season, and have been Coventry League champions for 10 of the last 11 years. The inspired captaincy of Mick Tuft, who won his three singles, saw Phoenix home against the strength of Phil Richardson, former England-ranked junior, and top veteran Alan Bury.

Birmingham men's team progressed to the next round of the Wilmott Cup with a fine 5-4 win over Leicester, for whom Paul Randall won his three singles. Birmingham were 3-4 down before Mike Johns and Derek Munt (two wins each) wrapped up the proceedings. Ralph Gunnion contributed with one winning set.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

CHALLENGE MAINTAINED

Cambridgeshire maintained their promotion challenge in Division 2 East of the County Championships, when they beat Northamptonshire 7-3 at Kettering. Paul Day, Mick Harper and Keith Richardson all won 2 singles each with Day and Richardson also taking the Men's Doubles. It was a fantastic debut for fourteen-year-old Richardson who, besides winning both his singles, scored a 21-1 victory over the experienced David Hogg; at one time the score was 20-0! Linda Woodcock lost for the first time in the women's Singles, falling against the rubber bat defence of Connie Banc.

Cambs second team were unable to match the Seniors, going down 7-3 to Northants II at Wisbech. Brian Jones was in good form, winning both his singles against Atkinson and Alden. The other Cambridge victory was when Paul Chisnall beat Palmer. Although losing, most of the games were very close and Deborah Clarke only lost to Mrs. Lenton at 19 in the third.

In the Rose Bowl the Cambridge League defeated Bury St. Edmunds 6-3 at University Press. Bury, with two current Suffolk County players in their team, gave Cambridge their hardest match so far and it was not until the eighth set that they were finally beaten. Valerie Scripps was Cambridge's star, winning all three sets in straight games, but she received good support from Sally Hirst (2 wins) and Janet Rodgers (1). As this was the Zone Final it is many years since Cambridge did so well. In the Bromfield Trophy Cambridge, represented by the Ellis twins and Ruth Newman, meet Cheshunt in the second round.

In the South East Midlands League Cambridge Veterans defeated North Herts by 7-3 and are at the top of the table. The women are still unbeaten in their division, and look certain to gain their first title in this league. News of the Seniors and Juniors is not so good, although the Seniors only lost 4-6 to North Herts with a weakened team and then beat the luckless Haverhill by the same margin. In the North Herts match David Tiplady, Mick Byrd and Tom Gawthrop each won a singles, while Byrd and Iain Hale captured the doubles. In successive matches the Juniors lost 8-2 to North Herts and 7-3 to Haverhill, so that they now are really in the bottom half of the table and it will need a tremendous effort in the roaching line to produce some juniors who can again bring the team to the top.

In the East Anglian League Cambridge defeated Beccles 7-3, with John Thurston, Stephen Andrews and Paul Chisnall each winning a singles. Sally Hirst kept her record of never having been beaten in this competition and, on top of that, Cambridge won all the doubles. This is the second season in this League and as they are un-

beaten at the present moment, they could again take the title if they can overcome the strong Norwich and Ipswich teams.

13-years-old Ruth Newman won her first open title at Burford, Oxford. Partnered by Janet New of Bourne-mouth, she took the U-15 Girls' Doubles title, beating J. Thorpe and J. Douglas. Ruth also reached the quarter-finals of the U-17 and U-15 singles and the under-17 mixed. This Cambridge youngster is now playing really well and should be a great asset in a year or two, when she will be challenging for a place in the Senior team.

In the Cambs League last season's champions, Soham I, again lead the first division by one point from Y.M.C.A. I and University Press I. In recent matches they had two crushing 10-0 victories over Guildhall and Cambridge University, whilst Y.M.C.A., their closest rivals, slipped up badly when they went down 6-4 to New Chesterton Institute II, for whom John Baird, Ron Nunn and Mick Byrd won two sets each. As Soham and Y.M.C.A. still have to meet each other there is a prospect of a thrilling finish. University Press dropped another point when they only drew with Guildhall and then suffered another setback when they were surprisingly beaten by Soham II 6-4, for whom Keith Richardson was in good form, winning all his sets, while Paul Chisnall and David Tiplady won 2 each for Press. The great surprise in this match was the failure of former County champion Tony Littlechild, who did not win a set. Telephones, with 3 points, and Y.M.C.A. II with only one point look odds-on for the 'drop', although the latter team have persuaded Alan Ponder out of 'retirement' and may pick up more points. In the second division University II lost their first match of the season when they were crushed 9-1 by Fisons, who are in second place. Impington and Torchbearers II who are close behind Fisons, kept up their challenge by beating St. George's 6-4 and Cambridge Evening News 9-1 respectively. In the relegation zone Spicers gained their first point when they drew with St. Georges but they still appear doomed as they are 4 points behind Press II, although they have two games in hand. Y.M.C.A. III, and Soham III are also concerned with relegation problems, although the former team, at the time of going to press, have games in hand.

Congratulations to both Ely teams in reaching the zone finals of the Wilmott Cup and the Carter Cup. The Ely Junior Team of Paul Day, and the Richardson brothers have certainly proved that they are a force to be reckoned with in the closing rounds of the Carter Cup competition.

I also note that Paul Day has risen to No. 2 in the Junior ranking list and in the near future no doubt we shall see the name of Keith Richardson in this list as well.

HERALDING HEREFORDSHIRE

by IAN R. CRICKMER

MORALE BOOSTER

Morale in the County circles was given a tremendous boost by the 8-2 home success over Shropshire in a match which was well patronised by supporters of both the counties. By the time these notes are read, how-

ever, Glamorgan seconds will have been encountered and a quite different picture may have emerged!

Also victorious were the Herefordshire boys when they travelled for their last Midland League Division 3 match of the season at Stratford-on-Avon. As that town's most illustrious inhabitant, the Immortal Bard himself, wrote in Henry VI, Part 3 — "The harder match'd, The greater victory". The top-ranked players, Peter Close and Mark Owen, clashed in the first singles and Close gave Stratford the lead by winning 21-19 in the third game. Mark, however, won his two later singles and the doubles, and David Anchors, of Hinton Y.C. in Herefordshire Division 2, again weighed in with a valuable win over the home No. 3. Boy of the match award must go to the youngest player on view, 11 years old Michael Owens. He was awarded his Hereford badge before play commenced — can any other League boast of a player who has made fourteen City representative appearances at Under 17 level by this tender age? His celebration was to go through the match unbeaten, and to inflict the only singles defeat on Close in the final tie, so giving Hereford a 7-3 success.

In Under 11 events at this season's Junior Open tournaments, Michael has lost only to Richard Bergemann and Colin Wilson, but has usually found them barring his way in the early stages. Perhaps tournament organisers may now take note and give him consideration for seeding, which has previously not been given because of lack of information and of geographical location.

Hereford League affairs have been disrupted to some extent by the crisis conditions, and four teams have been forced to withdraw for varying reasons — M. E. B. Ludlow, Ross Sports Centre B, Tupsley Thunderbolts and Police C. The first-named's decision may well have prevented an embarrassing administrative situation, as the Ludlow League itself is understood not to have affiliated to Shropshire and the ETTA for 1973/74.

In one significant result in Division 1, Ledbury crushed Sapphires 10-0. The winners included Graham Bonser, a leading Gloucester player, and were well served also by Neville Meredith who beat Nim Hodges 19-21, 24-22, 22-21.

Village Farm, Dodgers, seeded second in the Worcestershire Knock-out Championship, meet Redditch Development Corporation in the semi-final, and, if successful, look likely to meet the holders, Saint Bede's (formerly Cookhill). In the Handicap event, Village Farm B (Yes, Owen and Owens again!) now meet East Worcestershire Water Co. B and will start 135 points down. The other surviving Hereford entrants, Smart and Brown, travel to Bromsgrove for their quarter-final against the Water Company's A team, but their commencing deficit will only be 50. Smart and Brown had one of the closest finishes in the competition to date when they beat visitors Birmingham Road Methodists B (Kidderminster) by a margin of 7 points.

The former South Wye Community Centre building, now re-erected at Village Farm, Allensmore, will have received its christening as a representative venue with Glamorgan's visit. Hereford League officials abandoned their typewriters and pens for paint

brushes and mops to get all ready, and create in the calm of the countryside a centre where battle will be joined with regularity. Unfortunately, the larger type of venue necessary for County tournaments remains a rarity, and hopes remain that, when the present restrictions are eased permission can be given for the Herefordshire Closed to go ahead at Wiggins' Canteen, where eight tables can be installed. When the position is resolved, the Committee will be able to turn its attention to a planned social function to celebrate the formation of the County Association and, in retrospect, the recent Silver Jubilee of the Hereford League.

SIGNALLING SURREY

by TED SIMPKIN

Table Tennis in the county appears to be proceeding fairly placidly with perhaps more troughs than triumphs. The county sides are reasonably placed, with any glory that is going being captured by the juniors. The seniors play at Guildford on Mar 9 (7 p.m. at Bellfields Youth Club) and should be expected to account for Bucks. Before that the second team take on Berkshire on Feb 23 with a team very different from a year or two ago, namely, Barry Hill, Gerv Walsh, C. Thorns, Susan Tame and Kay Greenough.

Entries for the County's first Junior Closed championships are high in number, 107 at the time of writing, the standard is good, and the competition is expected to be fierce. With only 28 entries in the men's singles so far the prospect for the organisers of the Closed senior's tournament is disappointing. Full reports in the next issue.

In the national tournaments Guildford, defending their two successive wins of the Bromfield Trophy, do not expect to make it three on the trot, now that the advancing years have caught up with Linda Howard, but their squad of Nicolette Leslie, Dianne Elliott, Jayne Mitchell, and Suzanne Roebuck, (the last three named having disposed of Basingstoke 8-1 recently.) will not yield easily. Perhaps it will be the turn of Thames Valley who have a very strong side? In the J.M. Rose Bowl, Guildford's Linda, with sister Susan and Ruth Miles move on to their yearly battle with regular winners, Central London.

This article could well be frivolously dedicated to the Secretaries of the leagues of Byfleet, Croydon, Dulwich, Leatherhead, Reigate, South London, Sutton, Thames Valley, and Wandsworth, to all of whom I wrote to invite contributions of local news of note, and from whom I have received nary a word. I am grateful for material offered and interest shown by Surrey Schools, and for a delightful account of the obviously well organised league in Dorking and District from Muriel Hayman. Dorking's is small in number with three principal divisions and, a new departure this season, a women's division of six teams; knock-out competitions are run, an annual tournament, of eleven events, is held and there are special awards for the most sportsmanlike club and for the "most improved player".

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by IAN R. CRICKMER

ANTI-CLIMAX

Hitting incessantly with unerring accuracy, Bob Brown of Cookhill retained the Worcestershire men's singles title in the 22nd County Closed at Redditch; in view of the controversy which has surrounded the county men's ranking list this season his clash with Derek Baddeley was awaited with particular anticipation, but, truth to tell, this came as an anti-climax after a superb semi-final in which Brown drove and angled with great precision to beat Worcestershire's latest star Mervyn Wood. For once, all eight seeds reached their allotted quarter-finals places, from which the completion read:

Brown bt Colin Hammond 21-16, 21-17;
Wood bt Trevor Washington 19-21, 21-17, 21-14;
Michael Sykes bt Brian Belcher 20-22, 21-14, 21-12;
Baddeley bt Nick Bottomley 21-8, 21-9
Semi-finals:
Brown bt Wood 21-14, 21-15;
Baddeley bt Sykes 21-8 21-13;
Final:
Brown beat Baddeley 21-18, 21-9.

This proved the extent of Brown's success, as he and Hammond fell at the first hurdle in the doubles, going out to Brian Jarvis and Ken Firkins. The latter were beaten in turn by Sykes and Stephen Taylor (of Oddfellow's, Bromsgrove) who went on to capture the title with a finals victory by 21-19, 20-22, 21-8 over Belcher and Wood. Bob's other finals appearance was in the last set of the Tournament, the mixed doubles, but Baddeley took partial revenge in partnership with Janet Hunt to give the latter a well-merited triple success. A fine third game recovery by Brown and Joyce Lloyd was to no avail, with Baddeley and Hunt victors by 21-14, 17-21, 22-20.

The ladies' singles late stages were also contested by the four seeds, with Joyce Lloyd beating Sheila Foley 21-18, 21-8 and Janet Hunt beating Diana Moss 21-11, 16-21, 21-12. A dominant Mrs Hunt staked her claim to the title by attacking more than is her wont, and justified the policy by winning 21-18, 21-12.

As expected, these two proved too strong together for all other ladies' doubles pairings, gaining final victory by 21-8, 21-11 against Diana Moss and Sheila Foley.

Mrs. Moss recorded success on her first appearance in the Veterans' Ladies' Singles—played on a group system, she accounted for all other four contestants with relative ease. In the Men's Veterans, success went to that popular competitor, Derek Reynolds of Malvern, who defeated Bernard Gilbert 21-13, 22-20. Again, all four seeded players had reached the semi-finals, Gilbert beating Ron Kings 21-8, 21-8 and Reynolds ousting Graham Warby 22-20, 21-13.

Finally Reynolds made it a veterans' "double" by taking the doubles with County chairman Doug Moss in a final win 21-17, 15-21, 21-19 over Warby and Kings.

Despite the power restrictions and other difficulties created by the emergency, the County Team Competitions shew good progress. The stage is set for the semi-finals of the Non-Handicap event, for which the line-up reads: Saint Bede's A v.

Tomkinsons, Redditch Development Corporation v. Village Farm Dodgers. The last named figured in the best tie of the previous round, winning 5-4 in an all Herefordshire battle with Ledbury. Of these four only Development Corporation (receive 150) survive in the last eight of the Handicap competition. In an intriguing situation, the start points of the remaining teams range from 110 to 300, with the other League representation being 3 Kidderminster teams and two each from Bromsgrove and Hereford. Only Kidderminster can be positive they will be represented in the last four, as Fire Station and Bewdley Tennis Club 'B' clash at the quarter-finals stage.

Difficulties have arisen however in the County League and few results of matches due in the January and February programmes have yet been notified. It is to be hoped that, with the more generous allowance of time to complete fixtures, the County Committee will not be called on again to adjudicate on a mass of unplayed matches. Two member leagues also report problems: Redditch has only four venues between its ten teams, and with only two tables currently available for use, the League programme is progressing only by fits and starts. Worcester, with all its individual championships scheduled for mid-February, has lost the use of its chief venue at Lea and Perrins, and my latest information is that the Committee has abandoned all its tournaments for this season, with the consequent cancellation of League Finals Night scheduled for April 19.

Worcester juniors continued their run of success in the Midland League with a 10-0 victory away to Loughborough, and have fully justified the high hopes held out for them. However, one wonders whether the League may not be failing to produce the youngsters who will eventually replace the current top players, as regrettably, Worcester will again not be represented in the ETTA Under 13 Singles when the regional play takes place on 27 April at Cheltenham.

All three Worcestershire schools entered in the ESTTA National Team Competitions were beaten decisively by their Warwickshire counterparts. Prince Henry's Grammar, Evesham lost 0-8 when they visited Brandwood at King's Heath, and a similar fate befell Saint Gilbert's, Hartlebury away to Washwood Heath. For Prince Henry's, Philip Hall, who plays for Rowing Club B in the local League, had the consolation of taking both his sets to three before bowing out.

The total eclipse of Worcestershire was prevented by John Boyd of Saint Bede's, Redditch, who beat Max Hudson 21-17 in the third when his school entertained Woodlands Comprehensive, Coventry and the latter returned successful by a 7-1 margin.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

By JOHN COOPER

GIRLS TO THE FORE

The Gloucester League boys not having got their entries in it was left to the girls to represent the League at the Burford Junior Open with Jane Dovey in the under-15's, Joanna Baughan in the U-13's and Jackie Bullock in the U-11's. The going was tough but Jane and Vanessa Cruwys reached the quarter-finals of the U-15

doubles and Joanna and Vanessa did the same in the U-13 doubles. Jackie played with Susan Giles of Stroud for their try in the U-13 doubles.

It was nice to see the name of Gloucestershire-trained Chris Iacopi in the Telegraph for doing well in the British University Sports Federation events. Derek Morgan has also been doing well to win the area scouts tournaments for U-13 and U-15 while clubmate Callum took the U-17 title.

William Dawe Jr. has been given his chance in the Gloucestershire senior side but we went down 4-6 to Notts although the juniors beat Glamorgan 7-3. Congratulations to Willie on starting to overcome his weakness against defensive players by beating Roy Morley in a local League match. He also played his part in Gloucester's winning of the Junior Midland Div III with team mates P. Twigg, A. Goode and P. Webb with the loss of only two sets. Gloucester's vets return to Div. II.

Thanks to Alan Williams for taking on the job of teaching the Hucclecote juniors how to play and to the High Sheriff of Gloucester for the loan of his personal table as a 5th one for the Longlevens training sessions.

In the County Junior League Gloucester girls beat Bristol 6-4 Kelly Gough taking one game 21-1. Stroud girls beat Bristol 'B' 8-2. Donna Vowles getting two for Bristol. In the Midlands League Stroud lost to Walsall 1-9.

On Jan 21 Gloucester 'used' Bryan Merrett to conduct a training session for their up-and-coming youngsters and on Feb 2 he was again in harness with the Gloucestershire juniors training at the Beaufort and of course he and Peter Cruwys and some of our juniors are taking part in the Regional Panel coaching.

The Warner Shield, given for annual competition between Cheltenham and Gloucester, was retained by Gloucester 5-4.

Congratulations to Pat Rowe on getting her teachers course started in Bristol. In the Willmott Cup the Bristol team of Clayton, Sewell and B. Reeves beat Salisbury 9-0 and their boys in the Carter Cup travelled through rain and flood to play Plymouth away to win 7-2 with Sewell, Svendsen and Hussey, the latter doing well to get two which included a win over Keith James.

Results of the Bristol Closed were:
M.S.: C. Sewell bt A. Kinsey 12, 11.
W.S.: Mrs. P. Reeves bt Mrs. P. Rowe 9, 15
M.D.: R. Bowles/B. Reeves bt J. Hartly R. Morris 13, 14.
W.D.: M. Lewis/P. Reeves bt P. Rowe J. Wetmore -15, 8, 19.
V.S.: N. Thompson bt R. Owen 5, 14.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by LAURIE LANDRY

YOUNGSTERS DOMINATE

The domination of titles by our youngsters in the Middlesex Closed Championships, held at the Barbet Centre, continued still further and extended to the men's and mixed doubles. The writer was unable to keep his grip on these titles.

Andrew Barden was in really tremendous form to retain his men's and boys' singles title against 16-years-old Mark Mitchell, one year his senior. The women's and girls' singles

were won by Angela Mitchell, just 14, who with brother Mark, won the mixed event. Mark and Andrew also successful in the men's doubles. The only title to escape capture by junior players was the women's doubles. In this event Beryl Clayton and Marjorie Walker were able to retain their title.

The County Premier team duly escaped relegation with the wins over Surrey (5-4) and Bucks (7-2). This gives us three wins out of five, a creditable performance by our very young team. Oldest member is 23-years-old Karenza Mathews, with boys or men being 15-years-old Barden, 16-years-old Mitchell, 17-years-old David Tan and 20-years-old Robert Aldrich. The future looks fairly bright and Middlesex prides itself on being the only County never to have left the Premier Division.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by JOHN PIKE

Only one win from their four county matches was hardly the sort of start Staffs wanted to herald 1974. The 'A' team that were going so well before Christmas met their match at Leicester when going down 7-3. Tony Isaacs beat young Chris Rogers, but this win now puts Leicester very much in the driving seat for the Midlands title.

The 'B' team collected two easy points in their 9-1 home win over Monmouth, but in their trip to Lancashire the juniors lost 7-3. Robert Legge was very much on his own in this match. Leicester completed the double over us with their veterans winning 6-4.

In the Staffs restricted tournament at the Woodfield club, Wolverhampton, Adrian Higgs from the Potteries, won the men's singles, while Janet Carr beat Gail Round in the final of the women's singles. Next season Janet moves into the seniors and one wishes her well in the higher grade.

Another clash of dates and this time it saw the Wolverhampton Closed on the same day as the West Midland Junior 2-Star. It was agreed that Gail Round, Ros Hodgkiss, and Stephanie Jones should go to Warley, while the other juniors would play in the Wolverhampton tournament at Wombourne.

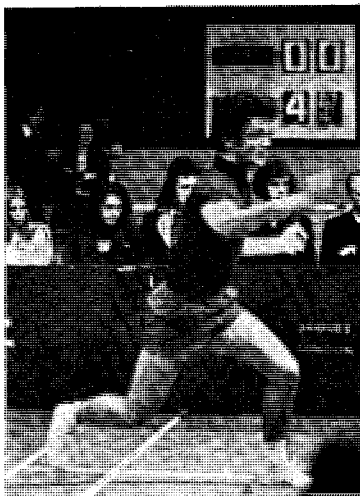
On the subject of tournaments, Highfield school are back on the scene with a vengeance. Ann and Roy Durnall took a squad to Matlock and here the youngsters did well to win the under-16 group for girls. The under-13 girls' final saw Highfield lose to Northampton. Cannock school also did well to win the boys' final.

The Highfield youngsters were at it again when they turned out for Wolverhampton in the Bromfield Cup. Gail Round, Janet Carr, and Heather Johnson gave Wolves a 7-3 win over Kettering to move into the next round of the competition.

It was a different story at West Bromwich where the home team made their exit from the Rose Bowl with a 5-2 defeat against Leicester.

The date for the A.G.M. has now been fixed and this will be on June 30 at the Burton Manor Sports Club, Stafford.

Continued on page 23



Balkan Journeys

by DONALD PARKER

The 1974 Rumanian Open played over the period Jan. 20-22 at Ploesti—more renowned for its oilfields than its table tennis—reminded us all of the strength of the Japanese.

The men's singles crown was won by Yujiro Imano beating Sarkis Sarkhayan and Anatoliy Strokotov, two Russians, in the semi-final and final respectively. He won these two sets by consistent smashing against topspin and by following his serves up with an effective third ball attack.

In complete contrast was the final of the women's singles in which Miho Hamada of Japan beat the host country's Maria Alexandru in a protracted set speeded up by the introduction of the expedite rule in the first game.

The men's team event was, as I forecast, won by the Japanese team of Imano and Katsuyuki Abe against a relatively unknown Chinese team, who all used the shakehand grip, and who had a convincing win over the Russians in the semis.

FIRST HURDLE

Japanese successes were cut into in the women's team event when they lost to the host nation in the penultimate round. Maria Alexandru and Eleanore Vlaicov backed up this victory with a win in the final against the Soviet Union.

In the men's singles Des Douglas, Jimmy Walker and I all fell at the first hurdle. Des was beaten by Virgil Sindeanu, Jimmy falling to Aurel Ovanez and yours truly to Dorin Guirguica—three Rumanians. In the counterpart women's event both Linda Howard and Anita Stevenson cleared their initial barriers also against Rumanian players, with Linda accounting for Lgia Lupu and Anita beating Liana Mihut.

Linda subsequently lost to the Chinese girl Liu Si-sui who went on to oust the European champion, Zoya Rudnova of the USSR before falling to Miho Hamada. Anita also went out to a Chinese player—Suei Gien-in who subsequently lost to Birgitta Olsson of Sweden.

Ironically both English teams were drawn against first string teams of Rumania in the team championships with Linda the only one to taste success when she had a 2-1 win over Mrs. Vlaicov. The only real taste of honey for the men came in the men's doubles event when Des and I reached the quarter-finals by firstly beating a Jap pair, Satoru

Amano and Michiaki Okada, then Matyas Beleznai and Ferenc Timar of Hungary before bowing out to China's Li De-ian and Liao Fu-min who won 15, -20, 19, -13, 10.

HIGHER STANDARD

At a tournament of this standard you can learn almost as much off the table as on it and indeed the Czech Open, which followed, was of an even higher standard. It was staged in the capital city of Prague and included over 30 world-ranked players. The men's singles winner Istvan Jonyer fought in true tradition as a man of Budapest.

Standing back from the table he varied his backhand and forehand topspin drives with masterly control. In the final he beat 20-years-old Post Office worker Tibor Klampar another inhabitant of Budapest. Being an all-Hungarian affair the final was not one to be remembered with the players concerned knowing each others game too well.

In the women's singles Judit Magos, the blond-haired Hungarian topspinned her way to victory over the prolific Maria Alexandru.

Surprisingly, in the team events the Hungarians failed to inspire and indeed Jonyer lost both his sets to the Federal German side of Wilfried Lieck and Klaus Schmittinger, his team-mate Gabor Gergely pulling him through.

The formidable Yugoslav duo of Dragutin Surbek and Anton Stipanovic beat the Soviet's Stanislav Gomozkov and Strokotov in the men's final. It was in this match that Gomozkov, the man with two forehands, reached his peak of the tournament in winning both his sets but all in vain.

DEEPER WATERS

Japan's women made up for their defeat in Ploesti by beating Russia in the final. England's male team were tested in the first round and Denmark's Neils Ramberg and Bjarne Grimstrup were 'drowned' 3-0. Thereafter, in deeper water against the Czech first string, they in turn went under by a similar score to Jaroslav Kunz and Milan Orlovski.

Unfortunately our girls found themselves straight in at the deep end against Czechoslovakia I. Linda put the team 1-0 in the lead by beating Blanka Silhanova but this was the only blood drawn.

In the men's singles Des lost to Klampar, Jimmy to Stipanovic and myself to Strokotov. This trio, I

fancy, would need some stopping in the Lancashire and Cheshire League! The girls had no better luck in the draw and found themselves confronted by formidable opposition in the persons of East Germany's Engelmann who beat Anita 13, 16, 14 and the host country's Dubinova who got the better of Linda over 5 games which went 7, -18, -13, 13, 16.

SIGNIFICANCE

The only English success of any significance was achieved by Des and Linda who reached the quarter-finals of the mixed. Their first round victory was over the Federal Germans Fritz/Kneip and then, in the second round, they gained revenge over their conquerors in Rumania, Turai and Zizkova.

An excellent victory in the third round was achieved by consistent controlled topspin against the defensive wall painstakingly erected by the Hungarians Jonyer and Beatrix Kishazi. However, in the quarters they then met their match in Stipanovic and Alexandru.

Although the trip did not include any major successes a good deal was learned by each individual and hopefully this knowledge could be used to put points on our game.



ISTVAN JONYER (Hungary)

RUMANIAN OPEN

Men's Team.

Semi-finals:

JAPAN 3 SWEDEN 1
Y. Imano bt B. Persson 19, 16; bt I. Wikström 15, 16.

K. Abe lost to Wikström -17, 19, -14.

Abe/Imano bt Persson/Wikström 10, 14.

CHINA 3 USSR 1

Liao Fu-min lost to S. Sarkhayan -19, -20.

Li De-ian bt A. Strokotov 12, 19; bt Sarkhayan 14, 16.

S. Gomozkov/Sarkhayan lost to Liao Fu-min/Le De-ian -17, 18, 19.

Final:

JAPAN 3 CHINA 2
Abe bt Li De-ian 17, 13; bt Liao Fu-min 16, 20, 17.

Imano bt Liao Fu-min 13, 10; lost to Li De-ian -20, 16, -14.

Abe/Imano lost to Liao Fu-min/Le De-ian -16, -18.

Women's Team.

Semi-finals:

USSR 3 CHINA 1

E. Antonian bt Suei Gien-in 7, 13.
Z. Rudnova lost to Ien Kuei-li -19, -17.; bt Suei Gien-in -18, 20, 19.
Antonian/Rudnova bt Ien Kuei-li/Suei Gien-in 8, 14.

RUMANIA 3 JAPAN 1

M. Alexandru bt S. Takahashi 17, -18, 14; bt M. Hamada -8, -18, 17.

E. Vlaicov lost to Hamada -10, -11.
Alexandru/Vlaicov bt Hamada/Takahashi 13, 19.

Final:

RUMANIA 3 USSR 0
Vlaicov bt Rudnova 17, 15.

Alexandru bt Antonian -10, 13, 17.

Alexandru/Vlaicov bt Antonian/Rudnova 19, 20.

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

S. Sarkhayan (USSR) bt I. Wikström -24, 15, 15, 16;

Y. Imano (Japan) bt Li De-ian (China) 19, 12, -16, 19;

A. Strokotov (USSR) bt Karakasevic (Yugo) 17, -14, -18, 19, 15;

J. Dvoracek (Czecho) bt S. Gomozkov (USSR) -15, 17, 15, 14.

Semi-finals:

Imano bt Sarkhayan 20, -16, -16, 14, 14;

Strokotov bt Dvoracek 15, -17, 8, 19.

Final:

IMANO bt Strokotov -18, 14, 6, 14.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

Liu Si-siu (China) bt Z. Rudnova (USSR) 12, 14, 16;

M. Hamada (Japan) bt Ien Kuei-li (China) 5, 11, 17;

P. Stephan (East Germany) bt B. Olsson (Sweden) 12, 19, -15, 12;

M. Alexandru (Rumania) bt S. Takahashi (Japan) 21, 13, -17, -22, 13.

Semi-finals:

Hamada bt Liu Si-sui 13, 7, 15;

Alexandru bt Stephan 13, 22, 20.

Final:

HAMADA bt Alexandru 18, 15, 11.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Imano/S. Itoh (Japan) bt Gomozkov/Sarkhayan -14, -18, 9, 18, 19;

Liao Fu-min/Li De-ian bt H. Abe/K. Abe (Japan) 11, 15, -19, -16, 12.

Final:

IMANO/ITOH bt Liao Fu-min/Li De-ian 11, 14, 19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Alexandru/Hamada bt Ien Kuei-li/Suei Gien-in 18, 15, 14;

Antonian/Rudnova bt Liu Si-sui/Sen Siao-hun (China) 14, 20, 16.

Final:

ALEXANDRU-HAMADA bt Antonian/Rudnova -16, 12, 14, 6.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

Gomozkov/Rudnova bt J. Turai/M. Zizkova (Czecho) -17, 16, -16, 19, 18;

Sarkhayan/Antonian bt Dvoracek/Schmidova (Czecho) 19, -13, 15, 13.

Final:

GOMOZKOV/RUDNOVA bt Sarkhayan/Antonian -21, 15, -13, 19, 17.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA OPEN

Men's Team

Semi-finals:

YUGOSLAVIA 3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 0

A. Stipanovic bt M. Orlovski 17, -7, 18.

D. Surbek bt J. Kunz 18, 14.

Stipanovic/Surbek bt Orlovski/Kunz 20, -17, 14.

USSR 3 HUNGARY 1

S. Gomozkov bt I. Jonyer 12, -15, 14.

S. Sarkhayan lost to G. Gergely -17 -19; bt Jonyer 19, 9.

Gomozkov/Sarkhayan bt Jonyer/T.
Klampar -10, 19, 10.

Final:
YUGOSLAVIA 3 USSR 1
Surbek lost to Gomozkov 1-2; bt
Strokotov 2-0.
Stipancic bt Strokotov 2-1; lost to
Gomozkov 1-2;
Stipancic/Surbek bt Gomozkov/
Sarkhayan 2-0.

Women's Team.

Semi-finals:
USSR 3 HUNGARY 2
E. Antonian lost to J. Magos 17, -19,
-19; lost to B. Kishazi 16, -12, -15.
Z. Rudnova bt Kishazi 17, -16, 13; bt
Magos 18, -15, 14.
Antonian/Rudnova bt H. Lotaller/
Magos 22, -14, 13.

JAPAN 3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 2
S. Takahashi lost to A. Grofova -20,
-17, bt M. Zizkova 19, 18.
H. Hamada bt Zizkova 15, 10; bt
Grofova 13, 19.
Hamada/Takahashi lost to Grofova/
Zizkova -16, -14.

Final:
JAPAN 3 USSR 0

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Surbek (Yugo) bt Y. Imano 20,
19, 17;
I. Jonyer (Hungary) bt S. Sarkhayan
(USSR) 16, 20, -19, 13;
T. Klampar (Hungary) bt M.
Orlowski (Czecho) -15, 19, 11,
-19, 17;
A. Stipancic (Yugo) bt J. Börzsei
(Hungary) 18, 11, -15, 14.

Semi-finals:
Jonyer bt Surbek 16, 14, -17, 18;
Klampar bt Stipancic 15, 12, -14, 13.
Final:
JONYER bt Klampar -23, 15, -15,
17, 17.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Magos (Hungary) bt A. Grofova
(Czecho) 17, 18, 14;
Z. Rudnova (USSR) bt B.
Silhanova (Czecho) -19, 15, 19, 14;
M. Alexandru (Rumania) bt H.
Reidlova (Czecho) 15, 11, 9;
A. C. Hellman (Sweden) bt B.
Kishazi (Hungary) 19, 8, 16.

Semi-finals:
Magos bt Rudnova -19, 15, 19, 14;
Alexandru bt Hellman 12, 8, -23, 12.
Final:
MAGOS bt Alexandru 19, 13, -18, 7.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
S. Gomozkov (USSR)/Sarkhayan bt
Jonyer/Klampar -8, 17, 14, 17;
Stipancic/Surbek bt Borzsei/G.
Gergely (Hungary) 13, 16, 11.

Final:
STIPANCIC/SURBEK bt
Gomozkov/Sarkhayan 17, 19, -15,
15.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Alexandru/Grofova bt H. Lotaller
(Hungary)/Magos 17, 17, 16;
M. Hamada (Japan)/Kishazi bt
Smidova/Reidlova -20, -16, 14, 14,
14.

Final:
HAMADA/KISHAZI bt Alexandru/
Grofova -25, 11, -8, 19, 16.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Stipancic/Alexandru bt Douglas/L.
Howard (England) -22, 12, 15, 14;
Sarkhayan/Antonian bt Orlowski/
Grofova -23, 11, 10, 14.

Final:
SARKHAYAN/ANTONIAN bt
Stipancic/Alexandru 9, -10, 11, 17.

Birthday

The Honorable Ivor Montagu,
Founder President of the Inter-
national Table Tennis Federation, is
due to celebrate his 70th birthday on
April 23.

From the Editor's Postbag

JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS AND RANKINGS

The organisers of Junior T.T. tournaments wonder why England-ranked juniors do not enter their events. If an England-ranked junior wants to keep his ranking why should he play, risk losing to an inferior player who is having "his or her day" and thus lose a ranking which in most cases has been hard fought for at 'Round Robins' and Assessment Camps.

A junior who ignores junior tournaments but only plays senior tournaments and in consequence is likely to have "his or her day", stays with the same ranking, in fact a good win against a senior player is likely to advance his or her ranking at the expense of other juniors.

Credit should be given to youngsters who put themselves open to pressure by entering all tournaments, senior and junior, and play because they enjoy the game even if they get the occasional bad result. The victors are very pleased to say they beat an England-ranked junior but are quite aware that their win does not put them above the loser in the ranking or in over-all ability.

Ranking selectors must prefer their ranked juniors to play in senior tournaments only because it makes their job that much easier. Junior 3-Star seems to be the answer.

JOAN ISZATT

Merryweathers Farm,
Roydon, Essex.

PLAUDITS FROM NAGPUR

Your October, 1973, issue of "Table Tennis News" reached me today (February 1st, 1974). Must appreciate tremendous amount of TT news you manage to squeeze in 28 pages. It's surprising to us here in India as we are news-starved, truly. And what coverage, from international to national to County to League news, with new ideas, viewpoints sprinkled for good measure!

It may appear naive on my part, but I admit my ignorance about how a League functions. Can you enlighten me on this point. Would like to hear about administrative set-up in the U.K. for Table Tennis from National level down to League level in detail.

In India we have Table Tennis Federation of India, which is the top body controlling and promoting Table Tennis, that is affiliated to the I.T.T.F. Various states in our country, whose geographical boundaries are spread far and wide (it takes one night's train journey to reach nearest within a State) have State TT Associations that are affiliated to TTFI. Each State Association has various District Associations affiliated to it in addition to some Clubs having direct affiliation. I have not heard of Leagues being formed here. Hence my query.

It appears that promotion and conduct of the TT affairs in the UK is as thorough as it is progressive and

efficient. Yet, the UK has not produced a World Champion ever since Johnny Leach became the first English-born player to claim the coveted honour. Why? With such thorough planning, comprehensively up-to-date training facilities and coaching programmes and above all, with such a cadre of enlightened and dedicated persons to execute these plans and programmes, what is it that is found wanting in the present generation of TT players in the UK?

Compared to your players' lot, ours is primitive, to say the least. Neither the modern equipment is available easily or cheaply as import is banned, nor the locally manufactured one is up to international standard. Even then, India ranks 14th in Men's World standing.

M. S. AJREKAR.

1074 Gore Peth,
Nagpur-440 010,
(Maharashtra), India.

(A League's handbook would doubtless be appreciated by our Indian correspondent.—Ed.).

EVIDENCE NOT PRODUCED

We refer to the letter from I. R. Crickmer and E. J. Mitchell in January "Table Tennis News". We do not wish at this stage to enter into the argument as to the merits or otherwise of giving away the privileges of membership to people who are not Members of the

E.T.T.A., but there are certain parts of this letter which are, we trust unintentionally, misleading.

1. The proposal which was put to National Council would not merely restore "the situation which existed prior to the 1972 ETTA A.G.M.". The "situation ... prior to the 1972 ... A.G.M." was that "Schools Leagues" and "School Clubs" could affiliate without fee, whereas the proposal sought to allow school-children whether or not members of any "School Club" or "Schools League" to enter Junior Open Tournaments.

2. What justification had the writers for their "quite unwittingly"? Open Tournaments are run for the benefit of Members of the ETTA (and other national Associations affiliated to the ITTF). The independent status of ESTTA which was presumably of their own choosing, resulted in it being thought no longer appropriate to give members of that body the privileges of membership of the ETTA for nothing.

3. When the Tournament Regulations were re-drafted, prior to June 1972, a view was made known that organisers of a number of Closed Tournaments wished to be able to include players who were members of Organisations in Good Standing but not affiliated, and the definition of Closed Tournaments was accordingly amended; that only enables the

(continued on next page)

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Letters to the Editor cont.

Organisers to include them and does not give the automatic right to be included if the Organisers do not want them. Nothing was said at the time about extending the idea to Opens, nor has evidence yet been produced that in the pre 1972 A.G.M. era many school-children who were affiliated only through School Clubs or Schools Leagues entered Open Tournaments. One wonders whether the suggestion might be more palatable if ESTTA were prepared to be responsible for all these would-be entrants by making provision in their constitution for individuals to be members of ESTTA.

**TONY WICKENS
KEITH WATTS**

**2 Frensham Walk,
Farnham Common,
Slough, Bucks.
SL2 3QF
6 Windsor Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea,
Sussex.**

NO RELEVANCE

Cannot something be done about fairer representation in the finals of the Halex English Under-13 Singles competitions? Qualification is at present achieved by winning one of the 8 regional groups and the final groups, male and female, are therefore unlikely to consist of all the best players in the country and any place after the first has no relevance.

As things stand this season's Reading Girls' U-13 Closed will be a stronger tournament than the English U-13 Final Tournament. Five girls who have won open U-13 tournament titles will be competing for the Reading title, yet only one of these could play in the National Final where possibly all five could take 5 of the first 6 places.

Can a fairer system be devised for next season? One simple way would be to have a national ranking list for say eight U-13's who would automatically go through to the final group and not play in the regional tournaments. This would create truly English Under-13 Singles Championships.

ALAN DINES.

**37 Avalon Road,
Earley, Reading, Berks.**

NOT WARRANTED

On behalf of the Reading & District Table Tennis Association I am writing to answer the article headed 'Referee without a Heart' from Mr Inch, in table Tennis News, Jan 1974. Such an attack on a hard working and competent referee is not warranted. Mr Inch should not try to shift the blame for his own miscalculation on to the shoulders of a referee who had the responsibility of ensuring the completion of over 350 matches during the day.

There was no indication on the entry forms that a late start had been requested or that Mr. Inch was travelling to the tournament on the day and surely, if he knew that he was behind schedule, a telephone call may have solved the problem. Perhaps, as Mr. Inch has found other referees more accommodating, he makes a habit of arriving late!

With regard to his comment that 'he had just to roll out of bed to be at the tournament' I would like to inform Mr. Inch that the organising committee could not get into the

hall until after 10.0 p.m. the previous evening and these members did not leave until 3.00 a.m. after putting up lights, tables, amplification equipment etc. ready for the tournament and they were on duty at 8.30 a.m.

The Reading Committee feel that staging finals is an important part of the tournament and a one hour break between a semi-final and final is not a long time to wait. It has been noted that our juniors have waited up to three hours between semis and finals in recent Open Tournaments. Every effort, however, is made to ensure that competitors are not kept waiting.

The Reading & District Table Tennis Association has every confidence in John Freeman and we have been very grateful for the amount of time he has spent to enable the Reading Junior Open Tournament to be a success.

**P. R. BRADLEY,
Hon. General Secretary,
Reading & District TTA.**

**27 Vale Crescent,
Tilehurst, Reading, Berks.**

TOURNAMENT ORGANISATION

When, oh when are tournament organisers at all levels, going to consider the players that travel many miles for competition, only to be knocked out first round, with probably only two games being played. If he has entered the doubles he probably gets another two games.

This means that he has forked out say £2 for travel, another 75p entry fee, and has to show for it the grand total of four 21-up games. The star player, on the other hand, get 14+ matches.

Only very rarely is the group method of tournament play actually carried out, in which the first round consists of 3 or more players, playing each other on a round robin basis; the player who wins most matches carries on to the second round on a conventional K.O. basis. Even if you lose in the first round at least you have had 24 matches to show for it.

As is shown by the analysis, such a system need not result in much more table time being required. The organisation of such a system is easier, and there is not the same need to keep tags on losers to score. The most important thing is that the stars play the same number of matches, and the "hacks" more, surely a much fairer system all round, particularly where juniors are concerned.

Match analysis of a typical tournament

Normal KO system Singles—128 entry

Star (Eventual winner)

7 matches

First round loser

1 match

Table time required:—

127 matches at say 5 minutes per match using 12 tables

127 x 15

60 x 12 = 2.65 hours

Group system under same conditions

3 players per group say 43 groups

Star (Eventual winner)

7 matches

First round loser

2 matches

Table time required:—

127 + 41 matches = 168 matches

168 x 15

60 x 12 = 3.50 hours

Before anyone says why do this for one extra match, this means one extra match for 50% of the entry, and if the same system is practised in doubles, everyone feels as if they have had their monies worth.

JOHN DIGGENS.

**32 Addison Road,
Guildford, Surrey.**

WELSH NOTES

by H. ROY EVANS

George Evans continues to be the bogey man for both Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies, and neither seems to know how to beat the Barry veteran, who is making a comeback with victories he found much more difficult to come by when he was playing over ten years ago.

Anti-loop, combined with extreme physical fitness and an improved attack, make him an extremely difficult proposition for both Alan and Graham, who will certainly have to come up with something better than they've shown lately if they are to avoid the humiliation of losing to a player who was an interntional over a decade before.

The Welsh Closed provided George with the chance to retain his title, and he then went on to beat both in the Cardiff Closed.

Glenys Thomas was the surprise winner of the Women's Closed title, and to do so she put together a string of victories better than anything she's previously attained.

Welsh Closed Results

M.S.—S.F.: George Evans bt Graham Davies 18, 24.

Alan Griffiths bt John Mansfield 11,20.

F: Evans bt Griffiths 10, 14.

W.S.—S.F.: Sandra Pickering bt Elizabeth Jones 17, 13.

Glenys Thomas bt Margaret Phillips -20, 18, 16.

F: Thomas bt Pickering 16, -4, 16.

M.D.—F: Evans/ K. Bull bt Davies/ Griffiths 18, 16.

W.D.—F: Phillips/Pickering bt Bett Gray/Jones 17, 16.

X.D.—F: Davies/Phillips bt Mansfield/Jones 20, -15, 15.

J.B.S.—F: Andrew Thomas bt John Hook 20, 13.

J.G.S.—F: Pat Allen bt Julie Ralphs 11, 15.

Following participation in the English Open it will be a busy international week for Wales. On Wednesday, March 6th, we play Nigeria at Rhyl, where Alan Griffiths, Graham Davies, Mike Owen and John Mansfield will do duty. On the following day, Canada will be the opponents at Aberdare, and the team there is: Alan, Graham, Mike with Sandra Pickering and Glenys Thomas. England's Juniors will be the opponents on Friday, and the team is: Andrew Thomas, John Hook, Tony Healan, Wayne Barnard, Pat Allen and Julie Ralphs. And then on to the Welsh Open with opposition from Czechoslovakia, England, Canada and Nigeria.

Bound for Novi Sad

Shortly after the Basingstoke 3-Star Open Championships the E.T.T.A. selection committee announced the team to represent England in the 1974 European Championships to be held in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, from April 6th-13th, 1974. It is:—

Men—Denis Neale (Yorkshire), Nicky Jarvis (Yorkshire), Desmond Douglas (Warwickshire) and Alan Hydes (Yorkshire). Reserve: Trevor Taylor (Essex).

Women—Jill Hammersley (Buckinghamshire), Linda Howard (Surrey), and Karenza Mathews (Middlesex). Reserve: Lesley Radford (Essex).

Non-playing captains are Les Gresswell (men) and Bryan Merrett (women). The party will be led by E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles M. Wyles, O.B.E., and Deputy Chairman George R. Yates, who will be the E.T.T.A. delegates at the E.T.T.U. Congress, John Myers, the E.T.T.A.'s Physio-therapist, will accompany the team.



This charming study shot of Linda Howard (left) and Jill Hammersley was taken by Malcolm Anderson, Chairman of the United States T.T.A.'s Photographic Committee, at the 32nd World Championships in Sarajevo. Together with Karenza Mathews they will constitute our women's European Championships team.

WESTERN LEAGUE BULLETIN

by GROVE MOTLOW
TIGHT SCORING

The local "derby" between Bristol and Weston produced some very tight scoring with never more than one set in it to the very end. 14-year-old Chris Sewell played brilliantly to win his three, beating Tony Kinsey, Joe Garland and Jim Andrews and was a little unlucky to still be on the losing side with Weston winning 5-4.

Bristol took a lead of 4-3 but Garland and Andrews won the remaining two sets to clinch victory. Another good performance by 13-years-old Richard Svendson, although losing all three, while "Ginger" (Anti-loop) Midred fought well for his solitary success over Andrews. For Weston Garland and Tony Kinsey won 2 each and Andrews one.

Bournemouth were much too strong in their home match with Bristol who, without Sewell, went under 9-0. Weston, in their home game with Plymouth, fielded a very strong side while their visitors were without Bob Parkins. Weston won comfortably 8-1, Andrews, Joe Hartry and Roger Morris having full command with only Keith James recording a home win against Hartry.

Newbury women had a fairly comfortable win over their visitors Devizes beating them 7-2. For the home team Caroline Reeves was again in fine form securing a maximum while for Devizes Alison Boyce got their two, beating Jackie Godwin and Carol Houghton. Leading positions:—

Men	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth ...	4	4	0	28	8	8
Weston	5	3	2	22	23	6
Salisbury	2	2	0	16	2	4
Newbury	2	2	0	10	8	4
Exeter	3	2	1	14	13	4

Women	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury	3	3	0	19	8	6
Bournemouth ...	2	2	0	13	5	4
Plymouth	3	2	1	21	6	4

CANCELLATION

The Gwent Open, scheduled to be played at Newport, Mon., on April 6th, 1974, has been cancelled due to the energy crisis.

SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

HOT FAVOURITES

Although Wellingborough head the Men's Section, Ely, who are in second position, must again be hot favourites to retain their title as they are still unbeaten after six matches. Northampton and Bedford are chasing them as are North Herts who have matches in hand. Ely had a recent 9-1 win over Haverhill, who have yet to record their first victory. Cambridge, last year's runners-up, have fallen away badly and are only half-way up the table, which position they should retain to the end of the season.

In the Junior Section Ely are again the favourites with an unbeaten

record, but North Herts, who have played the same number of matches, are only one point behind and a close finish is expected. At the time of going to press Kettering head the division, but have played more matches than their nearest challengers. It is interesting to note that in this division St. Neots, who are in sixth place with nine matches played, have yet to record their first victory. Recent results show that North Herts had three easy victories over Cambridge, Wisbech and Haverhill respectively and Ely also disposed of Haverhill and St. Neots by large margins.

Cambridge easily head the Women's Division with an unbeaten record, although they were held, rather surprisingly, by Wellingborough, to a 5-all draw. St. Neots are in second

position and Kettering and Hunts Central are at the foot of the division without a win between them. Cambridge also head the Veterans' Section without defeat after eight matches and look set for the title, although St. Neots and Kettering could run them close should the leaders falter.

It is a pity that there are still 16 postponed matches that have yet to be rearranged and secretaries are asked to get these played as soon as possible; also there are some fixtures which were due to be played but so far no information has been received about the results. Here again secretaries are urgently requested to send in their result cards as soon as the match is completed in order that the League Secretary can keep his records up to date.

Leading Positions:—

Men	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wellingboro'	8	5	1	2	51
Ely	6	6	0	0	49
Bedford	6	3	3	0	42
Northampton	6	4	2	0	42
St. Neots	8	3	2	3	42

Women	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cambridge	6	5	1	0	45
St. Neots	6	3	1	2	34
Bedford	6	3	1	2	30
Peterboro'	6	3	0	3	30
Wellingboro'	6	3	0	3	28

Juniors	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kettering	9	6	2	1	58
Ely	6	6	0	0	52
Nth. Herts	6	6	0	0	51
Northampton	6	4	1	1	39
Wellingboro'	7	2	2	3	37

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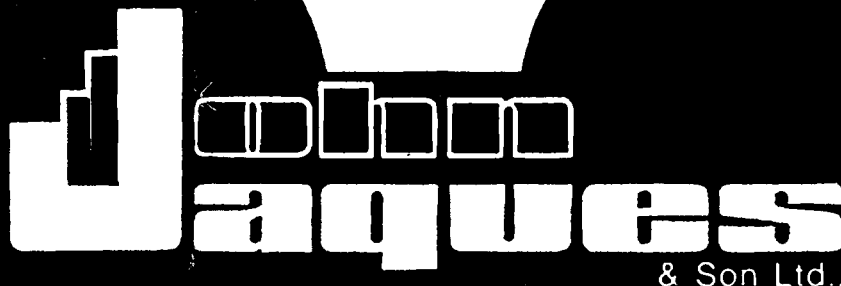
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OPEN TOURNAMENT SURVEY

Contributed by John Heritage, Maurice J. Chalk, Albert W. Shipley, Alan Shepherd and Alan Ransome

Despite the problems of fuel shortages, lighting restrictions, Saturday working and no trains on Sundays, the **Kent 2-Star Open** still went ahead as planned with a good entry at the Marine Pavilion, Folkestone over the weekend of Jan. 26/27.

In the men's singles Alan Hydes predictably reached the final only dropping one game to Chris Strathearn in the quarters, the latter having beaten Ian Horsham in the second round. No. 2 seed, Mike Johns, went out in straight games to Ian Robertson but there was consolation for him by his retention of the men's doubles title, with Hydes, and the mixed, with Sue Henderson.

Although Paul Day reached three finals his only success came in the U-20 BS when he beat Peter Taylor very comfortably in straight games.

Played over the same weekend, the **Burford Junior 2-Star Open** proved enjoyable for players and officials alike with the former earning high praise from Referee John Wright for their help in bringing each day's programme to a conclusion well ahead of schedule, and, from the committee, for their high standard of sportsmanship and general behaviour.

In spite of difficulties nearly 200 players managed to arrive and some of the staged finals had the spectators rising from their seats to applaud. As usual many matches were filmed by a television company and played back in the restaurant afterwards.

In recent years it has been the lot of one player really to hit the headlines at Burford — 1971 Paul Day, 1972 Chris Rogers, and this year Martin Shuttle. Pressed hard in the final rounds his determination and concentration saw him through to win both the U-15 and U-17 singles titles and with G. Stewart the doubles events as well.

NOTABLE HAT-TRICK

England's No. 2 Denis Neale took three titles at the **Basingstoke 3-Star Open**, held over the weekend of Feb. 2/3 in the biggest table tennis event ever held in Hampshire. In the final of the men's singles Neale had to use all his experience to beat Des Douglas and these two players were undoubtedly the stars of the tournament.

Douglas had a notable hat-trick as, after inflicting Nicky Jarvis's first defeat in the Sunday Times Super League event, he beat him again in the U-21 singles to win that final and followed this up with another win in the men's singles to reach the final.

Neale's other successes were in the men's doubles when, partnering Alan Hydes, he and his partner beat the Taylor brothers Peter and Trevor. Partnering Karenza Mathews in the mixed he again faced Douglas, who had as his partner Linda Howard.

The women's singles final went to Jill Hammersley who, after taking the first game 21-9 against Miss Howard, showed how to fight back when trailing in the second and won 22-20.

Linda Howard was again on the losing side in the women's doubles. Partnering Mrs. Mathews, she went down to Judy Williams and Shelagh Hession. In the junior boys' singles Mark Mitchell beat the England No. 1 boy David Alderson.

In the counterpart girls' event Carole Knight also caused a surprise. Ranked No. 5 at the time she beat Anita Stevenson, the England No. 1.



Carole Knight of Yorkshire winner of the GS event at Basingstoke.

Photo by the late Cliff Darley

Basingstoke's tournament secretary, Mrs. Avril Waters, has been awarded the Lancing Bagnall trophy, for one year, for her sterling work in connection with the organising of the Basingstoke 3-Star Open and Closed tournaments. Awarded originally for the best local player in the open events, the tournament referee broke precedent, no Basingstoke player having outstanding success in the star-studded event.

The **Essex 2-Star Open**, played at St. Chad's School, Tilbury over the weekend of Feb. 9/10 provided the setting for Phase 2 of "bad boy" Trevor Taylor's fight for recognition from the England selectors. Looking almost angelic with his new closely cropped hair style a much sharper Taylor sailed unchallenged past all opposition, none of whom gained a game.

SHOCKS GALORE

First to fall was world traveller Bill Sichel from Kent, then another reformed character, Tony Boasman of Lancs. Paul Day, the Cambs. junior, Richard Yule of Scotland, Middlesex and Surrey, and Jimmy Walker, the genial Ormesby player, were all dismissed until only brother Peter was left to beat in the final. Needless to say Trevor had an easy passage here.

There had been shocks galore earlier when David Jemmett of Middlesex II ousted David Brown of Essex only to go down to his colleague Dick Philips who was fresh from defeating Brian Burn, the No. 8 seed! After this

Dick was not far short of adding Peter Taylor to his victims, losing only -20, 20, -14. In this half Taylor (seeded No. 9) beat Des Douglas (seeded No. 2) and unseeded Mark Mitchell beat "Connie" Warren (seeded No. 5). The other top seeds, Alan Hydes and Jimmy Walker, came through to their allotted positions.

The women's singles suffered when No. 1 seed Lesley Radford, just out of hospital, decided to withdraw and to play only in the doubles. This left Judy Williams of Sussex with apparently a clear course but she went out to Anne Stonestreet of New Zealand. Shelagh Hession was, however, too strong for Anne and contested a long bitterly fought final with Susan Lisle of Cheshire, who was the ultimate winner.

The U-21 boys' singles had an enormous entry of over 90, and saw some fine matches with plenty of shock results. Foremost of these was the Round 2 departure of Jimmy Walker at the hands of David Boulter, last season's top Essex junior. David could not keep it up though and was then beaten by Jamie Willson of Southend the seeding committee's choice to go in at No. 16 when Donald Parker withdrew. By this win Jamie reached the last eight, where he proved no match for John Kitchener. The finalists were Peter Taylor and Des Douglas, victory going to Peter as it had done in the senior singles.

The U-21 girls' event saw the senior singles winner Susan Lisle beaten by the wonder girl from Ormesby, Carole Knight, but earlier Carole had only scraped through against Angela Mitchell.



Cheshire's Susan Lisle winner of the WS event in the Essex 2-Star at Tilbury.

Photo by the late Cliff Darley

SPECIALISTS

Mixed doubles specialists Mike Johns and Di Court gained yet another win, losing their only game in the final to Walker and Miss Lisle. However, the best match in this event was the semi-final between Walker/

Lisle and the combination of the dour defender Shelagh Hession with the exciting Essex junior prospect, 15-year-old David Iszatt. This pair had earlier beaten seeds Ian Horsham/Lesley Radford. Now they reached 19-13 in the third and seemingly only needed to keep their heads to reach the final. Alas it was not to be, and a series of super loops from Jimmy saw the No. 1 seeds home.

There were more shocks in the massive men's doubles entry (81 pairs). First Jack Bender/Dick Philips eliminated No. 5 seeds Alan Ransome/Walker but were in turn despatched by juniors Bob Potton/David Bangerter. The boys went on to lose narrowly to the Taylor brothers at the quarter-final stage.

David Boulter, having a good tournament, with his scratch partner Pat Glynn (Warwicks.) saw off No. 4 seeds Johns/Warren and Southend shock finalists Les Eadie/David Iszatt before bowing out to Yule/Robertson in the quarters after a fine match. In the last quarter of the draw the shocks were handed out by the inscrutable David Tan and the scrutable Kitchener. They went right through to the final, putting out en route Hydes/Derek Munt, Paul Day/Andy Barden, and Yule/Robertson, amongst others. Even in the final they had their chances and it took a big effort by Douglas/Burn to get them home.

The Essex organisers and their henchmen of the local Thurrock League departed from usual practices by staging the finals session not in the Sports Hall where the rounds had been played off, but in the adjoining Theatre, where tiered seating surrounded a sunken area with table in centre, a mini Albert Hall set up. This certainly produced a good atmosphere and it is thought was a great success.

It was back to 3-Star status over the weekend of Feb. 16/17 for the **Teesside 3-Star Open** in the spacious Thornaby Pavilion where Alan Hydes, the 25-year-old former Barnsley table tennis ace, currently ranked No. 6 in England, proved that his inclusion in the national team for the European Championships was fully justified by winning the men's singles.

In one of the most exciting finals for some years, Hydes beat Des Douglas by the narrowest of margins, 22-20 in the third, in a set which kept the crowd on edge until the final point was completed. Hydes had earlier ousted Lancashire's Donald Parker, the conqueror of Nicky Jarvis, the No. 2 seed, gaining his revenge for Parker's victory in the Sunday Times Super League a day earlier.

WORTHY WINNER

One of the best sets of the weekend was the second semi-final when Douglas beat top seed Denis Neale 14, 19. The Birmingham boy really excelled himself in every department of the game and proved a worthy winner against the holder.

Some consolation was afforded Neale in the doubles events, for with partner Hydes, he won the men's and playing with Karenza Mathews he took the mixed. England's No. 1 woman, Jill Hammersley, reclaimed the women's singles title beating Violetta Nesukaitis of Canada in the final. The Canadian girl did well to reach the last hurdle beating England's No. 2 Linda Howard in the semis.

Des Douglas won the boys' youth singles beating Peter Taylor in an entertaining final and Ian Horsham over three games in the semis. Horsham had beaten seeded Paul Day a round earlier. The closest match in this event was the second semi-final when Peter Taylor beat David Alderson, 19 in the third. Alderson had accounted for No. 2 seed Donald Parker 11, 12 in the previous round.

In the girls' event Linda Howard came through as top seed to win. She beat Karen Rogers easily in the semis and Anita Stevenson over three games in the final. Miss Stevenson beat the top local hope, Carole Knight, in the semi-final, gaining revenge from Basingstoke.

From the spectators viewpoint this was one of the best Teesside Opens, with the Sunday Times Super League proving very popular on Saturday afternoon coupled with a host of good matches in the Open itself. But for the Teesside players it was one of the worst, with not one of the higher group producing good form.

Over the weekend some £2,000 was paid out to the players in prize money. Desmond Douglas' team, with Ian Horsham and Andy Barden, won over £100 each for their Super League victory. Hydes received £100 as first prize for the singles while Neale received the Halex Golden Racket award for gaining the most points in 3-Star Open championships this season and with it a £100 prize.

RESULTS

Kent 2-Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
A. Hydes (Yorks) bt C. Strathearn (Surrey) 21, 18;
P. Day (Cambs) bt P. Taylor (Beds) 17, 23;
R. Yule (Scotland) bt B. Burn (Warwks) 19, 20;
I. Robertson (Essex) bt M. Johns (Ches) 18, 20.
Semi-finals:
Hydes bt Day 10, 8;
Yule bt Robertson 14, 17.
Final:
HYDES bt Yule 11, 10.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Hydes/Johns bt M. Harper (Beds)/Taylor 21, 11;
A. Barden (Middx)/Day bt Robertson/Yule 15, 12.
Final:
HYDES/JOHNS bt Barden/Day 15, 12.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals:
S. Henderson (Surrey) bt J. Hellaby (Essex) 9, 17;
E. Tarten (Essex) bt A. Stonestreet (New Zealand) 12, -18, 10.
Final:
HENDERSON bt Tarten 15, -19, 8.
Women's Doubles:
HELLABY/TARTEN bt B. Clayton/M. Walker (Middx) 17, 17.
Mixed Doubles:
JOHNS/HENDERSON bt Day/Tarten 16, 17.
U-20 Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:
Taylor bt I. Horsham (Essex) 17, -16, 17;
Day bt Barden 18, 16.
Final:
DAY bt Taylor 9, 18.
U-20 Girls' Singles:
TARTEN bt S. Beckwith (Kent) 13, 14.
Veteran Singles:
P. LECKIE (Bucks) bt G. Chapman (Surrey) 15, -17, 19.

Burford Junior 2-Star

Under-17 Events
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
M. Shuttle (Surrey) bt G. Alden (Northants) -17, 21, 18;
M. Harrison (Yorks) bt R. Mountford (Warwks) 18, 21;
D. Reeves (Berks) bt G. Hamilton (Northants) 16, 11;
J. Proffitt (Herts) bt P. Smith (Surrey) 13, 17.
Semi-finals:
Shuttle bt Harrison 20, 18;
Reeves bt Proffitt 21, -14, 16.
Final:
SHUTTLE bt Reeves -22, 18, 11.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
C. Reeves (Berks) bt M. Belcher (Oxon) -17, 18, 18;
J. Carr (Staffs) bt E. Starr (Surrey) 14, -18, 5;
G. Round (Staffs) bt J. New (Dorset) 18, 10;
K. Groves (Warwks) bt R. Newman (Cambs) 19, 13.
Semi-finals:
Reeves bt Carr 19, 17;
Round bt Groves 17, 18.
Final:
REEVES bt Round 11, 8.
Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
S. Douglas (Berks)/Reeves bt A. Proffitt (Herts)/J. Proffitt 17, 10;
Shuttle/G. Stewart (Surrey) bt Alden/Hamilton 11, 13.
Final:
SHUTTLE/STEWART bt Douglas/Reeves 14, -14, 19.
Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
B. Chamberlain (Hunts)/Reeves bt J. Loudon/C. Vines (Warwks) 15, 12;
R. Hodgkiss (Warwks)/Round bt M. Allen (Warwks)/Groves 19, 18.
Final:
CHAMBERLAIN/REEVES bt Hodgkiss/Round 20, 7.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
R. Jermyn (Herts)/Reeves bt D. Johnson (Berks)/Round -18, 12, 18;
J. Proffitt/Chamberlain bt Mountford/Allen 12, 14.
Final:
JERMYN/REEVES bt Proffitt/Chamberlain 19, 16.
Under-15 Events
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Shuttle bt G. Hill (Dorset) 16, 19;
Reeves bt M. Jenkins (Derbys) 12, -23, 12;
Jermyn bt Johnson 17, -17, 20;
J. Proffitt bt K. Edwards (Wilts) 12, 10.
Semi-finals:
Shuttle bt Reeves -18, 13, 8;
Proffitt bt Jermyn 19, 19.
Final:
SHUTTLE bt Proffitt 18, 23.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Chamberlain bt Loudon 8, 12;
New bt Allen 6, 8;
M. Smith (Berks) bt V. Cruwys (Gloucs) -18, 13, 15;
J. Thorpe (Berks) bt Newman 15, 13.
Semi-finals:
New bt Chamberlain 8, 10;
Smith bt Thorpe 11, 19.
Final:
NEW bt Smith -19, 12, 12.
Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
Mountford/A. Stonell (Essex) bt S. Harmer (Beds)/C. Leslie (Bucks) 20, 16;
Shuttle/Stewart bt Jenkins/S. Yallop (Derbys) 15, 17.
Final:
SHUTTLE/STEWART bt Mountford/Stonell 9, 9.
Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals:
New/Newman bt A. Gordon/J. Purslow (Berks) -20, 21, 6;
J. Douglas (Berks) /Thorpe bt R. Farmilo/D. Shailes (Wilts) 15, 11.
Final:
NEW/NEWMAN bt Douglas/Thorpe 10, 13.
Under-13 Events
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Stonell bt G. Baker (Hunts) 14, 16;
B. Tyler (Middx) bt R. Abbott (Derbys) 13, 7;
A. Proffitt bt R. Bergemann (Hants) 18, 15;
Harmer bt M. Iszatt (Essex) 7, 13.
Semi-finals:
Stonell bt Tyler -13, 13, 17;
Harmer bt Proffitt -12, 17, 10.
Final:
STONELL bt Harmer 13, -18, 13.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Purslow bt Smith 16, 11;
Douglas bt S. Walker (Surrey) 14, 11;
Cruwys bt G. Heath (Berks) 9, 17;
M. Wallis (Nhts) bt B. Keeble (Wilts) 11, 15.
Semi-finals:
Douglas bt Purslow 13, 17;
Wallis bt Cruwys 15, 16.
Final:
WALLIS bt Douglas 17, -21, 12.
Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals:
G. Booth (Herts)/Stonell bt A. Proffitt/B. Tyler (Middx) 18, -11, 19;
G. Baker (Hunts)/Bergemann bt A. Abbott (Derbys)/C. Wilson (Hants) 9, 18.

Final:
BAKER/BERGEMANN bt Booth/Stonell 19, 25.
Girls' Doubles:
Douglas/Smith bt Heath/Wallis 14, 7;
Gordon/Purslow bt J. Revill (Leics)/Walker 13, 11.
Final:
DOUGLAS/SMITH bt Gordon/Purslow 18, -16, 16.
Under-11 Events
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Bergemann bt C. Wright (Berks) 9, 10;
M. Owens (Herefs) bt A. Golding (Glouce) 12, 17;
G. Sandley (Herts) bt A. Coulthard (Glam) 6, 17;
Wilson bt C. Oliver (Herts) 14, 13.
Semi-finals:
Bergemann bt Owens 5, 20;
Wilson bt Sandley 5, 15.
Final:
WILSON bt Bergemann 15, 18.
Girls' Singles:
Gordon bt P. Townsend (Wilts) 9, 6;
S. Smith (Wilts) bt J. Bullock (Gloucs) 11, 12;
A. Burke (Berks) M. Ringrose (Hunts) -20, 19, 14;
J. Garner (Wilts) bt H. Williams (Middx) -14, 13, 16.
Semi-finals:
Gordon bt Smith 7, 13;
Gardner bt Burke 18, 16.
Final:
GORDON bt Gardner 11, 11.

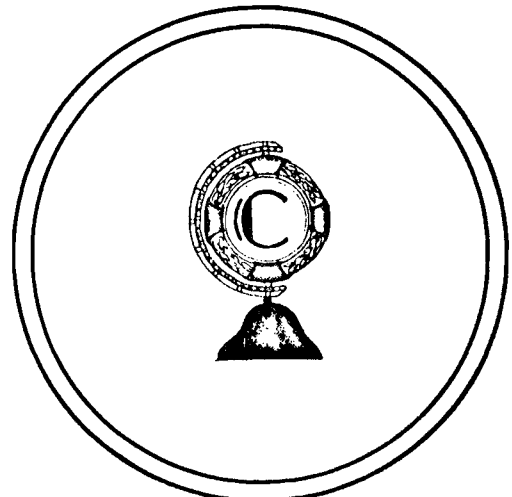
Basingstoke 3-Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Neale (Yorks) bt A. Hydes (Yorks) 19, 14;
T. Taylor (Essex) bt P. Day (Cambs) 14, 7;
D. Douglas (Warwks) bt I. Horsham (Essex) -18, 10, 15;
N. Jarvis (Yorks) bt P. Taylor (Beds) 15, 13.
Semi-finals:
Neale bt Taylor 10, 15;
Douglas bt Jarvis 17, 18.

Final:
NEALE bt Douglas 12, -15, 17.
Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Hydes/Neale bt A. Barden (Middx)/Day 16, 21;
J. Kitchener (Suffolk)/D. Tan (Middx) bt M. Johns (Ches)/C. Warren (Surrey) 15, -18, 16;
D. Alderson/A. Ransome (Yorks) bt A. Clayton (Yorks)/L. Landry (Middx) -15, 18, 18.
Taylor/Taylor bt Jarvis/J. Walker (Yorks) 12, 19.
Semi-finals:
Hydes/Neale bt Kitchener/Tan 9, 18;
Taylor/Taylor bt Alderson/Ransome 9, 9.
Final:
HYDES/NEALE bt Taylor/Taylor -17, 19, 14.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt S. Lisle (Ches) 8, 11;
C. Knight (Yorks) bt A. Stevenson (Leics) -14, 12, 21;
K. Mathews (Middx) bt J. Williams (Sussex) 16, 5;
L. Howard (Surrey) bt S. Hession (Essex) 15, 9.
Semi-finals:
Hammersley bt Knight 17, 21;
Howard bt Mathews 18, -18, 17.
Final:
HAMMERSLEY bt Howard 9, 20.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Hession/Williams bt K. Rogers (Leics)/Stevenson 15, -20, 15;
Howard/Mathews bt Hammersley/S. Henderson (Surrey) -8, 10, 15.
Final:
HESSION/WILLIAMS bt Howard/Mathews 10, 19.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
Neale/Mathews bt D. Parker (Lancs)/Stevenson 17, 16;
Douglas/Howard bt Jarvis/Hammersley -6, 18, 20.
Final:
NEALE/MATHEWS bt Douglas/Howard 17, 13.
U-21 Singles:
Quarter-finals:
Jarvis bt Day 18, 20;

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Parker bt Horsham 16, -9, 21;
D. Alderson bt Walker 14, 18;
Douglas bt R. Aldrich (Middx) 9, 12.
Semi-finals:
Jarvis bt Parker 15, 17;
Douglas bt Alderson -21, 12, 6.
Final:
DOUGLAS bt Jarvis -18, 6, 15.
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Alderson bt C. Sewell (Gloucs) 9, 10;
Barden bt L. Eadie (Essex) 18, 11;
M. Mitchell (Middx) bt M. Crimmins
(Surrey) 18, 17;
S. Lyons (Surrey) bt D. Iszatt (Essex) 12,
-18, 14.
Semi-finals:
Alderson bt Barden 18, 13;
Mitchell bt Lyons 14, 3.
Final:
MITCHELL bt Alderson 16, -13, 15.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Stevenson bt L. Wales (Hants) 15, 15;
J. Walker (Yorks) bt J. New (Dorset) 13,
-19, 15;
Knight bt S. Dove (Middx) 19, 16.
A. Mitchell (Middx) bt K. Mashford
(Berks) 16, 18;
Semi-finals:
Stevenson bt Walker 16, 19;
Knight bt Mitchell 9, -16, 12.
Final:
KNIGHT bt Stevenson 16, 16.

Essex 2-Star

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
T. Taylor (Essex) bt R. Yule (Surrey) 19,
15;
J. Walker (Yorks) bt I. Horsham (Essex)
-13, 12, 12;
A. Hydes (Yorks) bt M. Mitchell (Middx)
18, 13;
P. Taylor (Beds) bt R. Philps (Middx)
20, -20, 14;
Semi-finals:
T. Taylor bt Walker 17, 11;
P. Taylor bt Hydes -18, 19, 12.
Final:
T. TAYLOR bt P. Taylor 13, 17.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Court (Middx) w.o. S. Beckwith
(Essex) SCR;
S. Lisle (Cheshire) bt E. Tarten (Essex)
20, 15;
S. Hession (Essex) bt C. Knight (Yorks)
5, 18;
A. Stonestreet (New Zealand) bt J. Williams
(Sussex) -11, 21, 16.
Semi-finals:
Lisle bt Court 17, 10;
Hession bt Stonestreet 12, -19, 7;
Final:
LISLE bt Hession 16, -20, 9.
Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
T. Taylor/P. Taylor bt R. Potton (Essex)/
D. Bangarter (Surrey) 15, -16, 16;
D. Douglas/B. Burn (Warwicks) bt D.
Brown (Essex)/L. Landry (Middx) -18,
10, 7;
R. Yule/I. Robertson (Essex) bt D. Boulter
(Essex)/P. Glynn (Warwicks) -18, 15,
16;
D. Tan (Middx)/J. Kitchener (Suffolk) bt
P. Day (Cambs)/A. Barden (Middx) -18,
19, 19.
Semi-finals:
Douglas/Burn bt T. Taylor/P. Taylor 5, 17;
Tan/Kitchener bt Yule/Robertson 18, 19.
Final:
DOUGLAS/BURN bt Tan/Kitchener 18,
24.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
L. Radford (Essex)/D. Court bt M. Smith/
P. Chatterley (Essex) 6, 10;
E. Tarten/J. Hellaby (Essex) bt S. Lisle/
M. Walker (Middx) 19, -17, 17;
B. Kearney (Nthld)/C. Knight bt A.
Stonestreet/K. Fraser (N. Z.) -23, 19,
16;
S. Hession/J. Williams bt A. Mitchell
(Middx)/S. Sutton (Essex) 14, 11.
Semi-finals:
Radford/Court bt Tarten/Hellaby 19, 19,
Hession/Williams bt Kearney/Knight 15, 17.
Final:
HESSION/WILLIAMS bt Radford/Court 15,
7.
Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
J. Walker/S. Lisle bt Robertson/J. Hellaby
15, -12, 16.
D. Iszatt/S. Hession (Essex) bt Horsham/
L. Radford 18, 20;
Yule/Stonestreet bt P. Day/E. Tarten 16,
-16, 8;
M. Johns/D. Court bt A. Ransome/C. Knight
17, 13.
Semi-finals:
Walker/Lisle bt Iszatt/Hession 15, -16, 21;
Johns/Court bt Yule/Stonestreet 14, 13.
Final:
JOHNS/COURT bt Walker/Lisle 12, -10,
14.
Intermediate Boys' Singles (Under-21)
Quarter-finals:
Douglas bt Horsham -19, 18, 13;
P. Day bt M. Mitchell 15, 18;
P. Taylor bt A. Barden 15, 10;
J. Kitchener bt J. Wilson (Essex) 7, 5.
Semi-finals:
Douglas bt Day 16, 16;
Taylor bt Kitchener 15, 13.
Final:
TAYLOR bt Douglas 19, 18.



Peter Taylor (Beds.) who twice defeated Desmond Douglas at Tilbury.

Photo by the late Cliff Darley

Intermediate Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Lisle bt S. Sutton (Essex) 15, 7;
J. Hellaby bt G. Locke (Essex) 22, -19, 20;
Tarten bt K. Greenough (Surrey) 20, -11,
16;
Knight bt A. Mitchell (Middx) 11, -17, 19.
Semi-finals:
Lisle bt Hellaby 12, 10;
Knight bt Tarten 14, 14.
Final:
KNIGHT bt Lisle 19, 19.
Veterans' Singles: Semi-finals:
P. Leckie (Bucks) bt R. Kimm (Essex) 19,
-21, 17;
A. Condon (Essex) bt A. Carroll (Essex)
17, 15.
Final:
CONDON bt Leckie 13, 10.

South Yorkshire 1-Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Hilton (Ches) bt P. E. D'Arcy (Ches)
13, 23;
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt J. McNee (Ches) 14,
16;
D. Schofield (Ches) bt N. Hallows (Lancs)
-18, 18, 13;
P. Randell (Leics) bt D. Marples (Derbys)
10, 19.
Semi-finals:
Eckersley bt Hilton -13, 14, 15;
Schofield bt Randell 20, 20.
Final:
ECKERSLEY bt Schofield 14, 14.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
D'Arcy/Eckersley bt M. Askham (Yorks)/
M. Billington (Derbys) 22, -10, 10;
Hilton/B. Kean (Ches) bt G. Hughes
(Leics)/Randell 16, 16.
Final:
HILTON/KEAN bt D'Arcy/Eckersley -18,
9, 16.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
K. Rogers (Leics) bt B. Shepherd (Yorks)
19, 5;
M. Mellor (Derby) bt B. Voss (Lincs)
17, -21, 16;
M. Ludi (Yorks) bt J. Kinnersley (Yorks)
11, -17, 16;
J. Walker (Yorks) bt D. St. Ledger
(Warwks) 23, -18, 18.
Semi-finals:
Rogers bt Mellor 14, 7;
Walker bt Ludi 14, 7.
Final:
ROGERS bt Walker 19, 17.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Mellor/Rogers bt J. Green/J. Mannion
(Ches) -18, 13, 18;
M. Cornar (Yorks)/Ludi bt S. Bamforth
(Yorks)/Walker 17, -16, 17.
Final:
MELLOR/ROGERS bt Cornar/Ludi 9, 12.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
R. Brothwell (Yorks)/Walker bt E. Hall
(Derbys)/Rogers -15, 20, 15;
R. Priestley (Yorks)/Ludi bt S. Rossington
(Yorks)/Kinnersley -18, 10, 16.
Final:
BROTHWELL/WALKER bt Priestley/Ludi
-19, 20, 19.
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
C. Rogers (Leics) bt P. Taylor (Derbys)
17, 15;
R. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt G. Jackson (Ches)
-14, 16, 15;
B. Baxter (Yorks) bt I. Smith (Lancs) 22,
-21, 15;
Hallows bt T. Gatley (Ches) 15, 16.
Semi-finals:
Rogers bt Hazelwood 16, 19;
Hallows bt Baxter 8, 15.
Final:
ROGERS bt Hallows 15, 17.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Rogers bt K. Groves (Warwks) 11, 11;
M. Mellor bt L. Mellor (Derbys) 11, 16;
Ludi bt H. Garratt (Ches) 13, -19, 13;
Walker bt Shepherd 11, -18, 19.
Semi-finals:
Rogers bt Mellor 20, 23;
Ludi bt Walker 10, 18.
Final:
ROGERS bt Ludi 13, 11.

N. Bournemouth 1-Star

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:
T. Bruce (Wilts) bt K. Bull (Glam) -16,
17, 12;
W. Moulding (Wilts) bt T. Smith (Hants)
15, 12.
Final:
BRUCE bt Moulding 17, 13.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals:
J. Coop (Hants) bt D. Rees (Gloucs) 15,
6;
L. King (Hants) bt J. Reading (Hants) -19,
16, 21.
Final:
COOP bt King 12, 10.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Bull/G. Evans (Glam) bt Bruce/Moulding
13, 18;
D. Holman/D. Welsman (Surrey) bt Smith/
S. Wilson (Hants) 17, 13.
Final:
BULL/EVANS bt Holman/Welsman -20,
10, 11.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Coop/Reading bt P. Oung (Wilts)/J.
Seabrook 14, 10;
King/Rees bt C. Nash (Wilts)/L. Wright
(Hants) 19, 21.
Final:
COOP/READING bt King/Rees 11, 8.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
K. Summerfield (Hants)/King bt M. Page/
R. Page (Dorset) 13, 11.
Smith/Coop bt J. Robinson/J. New (Dorset)
12, 17.
Final:
SUMMERFIELD/KING bt Smith/Coop -18,
16, 16.
Junior Singles: Semi-finals:
Wilson bt K. McQuade (Hants) 17, 14;
K. Edwards (Wilts) bt G. Hill (Dorset) 18,
17.
Final:
WILSON bt Edwards -16, 8, 15.

Teesside 3-Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Neale (Yorks) bt E. Caetano (Canada)
17, 15;
D. Douglas (Warwks) bt J. Walker (Yorks)
19, 9;
A. Hydes (Yorks) bt P. Taylor (Beds) -17,
19, 19;
D. Parker (Lancs) bt N. Jarvis (Yorks) 11,
17.
Semi-finals:
Douglas bt Neale 14, 19;
Hydes bt Parker 11, 17.
Final:
HYDES bt Douglas 7, -16, 20.
Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Hydes/Neale bt A. Barden (Middx)/P. Day
(Cambs) 10, 7;
K. Bull/G. Evans (Wales) bt B. Burn
(Warwks)/P. Taylor 13, 13;
Douglas/Parker bt I. Robertson (Essex)/
R. Yule (Scotland) 18, 21;
Jarvis/Walker bt R. Aldrich (Middx)/I.
Horsham (Essex) 18, 22.
Semi-finals:
Hydes/Neale bt Evans/Bull 20, 16;
Jarvis/Walker bt Douglas/Parker 17, -16,
11.
Final:
HYDES/NEALE bt Jarvis/Walker 14, -19,
14.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt S. Lisle (Ches)
3, 9;
J. Williams (Sussex) bt K. Mathews
(Middx) 14, 8;
V. Nesukaitis (Canada) bt S. Hession
(Essex) 11, 15;
L. Howard (Surrey) bt S. Henderson
(Surrey) 19, 14.
Semi-finals:
Hammersley bt Williams 11, 13;
Nesukaitis bt Howard -13, 19, 16.
Final:
HAMMERSLEY bt Nesukaitis 18, 6.
Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Howard/Mathews bt K. Fraser/A.
Stonestreet (NZ) 6, 8;
Hession/Williams bt W. Brown (Derbys)/J.
Richardson (Yorks) 10, 13;
K. Rogers/A. Stevenson (Leics) bt Lisle/
Nesukaitis 13, 18;
Hammersley/Henderson bt B. Kearney
(Nthld)/C. Knight (Yorks) 16, 12.
Semi-finals:
Hession/Williams bt Howard/Mathews 20,
9;
Hammersley/Henderson bt Rogers/Stevenson
11, 9.
Final:
HAMMERSLEY/HENDERSON bt Hession/
Williams 16, 10.
Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Neale/Mathews bt Caetano/Nesukaitis 8, 21;

Parker/Stevenson bt A. Clayton (Yorks)/
Henderson 19, 14;
Jarvis/Hammersley bt D. Alderson
(Yorks)/Knight -19, 13, 19;
Douglas/Howard bt I. Smith (Lancs)/S.
Broadbent (Yorks) 16, 4.
Semi-finals:
Neale/Mathews bt Parker/Stevenson -19, 8,
15;
Jarvis/Hammersley bt Douglas/Howard 19,
13.
Final:
NEALE/MATHEWS bt Jarvis/Hammersley
13, -17, 17.
U-19 Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Douglas bt M. Mitchell (Middx) -16, 10,
14;
Horsham bt Day 17, 16;
Taylor bt S. Souter (Yorks) 14, 15;
D. Alderson bt Parker 12, 11.
Semi-finals:
Douglas bt Horsham -16, 11, 11;
Taylor bt Alderson 19, -19, 19.
Final:
DOUGLAS bt Taylor 11, 19.
U-19 Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Howard bt Kearney 16, 18;
Rogers bt Richardson 11, 19;
Knight bt J. Walker (Yorks) 19, 20;
Stevenson bt J. Skipp (Yorks) 16, -14, 10.
Semi-finals:
Howard bt Rogers 9, 13;
Stevenson bt Knight 18, -8, 15.
Final:
HOWARD bt Stevenson 10, -24, 16.
Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
G. Brook (Yorks) bt K. Skipp (Yorks) 11,
11;
J. Bromley (Kent) bt H. Robinson (Yorks)
14, 21.
Final:
BROMLEY bt Brook 17, 18.

Under-14 Team Competition

An Under-14 Team Competition is to be staged by Reading and District T.T.A. and I.M.P.A.C.T. and a general invitation is extended to Leagues to enter teams. There will be separate competitions for boys and girls with teams consisting of 4 players.

Both competitions will be staged simultaneously on a Sunday early in the summer. Are there any strong contenders to take on Reading's top U-14 girls, Karen Witt, Janet Thorpe, Jill Purslow, Jo Douglas and Alison Gordon? Would interested leagues please write to Alan Dines, 37 Avalon Road, Earley, Reading, RG6 2NR.

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WRITE TODAY FOR CATALOGUE

Halex Golden Rackets

by LAURIE LANDRY

Yorkshire's Dennis Neale claimed his second successive Halex Golden Racket award following his successes in the Teesside 3-Star Open Championships, for points are inclusive of both doubles and singles.

Jill Hammersley was far and away the winner of the women's section having a 27-points advantage over her nearest challenger, Linda Howard, with Karenza Mathews—last year's winner—third.

Finishing positions were:—

Men	Pts
1. D. Neale (Yorks)	80
2. N. Jarvis (Yorks)	71
3. A. Hydes (Yorks)	56
4. D. Douglas (Warwks)	55
5. J. Secretin (France)	28
6. J. Walker (Yorks)	23
7. D. Parker (Lancs)	20
T. Taylor (Essex)	20

Women	Pts
1. J. Hammersley (Bucks)	102
2. L. Howard (Surrey)	75
3. K. Mathews (Middx)	58
4. S. Henderson (Surrey)	38
5. S. Hession (Essex)	37
6. J. Williams (Sussex)	31
7. L. Radford (Essex)	25
8. A. Stevenson (Leics)	23
9. S. Lisle (Ches)	22



E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles M. Wyles, stands between the winners after presenting the Awards at Thornaby.

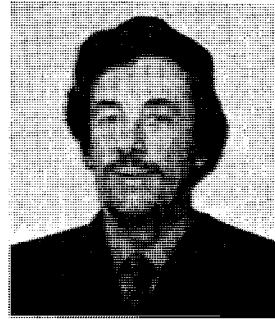
Photo by Tony Ross.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

Date	Title and Venue	Organising Secretary
April		
7	Bedford 1-Star Open, Bradgate Road, Bedford.	Mr. P. H. Smith, 1 Manor Close, Kempston, Bedford.
7	Merton Junior 1-Star Open, Avonbourne School, Bournemouth, Hants.	Mr. H. Bergemann, 55 Southcliffe Road, Friars Cliff, Christchurch, Hants, 'Phone: Highcliffe 8699.
20/21	THE WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, Boulevard Building, City of Leicester Polytechnic, Western Boulevard, Leicester.	Mr. R. Billson, 20 Gracedieu Road, Loughborough, Leics.
May		
5	Joseph Leckie Junior 1-Star Open, Joseph Leckie School, Walsstead Road West, Walsall, Staffs.	Mr. S. Parker, 3 Moreton Close, Gospel Oak, Tipton, Staffs. DY4 0DG. 'Phone: 021-556 4084 (h) 021-557 3939 Ext. 15 (o)
18/19	HALEX ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN, Worthing.	E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Hastings.
SCOTLAND		
March		
23/24	SCOTTISH OPEN, Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh.	Mrs. Lesley Barrie, 212 Bellrock Street, Glasgow.

Note: The Northumberland 1-Star Open scheduled for March 23/74 has been cancelled.

CONTROVERSY



JOHN WOODFORD

Stand up and be counted

And now to return to the burning issues of the moment after last month's quieter trip up "League Magazine Creek".

League and county officials from Lands End to John O'Groats will by now, have sampled some of their members response to the news that in addition to increased affiliation fees they have to pay 75p over three seasons as a levy on the World Championships, 1977.

I would like to be present at more of these gatherings when the bad news is released to see the effect. I have been to two such meetings, one at county level and one at a league meeting of clubs. Surprise was evident at both occasions. At county it was little more than surprise but at the league meeting there were the expected groans.

The point I want to emphasise is that I believe that after the groaners have stopped it is important that the main facts of the situation are given — in detail if necessary (as in Tom Blunn's excellent document) by a competent officer. Add also the fact the levy represents an outlay of a ¼p a week over the 3-year period! One might ask that anyone present who can't afford THAT to stand up and be counted, as the current saying goes.

No doubt some league chairmen will be in a quandary as to whether they should call for a vote of approval or disapproval. Difficult question because the decision of the National Council and later the ETTA annual meeting will both be irrevocable.

Any league who objected in strength or by majority would I assume, not affiliate next season and in doing so make a right exhibition of itself.

An approval vote was easily carried at the league meeting I attended (Eastbourne, of course). One club secretary, made what I thought was a keen observation, "If we vote against this levy we vote AGAINST TABLE TENNIS". Very true.

We cannot expect outside bodies or firms or the Government (through the Sports Council) to pay out vast sums of money when the time comes if we are not prepared to help as well. League officers should NOT therefore feel guilty as they face their members.

It will be 24 years since we last staged the World's. As we gave the sport to the World we have a duty to run it again.

Table tennis will STILL be the cheapest sport to play, even in 1977.

HUNTS. AND PETERBRO. NOTES

by DAVID OBEE

SPOTLIGHT ON S.E.M.L.

It appears that St. Neots hold the only real chance of honours this season, with their veterans side, champions last year, poised ready to take over the top spot should Cambridge slip at all. Despite losing 7-3 to their closest rivals early in the season the St. Neots trio of Gordon Cockram, Stan Roberts and Henry Fox recently recorded a convincing 10-0 win against Peterborough.

St. Neots are faring reasonably well in the men's section too but were surprisingly held to a 5-5 draw by Peterborough. The latter had earlier drawn 5-5 with Hunts Central so honours have been shared this season.

In the women's section St. Neots have the best record of the three leagues but have not shown quite the form one might have expected, with Belinda Chamberlain teaming up with Barbara Pace and Diane Bushby. The match against Peterboro was a case in point with County No. 1 Barbara Pace dropping 2 singles.

Hunts Central, with a team selected from a pool of about 8 players have had varied success in the men's section but a recent outstanding performance was a 6-4 win against Northampton. The visitors included Les Wooding who was unbeaten but the in-form Steve Lyon was not in the visitors' line-up. Nevertheless this was a fine effort, with 2 singles wins down below for Jim Sizer and 1 for Kevan Moore. Up top Tim Speller and Albert Jackson scored one each, and this with one of the doubles was enough for a winning margin.

Peterborough's Greg Baker continues to perform well, and after 3 good wins against St. Neots in the junior section was selected for the County Juniors against Norfolk. A little earlier, partnering D. Bergemann (Hants) Greg had taken the Burford Junior Open U-13 boys' doubles title beating top seeds A. Stonnell and G. Booth 19, 21 in the final. In the same tournament seeded at No. 6 he had lost to No. 1 seed Stonnell 14, 16 in the quarters in the U-13 singles and to R. Jermyn (seeded 3) in the last 16 of the U-15 event 16, 16.

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County Notes Supplement

CHESHIRE NOTES

by BRIAN KEAN

STAR SHELLS

Led by 'Brigadier' Eckersley and 'old war' veteran Derek Schofield a battalion of Cheshire troops trekked over the Pennines to mount an attack on the Pontefract and South Yorkshire Opens.

After a magnificent victory over Eckersley in the Pontefract semis Schofield came so close to taking the title only to be pipped at the post by Northumbrian Peter Hoyles. The man who caused the biggest upset in the men's singles was Macclesfield's Derek Abbott. Two fine wins over seeded Wally Allanson and Peter D'Arcy earned him a quarter-final encounter with the eventual runner-up Schofield.

Rather unlucky draws cut short our interest in the women's events and our pretty threesome of Jill Mannion, Helen Garratt and Chris Hancock were granted an unwelcome afternoon's shopping.

A fortnight later, on Feb 9 at Sheffield the South Yorkshire was the centre of our artillery attack. A final encounter gave Eckersley the opportunity to avenge his Pontefract defeat by Schofield. And, taking advantage of his lesser years 'Eck' swept aside the rather weak and weary challenge of a man who for once proved his humanity by showing signs of his two score years and four. The men's doubles was a repeat of the Pontefract affair, only the result differed, good tactics enabling John Hilton and your scribe to take the title at the expense of Eckersley and D'Arcy.

Better performances from our female division saw Janice Green and Jill Mannion reach the semis of the WD. Helen Garratt forced Yorkshire's Melody Ludi to a deciding game and Christine Hancock had a win over Derbyshire's Lindsey Mellor to help boost the Flixton nurse's depleted confidence reserve. It was pleasing to see strong representation at the tournament from especially by the lads from Macclesfield. Sporting the town's new tracksuits Mike Tew, Cliff Benson, Derek Abbott, Eddie Griffiths, Mike Fletcher and Graham Tomlinson added strength to our ever-growing squad.

Right now we are enjoying a fair amount of success in the County but the query must be posed — how long will it last? The gap between our top half dozen seniors and their top flight contenders is, unfortunately, astronomical. This in itself is not unduly concerning but the fact that our Kennels are not producing the calibre of junior required to pressurise our county rivals does give cause for concern.

Why then, are there no youngsters sending tremors over our scenic pastures? If I might sight my horizons a little wider the same question could be posed on a national basis. Despite the fact that our youngsters are given more help, provided with the opportunity to attend regular training and coaching camps, and transported to and from matches and tournaments, it hasn't produced anything we didn't have ten years ago?

I have my theories on such reasons but lack of space within the confines of these notes prevents elaboration at this time. In conclusion I would like to make a prediction regarding two youngsters from over the border in Lancashire. I witnessed enough at Sheffield to believe that the top juniors in the north will shortly be Nigel Hallows and Ian Smith — good luck lads.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by DENNIS MILLMAN

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

County fortunes continue to fluctuate with the Senior Firsts yet to win a match despite some improved performances from Connie Bane and Anne Wallis, and a singles win from Kevin Alden on his County debut. Meanwhile the Seconds and the Juniors are producing improved results, giving us hope for the future.

Congratulations to the Northamptonshire trio of juniors, Paul West, John Horne and Chris Birch for an enthusiastic performance as they beat Kettering in the Zone Final of the Carter Cup. Northampton play North Herts in the 4th Round.

The local tournament season is upon us, and three of the major tournaments have already been decided. The results of the Northampton Tournament are not available, but I understand that there were few surprises. Similarly the County Junior Tournament staged at Wellingborough went much as anticipated, with Gary Hamilton winning the major title, and once again laying claim to the No. 1 Junior Ranking, recently relinquished to his defeated opponent, Gary Alden. Anne and Mandy Wallis dominated the Girls' events, but Valerie Feakin gave them both some anxious moments, and partnered Mandy to an Under-15 Doubles success.

Results:

- U-17 Boys: Gary Hamilton bt Gary Alden 13, 19.
- U-17 Girls: Anne Wallis bt Valerie Feakin 17, 11.
- U-17 Doubles: Hamilton/Alden bt Nicholas Swingler/Stephen West 17, 16.
- U-15 Boys: Alden bt Kevin McPartland 8, 12.
- U-15 Girls: Mandy Wallis bt Feakin 22, -11, 18.
- U-15 Doubles: Mandy Wallis/Feakin bt M. Raven/I. Bowers 13, 21.
- U-13 Singles: Alan Hawes bt Mandy Wallis 17, 19.

The Kettering Tournament had its usual quota of 15 events in which the competitors included 18 who had represented their counties. Kevin Alden won the Men's Singles for the first time, but the new Women's Singles Champion, Anne Lenton, is no stranger to the honour.

Results:

- M.S. Semi Finals: Terry Sutton bt John Palmer 19, 15.
- Kevin Alden bt Dennis Millman -12, 15, 20.
- Final: Alden bt Sutton 15, 15.
- W.S.: Mrs. Anne Lenton bt Miss Christine Dilley 16, 9.
- M.D.: Palmer/Geoff Atkinson bt Dick Cole/Millman 10, 13.
- W.D.: Lenton/Miss Pat Rixon bt Dilley/ Miss Glennis Hooper 17, 11.

X.D.: Alden and Miss Anne Wallis bt Millman/Miss Mandy Wallis -18, 8, 13.

V.S. Terry Sutton bt Millman 18, 16.

J.S.: Anne Wallis bt Stephen West 12, 19.

J.D.: West/Nicholas Swingler bt Anne Wallis/Mandy Wallis 14, -16, 17.

Sports & Rubber Trophy: Anthony Ingram bt Stuart Rollings -19, 13, 16.

U-13 Singles: Stuart Rollings bt Keith Nicoll 14, 14.

Premier Division Handicap: Kevin Alden (Scr.) bt Norman Lenton (9) 19, 21.

First Division Handicap: Michael Deacon (1) bt Eddie Watts (10) 17, 13.

Second Division Handicap: Shirley Everard (10) bt Mark Cole (6) 10, 10.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by PAULINE JACKSON

The Northumberland first team's fortunes continued to flourish when they scored a great 6-4 win over Lincolnshire at Louth to record their second victory in succession.

Ron Kettlewell always seems to save his best County performances for the Lincolnshire matches, and this one proved to be no exception, as he emerged undefeated with two singles wins over Mick East and Peter Taylor, plus the men's doubles with Peter Hoyles over East and Taylor. Peter and Alan Jones both beat Matt Shearer, while Barbara Kearney really turned it on in the women's singles to dispose of Beryl Voss, formerly Nottinghamshire's No. 1, in straight games. Prior to this match, Mrs. Voss had been undefeated in both singles and doubles sets in County matches. The next match away to Lancashire II on 23rd February will now take on added significance, as if Northumberland win, they will almost certainly qualify for the play offs, because Yorkshire II and Cheshire II already have teams in a safe position in the Premier Division. The interest of Lancashire II, of course, will be in the fact that they will need to qualify for the play-offs to try and ensure that their first team remain in the top flight.

The second team again disappointed by losing 9-1 to Derbyshire II at Derby; Malcolm McMaster won the only set when he scored a very good win over Neil Marples. The regular doubles pairings were changed in an effort to produce a result, but by and large the home team always had the edge. Bill Arkle tried hard, only narrowly losing both his singles, but Dave Armstrong's performance left a lot to be desired, although he and Daphne Russell went very close in the mixed doubles. How fortunes can change in table tennis, as only three years ago, during the 1970-71 season, Northumberland II became the first champions of the then newly-revived Northern Division.

The juniors lost a close match to Westmorland at North Shields Y.M.C.A. by 6-4, but this was a much-improved performance by Northumberland's inexperienced team, who are learning all the time. Andrew Clark again won both his singles, beating Brian Towell and

R. Wilson, while Glenn McCardle and Eddie Thomas scored their first singles wins of the season by beating G. Baines. Our girls, Ann Henderson and Valerie Smith, have not met with any success as yet, but they can only improve with the experience of match play.

Northumberland's team of Valerie Williamson (nee Baker), Pat Small (nee Young) and Pauline Jackson made a second round exit from the Rose Bowl away to North Yorkshire at Ormesby by 5-1. Carole Knight and Barbara Kearney were undefeated in the match, while Pauline Jackson beat Maureen Readman to take Northumberland's only set.

It is regretted that owing to the fuel crisis, the Northumberland Open Tournament, which was originally scheduled for 23rd March, has had to be cancelled. The position regarding the Northumberland Closed Tournament, however, will remain in abeyance until later in the season, as we hope it may still be possible to hold the tournament in April or May.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. PENNY

TRANSPORT FAILURE

In Norfolk, the outstanding clash of the past month was that between the eastern county and Hertfordshire in Division 2 East of the County Championships, which took place at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. The visitors were an hour late arriving, having to finish their journey by taxi after their own transport failed at Larling. This may have unsettled them, but, be this as it may, Herts were quickly 2-5 down. Chris Bensley, Mike Musson and John Fuller each won a singles, the latter accounting for No. 1, Jack Bender; Betty Cassell beat Mrs. K. Rowden, and, with Edna Fletcher, overcame Mrs. Rowden and Mrs S. Felstead. When Mike Musson was six or seven points up in the eighth set, things looked rosy for Norfolk, but Herts dug in their heels, and, taking the last two singles and the mixed, thoroughly deserved their 5-5 draw.

Another interesting match during the month was one against Cambridge University at Fenner's. This was a friendly. The Norfolk side consisted of Bob Mitcham, John Turner (fresh from his successes in Yorkshire), Stan Honor, Mrs Janet Moore and Miss Linda Kowalski. Cambridge University fielded C. Boothby, M. Cassell, D. Fuller, Miss J. Priestly and Miss G. Macrae. The University women did well, winning their singles and doubles, but only Boothby, who beat Honor, won for their men. Thus, it was 7-3 in favour of Norfolk.

Six primary schools have affiliated to the Norfolk Schools' Association. They are: Wroughton, Caister, Ormesby, Cliff Park, Holt and Herman, the first four of whom are competing in a team championship. In the Area finals at Haverhill, Yarmouth Grammar U-16 beat Dene of Lowestoft 6-2 and Queen's School, Cambridge 5-3.

Norwich defeated Dereham 5-0 in the second round of the Wilmott Cup. King's Lynn managed to beat Grantham in the first round for the first time in twenty years! Good luck to them against Chesterfield!

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by PHILLIP REID

NO EFFORT SPARED

Big event of recent weeks was the Leicestershire Dance, staged by the Hinckley League and held at Barwell Liberal Club. Live-wire Mike Holt spared no effort to guarantee the success of the evening and he was well supported by such stalwarts as John Iliffe and Bob Kettle. Apart from adding about £35 to the county coffers, it was also a great success socially and certainly the county will be hoping to arrange another dance somewhere in the county next season. There was a surprise presentation at the Dance—Gwynne Thomas, who had variously held the posts of treasurer, chairman and President of the association before his retirement last summer after eighteen years continuous service was presented with an engraved tankard as a small token of appreciation of the work he had done.

In the National Cup competitions, Leicester continue to make good progress. Although the men's team lost 5-4 to Birmingham, they put up a very spirited fight indeed. Paul Randell, in particular was on brilliant form and beat Mike Johns, Ralph Gunnion and Derek Munt. Only Chris Rogers—who beat Gunnion—could give him any support. The women beat West Bromwich 5-2 in the Rose Bowl where both Anita Stevenson and Karen Rogers were unbeaten. Leicester's Carter Cup team of Chris Rogers, Grahame Hall and Kevin Hall were too strong all-round for Birmingham, although eight of the nine sets went to three. Chris was undefeated, Grahame won two and Kevin one. In the Bromfield Trophy Anita and Karen were again unbeaten in a 5-2 win over Birmingham, but just as significant was the display by Gillian Sinkinson. To take Margaret Allen to 18 in the third was no mean performance.

Big shock in the Leicester 1st. Division was the 7-3 by Barwell Constitutional over Knighton Park. Randell won all three whilst Iliffe showed the form of which he is capable by taking two. Phil Powell looked anything but a spent force and won a vital set against Grahame Hall. Chris Rogers won two for the Park and Colin Truman one and whilst the 1st. Division Championship is wide open, the odds must surely now favour Barwell. This must be a disappointment for Truman, who has been very confident all the season his team would top the chart.

The Ross Johnson Bowl competition—the Leicestershire team handicap competition—has now reached the semi-final stage. The teams contesting the two matches which will decide who plays in the final are Grattan II, Leicester YMCA II, Loughborough II and Triangle. More Davids than Goliaths amongst that lot!

The Loughborough Closed Men's Singles champion this season is Steve Harding who beat Pat Shilcock over three games in a thrilling final. Rosemary North became Women's Singles holder whilst John Hayes beat Bruce Johnson -19, 18, 19 in the Boys' Singles final. John Brindley took the Under-15 Singles title. Dave Rawlinson won a three game Intermediate Singles final when

he got the better of Mohammed Shaban. Rawlinson had another title when he partnered Peter Angrave to take the Men's Doubles, whilst Alan and Rosemary North won the Mixed.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by DAVID COSWAY

CHANCE OF SURVIVAL

Very little to report at inter-county level with the senior team battling to avoid relegation and the junior team aiming for the championship—I hope this is a good omen for the future! After the Kent match with not a singles win—all their three successes being in the doubles—the first team's chances of survival look dependant upon beating Berkshire in their last match. The juniors are still unbeaten but have the hurdles of Surrey II and Sussex to overcome before the play-off can be looked forward to.

At inter-town level Bournemouth "A" and Southampton "A" are still unbeaten in the mixed division one, and the title looks certain to be settled when these teams meet in a match which has still to be rearranged. At the foot of the table a 12-0 win by the Isle of Wight just about seals South East Hants' fate and the other relegation place looks to be between the Isle of Wight and Gosport "A", although Portsmouth "B" are not yet out of danger. Basingstoke "B" and Aldershot lead the second mixed division and are almost assured of promotion. The Isle of Wight need only a win over Andover to retain the men's division title but were almost shocked by lowly Winchester in being held to a 5-5 draw. Only a last set win by up-and-coming junior Steve Harris saved the Island team.

15-year-old Steve Harris, although he has wins this season to his credit over several senior ranked players, including county No. 3, Trevor Smith, has yet to be considered for the County Junior Team. It is a pity that transport to the mainland prevents him getting regular play against the top County men. No doubt about the champions of the first juniors division, with Bournemouth "A" having dropped only seven sets in six matches—and four of those were when fielding a depleted team against Southampton! South East Hants look set for relegation from this division and champions Southampton "A" could still be the shock team to accompany them. Bournemouth "B" are one set better than their "A" team at the top of the junior division 2 with only six sets against in their six matches.

This very young team with Richard Bergemann and Colin Wilson winning several open under-13 tournaments, and Julie Reading in the County Team, look destined for more success in the future. This is a real credit to the depth of talent in Bournemouth junior circles. As well as being outstanding at junior level, however, Bournemouth also lead the veterans' division with six victories to their credit. Southampton are also unbeaten but trail by four points and have still to meet Bournemouth.

In the national competition I have had few reports that have filtered through to me and if towns do not let me have details, I cannot include them in my report. In the Rose Bowl Southampton go through to the zone final with a good 5-1 win over Bourne-

mouth with Christine Davies getting the vital win over Joyce Coop to confirm her No. 1 ranking in the County. The 0-6 drubbing Southampton received at the hands of Newbury is best forgotten—sufficient to say that the first three sets took 25 minutes! Why towns like Newbury, Bournemouth, Basingstoke, etc. are seemingly able to produce juniors like a production line, while the city of Southampton are going through the doldrums is hard to ascertain.

I must end my report with a tribute to the Basingstoke Association. I attended both the "Super League" and Basingstoke Open and the whole weekend was a real credit to table-tennis. How other Associations must envy the hoards of willing helpers in the organisation of these events and how they must covet the marvellous facilities of the Sports Centre! Other Associations may like to hold 3-Star Tournaments but they must first obtain the venue and the officials to enable it to be the success this Basingstoke Open has now become.

SOUTHAMPTON CLOSED

Held over a weekend for the first time in many years the Tournament was played to a conclusion rather than have a separate staged finals night. I have mixed feelings on this matter. Some players prefer to play straight through and let the best player on the day win—others are so worn-out by the time the finals arrive that they do not produce their true form. From a spectator's point of view obviously the staged finals night is preferable as it can be made a more formal occasion with more dependable timings for the events. I would like to hear readers' opinions on this to influence how next season's tournament is run.

The committee, who incidentally made a fine job of running this event, under Tournament Secretary Vic Nuttall, were proved right in the men's singles with the eight seeds reaching their allotted place in the quarter-finals.

The first major upset occurred at this stage when Martin Gilbert beat his Four T's Club colleague and County Champion, Keith Summerfield, at 19 in the third. He came close to causing another surprise in the semi against Terry Bruce (Snows). Terry played with a great deal of intelligence when he found, in the first game, he could not hit through Gilbert's defence, and had the patience to push and play for expedite. Although he lost the first he was in command in the next two to win -17, 10, 14. In the other semi Bill Moulding beat fellow "Snows" player Chris Shetler 20, 12. The good final showed what an all-round player Bruce has become when he eventually hit through Moulding to win his first championship.

The women's singles was somewhat of a formality with Christine Davies (Four T's) not dropping a game in retaining her title. Sue Harding (Esso), still a junior, gave her the hardest game in the semis where Christine had to resort to a more defensive game than usual to counter Sue's good half volley. In the final, however, against Leslie King (Alpha) she hit through to win 11, 11. Predictably the men's doubles final again involved the four top seeds with Shetler and Summerfield beating Bruce and Moulding 19, 15. A bit of an upset in the women's doubles with Leslie King and Sue Harding beating the holders, Christine Davies and

Angeline Gilbert at deuce in the third. The mixed final was also a close affair with Summerfield and Leslie King beating Shetler and Christine Davies.

The junior singles gave Jeff Brixton (Alpha) his first title and also reinstates him as the city No. 1 after being dropped earlier in the season—the city team certainly need his talents in view of the recent results! He was taken close by both Peter Parsons (Alpha), in the semi, and Kevin McQuade (Four T's) in the final. His win over county No. 2 McQuade, at deuce in the third was a real nail-biter. Once again Fred Saunders (Customs) overcame all opposition in the veterans' event. Now well into his fifties, he still had the stamina to maintain his all-action attacking game despite being taken to 19 in the third by both Jim White (Alpha) and Dennis Sheppard (Snows). He trailed 10-15 in the final against Sheppard but still pulled back to win.

The handicap final was won by David Tomlinson (Four T's) (+7) against Keith Summerfield (Four T's). The intermediate saw Chris Hayes (Union Castle) beat Peter Parsons (Alpha).

WILTSHIRE NOTES

By KAY WATERS

FOUR TITLES FOR KEVIN

In the Wiltshire Junior Championships, held on Jan 20, the top seeds won in every event. The only real surprise came in the U-17 boys' singles when Terry Ashe, seeded No. 2, was ousted by Les Bonning, seeded No. 8 who was himself eliminated by unseeded Kevin Hayes who reached the final in which Kevin Edwards proved much too strong.

Kenwyn Hazell, the No. 1 girl, won the counterpart singles title in spite of an injured neck which had kept her out of the County Junior Team the day previous. Kenwyn went on to two more final wins, in the girls' doubles, with Wendy Parker, and the mixed with Edwards.

Kevin Edwards won four titles taking the boys' U-15 and boys' doubles with Ashe. Wendy Parker, only 13, confirmed the promise shown at last season's championships by reaching four finals and winning two.

Results:—

ES: U-17:

K. Edwards (West Wilts) bt K. Hayes (West Wilts) 3, 7.

GS: U-17:

K. Hazell (Swindon) bt W. Parker (Swindon) 15, 17.

BS: U-15:

Edwards bt T. Ashe (Swindon) 9, 17.

GS: U-15:

Parker bt R. Farmile (Swindon) 13, -16, 16.

BD:

Edwards/Ashe bt C. Ellis/D. Parker (Swindon) 15, 8.

GD:

Hazell/Parker bt J. Gardner (Swindon)/Farmile 7, 17.

XD:

Edwards/Hazell bt Parker/Parker 9, 8.

BCS:

D. Cleveland (West Wilts) bt L. Whitehall (Swindon) 15, 13.

GCS:

Gardner bt D. Smith (Swindon) 13, 17.

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MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by **RICHARD HABGOOD**

NOTTINGHAM FOR THE TITLE?

With the season now reaching its final stages Nottingham have only to win their remaining fixtures against Bristol and West Bromwich to be certain of taking the men's 1st Division title. Consistency has been the key to their success with Alan Groome, Alf Saunders and Bryan Mayfield excelling in maintaining their undefeated record.

Leicester the only team to have taken a point from Nottingham, suffered a set back to their title hopes, when they surrendered a point to Hinckley after leading 5-3. An excellent victory for Maurice Newman over his county colleague Paul Randell in this match. Leicester now join Birmingham, with each other still to play, ready to pounce if Nottingham slip at the final hurdle.

Without a doubt Stan Hahn (Oxford) is proving to be one of the most improved players in the 1st Division, having a 100 per cent record to his credit on four out of six appearances. This includes a memorable -11, 16, 13 victory over Tony Clayton, now resident and playing for Bristol. Tony made his Midland League debut in this match, and I hope this may be the start of many such appearances.

In the 3rd Division Walsall kept their unbeaten record with a tense and existing 6-4 victory over Birmingham 'B'. Promotion is assured for both of these teams, who have dominated the division all season.

Happily, newcomers Telford and Stroud have also got off the ground by recording their first M.L. victories over Hinckley 'B' and Nottingham 'C' respectively.

Unstoppable West Bromwich lead the Women's Doubles and must by now only fear Derby in their bid for the title. Similarly undefeated, Derby dropped a surprise point to Nottingham and must now defeat the leaders to take the title. Experience is on the West Bromwich side, but table tennis is a funny game!

Finally it would be very remiss of me not to mention two remarkable personal achievements. Congratula-

tions are due to Pat Hammond for making her 150th appearance for Nottingham against Worcester and to Kenny Day for making his 100th appearance for West Bromwich against Bristol.

Well done both.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by **MIKE RICHARDS**

SOME ENCOURAGEMENT

Bucks County Table Tennis continues along its disappointing path with defeat for the first team in the Premier Division of the County Championships against Warwickshire.

However, some encouragement came out of this match with a very good performance from Don Berry, who in only his second first team match, registered his first win and was unlucky not to pick up a second. The rest of the team was made up of Paul Shirley, Alec Watson and Jill Hammersley with Les Wooding joining Watson for the men's doubles.

Following this match the selectors adjusted the positions of the top four in the senior ranking list. The new order reads:-1, A. Watson; 2, D. Berry; 3, P. Shirley and 4. L. Wooding.

Of all the results to date the junior ones are the most disheartening as it was generally thought that they

would make an impression this season. However, the future as a whole is very rosy providing the County concentrate their efforts on the promising youngsters with some three or four years junior table tennis in front of them.

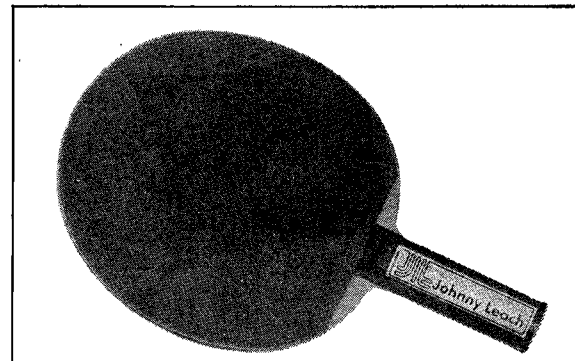
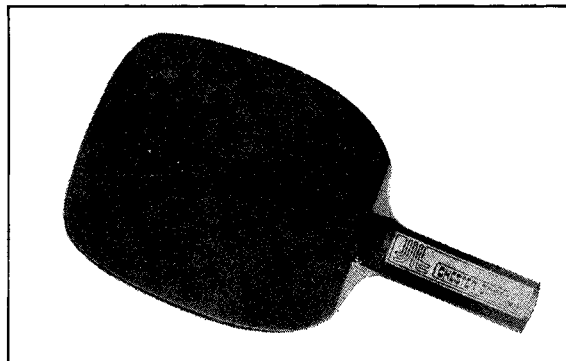
Such boys to note are David Good, Sam Harmer, Chris Leslie and Chris Noakes who are all being guided along by the Aylesbury League, Harmer and Leslie already winning games in the Premier Division. Another lad who has been spotted is Mark Curtis, who plays in the High Wycombe League. Given the right opportunities and encouragement in the development of their game now will surely provide the County with a bright tomorrow.



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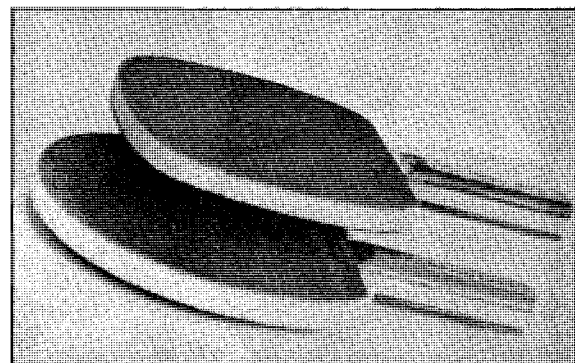
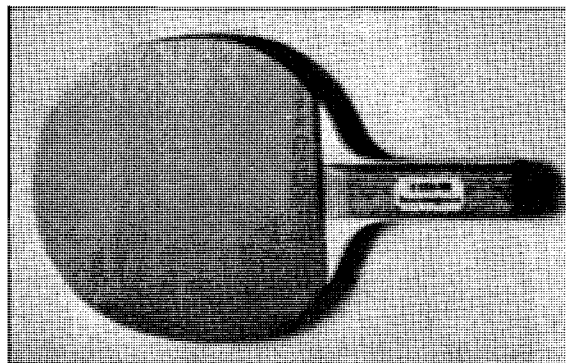
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THE WORLD'S

1977

We are on our way



by **TOM BLUNN**
Hon. Treasurer, ETTA

The January, 1974, meeting of the National Council was probably the most momentous in the history of the ETTA. By its decision to introduce a World Championship Levy, the Council gave complete support to the Worlds Steering Committee for its plans to organise and finance the championships in 1977.

There are many members, both players and officials, who remember and still talk about the 1954 World Championships, which were the last to be held in England. It is a matter of great personal regret that I was not involved in those championships in any way except to watch the very considerable coverage on television. My introduction to the national scene did not come until 1955 but never a single year passed without the 1954 Worlds being mentioned.

A whole generation has almost passed by since 1954 and many faces have disappeared from the scene, regrettably, many have gone forever. Time may well take its toll once more before April, 1977, but let us hope that the depletions will be restricted to well earned retirements.

DIRECTLY INVOLVED

Looking round the council table I could not imagine any member who could have been directly involved with the 1954 event, though one or two may have assisted as umpires or stewards and it could be that one member actually played in the early rounds. No doubt I shall be proved wrong by a letter or two in the next issue of the magazine. I accept that our esteemed president, Maurice Goldstein, took a major part in the organisation of the 1948 and 1954 World Championships and attended the 1938 championships, also held in London, as a player.

So the decisions are being made by a new generation and it is worth pointing out that the governing body of table tennis in England is probably the youngest of any sport, with the average age well under fifty years. This means that Councillors these days are still well in touch with the mass of players in the country, indeed most Councillors are still regular players themselves

and their main concern is for the expansion of the game and the enhancement of the sport's image to the general public. There can be no better way of gaining this than to organise the World Championships in 1977.

BIG PROBLEM

The enormity of the task before us can be judged by the fact that it will be the largest single sports championship ever held anywhere in the world; there could be over eighty national associations taking part and the budget at present is around a quarter of a million pounds.

Whilst the organisation is a big problem, it will be solved by the efforts of many people, mostly amateurs working in their spare time and during their holidays, but there is a limit to the extent that ordinary people can be expected to pay up. The financing of the championships will be a combined effort with all members being asked to provide only a modest, though sensible, contribution. This is to be by way of a players' levy designed to bring in about £50,000 over a period of three years, that is, only 20% of the anticipated total cost.

Further finance will come from sponsors, television fees, admissions, sales, and of course assistance from our government in the form of a grant from the Sports Council. The reaction from the Sports Council has been excellent, and whilst it is difficult to fix any definite figure, it is fairly certain that the grant will be no less than the total amount which will be contributed by our own members by way of the Players' Levy.

To assist in finding sponsorship the E.T.T.A. has contacted one of the largest advertising organisations in the world and a full scale presentation of the championships to the public will be made very soon. This will show that we really mean business and that the game of table tennis is moving into the big league.

ENORMOUS COST

It is a fair question to ask why such an enormous cost for an event lasting only a couple of weeks; approximately £20,000 per day. First, the cost of hospitality is the major factor and this is because the I.T.T.F. rules require full cost of hospitality to be borne by the host country for a minimum number of players and officials of every national association taking part. There is no zoning; the entry is open to all members of the I.T.T.F. which, by 1977, will number well over 120, and could well be the largest international sports federation in the world. If only a record number of 80 nations enter, the minimum hospitality will be for about 700 people. Add to this the number of officials, umpires, stewards, etc. that will be necessary to run the championships and the total soon reaches over 1,000 people. With the cost of accommodation and food rising rapidly and regularly, it is easy to estimate a cost of £10 per person per day by 1977, even allowing for specially negotiated terms. So hospitality alone accounts for half the total budget.

The hire of the venue will also be a large item when it is considered that the playing arena is only part of the facilities required. There will be a great demand for office and conference accommodation and, of course, for practice facilities. This

might even mean the erection of temporary buildings.

In an event of such magnitude it is easy to see how even "sundry items" can amount to thousands, but quite obviously the expenditure will be watched and controlled.

NOVEL WAY

A great deal of assistance is expected to be given by firms supplying goods or facilities free of charge in the way of advertising. A rather novel way of raising money will be to offer individual team sponsorship to firms who may have connections with particular overseas countries. The cost of hospitality for any team which the ETTA will be obliged to pay will be at least £1,000. It is expected that this idea of sponsoring visiting teams will be sold to 40 or 50 firms with export trade.

So altogether there is a possibility of the total cost being met from all these various sources. It is important to remember that the Players' Levy is intended to act as a guarantee to be called up in the event of any loss. If there is a profit — well, let's deal with that when it comes!

I hope I have been able to satisfy members that there is a great challenge to be met and that at last the governing body is really thinking big. We all know that our game can provide enjoyment, relaxation, exercise and even education for people of all ages; it is a family game that just needs that little boost of publicity to bring in the many thousands at present playing on the fringe of organised competitions.

MAGNITUDE

An event of the magnitude of the 1977 World Championships will create great interest and give table tennis a tremendous boost, which in turn will give a permanent benefit to local leagues and counties as well as to the ETTA. I do not think that a three years levy of 25p (or five bob a year to the older generation) is too much to ask from those people who still play and enjoy their weekly game whether they win or lose.

I would like to thank the National Council for giving the Officers of the ETTA such a vote of confidence by their overwhelming support for the Championships and for the levy. In all my 18 years on the council I have never seen such a display of determination to "think big". It is really very encouraging and it is to be hoped that this spirit will find its way down to the roots of the sport — the players.

In the Coaching Field

with **JOHN O'SULLIVAN**

With the season entering its final phase I hear the same players threatening to hang up their bats for the last time. They never do, of course, and after what is known as the closed season, they cannot wait to play their first match.

I mention this because it gives the impression that table tennis players are only active from September to May, then they hibernate until the next season. This may be true of some, but it certainly cannot be said

of coaches, for summer can be their most hectic period.

The panel squads have now overcome most of their teething troubles and have organised very ambitious programmes for the months ahead.

As is always the case, these programmes, and county squad programmes are dependent on the coaches being available to do the work.

In the past, squad organisers have had very little information to help them recruit the necessary manpower.

The Coaches Register proved to be a catalogue of the names of all people having achieved a coaching award, regardless of their still being actively engaged in table tennis. With this in mind, the National Coaching and Schools' Committee decided that in future the register would only include the names of coaches who were active within the National Coaching scheme. Any coach who has not been active for the last three years, will have his name withdrawn from the register. A coach will then have to apply for a re-assessment to be reinstated. When this is done, it will then be possible to consult the register knowing that all the coaches are actively engaged in table tennis.

There are, of course, many coaches who live in isolated areas and they may think that their coaching will go unnoticed. They will receive a form asking for details of coaching activities. If anyone does not receive a form and wishes to remain on the register, write to your Staff Coach giving all details.

I recently saw two new films made by the Gerard Holdsworth Productions, based on the England squad with the commentary by Les Gresswell.

The first, entitled "Basic Skills," was aimed at the beginner and showed the basic moves for stroke production and footwork.

The second, "Topspin and Backspin," was for the more advanced student, and as the title suggests, dealt with spin both forehand and backhand drive.

I must admit I was delighted at the quality of the films with regard to lighting, camera angles and colour. I was a little overawed by the sound; no table tennis ball makes that much noise!

These two films are the first of a four-part series, and are accompanied by a booklet explaining the strokes seen in the film.

I like the heading on one of the advertising sheets, "The Fastest Ball Game in the World." They have not seen some of the games in my league.

I hear from John Reed, that the Millom School Table Tennis Club is to hold a Junior Invitation Tournament on April 6th.

It was not long ago that I wrote a report about the Millom Club after spending a weekend there at a coaching session.

The club has a very good membership of over 90, and it appears that the senior members are doing most of the work involved in running the tournament.

Invitation forms have been sent to many parts of the North of England and I can see a large entry in the U-17, U-15 and U-13 groups.

I will do my best to attend, and I wish the organisers every success in their first tournament.

Norwich Union International Championships

NEALE'S ABSENCE FELT

How much difference the appearance of Denis Neale would have made to the final session of the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton on Mar. 2/74 can only be speculation, but certainly there was little to applaud in the victory of Kjell Johansson over his fellow-countryman and reigning title holder Stellan Bengtsson in the men's singles title unlike the semi in which Johansson had been stretched to the limit in warding off Neale.

Unhappily from England's point of view the continued tenacity of Maria Alexandru again prevailed to the final subjugation of Jill Hammersley whose persistence in the women's singles final extended over five expedite games.

Sweden's domination of the championships was continued in the doubles relieved only by a win in the women's pairs, with Mrs. Alexandru taking her second title when partnered by Alica Grofova. Final results:—

MS:
K. Johansson bt S. Bengtsson 20, 12, 19.

WS:
M. Alexandru bt J. Hammersley -14, 11, 18, -18, 17.

MD:
Bengtsson/Johansson bt A. Stipancic/
D. Surbek (Yugo.) -18, 17, 16, 17.

WD:
Alexandru/A. Grofova (Cz) bt B.
Radberg (Sw)/M. Zizkova (Cz)
-17, 16, 13, 16.

XD:
B. Persson (Sw)/Radberg bt I.
Wikström/A. C. Hellman (Sw) 17,
-17, -12, 18, 15.

Welsh Open

England's Jill Hammersley won her second open national women's singles title at Cardiff on Mar. 10/74 when triumphant in the Welsh Open with final victory over Czechoslovakia's Alica Grofova. Final results:—

MS:
M. Orłowski (Cz.) bt J. Kunz (Cz.)
22, -11, 13, 17.

WS:
J. Hammersley bt A. Grofova 12,
-11, 10, 16.

MD:
Kunz/Orłowski bt G. Davies/A.
Griffiths (Wa.) 20, 16, 14.

WD:
Grofova/M. Zizkova (Cz.) bt Ham-
mersley/S. Henderson (Eng.) 21,
-12, 9, -25, 22.

XD:
Orłowski/Grofova bt J. Walker
(Eng.)/Hammersley 18, 9, 15.

A full report on both championships will appear in the April issue. Ed.

DEATH OF STALWART

Jack Kursman one of the post war stalwarts of English table tennis died on Friday, February 22nd.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by **GEORGE YATES**

Beating Warwickshire 5-4 at Wigan on Mar 9 Lancashire are by no means doomed for relegation from the Premier Division of the County Championships more so as on the same date Bucks brought off a shock 7-2 away win over Surrey.

It was a whirlwind start that Lancashire made at Wigan when, faltering only in the second set as Tony Boasman lost to Derek Munt, they swept into a decisive 5-1 lead. Phil Bowen beat Brian Burn, Wally Allanson accounted for Alan Fletcher and then teamed up with Di Johnson to take the mixed from Munt and Di St. Ledger.

A Men's doubles win for Boasman and Bowen had Warwks on their knees the final blow being delivered by Di Johnson with an easy 2-straight win over Miss St. Ledger.

Both counties were without their No. 1 player, Donald Parker being engaged in the Welsh Open as an English nominee taking the place of Des Douglas who was desirous of a rest.

Stockport clinched the first division championship of the Lincs and Ches League with a 9-1 win over Liverpool and late news, just in, is that Blackburn have claimed their match against the champions because of their late arrival in the Lancashire township.

Should this claim be upheld and a probable final win over Sale apparent Bolton could well join the Cheshire League side in the descent to Division 2. All could well hinge on the meeting

of Liverpool and Bolton on Merseyside on Mar 9.

With the Blackburn v Stockport result awaiting finding the current Div 1 table reads:—

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stockport	6	6	0	0	48	12	12
Preston ...	7	4	2	1	45	25	10
Farnworth	6	2	3	1	35	25	7
Manchester	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Liverpool	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
Bolton	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Blackburn	5	0	2	3	19	31	2
Sale	6	0	0	6	6	54	0

Congratulations to Bolton's Nigel Hallows on winning the U-17 BS final in the Lancashire Junior Open on Mar 10 with a final 23-21 third game success over Ormesby's Steven "Sooty" Souter.

JUNIOR ASSESSMENT CAMPS

The system used in 1973 for assessing Junior talent throughout the country will again be followed during the summer of 1974, with primary assessments taking place within the various area panels of each of the three main coaching regions. The staff coaches and the selectors will meet in July to select the top 44 boys and 20 girls to attend one of four camps, each of one week's duration, to be held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre between July 27th and August 23rd, 1974.

From these 64 players, 26 will be selected to go forward to the Final Assessment Camp at Crystal Palace N.S.C. on September 1st to 6th. Details of these arrangements have been sent to all county associations and area panel members.

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Obituary

An Appreciation of Cliff Darley

by Tony M. Ross



It is a strange twist of fate that 3 months after Cliff Darley and myself turned our cameras on each other for a feature article by George Yates in the December issue, I now sadly have to record the sudden untimely death of Cliff at the age of 49 from a heart attack on 5th February last.

Cliff joined the Castleford, Pontefract and District League in 1948 as a member of the old Pontefract Community Association, being its club secretary in 1950/51. In 1951/52, he was a willing helper in the reformation of the Pontefract Table Tennis Club, of which he was still an active member at the time of his passing.

He joined the League Committee and was for a time Chairman and League Match Secretary, but in Pontefract he will be remembered most for his work as League Secretary, a post he held from 1958 to 1972, when he resigned because of ill-health, and was elected a Life Member.

He was also a long-serving member of the organising committee of the Pontefract (latterly 1-star) Open, an unpretentious but friendly tournament popular with many northern players. Cliff first became involved in 1949, acted as Recorder in 1958, 1966 and 1967, and was Referee in 1973 and at this season's tournament on 26th January. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the local Sports Council.

In 1966, Cliff was elected to the Yorkshire Association's Executive Committee, and the following year became Social Secretary until ill-health caused his resignation in 1972. He was re-elected to the Committee at the start of the present season. Between 1966 and 1972 Cliff served on many county sub-committees, including Tournaments, Coaching, County Championships and Selection.

Cliff became a County Umpire in 1951 and a National Umpire in 1967. He sat the first International Umpire examination held immediately after the Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace in January this year. He was also a National

Referee and was referee of the county Open and Closed Championships on several occasions. He was referee at an England-Czechoslovakia international in 1966 and deputy referee of the European Youth Championships when they were held in England at Thornaby, Teesside, in 1970.

Cliff was a member of the E.T.T.A. 100 Club and attended many of its functions.

Cliff's prowess as a player was average league standard, but good enough to qualify him as a Club Coach. To the time of his death, he was still an active club member and keenly interested in the development of the club's young players.

With his hobby of photography and love of table tennis, Cliff travelled extensively throughout the home countries, and often abroad to World, European and European Youth Championships. His photographs have brought pleasure to a great many people, many of the pictures being reproduced in "Table Tennis News."

A bachelor, Cliff was a shift worker at Ferrybridge Power Station and lived with his widowed mother at The Booths, Pontefract. Over the years, his "local", the New Inn, in Pontefract, must have become quite used to his adoption of its premises as his table tennis office, for Cliff gave its number as the place where he could be most readily contacted by telephone in the evening, having no telephone at home.

Relatives, colleagues, friends and players representing Cliff's family, club, League, Y.T.T.A. and E.T.T.A. attended the funeral on 8th February. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Darley on the loss of her son, who will be sadly missed at all levels of the game.

TOURNAMENT

It is regretted that the Open Tournament at Aycliffe on June 1st, 1974, has been shown in the ETTA Diary as a 1-star event whereas the tournament has been granted 2-star status.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FUND RAISING

BY LOUIS HOFFMAN

Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of the Association. This famous quote by Lou Hoffman in one of his recent Fund Raising speeches caused the cries of Labourite, Liberal, Conservative! Let me state here and now that politics in no way whatsoever come into my Fund Raising programme, except that I should like all members to be liberal in their donations, as the estimated cost of the Worlds at £200,000 is very conservative. This figure is only possible because of the wonderful officials who give their labour free. Boom! Boom!

Having got that off my chest I should now like to give a boost to some of those officials who are helping to make a success of the Worlds Fund Raising Raffle. The number of books given out is 27,000, this to only 135 leagues from a total of 334. 200 leagues are still not with us. What an appalling amount of apathy there is within the ETTA, when over half the leagues have not bothered to reply to a circular. I wonder if I went direct to clubs I would get a better response? If there are any clubs who would like to sell raffle tickets and earn some money, and if their own league does not show any interest, then I would be prepared to deal with that club direct. Please contact me by letter at 33a Grove Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N.10. Club Secretary or Treasurer only.

Ken Marchant, National Councillor for Northants has been doing some trojan work and consequently Northants join Gloucestershire as a 100% participating County. The thing which pleases me more than all else is to see the repeat orders come in. In this respect I feel pride of place now goes to Berwick-on-Tweed. Fund Raiser Neil Potts, allocation 25 books (5 clubs), books taken 525. Average 105 per club. This, I feel, will take

some beating. The following leagues have all had repeats and I wish them the best of luck:

N. Middlesex — 1750 books.
Guildford — 755 books.
Berwick — 500 books.
Basingstoke — 230 books.
Tunbridge Wells — 200 books.
Potteries — 150 books.
Horwich — 125 books.
Willesden — 120 books.
Stockton — 100 books.
Gt. Yarmouth — 100 books.
Stone — 100 books.
Romford — 100 books.
Doncaster — 100 books.
Salisbury — 100 books.
Basildon — 70 books.
Matlock — 60 books.
Thames Valley — 60 books.
Burnham — 50 books.
Loughborough — 50 books.
Redditch — 40 books.
Murton — 40 books.
Bolton — 40 books.
Taunton — 30 books.
Burton — 30 books.
Lancaster — 20 books.
North Acton — 20 books.

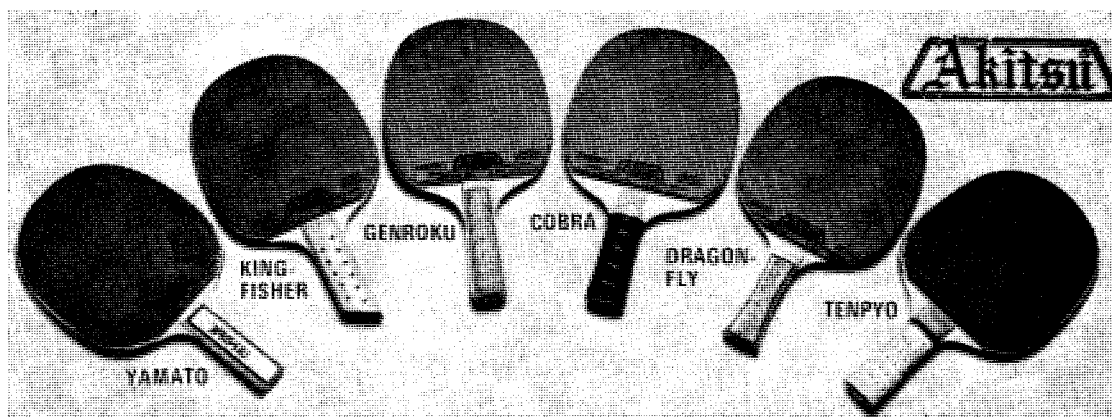
To all Fund Raisers I would like to say, between now and the Draw is the time to really push up sales. The Christmas Draws and Lincoln Handicap are over, the field is clear for the Worlds. I would like all counterfoils back by July 8th ready for the Draw on July 13th. I still have more tickets if you want them. Don't forget, it's 50% on repeats.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

by LAURIE LANDRY

Ivor Montagu has agreed to be our President again following the unanimous vote at the recent A.G.M. Members are delighted that he is still connected in this way.

On Sunday, April 28th, the Club will play a friendly celebration match against the South East Hants T.T. League as part of that League's 25th birthday activities. It is hoped to field a well-known team and bring some first-class table tennis to this part of the country.



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(continued from page 32)

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Derbyshire 3, Lancashire II 7

What a cruel end to Derbys. hopes! Ian Smith ended the unbeaten runs of both David Yallop and Philip Vickers with some forceful play, and this coupled with Derbys, failure to take a doubles, a big feature of the match. The last 6 sets all went the distance, with Lancs., picking up 4 of these.

Leicestershire II 3, Staffordshire 7

A good start by Leics. but they could not keep it up. Despite a heavy cold Bruce Johnson won 2 x BS, but the improved Robert Legge the best player on view.

Lincolnshire 3, Warwickshire II 7

JUNIOR EAST

Hertfordshire 4, Essex II 6

Essex brought out the big guns for this one, and were just too strong for the younger Herts. team, 11 games decided at 19 or closer—3 of these were final game wins by Herts. Hopes of winning the division now recede, but Herts. can still make the Premier.

Cambridgeshire II 4,

Buckinghamshire 6

Success continues to elude this Cambs. team, but they are getting closer! The visiting girls took 3 but Derek Kiddle won 2 x BS for the first time with a notable 14, 12 victory over Chris Leslie.

Huntingdonshire 6, Norfolk 4

Peter Berna to the rescue, and for the second time this season. He followed an opening set victory over Doug Bennett with the match winner against Mike Archer: between these successes Jean Allinson and Belinda Chamberlain recorded their 4th "clean sweep".

Northamptonshire 9, Bedfordshire 1

Bedfords. deserved a better fate: they were unfortunate to meet Northants. on their best form of the season.

JUNIOR WEST

Berkshire 6, Gloucestershire 4

Chris Sewell, as expected, recorded a maximum, but the home girls Kara Mashford and Caroline Reeves cancelled this out (tight XD at -12, 12, 24). David Reeves, Gary Roberts and Alan Hicks each weighed in with a singles for the match.

Glamorgan 6, Wiltshire 4

Worcestershire 5, Dorset 5

So ends Dorset's splendid start to Junior play. Simon Claxton and Andrew Oakley let BD slip from 20—15 and lost -27, -22, but made up for this with 2 x BS each. An interesting and close game.

Devon 8, Somerset 2

Captain Keith James as usual a vital cog in this Devon machine: he was well backed up by Terry Fairbanks (2 x BS on debut) and Elaine Lamb had a splendid 10, 19 win over Jill Wilson.

Glamorgan 4, Devon 6

VETERAN SOUTH

Hampshire 9, Huntingdonshire 0 (walkover)

Hunts. declined to travel to the South-coast venue chosen for this match.

Kent 4, Hampshire 5

Wiltshire 1, Hampshire 8

Oxfordshire 6, Wiltshire 3

Essex 8, Huntingdonshire 1

Easy start for Essex who rattled off 12 games for a 6—0 lead. Then G. Cockram accounted for Ken Beamish 20, 19. Colin Dale went to expedite v. Roy Coussens (who then showed he could hit when necessary!) and S. Roberts took the second game from Vic Ireland.

VETERAN MIDLAND

Nottinghamshire 7, Staffordshire 2

Warwickshire 3, Cheshire 6

TABLES AS AT 12-00 MIDNIGHT 7th MARCH, 1974

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Yorks.	5	5	0	0	34	11	10
Essex	5	3	0	2	30	15	6
Middlesex	5	3	0	2	26	19	6
Warwicks.	4	3	0	1	18	18	6
Cheshire	6	3	0	3	23	31	6
Surrey	5	2	0	3	22	23	4
Lancashire	5	1	0	4	15	30	2
Bucks.	5	0	0	5	12	33	0

2nd SOUTH

Kent	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Sussex	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Surrey II	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Middlesex II	4	1	0	3	20	20	2
Berkshire	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Hampshire	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

2nd NORTH

Yorks. II	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Cheshire II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Northmblnd	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Lincs.	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Lancs. II	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Durham	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

2nd MIDLAND

Leics.	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Staffs.	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Derbys.	4	1	2	1	17	23	4
Notts.	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Warwicks. II	4	1	2	1	21	19	3
Gloucs.	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

2nd EAST

Essex II	4	3	0	1	31	9	6
Bedfords.	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Herts.	4	2	2	0	23	17	6
Cambs.	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Norfolk	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Northants.	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

2nd WEST

Glamorgan	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Somerset	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Worcester	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Wiltshire	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Devon	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Dorset	3	0	0	3	4	26	0
Cornwall	5	0	0	5	5	45	0

SOUTHERN

Sussex II	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Kent II	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Hants. II	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Berks. II	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Bucks. II	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Oxfords.	4	0	0	4	2	38	0

NORTHERN

Cheshire III	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Derbys II	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Durham II	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Cumberlnd	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Nthmbrld I	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

MIDLAND

Staffs. II	4	3	0	1	32	8	6
Glamorgan II	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Worcs. II	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Monmouths.	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Herefords.	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Shropshire	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

EASTERN

Essex III	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Herts. II	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Suffolk	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Norfolk II	5	2	0	3	25	25	4
Northants. II	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Hunts.	5	1	0	4	12	38	2
Cambs. II	4	0	1	3	14	26	1

JUNIOR PREMIER

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

JUNIOR SOUTH

Surrey II	5	5	0	0	35	15	10
Hampshire	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Sussex	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Kent	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Berks. II	5	1	1	3	24	26	3
Essex III	5	1	0	4	23	27	2
Herts. II	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Oxfords.	5	0	1	4	6	44	1

JUNIOR NORTH

Yorks. II	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Lancashire	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Durham	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Cheshire	5	2	0	3	25	25	4
Cumberland	4	2	0	2	15	25	4
Westmorlnd	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Nthmblnd	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Warwicks. II	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Lancs. II	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Derbys.	4	3	0	1	31	9	6
Staffs.	5	1	1	3	15	35	3
Lincs.	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Notts.	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Leics. II	5	0	1	4	9	41	1

JUNIOR EAST

Essex II	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Herts.	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Northants.	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Hunts.	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Beds.	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Bucks.	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Norfolk	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Cambs. II	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

JUNIOR WEST

Berks.	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Dorset	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Gloucs.	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Devon	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Worcs.	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Glamorgan	6	1	0	5	21	39	2
Wiltshire	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
Somerset	5	0	1	4	11	39	1

VETERAN SOUTH

Essex	5	5	0	0	32	13	10
Hampshire	5	4	0	1	31	14	8
Kent	5	3	0	2	25	20	6
Herts.	5	3	0	2	23	22	6
Oxfords.	5	1	0	4	19	26	2
Hunts.	4	1	0	3	12	24	2
Wiltshire	4	0	0	4	10	26	0

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire	5	5	0	0	29	16	10
Notts.	5	4	0	1	31	14	8
Warwicks.	5	3	0	2	24	21	6
Leics.	4	1	0	3	15	21	2
Staffs.	5	1	0	4	18	27	2
Worcs.	4	0	0	4	9	27	0

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Table Tennis on Stamps

by IAN R. CRICKMER

Part I : 1949-1961

Recent notes in this magazine concerning stamp issues depicting table tennis have prompted several enquiries for a full list of such stamps. It is therefore proposed to provide such a detailed account over the next few months. It must be stressed that these were authorised postage stamps issued by the various postal authorities. There have been numerous special cancellations—including three commissioned by the E.T.T.A. and one by the T.T.A.W.—and these are to be the subject of a catalogue now being prepared by the leading authority on these cancellations, Rex Haggett, of Stratford-on-Avon.

1949—Nicaragua. 60 centavos value of a series of thirteen sports designs for the Tenth World Amateur Baseball Championships (Stanley Gibbons No. 1130). Also issued in a block of four stamps in a miniature sheet. (S.G. MS 1132A).

1949—Nicaragua. 3 centavos value of a series of thirteen Air Mail sports designs for the Tenth World Amateur Baseball Championships (S.G. 1135). Also issued in a block of four stamps in a miniature sheet. (S.G. MS 1145a).

1953—Roumania. 2 stamps, each 55 bani value, one deep grey-green and one red-brown for the Twentieth World Championships played in Bucharest. (S.G. 2281 and 2282).

1954 Japan. 5 yen value of a pair for the Ninth National Athletic Meeting, issued joined to another 5 yen stamp depicting archery. (S.G. 731).

1956—Japan. 10 yen value for the Twenty-third World Championships played in Tokyo. (S.G. 749).

1956—Yugoslavia. 70 dinars value of a set of eight stamps for the Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia (though table tennis is not an Olympic sport). (S.G. 841).

1958—Hungary. Two values, 20 filler and 30 filler, of a set of seven stamps to commemorate international sports events held in Hungary during 1958. For the First European Senior Championships, played in Budapest. (S.G. 1527 and 1528).

1959—China (People's Republic). Two values, 4 fen and 8 fen, for the Twenty-fifth World Championships played in Dortmund, West Germany. (S.G. 1628 and 1629).

1959—China (People's Republic). One stamp of sixteen issues, each of 8 fen value, for the First National Sports Meeting in Peking. (S.G. 1676).

1961—North Korea. 2 chon value of a set of six stamps for Physical Culture Day. (S.G. NK 331).

1961—China (People's Republic). Four values, 8 fen, 10 fen, 20 fen and 22 fen, for the Twenty-sixth World Championships played in Peking. (S.G. 1768 to 1771). Also issued as a block of four, one stamp of each of the values, in a miniature sheet. (S.G. MS 1771A).

(To be continued).

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

SURPRISE NEWS FROM GLAMORGAN

Writing notes on one session of matches shortly before the next is to be played, knowing that they will not be read until long after that session, is not a rewarding task so these will be mainly a statement of fact.

Surprise news from Glamorgan is that they will not challenge for Senior Promotion this season, a clash of dates with Welsh European League fixtures being the reason. Hertfordshire stage these matches on April 27/28 and Leicestershire must surely be favourites for a Premier place in 1974-75.

Junior Challenge will be staged by the Berkshire Association, who have made great strides in the past 5 seasons. A Premier place for them, too, if they make the Challenge, should become a reality.

Cheshire have won Veteran Midland for the 3rd successive season and prepare to entertain Essex on April 20 (the conclusion of the Essex campaign would seem to be little more than a formality as Wiltshire have yet to win in this division).

Some late news from North Wales is that the former Denbighshire (whose membership lapsed a few seasons back) is very interested in re-joining with Senior, Junior and Veteran teams. I gather that TTAW is to adopt the new County boundaries when these come into force, but do not know what affect this will have on our existing Welsh members Glamorgan and Monmouthshire.

COUNTY DIARY

Junior Premier

Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire, Warwickshire, Yorkshire v. Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, Surrey at Loughborough on Sat./Sun., April 13/14.

Veteran Challenge

On Saturday, April 20. Probably Cheshire v. Essex.

Senior Promotion Challenge

Sat./Sun., April 27/28. Hertfordshire.

Junior Promotion Challenge

Sat./Sun., May 4/5. Berkshire.

PREMIER

Lancashire 7, Cheshire 2

D. Parker bt M. Johns 15, -24, 16; bt J. Hilton 8, 18.

A. Boasman bt Johns 10, -10, 15; bt N. Eckersley 20, -14, 18.

P. Bowen bt Hilton 16, 19; lost to Eckersley 17, -10, -20.

Boasman/Bowen bt Eckersley/Hilton 16, 15.

Mrs. D. Johnson bt Miss S. Lisle 17, 18.

Parker/Johnson lost to Johns/Lisle -20, -16.

Middlesex 7, Buckinghamshire 2

A. Barden bt A. Watson -9, 19, 19; bt P. Shirley 18, 17.

M. Mitchell lost to Watson -18, -12; bt J. Leith 12, 10.

R. Aldrich lost to Shirley 23, -18, -19; bt Leith 19, 11.

Aldrich/Mitchell bt Leith/Shirley 16, 14.

Mrs. K. Mathews bt Miss J. Williams 4, 16.

Barden/Mathews bt Watson/Williams 8, -16, 14.

Few people came to watch this one, and they missed an uninspiring display by Middlesex. Alec Watson pulled back a sizeable deficit v. Mark Mitchell in the opening game and was never in difficulty in the 2nd; he later nearly upset Andy Barden. Perhaps as well for the hosts that Jill Hammersley was abroad!

Essex 6, Surrey 3

D. Brown bt R. Yule 10, 14; lost to C. Strathearn -19, -9;

I. Horsham lost to Yule -7, 13, -11; bt D. Welsman -19, 12, 18;

I. Robertson bt Strathearn -16, 13, 17; bt Welsman 11, 11.

Brown/Robertson lost to Welsman/Yule -16, 17, -18.

Mrs. L. Radford bt Mrs. S. Henderson 17, 17;

Horsham/Radford bt Strathearn/Henderson -21, 18, 16.

2nd SOUTH

Hampshire 2, Middlesex II 8

For the second successive match a Hants. No. 1 limited to 2 points in a game! This time it was Keith Summerfield who crashed -2, -7 to David Tan, the latter hardly missing a ball. 3 sets to Middlesex at 18 in 3rd or closer.

Surrey II 6, Berkshire 4

Barry Hill still 100% in singles although taken to 19 in 3rd by Berkshire's best player Bob Thornton. Easy win (11, 13) for Caroline Reeves over Susan Tame.

Sussex 4, Kent 6

A fine match with Clive Morris again outstanding. Judy Williams demolished Joyce Ellis 9, 12 with some great hitting, and Terry Farlie twice got himself out of deep trouble: he trailed Sammy Ogundipe 4—12 in 3rd but won 14, -13, 13; recovered from 10—15 and 19—20 in 3rd v. Robin Stace to win 18, -14, 21!

2nd NORTH

Cheshire II 7, Lincolnshire 3

Peter D'Arcy impressed in his first 2nd Division match and Roger Hampson also picked up 2 x MS including a 17, 13 win over Brian Hill. Ever-reliable Doreen Schofield scored WS success over Beryl Voss.

Lancashire II 4, Northumberland 6

Yorkshire II 10, Durham 0

Best performance of this season by

Yorks. against a Durham team which played well but found nothing going its way.

2nd MIDLAND

Derbyshire 1, Leicestershire 9

Leics. well-balanced team were tighter when it counted: only one set needed a decider and they lost that one!

Gloucestershire 3, Staffordshire 7

Both teams below strength with Gloucs. sadly missing their new No. 1 Chris Sewell. Nice to see Roy Morley back in form.

Nottinghamshire 6, Warwickshire II 4

2nd EAST

Hertfordshire 7, Northamptonshire 3

Barry White, reinstated at No. 3, the only player to succeed on each visit to the table. 9 sets needed a deciding game.

Cambridgeshire 2, Essex II 8

Paul Day recorded straight-game victories against David Bowles and Graham Blomfield, but no other Cambs. player could win even a game.

Bedfordshire 8, Norfolk 2

2nd WEST

Glamorgan 9, Cornwall 1

Wiltshire 4, Somerset 6

After 80 minutes Somerset led 2—0, following expedite successes by Roger Morris over Bill Moulding 15, 15 (20—15 in first) and by Brian Reeves over Terry Bruce at 19, -14, 15 (18—11 in first). Alison Boyce and Margaret Alexander were for once the strongest part of the home team with Alison taking WS and the pair winning WD 6, 21.

Worcestershire 6, Devon 4

Not one of the 10 players went home unbeaten from a fine match, nor did any leave without success. Bob Brown clinched the match at 5—4 with an exciting 16, -19, 18 display over Bob Parkin that had the sizeable crowd on tenterhooks: a pity either side should lose so fine an encounter. Worcs. picked up 4 other MS and also WD.

SOUTHERN

Berkshire II 10, Oxfordshire 0

A resounding win against a struggling side. Sid Montgomery played a notable part in this and promises well for the future: his fight was largely responsible for saving MD when things looked black for his team in the 3rd. A County badge for him, and also for Christine Basden and Richard Rosinski.

Buckinghamshire II 2, Sussex II 8

Kent II 7, Hampshire II 3

The re-called Barry Meisel proved himself far from being a spent force, and he with Carol Payne on debut emerged unbeaten.

NORTHERN

Cheshire III 7, Cumberland 3

When John McNee had not appeared, the Gatley officials inserted an unregistered reserve. Despite forfeiting those two "wins" Cheshire still managed a nice win and Derek Abbott had 3 good wins on debut.

Durham II 5, Derbyshire II 5

Durham's good, 3—0, opening almost neutralised by the stronger visiting women who scored in WD and WS.

MIDLAND

Staffordshire II 10, Shropshire 0

Herefordshire 4, Glamorgan II 6

The hosts trailed 0—4, all lost in 3 games with the first two very close, then rallied to 3—4 with MD, WS and MS from Russell Preece. Glamorgan made sure of both points with XD and a second MS from Walter Hussey before Herefords. took the last two. Good doubles play from Dawn Michael.

Monmouthshire 6, Worcestershire II 4

An end to Mervyn Wood's run: he lost on all three trips to the table. 15-year-old Simon Claxton, on Senior debut, the star for the visitors but the match belonged to John Mansfield whose welcome return produced a surprise result which was, however, deserved on the day.

EASTERN

Huntingdonshire 6,

Cambridgeshire II 4

Norfolk II 4, Essex III 6

The forfeit of 2 sets by Essex (they travelled with only one woman) made this closer than it might have been.

JUNIOR SOUTH

Hertfordshire II 0, Hampshire 10

4 sets needed a decider, but Hants. too strong.

Berkshire II 9, Hertfordshire II 1

A most encouraging result for Berks. who tried out 3 new players. Janet Thorpe a little too tense in GS, but she combined well with Mandy Smith in GD.

Hampshire 4, Surrey II 6

A disappointment for Hants, who again found Surrey a bit too steady. Martin Shuttle their star, well backed up by Stephen Boxall who also won both singles including the vital one at 5—4 v. Kevin McQuade. Linda Wales cruel to Nicolette Leslie winning 10, 6.

Oxfordshire 5, Kent 5

A really bad lapse by Kent, who fielded an unregistered boy and an unregistered girl, forfeiting 4 sets, and helping Oxfordshire to break their sad run of 36 consecutive lost Junior matches.

Sussex 6, Essex III 4

Sussex took all 3 sets where girls were involved, and Michael Douglas picked up 2 x BS in convincing fashion. The other Sussex players were generally not up to the Essex standard.

JUNIOR NORTH

Cumberland 6, Cheshire 4

Peter Polczynski the star, but the match turned on the hosts stronger girls. E. Waites promised well for Cheshire.

Durham 4, Yorkshire II 6

Durham unlucky to take no points from a close contest.

Northumberland 2, Lancashire 8

Anti-loop Peter Morris had a fine day, thrashing Eddie Thomas (who had never met this surface before) and also overcoming Andrew Clark. The latter then accounted for Nigel Hallows in straight games. Nice to see the home girls continuing to show improvement.

(continued on page 31)

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