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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY **GEORGE YATES**

No. 70

April 1975

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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POSTAL SALVO

Inflation, which affects each and every one of us, makes no differentiation when it comes to "Table Tennis News" which, henceforth, will be hit for six by the savage increase in postal charges which became operative from March 17 last.

Notwithstanding the saga appertaining to the Feb./March issue, the explanation of which will be found elsewhere in this publication, the cost incurred in posting a single magazine, second class, rises from 5p to 8p, for which additional expenditure there can be no recovery from this season's subscribers.

Add to this, for next season, the ever-spiralling cost of paper, affecting also envelopes and wrappers, not forgetting printing costs generally, which rise with wages ad infinitum.

Small wonder then that concern has to be expressed as to the future of specialist magazines such as this. The increased costs can only be passed on, otherwise the publication in its present format must inevitably perish.

Be prepared then for the new rates to be announced in the next issue, after the costings have been worked out. Customer resistance can be appreciated but too much will ring the death knell. The ball will be in your court!

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On the International Front

by The Editor

SITUATION TENSE

England, by beating the Soviet Union 4-3 in front of 2,000 spectators in Moscow on Mar. 20, took another step towards retention of their Premier Division status in the **European League**, but they are by no means clear of the relegation issue in which four countries are now involved.

Desmond Douglas was England's match-winner in Moscow when, in the final set, with the match score standing at 3-3, he defeated Sarkis Sarkhojan. Earlier, after the Soviet Union had taken a 2-0 lead, Jill Hammersley beat Tatjana Ferdman, and Douglas combined successively with Denis Neale and Linda Howard in winning both sets of doubles, the mixed against reigning world champions, Stanislav Gomozkov and Miss Ferdman!

All this was accomplished after a 5 a.m. arrival in Moscow on the day of the match and in that vital last set Douglas recovered from a first game deficit to win after being held to 17-all in the decider.

Individual scores:—

A. Strokotov bt D. Douglas 8, 12.

S. Sarkhojan bt N. Jarvis 9, 14.

T. Ferdman lost to J. Hammersley -17, -20.

S. Gomozkov/Sarkhojan lost to Douglas/D. Neale -17, 16, -19.

Gomozkov/Ferdman lost to Douglas/L. Howard 13, -21, -17.

Strokotov bt Jarvis 13, 16.

Sarkhojan lost to Douglas 15, -19, -17.



World champion, Istvan Jonyer, was Hungary's strong man in their 4-3 defeat of Czechoslovakia with wins over Milan Orlovski and Jaroslav Kunz as well as sharing a mixed doubles success with Judit Magos.

Scores:—

I. Jonyer bt M. Orlovski 18, 19.

G. Gergely lost to J. Kunz -12, 19, -13.

J. Magos lost to H. Riedlova -17, 12, -23.

Gergely/Jonyer lost to Kunz/Orlovski 18, -15, -18.

Jonyer/Magos bt Orlovski/Riedlova -15, 17, 21.

Jonyer bt Kunz -19, 15, 16.

Gergely bt Orlovski 19, 19.

Sweden, whose players came away from Calcutta divested of their two world championship titles, have taken over the leadership as a result of their 4-3 win over France in a match watched by 3,000 spectators in Rennes!

Scores:—

J. Secretin lost to K. Johansson -14, -19.

C. Martin bt S. Bengtsson 18, -14, 23.

C. Bergeret lost to A.-C. Hellman -13, 15, -18.

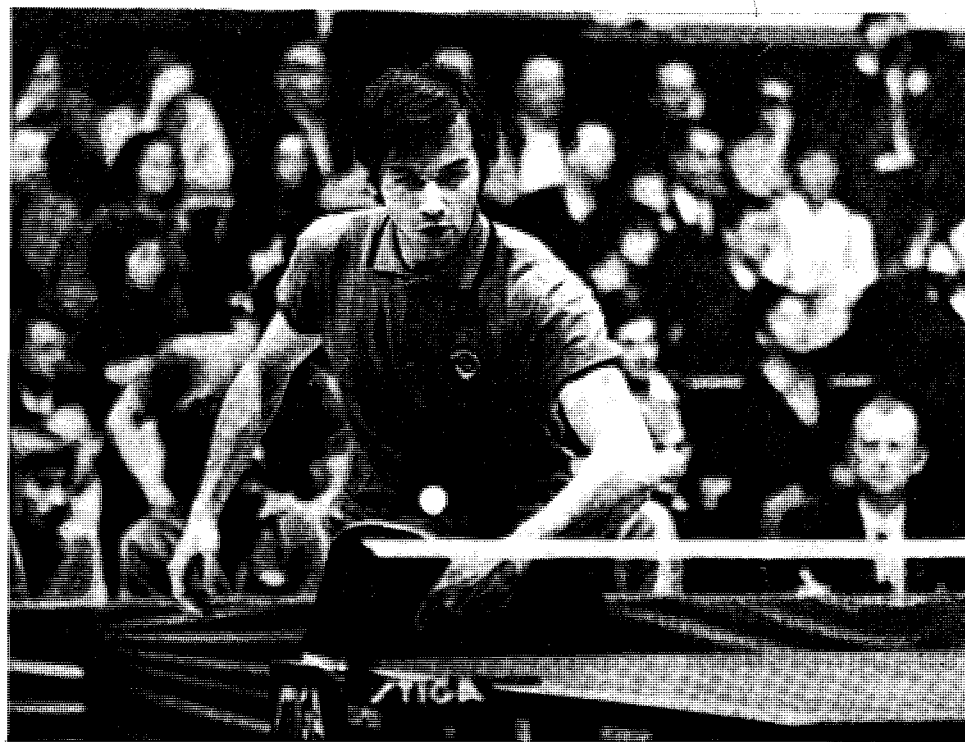
P. Birocheau/Secretin bt Bengtsson/Johansson 18, -14, 16.

Secretin/Bergeret bt Johansson/Hellman 15, -19, 9.

Secretin lost to Bengtsson -18, 13, -18.

Martin lost to Johansson -19, -14.

Claude Bergeret led Ann-Christin Hellman 16-14 in the third and, in the penultimate set, Jacques Secretin led Stellan Bengtsson 10-7 at the turn in the deciding set.



Sarkis Sarkhojan, of the Soviet Union, who, in Moscow, lost to England's Desmond Douglas in the final set.

On the same night in Hamm, Federal Germany crashed 1-6 to Yugoslavia, the only home victory coming in the last set but one when Jochen Leiss saved the "whitewash" by defeating Dragutin Surbek.

Scores:—
 J. Leiss lost to A. Stipanovic 17, -18, -16.
 P. Stellwag lost to D. Surbek -13, 20, -18.
 W. Hendriksen lost to E. Palatinus 20, -13, -17.
 P. Engel/Leiss lost to Stipanovic/Surbek -12, -15.
 Engel/U. Hirschmüller lost to Stipanovic/Palatinus -9, 20, -17.
 Leiss bt Surbek -10, 18, 15.
 Stellwag lost to Stipanovic -8, -12.

Current table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	5	4	1	22	13	4
Hungary	5	4	1	19	16	4
Czechoslovakia	5	3	2	22	13	3
Yugoslavia	5	3	2	18	17	3
Soviet Union	5	2	3	17	18	2
England	5	2	3	16	19	2
France	5	1	4	16	19	1
Federal Germany	5	1	4	10	25	1

Scores appertaining to matches played on Feb. 27, the results of which appeared in the last issue, were:—

Sweden 5, Hungary 2 (in Trelleborg)
 Bengtsson lost to G. Gergely -20, -15.
 Johansson bt I. Jonyer -13, 9, 13.
 Hellman bt B. Kishazi -18, 13, 15.
 Bengtsson/Johansson bt Gergely/Jonyer 10, 17.
 Johansson/Hellman bt Jonyer/H. Lotaller -14, 14, 18.
 Bengtsson bt Jonyer 18, -16, 12.
 Johansson lost to Gergely -16, 16, -16.
 Soviet Union 3, France 4 (in Moscow)
 Gomozkov lost to Martin -18, -17.
 Strokatov bt Secretin 10, 19.
 E. Antonian bt Bergeret 11, 18.
 Gomozkov/Sarkhojan lost to Birocheau/Secretin -16, -19.
 Sarkhojan/Antonian lost to Secretin/Bergeret 21, -21, -17.
 Gomozkov lost to Secretin 19, -18, -17.
 Strokatov bt Martin 12, 13.
 Czechoslovakia 6, Yugoslavia 1 (in Prague)
 M. Orłowski bt M. Savnik 13, 19.
 J. Kunz bt Stipanovic 12, 15.
 H. Riedlova bt D. Fabri 11, 17.
 Orłowski/J. Turai bt Savnik/Stipanovic 14, 17.
 Orłowski/Riedlova bt Stipanovic/E. Korpa 22, 22.
 Orłowski lost to Stipanovic -18, 12, -18.
 Kunz bt Savnik 13, 17.

Poland, after their 4-3 victory over the Netherlands, look set to win the **Second Division — Group A** title — with but one match remaining away to Denmark on April 10.

Ireland's defeat of the latter country in Craigavon on Feb. 28 saw Jim Langan on the winning side four times.

Scores:—
 T. Caffrey lost to B. Grimstrup -11, 18, -11.
 J. Langan bt J. Pedersen 19, 19.
 K. Senior bt S. Poulsen 14, 10.
 Caffrey/Langan bt Grimstrup/Pedersen 10, 14.
 Langan/Senior bt Grimstrup/Poulsen 17, 13.
 Caffrey lost to Pedersen -18, 15, -16.
 Langan bt Grimstrup 16, 14.

Away to Belgium, in Arlon on Mar. 22, Ireland got off on the wrong foot when Langan lost the opening set to Norbert van de Walle and it was one set that separated the teams at the finish—4-3 to Belgium.

Scores:—
 N. v.d. Walle bt Langan 9, -18, 24.
 W. Dugardin bt Caffrey -18, 13, 16.
 M. F. Germiot lost to Senior 10, -12, -19.
 D. Nassaux/v.d. Walle lost to Caffrey/Langan -8, -8.
 v.d. Walle/Germiot bt Langan/Senior 16, -13, 12.
 v.d. Walle bt Caffrey 20, -17, 20.
 Dugardin lost to Langan -16, -9.

Coming back from a 1-3 deficit, Holland equated the match score at 3-all in Lodz on Mar. 20, but in the deciding set Zbigniew Fraczyk beat Bert van der Helm to dim the hopes of the Netherlands.

Scores:—
 W. Woznica bt B. v.d. Helm 15, 17.
 Z. Fraczyk bt N. v. Slobbe 15, -9, 17.
 D. Calinska lost to S. Heltzel 16, -17, -21.
 S. Fraczyk/Woznica bt v.d. Helm/v. Slobbe 14, -16, 17.
 Woznica/Calinska lost to v.d. Helm/Heltzel -18, -9.
 Woznica lost to v. Slobbe 18, -15, -14.
 Z. Fraczyk bt v.d. Helm 19, 17.

Table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	3	3	0	15	6	3
Netherlands	4	3	1	17	11	3
Denmark	3	1	2	9	12	1
Ireland	4	1	3	13	15	1
Belgium	4	1	3	9	19	1

Austria, with an unbeaten record in the **Second Division—Group B**, have one match remaining, away to Italy on April 10, and barring the most unexpected, must take this title and take on Poland in the promotion match into the Premier Division.

Away to Luxembourg, in Differdange, on Feb. 28, Italy won 5-2, the scores being:—

J. Krier lost to R. Giontella 17, -19, -18.
 M. Scheibel lost to S. Bosi 7, -10, -13.
 J. Dom bt F. Saporetti 11, 12.
 Krier/Oth lost to Bosi/Giontella -12, 19, -15.
 C. Putz/Dom bt Giontella/Saporetti 15, -17, 15.
 Krier lost to Bosi -8, 19, -9.
 Scheibel lost to Giontella -13, -22.

Luxembourg came good in Bulle on Mar. 21 when they accounted for Switzerland 6-1, only the mixed doubles escaping them.

Scores:—
 L. Foldy lost to Krier -18, -10.
 T. Sadecky lost to Pütz -17, -8.
 V. Lehmann lost to Dom -13, 16, -19.
 Foldy/M. Frutschi lost to Hartmann/Krier -19, -16.
 Sadecky/B. Luterbader bt Pütz/Dom -18, 17, 13.
 Foldy lost to Pütz -14, 19, -15.
 Sadecky lost to Krier -16, -18.

Greece, who brought off that spectacular 5-2 win over Italy, went down in Oberschutzen, where Austria won 5-2 on Mar. 19.

Scores:—
 R. Weinmann bt N. Kostopoulos 14, 15.
 F. Thallinger bt K. Priftis 19, 12.

I. Wirnsberger lost to M. Louka -14, 16, -19.
 Thallinger/Weinmann bt Kostopoulos/Priftis 19, 19.
 G. Muller/Fetter lost to Priftis/Louka -12, 19, -14.
 Weinmann bt Priftis 20, -21, 9.
 Thallinger bt Kostopoulos 15, -14, 17.

Played at Cardiff as a curtain-raiser to the Welsh Open Championships, Norway won the **West Regional Group** beating Wales (4-3), Scotland (6-1), Jersey (6-1) and Guernsey (7-0). Wales finished runners-up beating Scotland (5-2), Jersey (5-2) and Guernsey (6-1).

Scotland had wins over Jersey (6-1) and Guernsey (7-0). Jersey beat their fellow Channel-islanders 5-2 to afford Guernsey the wooden spoon. The Mediterranean Group play-off was scheduled for Mar. 22-23 in Bulgaria.

EUROPE CLUB CUP

Men's Event—Semi-finals:
 GSTK Vjesnik, Zagreb (Yugoslavia) bt Ormesby TTC (England) 5-2.

Sparta Praha (Czech) bt Kremlin-Bicetre (France) 5-2.

Women's Event:
 Sparta Praha (Czech) bt ASTK Mladost (Yugoslavia) 5-3.

Varbergs BTK (Sweden) bt Statistika PSC (Hungary) 5-3.

Ormesby's two winners in Zagreb were Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker, who both beat Ivica Stipanovic. Dragutin Surbek and Anton Stipanovic proved too much for the Cleveland trio, which further included Denis Neale.

OBITUARY

It is with sorrow that the death of Gunter Gorlitz is reported. Gunter, who died on Jan. 29, was only 48. He was President of the Deutscher Tischtennis-Verband der DDR from 1955 to 1969.

He served on the ITTF Advisory Committee from 1957 to 1969 and was a member of the Federation's Standing Orders Committee from 1961 to 1971. Gunter Gorlitz was an excellent colleague to work with and during his service with the ITTF he made some valuable contributions to the activities of the Federation.



Jochen Leiss, who, in Hamm, beat Dragutin Surbek to register Federal Germany's only win against Yugoslavia.

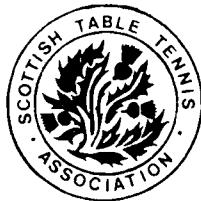
Photo by Karda Kiesslich.

**EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION
LIST OF APPROVED TOURNAMENT DATES
AND DATES FOR
EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES**

1975	
August	
4-10	—EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS Zagreb
27-31	—Turkish Junior Invitation Tournament Ankara
September	
13-15	—Czechoslovak Junior Open Championships Bratislava
October	
1-15	—Mediterranean Championships Beirut
4-5	—German Invitation Tournament Hagen
10-12	—Spanish International Open Championships Valladolid
16	—EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES
24-26	—Polish International Open Championships Warsaw
November	
7-8	—Deutscher Tisch Tennis Bund JUBILEE Berlin
13	—EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES
14-16	—Hungarian International Open Championships Szegedin
21-23	—Yugoslav International Open Championships Ljubljana
27-30	—Scandinavian Open Championships Kalmar
December	
6	—English "Pickwick" Invitation Tournament London
11	—EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES
1976	
January	
8-10	—English International Open Championships Brighton
15-17	—Irish International Open Championships Dublin
21	—EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES
23-25	—Rumanian International Open Ch'ships ... Bucharest/Ploesti
February	
6-8	—Welsh International Open Championships Cardiff
20-22	—Swiss International Open Championships Zurich
25	—EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES
27-29	—German International Open Championships Hannover
March	
4	—EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCHES
19-21	—Scottish International Open Championships Edinburgh
26-Apr. 4	—EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS Prague
April	
16-18	—French Junior Open Championships Vichy
23-25	—EUROPE TOP 12 Lubeck/Hamburg
May	
17-18	—English Junior Open Championships Worthing

DISCIPLINARY

The Rumanian Federation has suspended Ligia Lupu and the Scottish Association have suspended Kenneth J. Burrell from Mar. 2 to June 30, 1975.



**1st SCOTTISH
INTERNATIONAL OPEN**
Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh
21 — 23 March, 1975

**ENGLAND WIN BENEAGLES TROPHY
by Denis George**

For many years the Scottish Open has been sponsored by the "Edinburgh Evening News," but this season the addition of a new co-sponsor, Peter Thomson (Perth) Ltd.—the blenders and bottlers of "Beneagles Extra Special Scotch Whisky"—enabled the Scottish T.T.A. to go International with the introduction of an International Team Event, played European League style.

Surprise entry was the team of 4 boys and 4 girls from Venezuela, led by Hulio Cruse, who were at the start of a European tour. Other teams competing for the Beneagles Trophy were England, Jersey and Ireland, together with the host country.

Team Results—

Round 1
England I 7, Venezuela I 0
Jersey II 0, Scotland II 7
Ireland 7, Venezuela II 0
Jersey I 0, Scotland I 7

Round 2
England 7, Scotland II 0
Ireland 1, Scotland I 6
Jersey I 3, Venezuela II 4
Venezuela I 7, Jersey II 0

Final
ENGLAND 7, Scotland I 0

The end result was disappointing as the Scots had hoped to make it a close struggle. However, it was a case of "so near but yet so far" in most of the games. Richard Yule led Paul Day 20-17 in the first game and lost, and lost the 3rd from 20-16 up to another determined effort by the English junior. Elaine Smith stood at 19-all with Carole Knight in the first end and 17-all in the second but could not repeat her Cardiff victory. Richard Yule, in his game with Trevor Taylor, won the first 21-10 and reached 20-all in the second and 19-all in the third!

Scores:—

R. Yule lost to P. Day -20, 18, -20.
J. McNee lost to T. Taylor -16, -19.
Elaine Smith lost to Carole Knight -19, -18.
Yule/McNee lost to Day/Barden -19, 21, -15.
Yule/Miss Smith lost to Barden/Miss Knight -17, -18.
R. Yule lost to T. Taylor 10, -20, -19.
J. McNee lost to P. Day -17, -9.

Men's Singles

The early rounds brought few surprises; Mike Johns beat Eric Sutherland 3-2 in Round 2 but then lost 2-3 to Nigel Eckersley in the next. Ian Robertson reversed his Perth Open defeat by beating veteran Bert Kerr 3-0 in Round 3. Eckersley went out to Andy Barden 19 in the 5th and Robertson 3-1 to Trevor Taylor, both in Round 4. Yule defeated Barden 3-2 in a hard-fought quarter-final and then beat Denis Neale for the second time this season in the semi-finals. Richard was in sparkling form, taking the ball very early on the backhand and directing it to either corner. However, fortunes fluctuated — Richard led 13-7 in the 4th only to lose 19-21 for Denis to level the score. Denis in turn led 13-7 in the 5th, but Richard, helped no end by an enthusiastic crowd, fought back to win a hard-hitting game 23-21.

SCORES:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals:
D. Neale (En) bt P. Day (En) 14, 8, 19.
R. Yule (Sc) bt A. Barden (En) -14, 17, 13, -16, 17.
T. Taylor (En) bt J. Walker (En) 15, 18, 22.
N. Jarvis (En) bt J. McNee (S) 15, 13, 16.
Semi-finals:
Yule bt Neale 14, -17, 17, -19, 21.
Jarvis bt Taylor -15, 12, 12, -12, 19.
Final:
JARVIS bt Yule -7, 5, 18, 12.

Women's Singles—

Judith Walker had good wins over Ireland's Kyra Stewart 3-2 and Scotland's Patrice Fleming before losing to Carole Knight in the semi-finals. Elaine Smith reached the final by way of Carol Walker 3-0, Brenda Murtagh 3-0 and Grace McKay 3-1.

Scores:—

Semi-finals:
C. Knight (En) bt J. Walker (En) 15, -18, 13, 13.
E. Smith (Sc) bt G. McKay (Sc) -17, 15, 13, 12.
Final:
KNIGHT bt Smith 18, 17, 14.

OTHER RESULTS—

Men's Doubles:
JARVIS/WALKER bt Neale/Taylor 21, 16, 16.
Mixed Doubles:
YULE/SMITH bt Day/Knight -12, -20, 19, 17, 19.

Women's Doubles:
KNIGHT/WALKER bt P. Fleming (Sc)/Smith 18, -10, 11, -14, 14.

Boys' Singles:

DAY bt Barden 12, 12.

Girls' Singles:

McKAY bt L. Wales (En) 13, 19.

Veterans' Singles:

P. E. D'ARCY (En) bt R. Kerr (Sc) 20, 18.

FINAL ENCOUNTER

On Thursday, April 24, England will play Yugoslavia in the last European League fixture of the season at the Y.P.I. Ferens Sports Centre, Chanterlands Avenue North, Hull, beginning at 7-15 p.m. prompt.

Tickets priced at £1.50 (ring-side seats,

limited number) and £1 (tiered seating) can be obtained from Mr. C. R. Pawson, 75 Riversdale Road, Hull, HU6 7HB (Phone: Hull 856844) or from Sport and Recreation Office, Northern Branch Library, Beverley Road, Hull (Phone: Hull 25010).

All applications for tickets must include correct remittance together with a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques, P.O.'s, etc., should be made payable to Hull and D. T.T.A., and crossed.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

PARKINS SHINES

Salisbury, men's team title winners for the past two seasons, were in excellent form at home to Newport, winning 8-1. Chris Shetler was their only loser, falling to Alan Harrison, but Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding were invincible.

Plymouth, at home to newcomers Poole, had a narrow 5-4 victory with only Bob Parkins of their regular side winning three. T. Fairbanks clinched the issue for Plymouth, who fought back from a 1-4 deficit with M. Birrell obtaining the other home win, beating David King. John Robinson obtained two successes for Poole.

A very exciting encounter was provided when Plymouth, strengthened by the return of Keith James, visited Salisbury. Parkins was again "man of the match", obtaining a maximum, his third win, over Shetler, winning the match for Plymouth 5-4. Keith James had wins over Moulding and Shetler.

Exmouth, at home to Newport, were beaten 5-4 when the last set again decided the issue, with Pat Crowley beating Paddy Shephard, whose first defeat this was. Crowley and Harrison shared four wins for Newport with John Bloomer obtaining the other. Paul Stone, formerly with Exeter, and Shephard, shared the home successes.

Newbury, at home to Weston, won 7-2 with young David Reeves obtaining a maximum over Jim Andrews, Ray Philpott and Joe Garland. So too did Paul Trott, while David Wise accounted for Garland. Exmouth, at home to Bristol, won 6-3 with Shephard obtaining a treble, Stone (2) and Phil Kelly (1), the latter over Barry Brady. Nice to see Barry back for Bristol.

In the Women's section, Bournemouth proved too good for Salisbury, who were beaten 8-1. Julie Hudson, Joyce Coop and Julie Reading were all in good form but congratulations to Myra Johnson in beating Julie Hudson in the opening set.

Plymouth, at home to Devizes, were in command all the way and it is very rare that Alison Boyce, of Devizes, suffers three defeats in a match, but Mavis Scott, Elaine Lamb and Kathryn Rowe all beat her, while Helen Rusby got the visitors' only win, beating Kathryn Rowe.

Newport registered a 6-3 away victory over Salisbury after the score had been tied at 3-all. Elizabeth Jones won her three for Newport, Pat Perrett (2) and Barbara Roden (1). For Salisbury, Liz Evers did well to win two and Myra Johnson one.

Leading positions:—

Men					
Plymouth	.....	5	4	1	27 18 8
Newport	.....	6	4	2	25 29 8
Salisbury	.....	5	3	2	33 11 6
Exmouth	.....	6	3	3	28 26 6
Newbury	.....	4	4	0	23 13 8
Women					
Bournemouth	.....	3	3	0	22 5 6
Plymouth	.....	5	3	2	30 15 6
Devizes	.....	5	3	2	21 24 6
Newbury "A"	.....	2	2	0	11 7 4
Newbury "B"	.....	3	2	1	14 13 4

STIGA 1975 WELSH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS



by H. Roy Evans and Laurie Landry

This was certainly our "best ever". We have a splendid venue, playing conditions with ten courts, as good as most and better than many, an organisation which seems to cope with most of the problems, catering facilities on the spot, but what we lacked in the past was quality of entry.

Stiga helped us to make good this deficiency. World Champion Istvan Jonyer, his doubles champion partner, Gabor Gergely, Henrietta Lotaller and Gabriella Ivasko, came from Hungary. European Champion Milan Orlovski, Jaroslav Kunz, Hana Riedlova and Blanka Silhanova came from Czechoslovakia. Christer Johansson and Hanne Schlaf brought over a very promising West German team, and Louis van Gelder brought van de Walle, who always provides good tournament fare, and Nassaux. Although England did not send Neale and Taylor, Nicky Jarvis was there, together with Jimmie Walker, Donald Parker, Ian Horsham, Paul Day and Andy Barden, Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard, and many other top county players.

And the smaller countries were there, too. Guernsey, Jersey, Norway and Scotland came to vie with Wales in the West European Group of the European League. Scotland were without Richard Yule and the battle was really joined between Wales and Norway in their clash on Wednesday night. It was a desperately tight struggle, too, but Guttormsen and the defender Meland, were just too good for Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies, with North Wales Junior, Julie Ralphs, saddled with the singles bid and the other North Wales Junior, Pat Allen, coming in for the doubles.

In the event, Norway won the group and will now challenge the winner of the Mediterranean Group playing this month in Bulgaria. Spain, Turkey and Bulgaria are the contenders.

On Friday, these five teams were joined by the "big guns" in a knockout team event, in which Czechoslovakian men beat the Hungarians 3-1 and the Hungarians got their revenge 3-0 in the women's event.

The Individual matches were played on the Saturday and Sunday with the Finals on Sunday afternoon with a crowd of about 800 watching. Then, to a Farewell Party at Tito's Cabaret Club, rounding up a very successful week. So successful, in fact, that Stiga will sponsor the event again next season, when it is hoped that Sweden and Yugoslavia will join the others on a new date—February 6-9, 1976.

After the Welsh Open, the Czechs and Hungarians toured Wales, taking table tennis to areas which had never had the chance to see top play. Thus the Bush Leisure Centre, Pembroke, on Monday, March 10th, the Kings Hall, Aberystwyth, on Tuesday, and the Deeside Leisure Centre, on Wednesday. Altogether over 1,000 people saw some fine table

ROLL OF HONOUR

Men's Singles
GABOR GERGELY
(Hungary)

Women's Singles
JILL HAMMERSLEY
(England)

Men's Doubles
**JAROSLAV KUNZ and
MILAN ORLOWSKI**
(Czechoslovakia)

Women's Doubles
**HANA RIEDLOVA and
BLANKA SILHANOVA**
(Czechoslovakia)

Mixed Doubles
MILAN ORLOWSKI and BLANKA SILHANOVA
(Czechoslovakia)

Men's Team
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Women's Team
HUNGARY

tennis, and although it was to some extent contrived to maintain the edge—Czechoslovakia winning the rubber in the last game of the last match!—enthusiastic crowds cheered these new heroes to the echo. Altogether a fine Festival of Table Tennis.

Champs, Gergely and Jonyer, lost to Orlovski and Jaroslav Kunz.

Hero of the meeting was young Paul Day, who played brilliantly and forcefully to beat Kunz, Europe's No. 11, and then Alan Griffiths in the quarters after the Welshman had trounced Jimmy Walker. In the semis, Jonyer's class really told, however.

The Czechs and Hungarians monopolised the excellent Stiga Welsh Open played over the period Mar. 7-9 in Cardiff, at the National Sports Centre of Wales. It was good to be able to see the new World Champion, Istvan Jonyer, but it was Milan Orlovski, in the men's team event, and Gabor Gergely in the singles, who really shone.

In the women's singles, Jill Hammersley retained her title but not without difficulty, particularly against the young Hungarian, Gabriella Ivasko, in the semis. Our No. 1 Junior, Melody Ludi, had a first-class victory over Linda Howard, taking it hit for hit and being quick enough to kill the odd one.

It was difficult to believe that Jonyer was the World Champion, but perhaps it was reaction. In the men's doubles, too, the World

Best set of the championships was the excellent 5-gamer between Orlovski and Norbert van de Walle, of Belgium, for a place in the semis.



Hungary's Gabor Gergely, who, in beating his world champion compatriot, Istvan Jonyer, won the men's singles title in the Welsh Open at Cardiff.

Photo by Karda Kiesslich.

Stiga Welsh Open Results

TEAM EVENTS

MEN
Round 1
 England III bt Norway 3-2
 P. Day lost to P. Guttormsen -16, -20; bt H. Meland 22, 14.
 A. Barden lost to Meland -19, -17, bt Guttormsen -18, 18, 22.
 Barden/Day bt Guttormsen/Meland 18, 9.

England II bt Jersey 3-0
 I. Horsham bt B. Wykes 8, 12.
 D. Parker bt B. Gallichan 6, 6.
 Horsham/Parker bt Gallichan/Wykes 19, 16.

Federal Germany bt Wales II 3-0
 H. J. Nolten bt M. Owen 13, 14.
 R. Wozik bt J. Bloomer 7, 10.
 Nolten/Wozik bt Bloomer/Owen 5, 13.

England I bt Guernsey 3-0
 N. Jarvis bt M. Pipet 12, 2.
 J. Walker bt G. Willcocks 13, 17.
 Jarvis/Walker bt J. Clancy/Willcocks 6, 19.

Scotland I bt Wales III 3-1
 R. Brown lost to W. Hussey -18, -12.
 J. McNeen bt C. Rees 9, 19; bt Hussey -21, 18, 17.
 Brown/McNeen bt Hussey/Rees -18, 15, 18.

Wales I bt Scotland II 3-1
 A. Griffiths lost to J. Wilson -13, 16, -19; bt A. Mathew 18, 15.
 G. Davies bt Mathew 12, 6.
 Davies/Griffiths bt Mathew/Wilson 19, -17, 11.

Hungary bt Belgium 3-0
 I. Jonyer bt N. v.d. Walle 11, 15.
 G. Gergely bt D. Nassaux 11, 14.
 Gergely/Jonyer bt Nassaux/v.d. Walle 15, 10.

Quarter-finals
Czechoslovakia bt England III 3-0
 J. Kunz bt Barden 12, 17.
 M. Orlowski bt Day 14, 15.
 Orlowski/J. Turai bt Barden/Day 18, 11.

Federal Germany bt England II 3-0
 Nolten bt Parker -22, 16, 14.
 Wozik bt Horsham 17, 16.
 Nolten/Wozik bt Horsham/Parker 13, 11.

England I bt Scotland I 3-1
 Jarvis bt Brown 11, 9; bt McNeen 11, 10.
 Walker lost to McNeen -21, 14, -12.
 Jarvis/Walker bt Brown/McNeen 21, 19.

Hungary bt Wales I 3-0
 Jonyer bt Davies 14, 10.
 Gergely bt Griffiths 15, 19.
 Gergely/Jonyer bt Davies/Griffiths 18, 14.

Semi-finals
Czechoslovakia bt Federal Germany 3-1
 Orlowski bt Wozik 13, 17; bt Nolten -13, 12, 16.
 Kunz bt Nolten 13, -9, 17.
 Kunz/Orlowski lost to Nolten/Wozik -14, 13, -17.

Hungary bt England I 3-1
 Gergely lost to Walker -20, 7, -19.
 Jonyer bt Jarvis 13, 20; bt Walker 15, -16, 11.
 Gergely/Jonyer bt Jarvis/Walker 17, 13.

Final
CZECHOSLOVAKIA bt Hungary 3-1
 Kunz lost to Jonyer -15, -16.
 Orlowski bt Gergely 17, 14; bt Jonyer 12, 19.
 Orlowski/Turai bt Gergely/Jonyer 18, 17.

WOMEN
Round 1
England II bt Scotland II 3-0
 S. Lisle bt E. Craig 11, 2.
 A. Stevenson bt G. McKay 16, 9.
 Lisle/Stevenson bt Craig/McKay 14, 11.

Wales I bt Guernsey 3-1
 J. Ralphs lost to K. Herquin -15, 12, -18.
 P. Allen bt A. Lesbirel 14, 14; bt Herquin 8, 18.
 Allen/Ralphs bt Herquin/Lesbirel 21, 12.

Quarter-finals
Hungary bt Wales II 3-0
 H. Lotaller bt G. Thomas 10, 14.
 G. Ivasko bt K. Johnson 6, 5.
 Ivasko/Lotaller bt Johnson/Thomas 12, 17.

England II bt Federal Germany 3-2
 Stevenson lost to R. Schmitz -19, 14, -18; bt I. Schroeder 18, 6.
 Lisle bt Schroeder 12, 12; lost to Schmitz -12, 18, -10.
 Lisle/Stevenson bt Schmitz/Schroeder 17, 12.

England I bt Scotland I 3-2
 L. Howard bt P. Fleming 11, 21; lost to E. Smith -19, -16.
 C. Knight lost to Smith -13, 19, -15; bt Fleming 12, 15.
 Howard/Knight bt Fleming/Smith 18, -13, 16.

Czechoslovakia bt Wales I 3-0
 B. Silhanova bt Ralphs 12, 10. H. Riedlova bt Allen 7, 11.
 Riedlova/Silhanova bt Allen/Ralphs 13, 10.

Semi-finals
Hungary bt England II 3-0
 Lotaller bt Lisle 13, 15.
 Ivasko bt Stevenson 20, -21, 10.
 Ivasko/Lotaller w.o. Lisle/Stevenson.

Czechoslovakia bt England I 3-1
 Riedlova lost to Knight -18, -17; bt Howard 15, -19, 12.
 Silhanova bt Howard 16, -14, 17.
 Riedlova/Silhanova bt Howard/Knight 17, -14, 14.

Final
HUNGARY bt Czechoslovakia 3-0
 Lotaller bt Silhanova 18, 19.
 Ivasko bt Riedlova 12, 12.
 Ivasko/Lotaller bt Riedlova/Silhanova 22, -18, 12.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men's Singles—Round 3
 I. Jonyer (Hn) bt P. Guttormsen (No) 8, 13, 6.
 J. Turai (Cz) bt H.-J. Nolten (Gr) 16, -19, 13, 20.
 A. Griffiths (Wl) bt J. Walker (En) 14, 18, 12.
 P. Day (En) bt A. Clayton (En) 18, 10, 6.
 G. Gergely (Hn) bt B. Kean (Sc) 15, 17, 16.
 N. Jarvis (En) bt H. Meland (No) 16, 7, 13.
 N. v.d. Walle (Be) bt I. Horsham (En) 16, 12, 11.
 M. Orlowski (Cz) bt A. Barden (En) 14, 3, 18.

Quarter-finals
 Jonyer bt Turai 21, -15, -14, 9, 14.
 Day bt Griffiths 19, 18, 22.
 Gergely bt Jarvis 14, 8, 22.
 Orlowski bt v.d. Walle 18, -18, 15, -19, 13.

Semi-finals
 Jonyer bt Day 10, 13, 18.
 Gergely bt Orlowski 21, 17, -11, 18.

Final
 GERGELY bt Jonyer 16, 16, -18, 16.

Women's Singles—Round 3
 J. Hammersley (En) bt P. Fleming (Sc) 6, 4, 7.
 A. Stevenson (En) bt I. Schroeder (Gr) 12, -17, 5, 20.
 G. Ivasko (Hn) bt G. McKay (Sc) 10, 10, 16.
 B. Silhanova (Cz) bt J. Pickering (Wl) 5, 5, 17.
 H. Lotaller (Hn) bt S. Picketing (Wl) 12, 17, 14.
 M. Ludl (En) bt L. Howard (En) 19, 13, 9, -14, 20.
 C. Knight (En) bt R. Schmitz (Gr) 20, 13, 7.
 H. Riedlova (Cz) bt P. Allen (Wl) 7, 10, 13.

Quarter-finals
 Hammersley bt Stevenson 15, 8, 16.
 Ivasko bt Silhanova 20, 19, 21.
 Lotaller bt Ludl 19, 9, 17.
 Riedlova bt Knight 19, -21, -18, 16, 16.

Semi-finals
 Hammersley bt Ivasko -19, 13, -20, 16, 11.
 Riedlova bt Lotaller -12, 17, -15, 19, 8.

Final
 HAMMERSLEY bt Riedlova 19, 17, -18, 16.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Gergely/Jonyer bt Horsham/Jarvis 22, 13, 8.
 Kunz/Orlowski bt Nolten/R. Wozik (Gr) 13, 18, 15.

Final
 KUNZ/ORLOWSKI bt Gergely/Jonyer 18, 10, 18.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
 Riedlova/Silhanova bt Schmitz/Schroeder 10, 12, 9.
 Ivasko/Lotaller bt Howard/Knight 13, 16, 15.

Final
 RIEDLOVA/SILHANOVA bt Ivasko/Lotaller 18, 14, 7.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
 Orlowski/Silhanova bt Gergely/Lotaller 16, 17, 11.
 Kunz/Riedlova bt Turai/Hammersley 22, 19, -21, 8.

Final
 ORLOWSKI/SILHANOVA bt Kunz/Riedlova 23, -13, 24, 18.

Men's Consolation Singles—Final
 M. JOHNS (En) bt G. Davies (Wl) 19, 15.

Women's Consolation Singles—Final
 E. SMITH (Sc) bt K. Herquin (Gu) 6, 10.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY . . .

JOHN OAKLEY IN THE "LONDON EVENING NEWS"

BARNES : I QUIT TO SELL BEER

"Chester Barnes, Britain's best-known table tennis player, is giving up tournament play.

He says: 'There's more money in pulling pints.'

Barnes, now 28, intends to buy a free house in the West Country and adds: 'Table tennis has no future.'

'One of my mates in the Post Office earns £74 a week for doing a minor job.

'Trevor Taylor, who has been Commonwealth table tennis champion for the past six years, would be lucky to make that much in four weeks at this game.

'In any other sport, if you were Commonwealth champ, or that sort of class, you'd make a fortune.

'Table tennis is years behind the times. Even today the top prizes are only £100.

'I'd have to practise for three weeks to compete in that sort of tournament and then if you lose early you are pounds out of pocket.

'My advice to any young player who is good enough to think he might make a few bob in the game is to try something else.'

Barnes, himself, has not done too badly out of table tennis, because he is contracted to give exhibitions at holiday camps during the summer. He makes around £9,000 a year.

'If I buy a pub with a ballroom attached maybe I'll put up a few tables and start my own club,' he says.

'But I figure it's best to quit competitive play now while I'm still at the top.

'Let all the other jokers scramble for the odd crust from table tennis while I make a fortune from flogging beer.'

If Chester is correct about his mate's earnings for a minor job in the Post Office, no wonder the postal charges have rocketed!—Ed.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

FUTURE PLANS — NOW!

Following their away defeat by Northants, Suffolk Seniors ran into even more severe trouble when facing the strong Cambridge side in their final County Championship match at Ipswich. John Kitchener won his first singles against Mick Harper but Suffolk failed to pick up another set and were soundly defeated by 1-9.

With only one point taken from four matches, this has proved a most disappointing season for the Seniors. Plans must be put in hand at once to make sure of greater success next season.

More encouraging news comes from the Junior team, who travelled to Lincolnshire and won 6-4. Really good displays were given by David Jennings, Russell King and Randle Burrows, who all won both their singles. These promising juniors, with two matches still to play, can bring further credit to the County.

Consistent Champions

A feature of the Suffolk Closed Championships was that six of the seven reigning champions retained their titles. The odd-man-out was Rod Milne, who was beaten in the Restricted Singles final by newcomer Andy Schooler.

Results:—

M.S.: John Kitchener bt Mick Palmer 19, 13.
 W.S.: Judith Langridge bt Janet List 19, 13.
 M.D.: Kitchener/K. Savage bt M. Palmer/S. Palmer -14, 17, 17.
 W.D.: Maud List/Janet List bt Judith Langridge/Debbie Wootton -8, 17, 16.
 X.D.: Janet List/Mick Palmer bt Linda Dunt/Andy Schooler 20, 7.
 Restricted S.: Schooler bt Rob Milne 15, -17, 13.
 Veteran S.: Hans Fleck bt Arthur Cropper -18, 14, 19.

In a well-supported and keenly-contested Ipswich and District Closed, Suffolk junior, Kevin Savage, became the men's champion, whilst Mrs. S. Welham (Brantham) won the Women's Singles and Debbie Wootton took the Junior Girls' title.

In the East Anglian League the juniors at both Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds have been competing with considerable success. Bury, in fact, have already qualified for the Group play-off, having won their section.

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TENNYSON TABLE TENNIS CLUB SILVER JUBILEE

By E. C. Prowen (Club President)

Following our third successive League Championship win in the Premier Division of the Willesden and District T.T. League, we are very proud and pleased to be able to celebrate our 25th anniversary with a commemorative match involving the International Club on Friday, 25th April, 1975, at N.C.R., North Circular Road, N.W.2.

Although a private club solely concerned with table tennis, our subscriptions are still at the 1963 level—indeed lower than in our second season when the six founder members were paying the hire purchase for a new table on a weekly basis.

The club was created by Arthur Rushton in a small hall at the corner of Tennyson Road, Kilburn, London—hence the name—and although no longer an active member, Arthur acts as Chairman at our Annual General Meetings.

Of the founder members, Molly and Eric Prowen are still playing regularly and a number of our members continue in service after 12-20 years or more—Laurie Landry, Ron Bunning, Graham Hobbs, Bob Griffiths, John Wright, Bruce Carver and Chris Sweetman. Many international and county stars have represented us—Mary and Brian Wright, Eddie Hodson, Stephen Wright, Ray Wright, Alan Coby, Dave Crowley, Susan and Don Light, Jackie Redfern, Trevor Taylor—and more recently Mark Mitchell, Andy Barden, David Tan and Peter Partos.

Tennyson Table Tennis Club is well represented at all levels of play and administration—National, County and League—and looks forward to many more successful years in its chosen sport.

Representing the International Club in the match against Tennyson will be Andrew Barden, Mark Mitchell and David Tan, who will each play two singles. There will also be a hard rubber bat doubles set between Ron Crayden and Len Adams against Laurie Landry and Brian Wright.

SOMERSET NOTES

by Mike Hawkins

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Once again the County senior side were involved in an exciting and entertaining match in their Div. 2 West engagement against Devon, at Chard School, both sides ending with 5 sets.

Brian Reeves (Failand) was in brilliant form for the "cidermen" and took the "man-of-the-match" tag with two fine singles wins over Devonians Mike Rattue and B. Davis.

The Somerset Closed was held at Weston-super-Mare Y.M.C.A., on Mar. 8. The finals were of a high standard, the best being the M.S. in which Tony Kinsey (Weston Y.M.) beat the defending champion, Reeves -22, 19, 19. Other results:—W.S.—Alma Heath (nee Taft) (Weston); M.D.—Reeves/C. Feltham (Failand); W.D.—Mrs. L. Baker/Mrs. Heath; X.D.—Reeves/Mrs. P. Reeves, and V.S.—D. Poole (Taunton). There were 43 competitors and a small presentation was made to Miss Sue Jones.

The Junior Closed took place at Worle School, Weston, but the entry was poor. Most interest was centred on the representatives from Midsomer-Norton, reflecting credit on Fred Laidler, who is doing a grand job coaching these youngsters.

Winners of the U-17 events were:—B.S.—

Jeremy Musselwhite (Bath); G.S.—Judith Conners (Portishead); B.D.—Richard Gable (Crewkerne)/Musselwhite; G.D.—Conners/Janet Rodd (Midsomer-Norton); X.D.—Musselwhite/Conners.

Martin Plumbridge (Taunton) won the U-15 B.S. title and Janet Rodd the U-15 G.S., only one of the finals going into a third game.

In the Stiga National Club Championships, Oldfield Park Baptists "A", the Bath and District League champions, met Heavitree "A", champions of the Exeter League, at Percy Boys' Club, Bath. Oldfield must have been firm favourites to win but were squeezed out 5-4, despite some fine play from Chris Sewell. Had Oldfield played their other "star", Tony Clayton, I think the result would have been very different.

Since my last notes, another league, the Bath and District, have joined with the Bristol and District League and North-East Somerset, to form the new County Association of Avon, of which much more will be heard of in the not too distant future.

Mrs. Doreen Henderson is still doing a good job of work on the coaching scene and has arranged another session for youngsters at Somervale School, Midsomer-Norton. But what is going to happen to our Somerset Association in the months that lie ahead?

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD

By JOHN PIKE

Far removed from the E.T.T.A. office at Hastings, is the Lilleshall National Sports Centre, tucked away in the leafy lanes of Shropshire. It was there I met the Centre's new Director, Derek Tremayne, at a press conference last month.

Since leaving the world of table tennis, Derek and his new management team have quickly brought about a new image to Lilleshall, which could not fail to impress the media. With his deputy, Colin McFadyean, the former England rugby star, also doing a superb P.R. job, Lilleshall can only go from strength to strength.

On a conducted tour of the centre, one could see the facilities that could take British sport back to the top.

A cycling track running through the picturesque grounds received high praise from one of the sport's leading administrators, Benny Foster.

Inside, the running track and squash courts must have been the envy of many. In residence on the day of the press conference was the Birmingham City F.C. preparing for their cup-tie with Middlesbrough, some 30 schoolboys from Kenilworth at the indoor cricket nets, and as a complete contrast, a group of Prison Officers on a P.E. course.

With so much to offer, this venue should be a must for our national table tennis team. It is already used by junior players at coaching weekends but so many more could benefit by visiting this Shropshire outpost.

Next year Lilleshall celebrates its 25th anniversary, and I am sure on that occasion, Derek's many table tennis friends will wish him well.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan Cavell

NEAL THE CHAMP

The outstanding player in the Shrewsbury Closed Championships was undoubtedly Chris Neal. He reached three finals and then beat the reigning champion, Albert Hiscock (11, -17, 10) in the men's singles. He retained the men's doubles title with K. Walton by again beating

last year's runners-up, Hiscock and G. Samuel, and, partnered by Miss S. Evans, narrowly lost to last years winners, W. L. Jones and Mrs. G. Gee (14 -15, -19) in the mixed.

The 34 entries in the junior event reflected the efforts of the coaches during the last two years. In the final, Les Baker beat Steve Dixon (17, 19) to avenge last year's reverse. Mrs. Gee once more emerged as winner of the women's singles, beating Sue Evans in the final -18, 20, 19.

The Telford Closed produced many early surprises. M. C. F. Jones, men's singles champion for the last two years, lost in the first round to P. Gosnell, who won the veterans' title. Seeded W. Harris also lost in the first round to unseeded C. Neo, and the No. 3 seed, Samuel, lost to unseeded G. Millington in Round 2.

Geoffrey Clibborn beat his elder brother to gain the junior title. Mrs. M. Robinshaw regained the women's singles title and G. Bullock and Harris retained the men's doubles title against M. C. F. Jones and T. Jones, winning 17, -13, 20 after trailing 4-11 and 15-20 in the deciding game. The men's singles title went to D. Gray (R.A.F. Cosford) who beat R. Spencer 20 and 19.

SPORTS HOLIDAYS FOR THE YOUNG ENTHUSIASTS

Sports coaching for boys and girls under the age of 18 has again been arranged at Scarborough over the period 26th July to 9th August, 1975.

In addition to the annual Cricket coaching for boys held by the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, there will again be other activities catered for. During the week 26th July to 2nd August there will be coaching for selected players in Rugby Union, Table Tennis, Badminton and Squash, while during the second week the activities covered will be Boys' and Girls' Cricket, Volleyball and Fencing.

Applications will be accepted for all activities, the final selection or recommendation being made by the governing body of sport concerned.

Attendance at the course can be either on a day basis or resident at Scarborough College, Filey Road, Scarborough. The full residential fee is £22.00 and that chargeable to day students £13.50 (including meals), both fees including V.A.T.

Further information about these courses and application forms can be obtained from—

The Sports Council (Yorkshire & Humberside),
5 St. Paul's Street, Leeds,
LS1 2NQ.
Telephone No. — Leeds 36443.

TABLE TENNIS

This course for Boys and Girls, has been arranged in co-operation with the English Table Tennis Association, inviting application from selected players and those of above average ability. The course will be under the direction of Mr. Peter Simpson, National Coach. Anyone not selected will have their deposit returned.

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4th INTERNATIONAL CLUB Hard Rubber Bat Open

by Cliff Carder

WONDERS PERFORMED

Henry Buist once again showed us what wonders he can work with a rubber bat when he again won the International Rubber Bat Open.

Henry romped through to the semis where he faced third seed Laurie Landry, and continued his romp to win the first at 13, whereupon Laurie started to show us the form we know he is capable of, to win the second at deuce. Both players wielded their wooden weapons wonderfully, to produce some fine counter-hit rallies, and Laurie took a 16-13 lead. But it was not to be, for Henry came back to win at 18.

Trevor Campbell eliminated fourth seed Vic Adams, deuce in the third at expedite, to proceed to the quarters where he lost to Peter Taylor, who himself reached the final after beating Derek Schofield. After the first game of the final, which Buist won at 20, Taylor seemed to be outclassed and lost easily in the second -11.

In the women's singles, Diane Court, seeded No. 1, had to scratch and her place in the draw was taken by Elaine Tarten, who promptly lost to J. Garrett, to pave the way for Pauline Piddock, seeded No. 2. Pauline reached the final without undue difficulty, apart from dropping a game to the up-and-coming Middlesex junior, Angela Mitchell, and there she faced third seed Jean Williams, who had reached the final without the loss of a game.

Both players showed great patience in the final, but Pauline eventually ran out the winner, mainly because of her ability to carefully pick out winners at the right time.

Landry and Schofield predictably won the men's doubles. Landry again proved what a marvellous doubles player he is by taking the mixed, partnered by Angela Mitchell. Had Landry been eligible for the women's doubles I daresay he would have won that also. As it was he had to be content to let Piddock and Tarten capture the title.

In the consolation events, Ron Bowles defeated Roddy Bernstein and Elaine Tarten beat Beryl Clayton.

The main thing to be said about this tournament is that it is held in such a friendly atmosphere. The vast majority of the players have never played with rubber bats and enter solely for the fun of it all, a far cry from sponge players who sometimes blow their top at losing in other open tournaments. If you want to go to a tournament and really enjoy yourself, enter the 5th International Club Hard Rubber Bat Open next year. You will love it.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals:

H. Buist bt L. Adams 8, 13.
L. Landry bt C. Morris 14, 13.
P. Taylor bt T. Campbell 19, 19.
D. Schofield bt M. Mitchell 13, 18.

Semi-finals:

Buist bt Landry 13, -20, 18.
Taylor bt Schofield 17, 17.

Final:

BUIST bt Taylor 20, 11.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals:

J. Williams bt J. Hartwell 10, 19.
P. Piddock bt J. Faulkner 9, 15.

Final:

PIDDOCK bt Williams 17, -12, 16.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals:

Landry/Schofield bt L. Adams/J. Bender 15, 12.
P. Beck/Buist bt D. Tan/T. Taylor 19, -19, 11.

Final:

LANDRY/SCHOFIELD bt Beck/Buist 19, 20.

Women's Doubles—Final:

PIDDOCK/E. TARTEN bt Faulkner/Williams -19, 10, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Final:

LANDRY/A. MITCHELL bt V. Adams/Piddock 10, 18.

IN THE COACHING FIELD

Growing Old Gracefully

by Teddy Grant

(Coaching Diploma 1-Star, former County Coaching Officer to Hampshire and Southampton Associations).

John O'Sullivan may remember my name from the contributions I made to coaching in "Table Tennis News" from 1960-70. These articles were based on my knowledge as one of the first County Coaching Officials within the Schools Scheme.

Now living in semi-table tennis retirement in smiling Somerset, I read John's regular contributions to the Coaching Field, and I realise how this field, imperfect though it may sometimes appear, has nevertheless expanded to a plantation.

Through Jack Carrington I became associated with the National Coaching Scheme in the early days and have observed its steady growth over the last twenty years.

The report concerning coaches and their initial approach to schools must, I feel, produce mixed reactions. Indeed, my experience has been that few welcome you with open arms and many doubt your ability, specially if the grey hairs are becoming prominent. I suppose for the majority of the mature coaches such treatment is inevitable and perhaps the game and our own image suffers if we continue too long.

The growing old feeling must be prevalent now for many of us who used to move around so quickly, and one wonders how long we should continue as veteran coaches.

Although modern coaching has advanced the competitive basic skills of this exhilarating game far above the level of my teenage introduction well over 40 years ago, the thrill of competing and the joy of winning still remain.

Therefore, despite the inevitable, one answer to the generation gap must be for the grandfathers of table tennis to continue to associate with the young, providing one is acceptable to them, and only on these terms.

The national coaching register so often gives a false picture of the relative active coaching strength at local level. Now that the inroads to school coaching have been established more and more teachers are at long last becoming interested and participating with their pupils in this fascinating and friendly game.

Don't let us confuse them by offering far too many stages of qualification! The Teaching Theory Certificate and the Basic Coaching Diploma sufficed for a long period and both

were good enough to produce a reasonable standard of attainment from their pupils.

Ironically, so many of our best table tennis performers were never prepared to pass on their rich skills to the younger generation.

Obituary

HAROLD EDWIN BETTS, B.Sc.(Econ.), Lond., M.R.S.T., Hon. Secretary of Norwich and District Table Tennis League from 1937-8 to 1969-70, collapsed and died whilst playing in a league match on Feb. 18. He was 62.

When Harold took over in 1938, the league, founded in 1935 with ten clubs, contained 38 teams in four divisions. 32 years later it had grown to 120 teams in nine divisions, and Harold was the second longest serving Secretary in the country.

Norwich League had grown not only in numbers but also in prestige. During this period it had organised four international matches, viz., The Rest of England v Rumania (1955), England v Yugoslavia (1958), England v Sweden (1962) and again against Sweden, but in a European League match, in 1968.

As a player, Harold was good enough to win the Norwich Veterans' Championship in 1953 and to take a Division 1 winners' medal playing for Norfolk Dumplings in 1969-70.

Harold was a bachelor. Upon his retirement both he, and his mother, Mrs. Daisy Betts, who had helped him so greatly over the years, were made Vice-Presidents of Norwich League. To her, and other members of her family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

J.S.P.

WORTHING JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Paul Day and Andrew Barden will constitute England's top pairing in the boys' team event of the Worthing International Junior Championships to be played at the south coast resort over the weekend of May 17-18.

In total, some eight teams, 5 boys' and 3 girls', have been entered by the E.T.T.A. for what was formerly the English Junior Open. Selections:—

Boys

- "A" Paul Day and Andrew Barden
- "B" Mark Mitchell and Chris Sewell
- "C" Douglas Johnson and Robert Potton
- "D" Les Eadie and Nigel Hallows
- "E" Kevin Beadsley and Johan James

Girls

- "A" Melody Ludi and Angela Mitchell
- "B" Suzanne Hunt and Caroline Reeves
- "C" Angela Tierney and Karen Witt

Entry is by invitation of the E.T.T.A. and is confined to teams officially nominated by Associations in membership with the I.T.T.F. More than one team may be invited from the same Association. Team events will commence at 9-30 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, and the finals will be played at 7 p.m. on the same day.

Entries for the five individual events close on Monday, April 21, to Miss K. Waters, 7 Harnham Road, Salisbury, Wilts., the forms being obtainable from the E.T.T.A. at 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA (Phone: Hastings 433121).

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Junior Selections

Paul Day and Andrew Barden, who distinguished themselves by winning the men's doubles title in the Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace, will constitute England's top pairing in the boys' team event of the Worthing Junior International Championships, to be played over the weekend of May 17-18.

In total some eight teams, 5 boys and 3 girls, have been entered by the E.T.T.A. for what was formerly known as the English Junior Open. Last season Day and Barden were eliminated in the semi-final round by Per Sandström and Roger Lagerfeldt, of Sweden, who went on to account for England's second team of David Alderson and John Kitchener, in winning the title.

Anita Stevenson and Carole Knight won the counterpart girls' event with a final 3-0 win over Sweden. Sandström won the B.S. title and Miss Knight, no longer a junior, the G.S., beating Marianne Wagemakers, of the Netherlands, in the final.

England's main hopes in the boys' individual events obviously rest with the No. 1 Junior in the country, Paul Day, and the English Junior champion, Andrew Barden.

Day was outstanding at Crystal Palace reaching the semi-final of the M.S. event. He also displayed, at Easter, that he is among the top junior players in Europe, by reaching the final of the Federal German Junior Open, losing to the host nation's Engelbert Hugging.

Barden has performed well throughout the season, winning three Senior Open M.S. titles on consecutive weekends, and is currently ranked No. 6 in the national men's list.

Of the girls, England's No. 1 Junior, Melody Ludi, will wish to reproduce the form she showed in the Norwich Union English Championships where, with Day, she reached the final of the X.D. event, and in the individual event lost in the quarters to the eventual winner, Jill Hammersley.

The teams are:—

Boys

England "A"—P. Day (Cambs) and A. Barden (Middx).

England "B"—M. Mitchell (Middx) and C. Sewell (Gloucs).

England "C"—R. Potton (Essex) and D. Johnson (Warwks).

England "D"—N. Hallows (Lancs) and L. Eadie (Essex).

England "E"—K. Beadsley (Yorks) and J. James (Middx).

Girls

England "A"—Melody Ludi (Yorks) and A. Mitchell (Middx).

England "B"—C. Reeves (Berks) and S. Hunt (Lincs).

England "C"—A. Tierney (Cleve) and K. Witt (Berks).

The pairing of Kevin Beadsley and Johan James, and Angela Tierney with Karen Witt, bring together two teams of players under 14 years of age, the Cadet category in the European Youth Championships.

INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES' EXAMINATION, 1974

The following English umpires were successful at the second I.T.T.F. International Umpires' Examination, held at the end of 1974:—

G. Campbell, L. J. Dewing, R. J. Edon, J. Freeman, B. A. Leeson, A. W. A. Leigh, J. Melnick, E. J. Mitchell, L. C. Pilditch, A. Porter, J. S. Randall, B. R. Rowlen, G. Smith, H. A. Sprags, D. N. Tyler, J. M. Wright.

This brings the total of English umpires who have acquired the I.U. qualification to 37, the greatest number from any one Association in the I.T.T.F.

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CHESTER BARNES (5 times English Champion),
DENIS NEALE (4 times English Champion and No. 1 player),
LINDA HOWARD (England's No. 2),
RICHARD YULE (Scotland's No. 1).

?

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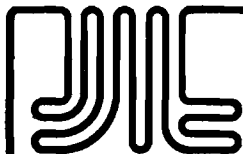
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European League

EVERY SET IS VITAL

by George R. Yates

England got off to a disastrous start in losing the first two sets of their Premier Division match against France in the European League at Horwich, on April 10, and never really recovered, although the match score was squared at 2-all.

But from then on it was the French who re-asserted themselves when Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret maintained their unbeaten sequence of mixed doubles successes in beating Des Douglas and Linda Howard, and Secretin, returning to the table for his third consecutive set, beat Denis Neale to give France a winning 4-2 lead.

Nicky Jarvis made the final score 4-3 by beating Christian Martin, who in the opening set, gave a scintillating display against Neale. Jill Hammersley, with a laboured win over Miss Bergeret, and Neale and Douglas in the men's doubles, contributed the other home wins.

Individual scores:—

D. Neale lost to C. Martin -16, 16, -13.
N. Jarvis lost to J. Secretin -10, 17, -15.
Mrs. J. Hammersley bt Miss C. Bergeret -19, 17, 13.
Neale/D. Douglas bt Secretin/P. Birocheau 6, 21.
Douglas/Miss Howard lost to Secretin/Bergeret -19, -16.
Neale lost to Secretin -16, 13, -12.
Jarvis bt Martin 12, 16.

The other match, on April 10, resulted in a 5-2 win for Sweden over Czechoslovakia.

Current table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	6	5	1	27	15	5
Hungary	6	5	1	24	18	5
Yugoslavia	6	4	2	23	19	4
Czechoslovakia	6	3	3	24	18	3
France	6	2	4	20	22	2
England	6	2	4	19	23	2
Soviet Union	6	2	4	19	23	2
F. Germany	6	1	5	12	30	1

very successful, with Paul Stone, so often in the shadow of Mike Rattue, beating his rival to take the men's singles title. This was the first time Paul has beaten Mike and he thoroughly deserved his win, in a wonderful match. Rattue has always been a dignified winner and this showed even in defeat, after so many years on top. His sportsmanship was an example to all the youngsters who were present. Pam Mortimer again won the women's singles.

In the Stiga National Club Championships, our champions, Heavitree, had a good run, eventually going out to the strong Chadwell Heath team. However, they gave a good account of themselves and were full of praise for the kindness and hospitality of their Essex hosts.

In the Exmouth Championships, Paddy Shepherd almost caused an upset but Stone just managed to pull it off in the men's singles event.

The Devon League looks like being dominated by Plymouth, but more about that next time, when I hope to have available the final league tables.

County Championships

TITLE FOR ESSEX

Essex, with a 7-2 win over Yorkshire on April 12, regained the Premier Division title of the County Championships, last won in season 1971-72, to leave their victims with an anxious overnight wait pending the result of Bedfordshire's home match against Cheshire on the following day.

Two wins for Trevor Taylor, a solo for brother Peter, together with the M.D., had the match score poised at 4-all before Nigel Eckersley won the day for Cheshire with a last set win over Peter Taylor.

Equal both on points and sets, Yorkshire got the stay of execution on games average, their 71-83 being superior to the 65-82 of Bedfordshire. Glamorgan, beaten 7-2 by Lancashire, join Beds in the relegation positions. Warwickshire brought off a surprising 5-4 win away to Middlesex.

Final Premier Division table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	7	6	1	43	20	12
Cheshire	7	6	1	39	24	12
Middlesex	7	4	3	38	25	8
Warwickshire	7	3	4	30	33	6
Lancashire	7	3	4	27	36	6
Yorkshire	7	2	5	28	35	4
Bedfordshire	7	2	5	28	35	4
Glamorgan	7	2	5	19	44	4

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

COACHING DEDICATION

Pride of place this month goes to the unselfish, non-trumpet-blowing, dedicated people whose efforts are making sure that our sport will survive in the County for a very long time. I refer to the Coaches, who spend many hours of their spare time in the service of table tennis and the Devon County Association. Under the guidance of the County Coaching Officers, Barbara Pearson and Paddy Shepherd, programmes have been arranged and lots of youngsters are coming through. Paddy, helped by Bernard Shook, has a large Sunday morning session at a local school, whilst Barbara Pearson and Frank Hatton are doing wonders in the Plymouth area.

Mike Edmunds and John Robinson are well serving the North of the County. Tony Luscombe, in the Southern area, is also doing a magnificent job, now mainly on his own, owing to the unfortunate illness of Nan Wilkey. It is hoped that given time to recover, Nan will be back amongst the youngsters, giving them the benefit of her experience and advice. We may not be able to match our friends "up-country" in some things, but the dedication of these people cannot be matched anywhere, and our Association owes them a great debt of gratitude and long may they continue.

Around the Leagues

The Exeter Championships were, once again,

SURREY CLOSED

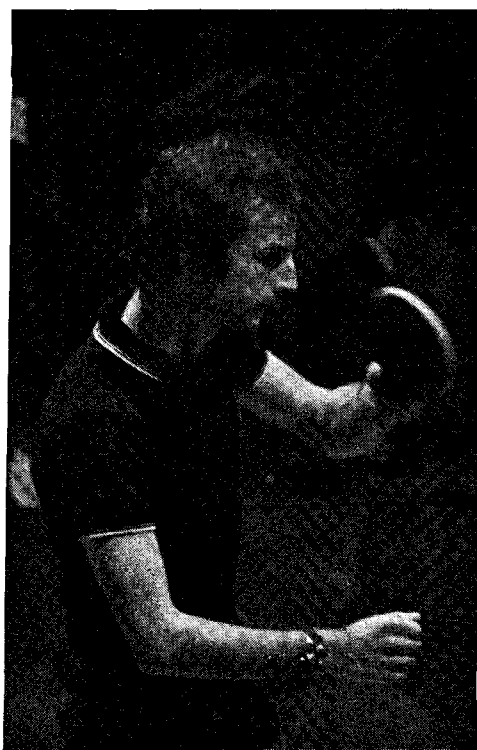
by TED SIMPKIN

SHOCK FOR SUSAN

The Senior County Championships, played on Mar. 16, were a great success and contained more than the usual crop of surprises. The No. 1 seed in the M.S., Steve Lyons, was put out by D. Harding in the third round; Barry Hill at No. 3, fell victim to Gerry Walsh, and No. 4, Chris Strathearn went down to David Bangerter. No. 2, David Welsman, the holder, went through to the final, where, in a nail-biter, he pipped a greatly improved Max Crimmins with a lucky point at "deuce" in the third.

In the W.S. Kay Greenough caused a sensation by beating Susan Henderson in the semis before falling to Linda Howard in a best-of-three final. The Veterans' went, as expected, to Gordon Chapman over Mick Kercher, and Barry Hill, with Linda, won the Mixed by beating D. Holman and Susan in the final. Holman had better luck with Lyons in the Men's Doubles against Walsh and Bangerter. Shock of the day came in the Women's Doubles when two of England's top ten, Linda Howard and her sister, Susan Henderson, lost their semi-final -18, 9, -17, to Mrs. J. and daughter Susan, Head (who had never previously played together in a tournament). This result opened the way for Jayne Mitchell and Suzanne Roebuck to take the title.

Three weeks later the Guildford Association held their own tournament over three days at the magnificent Sports Hall of Surrey University. Twenty-seven hours of play for twenty-four individual trophies with twelve tables in use for the greater part of the time culminated in the almost inevitable success of David Welsman over a gallant Bob McKewan in the Open Singles. The tournament as a whole was dominated by the juniors with an amazing victory in the Intermediate Singles (open to all players in the third to eleventh divisions of the local league) by eleven-year-old Mark Oakley. It was generally held by the many spectators of the finals that the best table tennis was displayed in the Veterans' final between Paul Brook and Bob Bradstreet, in which Paul's Barna-like flick just had the edge over a magnificent retriever. Other successes were youngsters Stephen Baggott, Steven Woodgate, Suzanne Roebuck, Jayne Mitchell, Michelle Bland, Sarah Cresswell, Kim and Kerry Merritt, Simon and Timmy Vine, Terry Haley, and Graham Russell. In the Men's Doubles McKewan and Paul Shannon beat Alan Thornton and Simon Vine after saving three set points in the second game and after an incident in which the umpire dealt very effectively with a ticklish situation.



Jacques Secretin, who proved to be a thorn in England's side in the European League match at Horwich.

Win or lose, every set that England can take in their final match against Yugoslavia at Hull on April 24, may be vital. The relegation issue is far from settled with Russia, beaten 5-2 by Yugoslavia in Nis, on the same night, now obliged to fight for every set in their final match away to Sweden, while at the same time France will need to watch their step when they play hosts to Hungary, the reigning champions.

The fate of Federal Germany was sealed when Hungary beat them 5-2 in Obernau bei Aschaffenburg, but which team accompanies them into the Second Division may well be decided by slide rule calculations.

I.T.T.F. BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING



E.T.T.A. delegates Charles M. Wyles (Chairman) and George R. Yates (Deputy Chairman) settle in for the first session of Congress in the Grand Hotel, Calcutta.

Photo by ajoy dey, Calcutta.

DECLARATION RE-AFFIRMED

by The Editor

At the Biennial General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation in Calcutta on Feb. 14, 1975, the President, H. Roy Evans, expressed regret at the circumstances which prevented the teams of Israel Sports Federation and South Africa Table Tennis Board from attending the 33rd World Table Tennis Championships.

The President was satisfied that every effort had been made to secure the attendance of these teams and re-affirmed the declaration that access to all World Championships must be available to all members.

NEW MEMBERS

A list of new members elected by the Council into "provisional membership in good standing," and requiring confirmation by the Biennial General Meeting was agreed. The newcomers brought up the overall membership to 118 Associations, the newly-elected being:—Bahrain, Bhutan National Sports Association, Costa Rica, Dominica, Faroese Islands, Guam, Iceland, Macao, Malagasy, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL 1975-1977

The election of Officers resulted in a ballot for the position of Deputy President in which H. Kido (Japan) retained his position with 68 votes over T. D. Ranga Ramanujan (India), who polled 52 votes.

President: H. Roy Evans, O.B.E. (Wales); Hon. General Secretary: A. K. Vint, O.B.E. (England) and Hon. Treasurer: Jean Mercier (France) were returned unopposed.

The following Vice-Presidents were elected: Africa—Amin Abou Heif (Egypt), Asia—Hsu Yin-sheng (PR China), Europe—Jupp Schlaf (Germany FR), North America—A. M. Werier (Canada), Oceania—Keith Bowler (Australia) and South America—Jaime Munoz C. (Ecuador).

The election for 15 members making up the Council resulted:—

	Votes
1. I. Ogimura (Japan)	97
2. T. D. Ranga Ramanujan (India) ..	82
3. A. Amir Amin (Iran)	72
4. Dr. A. A. Efunkoya (Nigeria)	72
5. C. M. Wyles, O.B.E. (England) ..	71

6. Rabee H. Turk (Palestine Gaza) ..	67
7. Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans (Wales) ..	63
8. J. Nekvasil (Czechoslovakia)	63
9. Dr. H. Farrell (Mexico)	59
10. Dr. G. Lakatos (Hungary)	59
11. Son Gil Chon (DPR Korea)	59
12. H. Urchetti (Switzerland)	59
13. M. Kapetanig (Yugoslavia)	58
14. S. Danet (Rumania)	56
15. J. Veselsky (Ireland)	56

Not elected were:—

	Votes
H. Haidar (Syria)	55
S. Abourjaily (Lebanon)	51
Michael Chen Wing Sun (Malaysia)	51
J. Rufford Harrison (U.S.A.)	49
G. Duclos (France)	45
G. Tartigin (U.S.S.R.)	45
J. M. Kasyoka (Kenya)	32
A. Eriksson (Sweden)	31
Mrs. M. Asderi (Greece)	25
Chung Wing Kwong (Hong Kong)	24
L. van Gelder (Belgium)	24
Ivam Passos Vintas (Brazil)	21
J. J. Salichs (Spain)	16

The Standing Orders Committee recommendations for Committees and Commissions were approved as follows:—

Classification Committee

Dr. G. Lakatos (Chairman), Hanne Schlaf, Germany FR (Secretary), Chang Chun-han (PR China), Dr. A. A. Efunkoya (Nigeria), S. O. Hammarlund (Sweden), John Read (USA) and H. Yaoita (Japan).

Equipment Committee

*J. Rufford Harrison (Chairman), Jupp Schlaf (Secretary), Y. Miyamoto (Japan), R. J. Crayden (England), T. Horvath (Hungary), J. M. Kasyoka and G. Tartigin.

Press and Publicity Committee (formerly a Commission)

Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans (Chairman), Keith Bowler (Joint Secretary), *George R. Yates, England (Joint Secretary), G. Lollier (France), J. Stanek (Czechoslovakia), M. Sbat (Lebanon) and Z. Uzorinac (Yugoslavia). *As England stage the World Championships in 1977, Mr. Yates to act in a joint capacity for this period only.

Rules Committee

*Colin J. Clemmett, England (Chairman),



The Editor looking with interest at the illustrated guide produced by Dunlop, India, on the occasion of the 33rd World Championships. From l to r: A. Bhattachrji, Sanat Lahiri, Publicity Manager, Dunlop, India; George Yates and Ken Wilkinson, Hon. Gen. Sec. of the New Zealand T.T.A.

Photo by Memar Chand Mullica, Calcutta.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

LOW NOTE FINISH

Northumberland County second team ended their season on a low note when they lost 3-7 at home to Cumbria in their final match.

This was their first-ever defeat by Cumbria, whose change of name seems to have brought them good fortune, as they were also successful against Durham's second team and just failed to collect a point against Cheshire's third team.

Only Andrew Clark, who won two singles, and Malcolm McMaster, who won one, showed their true form, and it now seems that the days of the second team are numbered pending an official decision by the Executive Committee for next season. Should this decision be carried out, it will be a sad exit for the first champions of the revived Northern Division during the 1970-71 season.

Meanwhile, it is all happening to the County junior team. In their last match, at home to Lancs II, a 4-6 defeat was turned into a 6-4 win because Lancs fielded an ineligible player. This time, Cumbria could bring only one girl, which meant that they had to forfeit the girls' doubles. This, however, did not detract from a fine 7-3 win for Northumberland, with Clark, as usual, winning two singles, and Glenn McCardle and Eddie Thomas one each. Andrew and Glenn also won the boys' doubles, while Valerie Smith played most impressively to record her first singles win. Julie Harris, playing in her first County match, was unfortunate not to start off with a win, as she and Eddie lost the mixed only at 21-23 in the third.

The first team play their last match of the season at home to Cheshire II on April 12, and the juniors' final match will be at home to Cheshire on the same day.

Northumberland were eliminated from the J.M. Rose Bowl at the fourth round stage when they entertained Ormesby at North Shields Y.M.C.A. The Ormesby team of Carole Knight, Barbara Kearney and Angela Tierney was much too strong for Pat Small, Pauline Jackson and Daphne Russell, and triumphed 6-0.

tennis players, know these things, but one must cater for the newcomer who may be watching our sport for the first time—these are the viewers that our game wants to be put over to.

To continue, whilst the match is in progress, in the background one hears the score being called—who is calling it? Where is the person situated—he or she might be up in the gallery for all we know, as the cameras very, very rarely give a glimpse of the umpire. How many spectators are present—no idea; you only see the front row, and they are all officials and sponsors.

O.K., we know that we do not attract large support, but I know people who would be quite amazed to see 200/300 spectators present, so our game would not be harmed if there was a lack of support.

My last complaint! How did the two players arrive at the table for the match? Presumably they walked in, but in the big sporting events of the day, for instance in "Match of the Day", you see the players emerge from the dressing rooms. At Wimbledon, the television cameras show the players coming on to the court, tossing up.

All these sort of things give atmosphere and I am sure, encourage future participants. After all, look at the paraphernalia that goes on prior to a horse race. I'm not objecting; very often it is more interesting than the race itself, and goodness knows we certainly have more than enough racing on the T.V.

So, our good friends of T.V., could you not use a little more imagination in the televising of our sport. Yes, we need you, but you need us as well. The World Championships are in Birmingham in 1977. Let us hope that by that time the televising of table tennis will be more frequent and more efficient.

BOOKS ON TABLE TENNIS

A new book has recently been published which is a biography of the table tennis career of Victor Barna and has been compiled by Philip Reid, the stalwart secretary of Leicestershire. Price is £3.00 plus 25p post/packing, and they are available from the E.T.T.A. Office.

Hans Giesecke, Germany FR (Secretary), Amin Abou Heif, M. Anderson (USA), C. Goran-Brandel (Sweden), L. Charles (Canada) and I. Ogimura.

Standing Orders Committee

A. K. Vint (Chairman), Jean Mercier, Jupp Schlaf, Mrs. Margaret Walden (Canada), Hsu Yin-sheng, T. D. Ranga Ramanujan, Amin Abou Heif, Dr. G. Lakatos, Chung Wing Kwong, G. Tartigin and M. Kapetanovic.

World Championships Technical Committee

J. Nekvasil (Chairman), S. Jeremic, Yugoslavia (Secretary), T. D. Ranga Ramanujan, Allan Eriksson (Sweden), J. Veselsky, Li Fuyung (PR China) and G. O. Segun (Nigeria).

Junior Commission

S. Danet (Chairman) with a representative to be appointed from each continent (6).

* Subsequently appointed on to the Council.

VOTES OF THANKS

The President paid tribute to the work of the Hon. General Secretary and Mrs. Nora Vint. The Hon. Gen. Secretary expressed thanks to the Table Tennis Federation of India for the facilities placed at the disposal of the I.T.T.F. Secretariat for meetings. In addition, the highly efficient work of the translators and interpreters on all occasions had contributed to the smooth working of the office arrangements in spite of the extreme pressure of work. He was sure it would be the wish of all delegates that appreciation of the services rendered by the attaches should be recorded.

Mr. K. C. Wilkinson expressed thanks to the President for so ably presiding over the Biennial General Meeting and for his leadership of the I.T.T.F. This was approved by a standing ovation.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Lord Mayor of Birmingham (Councillor E. J. Eames, J.P.) was introduced by Charles M. Wyles, Chairman of the E.T.T.A. The Lord Mayor gave a warm welcome to all the member associations of the I.T.T.F. to visit Birmingham in 1977 for the 34th World Championships.

Details of the main propositions and amendments agreed at the B.G.M. will be published in a subsequent issue.

TELEVISION AND TABLE TENNIS

By HAROLD PEARCE

I wonder if the Television authorities, and by that I mean both the B.B.C. and I.B.A., have carried out enough research as to the best means of televising table tennis. I did not see the English Open on the small screen this year, so I am not in a position to comment, although I would imagine that the Men's Singles final would look pretty good, however presented.

However, I did see the Pickwick International, last December, when the match between Neale and Pedersen was brightened at times with the fine attacking play of Neale driving Pedersen back 20 feet to defend. Maybe old fashioned, but it was these kind of rallies that drew the greatest amount of applause from the spectators and the type of play to bring the crowds back to our sport.

Most of the match was shown at a diagonal angle and almost at table level, which appeared to me to make the table look very small, and even more so when you have both players standing well up to the baseline. I also think the surrounds are too high; again they dominate the table and the green tends to merge with the table.

The usual pattern of presentation is to hear the announcer say "We join the match at seven-all in the third game." From then on you see two players divided by a table with a net down the middle—at least you presume it is down the middle, as from the angle of the picture you cannot be sure. O.K. we, table

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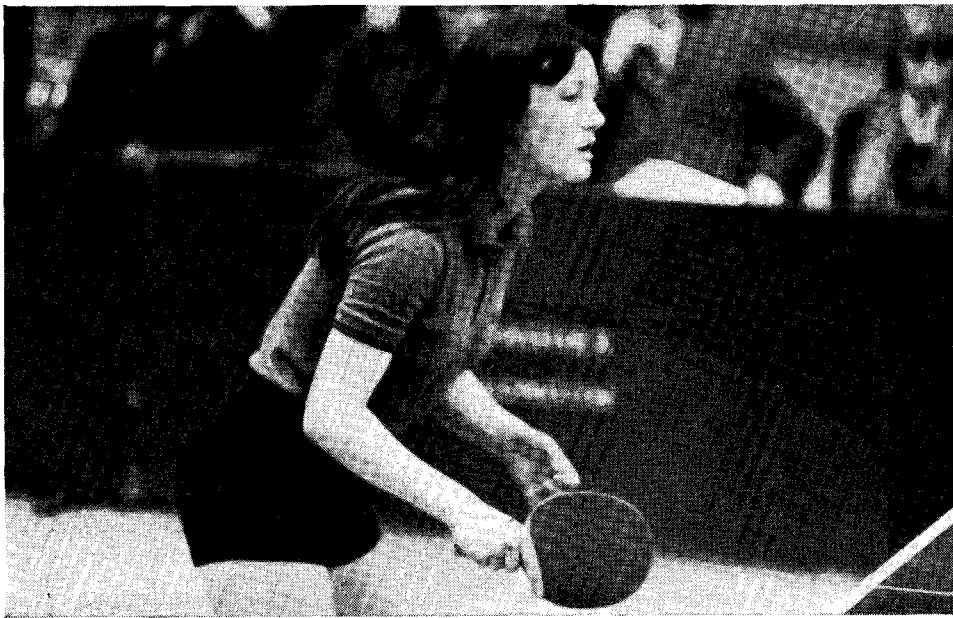
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John O'Sullivan, Table Tennis News

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Lincolnshire's Suzanne Hunt, the English Junior Closed champion, chosen with Angela Tierney, for the trip to Federal Germany.

Photo by Tony Ross, of Hessele.

TEAM SELECTIONS

The Czechoslovakian International Championships were due to be held in Prague from March 28-30. Chosen for England were: Commonwealth Champion Trevor Taylor (Beds.), Jimmy Walker (Cleveland) and Donald Parker (Lancashire). Women selected were: Susan Lisle (Cheshire) and Carole Knight (Cleveland). Team captain: Bryan Merrett.

Over the same period the Federal German Junior International Championships were also due to be held at Dillingen, near Saarbrücken. Chosen for England were the country's two leading boys, Paul Day (Cambs.) and Andrew Barden (Middx) to be accompanied by Suzanne Hunt (Lincs.) and Angela Tierney (Cleveland). The team were to play a Junior International match against Federal Germany at Aachen on March 31, captained by Brian Burn.

HERALDING HEREFORDSHIRE

by Ian R. Crickmer

With both Hereford and Leominster bringing their League programmes towards their conclusion, interest in March switched to the Herefordshire Closed Championships. First the junior players mounted their challenge at Village Farm, with Mark Owen and sister Linda capturing the singles honours. The senior play at Wiggins', Hereford, a week later, saw Mike Prosser and Margaret Newcombe retain their top ratings with relative ease—such upsets as there were occurred in the earlier stages. In the men's quarter-finals, Russell Preece was comprehensively toppled by the Leominster champion Mike Richards whilst Prosser had his hardest set before outblasting Nim Hodges. Mrs. Newcombe's success gave her the Hereford ladies' crown for the sixteenth time, a tremendous record of consistency! The Closed results were:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals:

M. Prosser bt F. N. Hodges 12, -10, 18.
E. N. Meredith bt R. J. Owens -11, 14, 15.
R. J. Oldman bt M. Owen 13, 10.
M. Richards bt R. Preece 17, 15.

Semi-finals:

Prosser bt Meredith 19, 17.
Oldman bt Richards 16, 13.

Final:

PROSSER bt Oldman 18, 13.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals:

M. Newcombe bt J. Bower 12, 6.
S. N. Price bt B. Greening 17, 23.

Final:

NEWCOMBE bt Price 7, 16.

Veterans' Singles—Semi-finals:

C. Mince bt R. Jenkins 16, 12.
K. Matthews bt D. Potter 13, 13.

Final:

MINCE bt Matthews 21, -14, 12.

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals:

Owen bt J. Bower 9, 7.
M. Owens bt Preece 19, 21.

Final:

OWEN bt Owens 9, 16.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals:

L. Owen bt J. Bower 13, 13.
S. Owen bt E. Owens 15, 17.

Final:

L. OWEN bt S. Owen -19, 16, 10.

Grade B Singles—Semi-finals:

P. Peck bt A. Davis 18, 12.
R. Toomer bt M. Tricklebank 14, -13, 17.

Final:

TOOMER bt Peck 20, 18.

Under-14 Singles—Semi-finals:

Owen bt S. Halford 7, 10.
Owens bt C. Garnett 15, 15.

Final:

OWEN bt Owens 12, 16.

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals:

Prosser/Preece bt Owen/Owens 18, -11, 14.
J. Oldman/R. J. Owens bt Hodges/Meredith -16, 18, 21.

Final:

PROSSER/PREECE bt Oldman/Owens 14, 18.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals:

Newcombe/A. Lawrence bt S. Owen/P. Francis 11, 6.

Price/M. Hill bt L. Owen/J. Owens w.o.

Final:

NEWCOMBE/LAWRENCE bt Price/Hill 8, 10.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals:

Hodges/Newcombe bt Prosser/B. Greening 13, 20.

Oldman/Hill bt Preece/Price 12, -12, 18.

Final:

HODGES/NEWCOMBE bt Oldman/Hill 11, 19.

Under-21 Doubles—Semi-finals:

Owen/Owens bt Garnett/A. Borne 11, 17.
D. Franklin/Preece bt Halford/Miss L. Owen 16, -13, 15.

Final:

OWEN/OWENS bt Franklin/Preece 6, 9.

In the Worcestershire County League, Hereford's 6-4 away win over Malvern left the championship issue dependent on the final fixture against Halesowen, a formidable side including Worcestershire County players Brian Belcher and Mervyn Wood.

Two further end-of-season engagements have been negotiated: on April 20th Shropshire will travel to Hereford to play a supplementary County friendly because of the curtailed Western Division programme, and Shropshire Schools' T.T.A. will provide the opposition in a challenge match which, it is hoped, will lead to increased schools' activity in the region. It is encouraging to note that Hereford will be well represented in the new combined Hereford and Worcester Schools' championships at Redditch on April 13th.

On the weekend of May 17-18, Clwyd Cadets will be visiting the West Midlands, and will include Herefordshire amongst their hosts.

Finally, following the success of last year's event, an end-of-season Dinner-Dance has again been arranged at the Park Hall Ballroom, Wormelow—the date, a "must" for your diary—is Thursday, May 15th.

JUNIOR SELECTIONS

The National Selection Committee have chosen the following players to represent England in a Junior International match against the Netherlands, in Holland, on the weekend of either April 26-27 or May 3-4, 1975.

Boys—Chris Sewell (Gloucs), Mark Mitchell (Middx) and Douglas Johnson (Warwks).


Girls—Melody Ludi (Yorks) and Angela Mitchell (Middx).

Brian Burn is the n.p.c. with Martin Shuttle (Surrey) and Suzanne Hunt (Lincs) chosen as the non-travelling reserves.

It transpires that the foregoing squad was chosen in conjunction with that making the trip to Federal Germany, the pity being that both squads were not announced at the same time, thus obviating the furore created in the Broad Acres.—Ed.

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

COUNTY TEAMS PROSPER

Our County Championships teams continue to prosper and our Senior, Junior, Veterans' first, as well as the Junior seconds, all hope to take County titles. At present they all lead their respective divisions but the final run-in will be hard, particularly for the Junior Premier team, who will have to contend with the Barden/Mitchell-inspired Middlesex team.

Bob Potton, our Junior No. 1, did well to win the West Midlands Junior "Select" tournament and obviously deserves his England No. 6 ranking.



BOB POTTON

Photo by G. Gale.

Fellows Cranleigh took their bow from the European Fair Cities Cup competition when they were defeated in West Berlin 5-1. Unfortunately Cranleigh were without Ian Horsham, who was on duty at the Welsh Open. David Brown, Bob Potton and Dave Randall fought all the way against strong opposition but only David Brown could break the grip that West Berlin established on the match.

The Essex Schools' Individual Championships have been held at Shenfield, with Organiser Ron Gore doing a splendid job in ensuring a trouble-free tournament with some 400-plus entries. The eventual champions being:—Girls—U-19: H. Gore; U-16: H. Gore; U-13: J. Dowsett and U-11: J. Clarke. Boys—U-19: D. Newman; U-16: D. Newman; U-13: T. Dowsett and U-11 G. Avis. It was nice to see Jack and Elsie Carrington presenting the prizes with all their customary enthusiasm.

The bulk of our leagues have been busy staging their own closed championships and there is a move afoot to have an Essex Tournament of Closed Champions. The Clacton League have proposed this innovation and it is now up to the leagues to show their support for such a venture.

After months of doubt, it is now established that the **Dagenham Open** will run this year. After many discussions it has been agreed that the tournament will be held on May 10-11 at Redbridge Sports Centre, and will be renamed the **Crown Sports Dagenham Open**.

The new sponsors are Crown Sports (Tamworth), manufacturers of table tennis tables and other quality products and the Dagenham League are delighted that this Company has chosen the Dagenham Open as the launching pad for their activities in the tournament sponsorship field.

The tournament promises to be bigger and better than ever, and it is hoped that a team event can be run on the Saturday evening.

That great Yugoslav player, Istvan Korpa, has confirmed that he will play in the event. Invitations have gone to Eberhard Schöler and his wife, Diane, better known as England's own Diane Rowe. The Scottish National squad will come; a club from Sweden will probably provide 20 entrants; the Dutch squad will probably be represented and Dagenham hope also to receive entries from Germany and from Belgium.

If any club players in the district can offer accommodation to entrants, Dagenham will be grateful and offers should be made to Bernard Chatterley, 01-597 0116, or 2240 during office hours, or at home on 01-599 6780. Applications for entry forms can be made to Margaret Harden, at 173 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch. With such a big event in the offing offers of help for stewards and other duties will be appreciated.

The Essex Closed Championships will be held at the Mid-Essex Technical College Sports Hall, Park Road, Chelmsford, on April 26-27. A large entry is envisaged and these should be with Gordon Lightfoot, 57 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury, by April 11. The Essex Inter-League Championships is in full swing and David Lush reports few problems to date.

Top of the table placings:—

Division 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Southend "A"	4	3	1	0	27	13	12
Dagenham "A"	3	3	0	0	21	9	10
Chelmsford	4	2	2	0	19	21	7
Harlow "A"	4	2	2	0	17	23	7

Junior Division 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Dagenham "A"	4	3	1	0	30	10	13
Barking	4	3	1	0	24	16	10
Chelmsford	3	2	0	1	17	13	8

Veterans' Division 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Romford "A"	4	3	1	0	22	14	11
Dagenham "A"	3	3	0	0	21	6	10
Southend "A"	4	2	2	0	20	16	9
Thurrock "A"	3	2	1	0	17	10	8

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Colin Hammond

UPHEAVALS

The first team continued its bad run in County matches, being defeated 6-4 by Warwickshire 2nd and 7-3 by Staffordshire. The team is in the midst of upheavals, the latest being a temporary retirement from the scene of Brian Mayfield, leaving only Alan Croome with over a year's experience of County competition. Alan is enjoying his most successful season for some time, winning both singles versus Warwicks and coming close to a double against Staffs. Fine individual performances have been Gloria Stocks' two singles victories, Martin Kinsella's win over Keith Pilgrim, and a win for Bob Nelson over Tony Isaacs. The doubles have let the side down badly all season—again none was won.

The second team has been more successful—drawing in arctic conditions against Clwyd, and beating Northants 2nd at home 9-1. The draw with Clwyd was achieved after the loss of the first three singles, then all the doubles were won by Notts. Dianne Maxfield won the women's singles, and Nicky Kirkland clinched the draw with the only men's singles success.

The Junior team has done well with two tight 6-4 wins over Staffs. and Leics. 2nd. The Staffs match was won by the boys, Chris Stockdale, Dave Bilton and Glen Stredder, but the Leics. match was more of a team effort. Elaine Handford, on debut, won the first girls' singles match for over a year, and Karen Mayfield found her demotion to the doubles more to her liking, combining well with Stredder to win the mixed. The match had an exciting climax, with Bilton scraping home 25-23 in the third to clinch victory.

Again, I leave our most successful team until last. The Veterans continue their tremendous run, having won their last two matches 8-1 and 7-2 against Leics. and Warwicks. respectively. John Ellis, John Burraston and Ron Bolton provide stiff opposition for any opponent, whilst Pat Hammond still proves too strong for most opposition.

The County Closed was again dominated by Croome. He retained his singles title in a replica of last year's final against Mayfield, and the men's doubles with Roger Dawkins. Kinsella was on top form also, taking the Intermediate title, reaching the semi-finals of the men's singles, and with Sue Osborn, knocking out holders Croome and Pat Hopkin in the semi-final of the mixed. In this event the experience of Pat Hammond and Alf Saunders showed through in the final, regaining a title after being losing finalists of late.

Gloria Stocks beat the surprisingly unseeded Pat Hopkin in the women's final and Stredder won his first title when he comfortably overcame the challenge of Colin Bostock in the boys' singles. Other winners were Pat Hopkin and Sue Osborn in the women's doubles; Bolton in the Vets; Stockdale and Bilton the boys' doubles, and Elaine Handford the girls' singles.

This winter has seen the recommencement of the Inter-town league, in which Nottingham has shown its overall domination in the past. However, the men's team has surprisingly been beaten twice, and Mansfield are leading this section.

In the Midland League the Nottingham Men's "B" team have been the one with most success, and as expected, are close to claiming the Division 3 title.

I am sorry to have to report the sudden death of Alan Packer at the age of 44. Alan was a well-known figure in Notts. T.T. circles, being a County Vets. player up until this season, and a local sports business owner. He had just instigated a new competition to promote an improvement in playing conditions in the county.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Alan G. Birks

GRIMSBY LOSE TWO TITLES

The three County table tennis inter-town competitions have all been taken by teams with 100% records. Wyberton won the Haigh Cup at their first attempt; Boston took the Butcher Cup with a lead of 4 clear points, whilst Spalding retained the Butlin Trophy, conceding only 4 sets. And two of the three champion teams had unbeaten captains. Brian Hill, the County number one, won all his sets for Wyberton, and Spalding's Jean White was unbeaten for the second successive season.

Wyberton's success was hardly unexpected, as they can call on the top two men in the County. They were only extended by holders Grimsby, who were beaten 6-4, M. East conceding his only set of the season to B. Allison.

In the second half of the season Boston, last season's runners-up, clinched the Butcher Cup with victories over their nearest rivals, Grimsby, the holders, and Grantham. Against

Grantham the Boston players won two singles each and also took the doubles to win 7-3. For Grantham R. Brown was unbeaten. In the match against Grimsby M. Vaughan and N. Fossitt won two singles each, P. Cater won one and Boston won the doubles to take the match 6-4. A. Dibdin won his three for the losers. A feature of Boston's play has been the consistency of Vaughan and Fossitt, both with 20 wins out of 24.

RESULTS

Haigh Cup

Round 6—
Boston 1, Lincoln 9
Scunthorpe 7, Mablethorpe 3
Grimsby 9, Gainsborough 1
Wyberton 9, Skegness 1

Round 7—
Boston 1, Grimsby 9
Scunthorpe 2, Wyberton 8
Grantham 9, Gainsborough 1
Skegness 4, Lincoln 6

Round 8—
Boston 8, Grantham 2
Lincoln 10, Scunthorpe 0
Grimsby 10, Skegness 0
Wyberton 10, Mablethorpe 0

Round 9—
Gainsborough 8, Boston 2
Mablethorpe 0, Lincoln 10
Grantham 4, Skegness 6
Scunthorpe 1, Grimsby 9

Butlin Cup
Boston 5, Lincoln 5
Boston 4, Grantham 6
Boston 7, Grimsby 3

Butcher Cup
Round 6—
Boston 10, Lincoln 0
Scunthorpe 8, Mablethorpe 2
Wyberton 2, Skegness 8
Grimsby 9, Gainsborough 1
Spalding 5, Grantham 5

Round 7—
Boston 6, Grimsby 4
Scunthorpe 7, Wyberton 3
Spalding 9, Mablethorpe 1
Grantham 10, Gainsborough 0
Skegness 6, Lincoln 4

Round 8—
Boston 7, Grantham 3
Grimsby 6, Skegness 4
Wyberton 3, Mablethorpe 7
Gainsborough 6, Spalding 4
Lincoln 1, Scunthorpe 9

Round 9—
Gainsborough 3, Boston 7
Mablethorpe 8, Lincoln 2
Spalding 8, Wyberton 2
Grantham 8, Skegness 2
Scunthorpe 5, Grimsby 5

LEADING INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

Haig Cup	P	W
Hill (Wyberton)	24	24
Morley (Grimsby)	12	12
East (Wyberton)	24	23
Taylor (Grimsby)	21	19
Allison (Grimsby)	21	17

Butcher Cup	P	W
Beaumont (Spalding) ..	15	14
Dibdin (Grimsby)	24	21
Neal (Grantham)	24	21
Brown (Grantham)	18	15
Fossitt (Boston)	24	20
Vaughan (Boston)	24	20

FINAL TABLES

Haigh Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wyberton	8	8	0	0	69	11	16
Grimsby	8	7	0	1	67	13	14
Lincoln	8	6	0	2	58	22	12
Gainsborough	8	4	0	4	41	39	8
Scunthorpe	8	3	0	5	26	54	6
Skegness	8	2	1	5	28	52	5
Mablethorpe	8	2	1	5	24	56	5
Grantham	8	0	0	8	16	64	0

Butlin Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spalding	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Grantham	4	2	1	1	19	21	5
Boston	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Lincoln	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Grimsby	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

Butcher Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boston	9	9	0	0	73	17	18
Grantham	9	6	2	1	66	24	14
Grimsby	9	6	2	1	64	26	14
Spalding	9	5	1	3	59	31	11
Scunthorpe	9	4	1	4	46	44	9
Gainsborough	9	4	0	5	41	49	8
Skegness	9	4	0	5	40	50	8
Mablethorpe	9	3	0	6	29	61	6
Lincoln	9	1	0	8	16	74	2
Wyberton	9	0	0	9	16	74	0

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

INCREDIBLE DECISION

How can the E.T.T.A. Selection Committee, selecting a team to represent England in the West German Junior Open, include the top two boys and the No. 2 girl, but omit the No. 1, Melody Ludi? It was an incredible decision in the light of Melody's continued No. 1 ranking and tournament record and one which has moved Yorkshire to register a strong protest with the E.T.T.A. Melody's subsequent last-minute inclusion in the team for the Welsh Open and a Junior International in Holland, certainly does not make up for her omission from the West German Junior, which would have been valuable experience before the European Championships.

Fourteen-year-old Kevin Beadsley won the Halifax Closed for the first time when he defeated anti-looper David Lamb 19, 18 in the men's singles final. In fact, Kevin won four other titles, and played three different finals against the same player, Tony Bottomley. Kevin won the under-15 and under-20 singles, but Tony managed to win the under-17 event. I am told by Halifax Secretary, Geoff Barnes, that Tony's win was the first by any under-14 player over Kevin this season in any tournament.

Youth was not quite so successful over in Hull, where 15-year-old Mike Harrison reached the final of the Hull Closed Men's Singles but lost to Clive Pollard, who first won the title when Mike was 1½ years old! However, Mike won the boys' title. Julie McLean retained her women's and girls' singles titles. At the East of England Open at Scunthorpe, Mike won his third junior title of the season, beating Nigel Hallows and Robert Wiley en route. Julie McLean won the girls' title at the same tournament with wins over her doubles partner, Melody Ludi, and England No. 2, Suzanne Hunt.

In the Bradford Closed the men's title went for the third season in succession, to Bob Shutt, though Steve Kosmowsky had 5 match points against Shutt in the second game of a second round match. Shutt's final opposition was provided by Jim Yeats, who produced a mixture of brilliant strokes and mistakes. Melody Ludi went through the day undefeated in 4 events, winning the women's doubles in partnership with Division 7 player, Jane Evans.

Halifax Closed:

M.S.: K. Beadsley bt D. Lamb 18, 19.
W.S.: M. Morton bt M. Oddy 11, -15, 17.
M.D.: Beadsley/Guy bt Lamb/B. Dawson 18, -16, 18.
W.D.: J. Bottomley/B. Beadsley bt Oddy/B. Gee 16, 11.
X.D.: Beadsley/Oddy bt A. Bottomley/Gee 15, 14.

U-20: Beadsley bt A. Bottomley 13, 14.

U-17: A. Bottomley bt Beadsley 20, 20.

U-15: Beadsley bt A. Bottomley 11, 15.

V.S.: G. Kidd bt D. Viney 11, 17.

Hull Closed:

Men's Singles—Semi-finals:

C. Pollard bt D. N. Bartlett 14, -10, 15.

M. Harrison bt S. C. Rossington 18, -17, 14.

Final:

POLLARD bt Harrison 18, 16.

W.S.: J. McClean bt C. Grayson 16, 14.

M.D.: Bartlett/Pollard bt Rossington/A. Petrie 15, -18, 17.

W.D.: Grayson/J. Kinnersley bt B. Allan/C. Walling 12, 17.

B.S.: Harrison bt M. Anderton 7, 9.

G.S.: McLean bt Kinnersley 8, 9.

V.S.: W. Devine bt E. Beedle 19, -5, 15.

Bradford Closed:

Men's Singles—Semi-finals:

J. Yeats bt C. Lo 16, 13.

R. Shutt bt M. Stephenson 21, -17, 9.

Final:

SHUTT bt Yeats 18, 18.

W.S.: M. Ludi bt H. Shields 16, 20.

M.D.: Shutt/P. Cottenham bt R. Priestley/S. Kosmowsky 11, -20, 16.

W.D.: Ludi/J. Evans bt S. Broadbent/P. Dawson 15, 17.

X.D.: Priestley/Ludi bt D. Renton/Shields 18, 19.

B.S.: P. Simpson bt M. Cummings 14, 15.

V.S.: G. Kelly bt E. Payne 11, -15, 19.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

JUNIOR CLOSED

There were well over 250 entries for the Surrey Closed Junior Championships, held on Mar. 8-9, which were organised by Norman Hooper. But except for Junior Coach Mick Kercher, and Vice-Chairman, Sid Moreton, the members of the Surrey Committee were conspicuous by their absence on the second day.

Results:—

Boys' Singles:

U-17: Martin Shuttle bt Max Crimmins.

U-15: Stephen Boxall bt Richard Aplin.

U-13: Mark Oakley bt Stephen Baggott.

U-11: Oakley bt Timmy Vine.

Boys' Doubles:

U-17: Shuttle/Gary Stewart bt Boxall/Keith Seager.

U-15: Boxall/Nicholas Crossley bt Chris Keepen/Steve Critchley.

Girls' Singles:

U-17: Kay Greenough bt Suzanne Roebuck.

U-15: Roebuck bt Susan Walker.

U-13: Michele Bland bt Kerry Merrett.

Girls' Doubles:

U-17: Jayne Mitchell/Roebuck bt Greenough/Susan Head.

U-15: Roebuck/Walker bt Nicola Hayward/Head.

X.D:

Crimmins/Mitchell bt Shuttle/Greenough.

The standard of play was good throughout and it was particularly heartening to note that behaviour showed great improvement on earlier tournaments.

There was an exciting climax to the **Leatherhead and Epsom** tournament, when, in a nail-biting men's final, Chris Thorns pipped Martin Shuttle from deuce in the third. Martin Shuttle, of course, won the junior singles. Elaine Starr beat Marion Rogers in the women's final, partnered Susan Walker to take the doubles over Marion Rogers and Gail McCulloch, and then joined Shuttle to win the mixed over Marion Rogers and Bill Holder. John Austin completed a hat-trick of Veterans' wins by taking Mike Wanstall in a final where both players used the old style pimped rubber bats.

Local Press Secretary, Bob Pearson, suggests that the Leatherhead and Epsom Tournament is strongest in the County in terms of entry, spectator support and quality of play. My view is that it may be the second strongest, for reasons which I hope to show in a later article.

In the **Dorking Championships**, Barry Gilbert gained sweet revenge over Trevor Moon when he reversed last year's finals result. With Jim Elliott he took the doubles title, beating Doug Baker and Geoff Cowlan. The women's went to Thora Saunders in a close final against Eve Chapman, and Andy Watt was too steady for young Richard Seymour in the under-21 event. Jim Elliott won the veterans' from San Benton to complete a good day for himself and colleagues Barry and Trevor, who play together for Abinger in the Guildford League.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

TITLE CLINCHER

This season has seen a great revival in Cambridgeshire table tennis. The County Senior team has clinched the Division 2 East title and the second Junior team are on the verge of winning the Junior East Division, although they are fighting it out with Norfolk.

The Seniors' next target is promotion to the Premier Division and on the weekend of April 25-26 they will meet the top teams of the other four Second Divisions, the best two gaining promotion. The team of Paul Day, Mike Harper, Keith Richardson, Valerie Scripps and Sally Hirst have had a splendid season, not to mention the help of Linda Woodcock on occasions. Their crucial match against Hertfordshire, which clinched the title, was a real thriller, with Cambs scraping a 6-4 victory with almost the last shot of the evening. Day was in great form and had crushing victories over Barry White and Chris Pickard. Harper and Richardson had each won a singles and with Day and Richardson winning the doubles, against White and Pickard, it was left to Richardson to play Pickard in the last set, with the score at 5-4 in favour of Cambs. It turned out to be a dramatic encounter with Richardson winning 25-23 in the last game, to give Cambs a great victory.

The Junior first team gained a very important point in their fight to avoid relegation from the Junior Premier Division, when they met Middlesex at East Finchley. Although Day was not at his best, he still managed to beat English Junior champion Andy Barden, and Mark Mitchell, ranked Nos. 2 and 3 in the English Junior rankings. Richardson had a great battle with Barden before losing in three, but then easily beat Mike O'Mahoney in two, to enable Cambs to force a draw. Mike Crowson, of Wisbech, lost to O'Mahoney and Mitchell, but Day and Richardson beat Mitchell and O'Mahoney in the doubles at 23-21 in the last set, and it was left to Ruth Newman and Susan Ellis to ensure a point for Cambs when they beat the England-ranked pair Susan Dove and Marilyn Sangster in the Girls' Doubles.

In an Eastern Division match Cambs II were beaten 6-4 by Hunts. Two Wisbech juniors, on senior debut, had a good match, with Geoff Davies beating Steve Andrews and Tim Speller. Two other juniors, Carol and Susan Ellis beat the experienced Barbara Race and Diane Bushby in the Women's Doubles, for Cambridgeshire's fourth win.

In the various Inter-League Competitions, both at National and Regional level, the Cambridge and Ely Leagues are very much to the fore with Day and Richardson, the Soham pair, still involved in no fewer than four of them. Representing Ely, with Mick Palmer, they have reached the fourth round of the Wilmott Cup and, with Brian Richardson, they have also reached the same stage in the Carter Cup. Ely also top the Men's Section of the South East Midlands League and can make it a hat-trick of titles, while Soham, as Cambridge League champions, have also reached the third round of the Stiga National Championships.

Cambridge need only beat Dereham and Norwich for their third success in Division I of the East Anglian League. The Cambridge Women's team of Sally Hirst, Valerie Scripps and Janet Rodgers have reached the fifth round of the Rose Bowl, their last success being against Cheshunt.

Not to be outdone by the youngsters, Cambridge Veterans, who were last season's champions in the S.E.M. League, are again top of their section, although they will have to struggle with Northampton to clinch the title.

Soham again look like winning Div. I in the Cambridge League as their nearest rivals, New Chesterton Institute, although one point ahead, have played three matches more. For

some time both University teams have been at the bottom of the Division, but now have started to pick up points. The first team have drawn their last four matches, while the second team gained their first win by beating Fisons 8-2. Whilst still in the bottom two positions, they are doing enough to make the teams immediately above them start worrying. Telephones I have annexed the Division II title, while Torchbearers I look certain to join them in Division I next season. Fire Service and Torchbearers II are almost certain to be relegated to Division III. David Jarvis lost his first set of the season when beaten by Albie Ellis, of Melbourn.

Congratulations to Paul Day on reaching the semi-finals of the Welsh Open Championships at Cardiff. His successes against Jaroslav Kunz and Alan Griffiths were meritorious.

The Junior game in Wisbech is on the crest of a wave, thanks to the efforts of Ian Marshall, and it is hoped that there will be a number of youngsters from Cambridge who will be able to challenge for a place in future Cambs junior teams.

Leading positions:—

CAMBRIDGE LEAGUE

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NCI 1	15	11	3	1	94	56	25
Soham 1	13	11	1	1	108	22	23
Wilburton	16	11	1	4	104	56	23
NCI 2	15	9	2	4	86	64	20
Guildhall 1	16	8	3	5	92	68	19
YMCA 1	12	8	2	2	77	43	18

Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Telephones 1	16	16	0	0	136	24	32
Torchbearers 1	16	13	1	2	103	57	27
Impington 1	17	9	4	4	95	75	22
Haver 1	15	8	4	3	89	61	20

ELY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soham I	11	10	1	0	91	19	21
Lakenheath I	9	8	1	0	70	20	17
Telephones I	9	6	0	3	61	29	12
Ely Fire St. I	12	5	1	6	49	71	11
Lakenheath II	11	4	2	5	49	61	10

Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Camb. Un. P	13	13	0	0	120	10	26
Soham III	12	11	0	1	88	32	22
Wilburton	12	9	0	3	74	46	18
Impington I	11	8	0	3	74	36	16

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Brian Kean

HAMMER BLOW

Len Green, Cheshire's County Match Secretary, delivered a hammer blow to his colleagues by announcing his intention to resign at the end of the season. Len has been in office for five years and has done a tremendous job for all who have been involved in County matches.

With the worry of increasing venue problems and, of course, expected domestic obligations, Len feels it would be in everyone's interest if he were to end his term of office. As one who has worked very close to Len, I know how efficiently he has carried out his duties and consequently his omission next season from the ranks of officialdom will be a great loss.

On behalf of the executive I extend heartfelt thanks for services rendered and to his patient wife, Renee, for all the secretarial duties undertaken behind the scenes.

On the playing scene, it's tremendous to see our County team equal top in the Premier Division. This has been attained by consistent performances from Mike Johns, Nigel Eckersley, John Hilton, Brian Johns, Roger Hampson and, of course, Susan Lisle.

Each has contributed to our most successful season ever and such success is beneficial to Table Tennis locally, as it gives the faithful

followers the opportunity to see the country's leading players in action.

Individual results of note include Mike Johns winning the East of England Open, as did Susan Lisle in her respective event, and John Hilton's success in the Irish Open. John McNee, of the Wirral, has at last come good and won his first caps for his native Scotland.

John made an impressive debut at the Welsh Open, where he collected the scalp of Jimmy Walker, who reacted to this reverse by beating European star, Gabor Gergely.

I know there are a number of leagues running their closed championships at present and I would like to include results of some in these notes. However, as yet, no information has been forthcoming, so I'm afraid the same old names will appear from month to month. I am a voluntary contributor and can only do so much in obtaining information, so your help would be greatly appreciated and would give our column wider horizons. So please, folks, I plead for news.

Congratulations to Cheshire's first-ever national finalists in the English Schools' T.T.A., Marple Hall, whose team of John Evans, John Almond, Martin Whyatt and Michael Ibson won the Boys' U-19 title in the National School Team Championships at Lea Green, Matlock.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

COMMERCIAL SPONSORING

The second major tournament of the season, and the first to be sponsored by a commercial organisation, was held at the Weaver's Sports Centre, Wellingborough. The Wellingborough League Closed Tournament, sponsored by Thos. Linnell (Spar) Ltd., did much to illustrate both the advantages and disadvantages of sponsorship. With David Byrom unable to continue as Tournament Organiser, Tom Tye stepped into the breach to do a first-class job, keeping the tables fully occupied throughout the day and thereby enabling the finals to get under way on time.

Although inadequate lighting caused the latter stages of the main events to become something of a lottery, in general the chief seeds surmounted these problems, to proceed to the finals, with few surprises along the way. The illness of Gary Alden last year; the unfortunate departure from the table tennis scene of brother Kevin; the elevation from Junior to Senior of the talented Anne Wallis, and the preference of John Palmer for a drive at Silverstone, to the forehand and backhand drives of his challengers for the Men's Singles title, ensured that few titles could be retained, but in two events where this was possible, it was achieved.

Anne Wallis, after outclassing her opponents in the early stages, had her usual battle with the experienced Anne Lenton, eligible to compete at Wellingborough for the first time. With some devastating counter-hitting, Mrs. Lenton narrowly took the first 22-20, but from this point onwards, the youth, speed and accurate attacking play of Miss Wallis dominated the match, and she ended a comfortable winner to retain the title she first won in 1972.

Dennis Millman took the Veterans' Singles for the third year in succession, after a close encounter with club colleague Terry Sutton, who also contested the 1974 Final. A Bedford wedding attended by Millman, could well have produced a new champion, but for the thoughtful co-operation of Organiser Tom Tye.

In the absence of John Palmer, Gary Alden and Geoff Atkinson were expected to dominate the Men's Singles, but both fell to a worthy new champion, Phil Snelling. Atkinson had some difficulty with the much-improved Graham Feakin in the penultimate round, who himself had earlier been in trouble against David Byrom, playing with a bat originally designed for the dining room table. In the other semi Alden met Snelling, who, managing to keep Alden on the defensive in the first and third games, was able to employ his own

wide range of attacking shots to good advantage.

In three meetings this season Snelling had failed to get the better of Atkinson, and in the early part of the first game Atkinson built up a substantial lead. At this point Atkinson's preference for finesse rather than expediency, let him down, and Snelling came back into the game playing a more attacking role, dominating the exchanges with his somewhat unorthodox forehand loop, and using his backhand to good advantage. What eventually turned out to be a comfortable win, is a well-deserved success for a young player, who this season has had his fair share of "ups and downs", but whose composure and equable temperament have never faltered. Other young players could well learn a valuable lesson from the new Wellingborough Men's Singles Champion.

Sutton and Millman, club colleagues for nine seasons, but playing together in a tournament for the first time, proved that there is no substitute for experience by holding off a strong challenge from several excellent young pairings, and then beating Alden and Feakin 19, 19 in an interesting final. The Women's Doubles featured the same four players as in 1974, but paired differently, and after five consecutive wins, Christine Dillely ended on the losing side, when playing with Glennis Hooper, who went down to Anne and Mandy Wallis.

To compensate for his misfortune at senior level, Alden, as anticipated, monopolised the Junior events as first, partnered by Valerie Feakin, Michael and Alan Hawes were beaten in the doubles as in the singles was Mandy Wallis, who had earlier done extremely well to reach the final.

RESULTS:

M.S.: P. Snelling bt G. Atkinson 17, 15.
W.S.: A. Wallis bt A. Lenton 20, 11, 12.
M.D.: T. Sutton/D. Millman bt G. Alden/G. Feakin 19, 19.
W.D.: A. Wallis/M. Wallis bt G. Dillely/G. Hooper 17, 10.
J.S.: Alden bt Mandy Wallis 9, 8.
V.S.: Millman bt Terry Sutton 17, 16.
J.D. Alden/V. Feakin bt M. Hawes/A. Hawes 15, 18.

With none of the other major league or tournament events yet decided, I welcome later issues of "Table Tennis News" this year, in which to write the final chapters of yet another busy season.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

A busy month with two County matches and no fewer than four tournaments taking place in the space of three weeks. Hunts Seniors followed their 9-1 triumph over Norfolk with a close 6-4 result against Cambs II. Alan Lamprell took both his singles, Stephen Andrews beat Brian Jones, Barbara Pace was victor in the Women's Singles, whilst the Men's Doubles (Speller/Andrews) and the Mixed (Lamprell/Diane Bushby) furthered the total to a winning margin.

An equally close match at St. Ives with the home Juniors going down to Beds 4-6. Here the Mixed (Alan Smith/Jean Allinson) and the Girls' Doubles (Allinson/Belinda Chamberlain) added to single wins from Belinda and Smith, finished the scoring. Steven Fisher came close in the final set, taking the first game from Ian Goswell before going down at -19 in the decider.

In the South-East Midland League Reserve and Veteran Tournament, three local players figured in the Men's semi-finals—Alan Smith (16) and Steven Fisher (14), from St. Ives, and Liam McGuigan (St. Neots). Smith beat McGuigan in the third leg, whilst Fisher fell to Northampton's John Horne. In the final Smith went behind 12-1 in the opening game, reaching 18, but took the next two at 14 and 15.

Hunts had a further success in the Veterans' Doubles where County champions Gordon

Cockram and Stan Roberts, overhauled G. Tsow and C. Bull (Northampton) -24, 8, 8. Cockram and Henry Fox (S.E.M.L. Secretary), both reached the semis of the Singles.

Two other sets of finalists made it a successful day for local players with Dilys Greenwood and Pam Norman (St. Ives) reaching this stage of the Women's Doubles, whilst McGuigan and Brian Savage (St. Neots) went down at the same stage of the Men's event.

All three local leagues have held their internal tournaments during the past month.

Hunts Central

Dilys Greenwood was a triple winner, adding partnerships in the Women's and Mixed Doubles to her success in the Singles, which she had taken for the sixth time in recent years. Stephen Andrews took the Men's Singles over Sid Burgess. Meanwhile Mark Fisher turned the Junior rankings upside down to take the Boys' title.

M.S.: S. Andrews bt S. Burgess 8, 16.
W.S.: D. Greenwood bt P. Hesketh 13, 17.
M.D.: M. Murden/M. Byrd bt R. Nunn/S. Andrews -14, 19, 17.
W.D.: Greenwood/P. Norman bt L. Ling/ P. Wong 10, 11.
X.D.: J. Sizer/Greenwood bt Murden/Hesketh 19, 16.
B.S.: M. Fisher bt A. Smith 20, 18.
G.S.: M. Ringrose bt S. Smith 8, 18.
Div. 1 Singles: S. Fisher bt L. Coppolaro.
Div. 2 Singles: C. Lister bt M. Knowles.
Div. 3 Singles: C. Stephens bt D. Wells.
Div. 4 Singles: J. Davies bt S. Hunt.
Div. 5 Singles: B. Ward bt P. Nicholls.

St. Neots

This tournament brought the top singles honours to Alan Lamprell and Doreen Underwood, who took the Men's and Women's titles. Doreen figured in two other finals and also competing in three finals were Gordon Cockram and 11-year-old Melanie Ringrose. Two finals are still to be played, as time ran out.

M.S.: A. Lamprell bt R. Stubbs 11, -18, 14.
W.S.: D. Underwood bt P. Bingham 18, 14.
B.S.: S. Fisher bt A. Smith.
G.S.: M. Ringrose bt S. Smith.
M.D.: G. Cockram/S. Roberts bt T. Speller/K. Moore.
W.D.: M. Ringrose/D. Underwood bt P. Bingham/A. Saywell.
Div. 2 Singles: D. Brown bt R. Howard.
X.D.: To be played—K. Moore/M. Ringrose v. G. Cockram/D. Underwood.
V.S.: To be played—G. Cockram v S. Roberts.

Peterborough

Malcolm Kidd lifted the Men's Singles crown for the first time, whilst Shelly Holland retained her Women's title. Good performance from 16-year-old Jean Allinson, who figured in four finals, successful in three.

M.S.: M. Kidd bt P. Berna 18, 19.
W.S.: S. Holland bt J. Allinson 13, 16.
M.D.: M. Kidd/P. Berna bt S. Greenwood/R. Greenwood.
W.D.: E. Allinson/J. Allinson bt S. Holland/P. Baker.
X.D.: M. Kidd/J. Allinson bt P. Berna/S. Holland.
B.S.: G. Baker bt G. Mould.
G.S.: J. Allinson bt J. Patterson.
V.S.: D. Megginson bt P. Walker.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Derek Oldman

As this season draws towards its close, many of the County's top players are finding life rather hectic. Many players enjoy themselves playing in numerous leagues in and around the area and now is the time when closed tournaments are being held, together with the later rounds of various cup competitions. All this might be good for the players but a nightmare for the organisers.

In the recently held Derby 'closed' Doug Foulds celebrated his recall to the County 1st team by regaining the men's singles title, a crown he has now captured on 8 occasions. Ivor Warner was the beaten finalist this time.

P. Vickers and D. Yallop won the men's doubles title while the younger Yallop — Stephen—was top junior in both the U-14 and U-17 events. In the women's singles Marilyn Deakin surprisingly got the better of Carol Downer but Carol and husband Arthur won the mixed. Linda Holmes emulated Stephen Yallop by winning both junior events, while Gordon Noble and Derek Shipley were champions in the handicap and veterans' events respectively.

In the County league Derby 1st are champions once again, with main rivals Chesterfield 1st, being runners-up. Burton 2nd, barring a miracle, are all set to take the second division title, while in the junior section Burton once again appear to be favourites, although a number of matches are still outstanding. Derby juniors could finish as runners-up and this would be a fantastic achievement, bearing in mind that players playing in the Midland League are ineligible for this competition and Derby have 3 junior teams in the Midland League. Derby's future senior status looks well assured.

Congratulations to the Chesterfield Rose Bowl trio of Sandra Walters, Mandy Mellor and Jackie Billington, in reaching the quarter-final. The last hurdle was a tremendous performance in beating Leicester 5-4 with both Mandy and Sandra getting victories over Anita Stevenson. For the losers Karen Rodgers was in tremendous form and remained undefeated. Her set against Mandy Mellor was undoubtedly the highlight of the evening. Chesterfield now have to travel to Cheshire to battle for a semi-final place.

With both Sheepbridge "A" and Conservative Club "A" still figuring in the National club competitions, it has been quite a month for players from the north of the county. However, Derby players could do quite well in the Chesterfield Closed, due in a few weeks time. Quite a number are qualified to enter, including Doug Fields, Ivor Warner and David Yallop, and the men's singles title could leave the town for the first time ever.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

In Norfolk's most important event of the season, the Fenland Open, held at the Corn Exchange, King's Lynn, seventy entry forms had to be returned because the tournament was over-subscribed.

Once again the Taylor brothers figured prominently. Trevor, England's No. 4, again won the Men's singles, beating Lincolnshire's Brian Hill. He also won the Men's Doubles with his brother, Peter, but lost the Mixed, with Belinda Chamberlain, to second seeds John Hilton and Shelagh Hession. Miss Hession, the Essex player and top seed, lost in the Women's final to Karen Rogers, of Leicestershire. The Junior Singles was won by Kevin Caldon, of Essex, who, in the Men's Singles, had a shock win over Peter Taylor in Round 2.

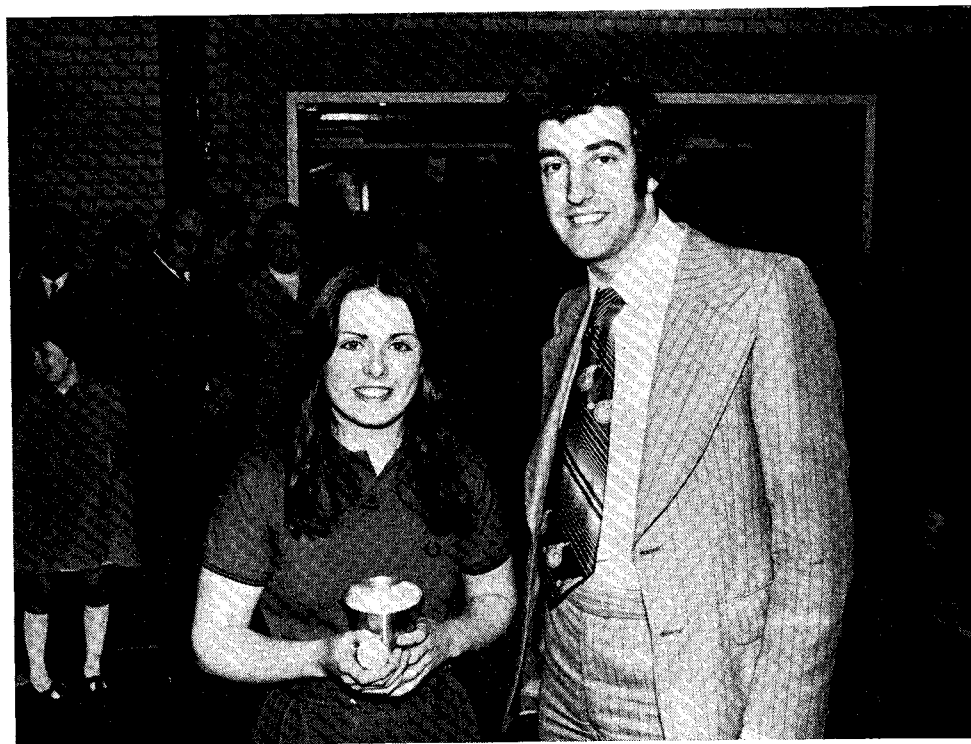
Norfolk Juniors, after four consecutive wins, could only draw with Northants in Norwich. But, if they can defeat Cambs II away in their final match, they will be Junior East champions in the County Championship, and have a chance to meet other regional winners for a place in the Junior Premier.

Dereham league tables show Costessey and Hippos "A" at the top of Division 1. Hippos "B" have a clear lead in Div. 2, with D. & F. "A" and Brisley "A" contending with Shipdham "B" for the second promotion place. The League held a successful Dinner recently, when the opportunity was taken to present two of their Honorary Life Members, Gerry Rix and Eric Fairhead, with pewter tankards. Norwich League have also held a Dance, so social functions still continue, although the Norfolk County Dinner has temporarily lapsed.

A sad event of the past month was the sudden death of Harold Betts, for 32 years, up to 1970, Hon. Secretary of Norwich League. A separate Obituary appears elsewhere in this magazine.

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS 1975

by "Penholder"



Janet Carr, of Highfields Comprehensive School, Wolverhampton, holds the "Stiga Trophy" for the "best performance." On the right is Stiga Marketing Executive, Martin Foulser.

Lea Green Centre, Matlock, Derbyshire, was the venue for the Ninth Annual School Team Championships—organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association—on Sunday, 16th March.

Teams from the North and South & East Regions shared the major honours. The London Borough of Newham boosted their amazing record of national titles to twenty with three more victories, but their bid for a record-breaking haul of four titles was foiled by Cheshire champions, Marple Hall School, who won the Boys' U-19 title.

Millom School, Cumbria, pulled off a great double in the other two boys events, whilst Highfields Comprehensive School, Wolverhampton, were the only winners from the Midlands & West Region.

For the first time since 1968 no school managed to retain any of the seven titles and there were some new faces amongst the finalists—who qualified from twelve county areas.

Play took place on fourteen Stiga tables (provided by sponsors Stiga AB through their agents, Mitre Sports) involving the usual seven events for teams of four players.

In each event the teams which had fought their way through via local and county area competitions involving 33 counties, 15 Area and 3 Regional qualifying competitions, played against the other two Regional winners in a group.

The championships were staged at the well-equipped and beautifully-situated Lea Green venue for the first time having been held at Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, for

the previous six years. Thanks are due to John Taylor and the Derbyshire Schools' T.T.A. Committee who worked hard with local preparations, and also to Peter Townend, Principal of the Centre, and his staff, for their splendid help.

E.S.T.T.A. Competitions Secretary, Eddie Mitchell, was the Organiser, sharing his onerous task with Worcester colleague Ian Crickmer, who was Referee. They were well supported by E.S.T.T.A. Officers and Executive Council members who ensured that the programme of events ran very smoothly.

Charles Wyles, O.B.E. (Chairman), Roy Taylor (General Secretary), and Mike Lawless (Develop. Officer) were most welcome guests from the Senior Body, whilst there was also Authority Officials. There was a most generous response from the Authority, who provided the facilities without charge.

Yorkshire and England cricketer, Geoff Boycott, chatted to the players and officials during the afternoon and showed a keen interest in the play.

This season's competitions involved a record total of 204 teams which the newly-constituted county areas provided for the national stages of the popular team events now firmly established in the table tennis calendar.

RESULTS

Boys' Under-19

1st: Marple Hall, Marple, (Cheshire).

(John Evans, John Almond, Martin Whyatt, Michael Ibison).

2nd: Cumberland Comprehensive School, Newham (Essex Metropolitan).

(Devinder Sehmbi, Trevor Marsh, James Taylor, Anthony Forster).

3rd: Brandwood Secondary School, Birmingham (West Midlands).

(Paul Allen, Mark Tedder, Michael Horne, Clive Wainwright).

Marple Hall 5, Brandwood 3

Brandwood 4, Cumberland 4

Cumberland 3, Marple Hall 5

Cheshire's first-ever National Finalists gained a narrow victory over Brandwood but then the Midland team held Cumberland to a draw, and the Northern lads needed only a draw for the title in the third encounter.

John Evans took England Group "A" Junior, Devinder Sehmbi, to 23-25 in the decider and



E.S.T.T.A. President, Gerald Gurney, M.A., presents his trophy for the "best performance" to Trevor Marsh, of Cumberland Comprehensive School, Newham, Essex Metropolitan.

John Almond was undefeated in both matches.

A doubles set was necessary to decide second and third places and this was won by the London pair of Sehmbi and Marsh in the third game.

E.T.T.A. General Secretary, Roy Taylor, presented the Norman Cook Cup and individual plaques.

Girls' Under-19

1st: Highfields Comprehensive School, Wolverhampton (West Midlands).

(Janet Carr, Heather Johnson, Rosamund Hodgkiss, Stephanie Jones).

2nd: Convent of Mercy High School, Liverpool (Merseyside).

(Marie Gaul, Jean Monaghan, Linda Myhan, Christine Daybell).

3rd: St. Michael's R.C. Convent Grammar School, Finchley (Middlesex).

(Barbara Devine, Sally Oates, Debbie Burnall, Deirdre Devine).

St. Michael's 3, Convent of Mercy 5

Highfields 7, St. Michael's 1

Convent of Mercy 0, Highfields 8

Highfields proved far too strong in each match and dropped only three games.

Staffordshire Ladies No. 2, Janet Carr, led the side well to notch that county's first-ever national title after several unsuccessful attempts—although they now qualify via the new West Midlands Schools' T.T.A.

The Claude Kitchenside Cup was presented by Councillor G. C. Coleman, Chairman of Derbyshire County Council.

Boys' Under-16

1st: Millom School, Millom (Cumbria).

(Christopher Reed, Ian Fender, Neil Smith, Ian Harrison).

2nd: Woodlands Comprehensive School, Coventry (West Midlands).

(Christopher Hughes, Gerald Taylor, David Ward, David Abbey).

3rd: Chiswick Comprehensive School, Chiswick (Middlesex).

(Howard Carter, Jonathon Weinglass, Kevin Tween, Christopher Sanders).

Chiswick 4, Woodlands 4

Millom 6, Chiswick 2

Woodlands 2, Millom 6

The Cumbrians—runners-up in four different events in previous finals—owed their success to unbeaten players Christopher Reed and Ian Harrison.

As Woodlands and Chiswick both lost 2-6 to the Millom boys a deciding doubles was played with the Coventry duo of Taylor and Ward gaining a sound victory to edge their team into second place.

Yorkshire and England cricketer, Geoff Boycott presented the Leach-Carrington Cup and the individual plaques.

Girls' Under-16

1st: Cumberland Comprehensive School, Newham (Essex Metropolitan).

(Sandra Sutton, Penny Abbott, Lyn Chamberlain, Lesley Morris).

2nd: Sarah Metcalfe School, Eston (Cleveland).

(Norma Carne, June Williams, Janice Trattles, Barbara Hutchins).

3rd: Kenilworth Grammar School, Kenilworth (Warwickshire).

(Sandra Kelly, Christine Vines, Jane Loudon, Susan Tilling).

Sarah Metcalfe 6, Kenilworth 2

Kenilworth 3, Cumberland 5

Cumberland 5, Sarah Metcalfe 3

The Sarah Metcalfe team—who battled through heavy blizzards during their early morning journey—got off to a good start with a 6-2 victory over Kenilworth. Then the Warwickshire girls did well to hold Cumberland to a 5-3 victory.

Alan Ransome's, Northern Region winners, thus required only a draw for victory but the Newham quartet, led by England-ranked Junior, Sandra Sutton, romped into a 4-1 lead

and recaptured the Mick Betts Cup—for the third time—after a two-year lapse.

The trophy was presented by Mr. B. Gill, Marketing Director of Mitre Sports.

Boys' Under-13

1st: Millom School, Millom (Cumbria).

(Ian Reed, Michael Carr, Diccon Gray, Andrew Pachul).

2nd: Etheridge School, Bilston (West Midlands).

(Andrew Bellingham, David Thomas, Gary Phillips, Pratash Patel).

3rd: Queen's Boys' School, Wisbech (Cambridgeshire).

(Stuart Calvert, David Jarvis, Philip Ward, Darryl Shailes, Martin Holmes).

Etheridge 7, Queen's 1

Queen's 1, Millom 7

Etheridge 2, Millom 6

Both Millom and Etheridge were too strong for Queen's, making a first-ever finals appearance for Cambridgeshire. Even the substitution of a fifth player against Millom failed to stem the tide.

The northern lads completed the second half of a great double in beating Etheridge 6-2 with maximum wins from Gray, Pachul and Reed and thus kept the trophy in the Northern Region.

Mr. Charles M. Wyles, O.B.E., presented the T. Austin Harrison Cup, donated by a former E.T.T.A. President.

Girls' Under-13

1st: Brampton Manor Comprehensive School, Newham (Essex Metropolitan).

(Maxine Abbott, Janice Collings, Jeanette Watts, Karen Turner).

2nd: St. Richard's R.C. Junior High School, Hull (Humberside).

(Angela Hudson, Angela Lutkin, Tracey Gallagher, Julie Hazel).

3rd: Highfields Comprehensive School, Wolverhampton (West Midlands).

(Rachel Potter, Shirley Caine, Kathryn Hayhurst, Elizabeth McCarthy).

Highfields 2, St. Richard's 6

Brampton Manor 6, Highfields 2

St. Richard's 4, Brampton Manor 4

This event—for the Hartsill Cup, presented by Mr. G. W. Phillips, Director of Education for Derbyshire—proved to be the most closely contested.

In the last match the Newham team pulled back from 3-4 down to level matters and take the match into a deciding doubles set. Maxine Abbott—unbeaten in her four singles sets—and Jeanette Watts, won in straight games against Angela Hudson—also unbeaten in the singles—and Angela Lutkin.

This narrow victory meant that Newham get their name on this trophy for the first time and so complete the winning of all seven National titles.

Under-11

1st: Credon Junior School, Newham (Essex Metropolitan).

(Sultan Zuberi, Stephen Edwards, Terrance Pascal, Stephen Maguire).

2nd: Boulevard Junior High School, Hull (Humberside).

(Sean Madden, Ian Radmore, Arthur Holden, George Allon).

3rd: Windlesham House School, Pulborough (West Sussex).

(Angus Cameron, Richard Crainford, Stephen Priestley, Peter Hawkins).

Windlesham House 0, Boulevard 8

Credon Junior 7, Windlesham House 1

Boulevard 3, Credon Junior 5

Credon—another new name—just had the edge over 1972 winners, Boulevard. Sultan Zuberi and Terrance Pascal were unbeaten for the East End boys.

Windlesham House—first-ever Sussex finalists—went closer than the score suggests against the Hull youngsters, with five sets going to a decider.

The Irene Elliott Cup, named after a former Derbyshire resident, was presented by Councillor Mrs. J. Platts, Chairman of Derbyshire Education Committee.

"BEST PERFORMANCE" AWARDS

Trevor Marsh, of Cumberland Comprehensive School, Newham, received the President's Trophy from Gerald Gurney, as the boy who gave the "best performance," based not only on success in play, but on sportsmanship, turnout, and the recommendation of informed observers.

Trevor's special achievement of six successive victors' plaques—a feat in all probability unequalled in any other school sport—made him an obvious candidate for the Trophy. But Trevor was denied a seventh plaque in this year's Finals and he will be unable to add to



Boys' U-19 winners and first-ever finalists for Cheshire, Marple Hall School, who received the Norman Cook Cup from E.T.T.A. General Secretary, Roy Taylor.



Girls' U-13 winners, Brampton Manor Comprehensive School, Newham. Looking on is Derbyshire Director of Education, Mr. C. W. Phillips, who presented the Hartshill Cup.

his collection, as this will be his last year at school.

The ever-cheerful Janet Carr, from Highfields Comprehensive School, Wolverhampton, was the winner of the new "Stiga Trophy" presented by Stiga Executive, Martin Foulser. Over the past few years she has led the Highfields team in attempts to qualify for the Finals but this season saw their first Finals appearance culminating in victory in the Senior Girls' event.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Official News

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, 10th May, at 5:00 p.m.

Individual Championships

The second Stiga English Schools' Individual Championships will be held at Northwood Sports Centre, Cromer Road, Stoke-on-Trent, on Sunday, 11th May, at 10 a.m. The first of the eight finals should commence at 5:20 p.m.

Each County Schools' Association is entitled to enter one player in each of the eight events and is due to return details of its representative to the Honorary Competitions Secretary on or before April 14th.

Eddie Mitchell reports that preliminary indications are that the number of players participating will be an increase on last season.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES—

England v Scotland

The first-ever Stiga Schools' International Championships will be held at Eston, on 5-6 July, 1975. The team events for boys and girls at Senior (Under-19), Intermediate (Under-16) and Junior (Under-13) level, involving teams of six (all play all), will take place on the Saturday.

The individual events—on the Sunday—will involve nine players from England and seven from Scotland, and the events will be as for the team events.

Cleveland County Council will generously assist in the Championships by providing accommodation.

The selection policy will be to select players from the finalists of the Stiga Individual Championships at Stoke (four players in each

event) plus five others—probably from those schools involved in English Schools' T.T.A. activities.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Bob Bridges

CONSOLATION

After the failure of Hertfordshire's first senior team to clinch Division 2 East (reported in various places last month), some consolation has been gained by the second team's fine performance in the Eastern Division; Herts II ended the season with a 100% record and the championship, clinching it with an 8-2 win over Norfolk II at CEYMS, Norwich, on March 8th.

For the record, Simon Proffitt and Geoff

Giles, ever-presents among the men, both finished with 80%, and Linda Towler, playing in the five women's singles, finished with a creditable 60%.

On the junior scene, Herts top juniors smashed Hampshire II 9-1, hoping for the opening to let them into the play-offs. Middlesex II crunched Herts II by the same score at Letchworth.

The Herts Association had been without a representative on the No. 2 Coaching Panel for some time, so Derrick Harris was approached with a view to carrying out some admin. work on the coaching scene. With a very professional approach, Derrick is really going to stir things into action, at the same time as he himself performs coaching in such diverse areas as Cheshunt and St. Neots (and he lives at Luton!). Derrick's short-term ambition is to have fifty coaches working throughout the county at schools, youth clubs, sports centres, etc.

Who's in line for the Inter-League Championship? In Division One, North Herts, St. Albans, Cheshunt and Watford are all still contenders, all taking points from each other, and Cheshunt II spoiling it for North Herts when they sneaked home 6-4 Division II isn't quite so complicated, as its only between Welwyn Garden City/Hatfield and St. Albans II. North Herts have more or less assured themselves of the Junior Championship.

Gratifying to see some improvement in communication this season between leagues and their members/county association. Cheshunt League have for some time been publishing their own magazine, but now Hertford and Bishops Stortford Leagues are issuing monthly Newsletters. Hertford's Newsletter, quite large for a league of 30 teams, consisting of some 8 or 9 pages, is published entirely by Secretary John Stroulger, and Stortford's Newsletter enlists the help of members doing the duplication, the three published to date duplicated by different members, the last, a pleasing publication in litho, always preferred to "ordinary" duplicating.

Cover Picture

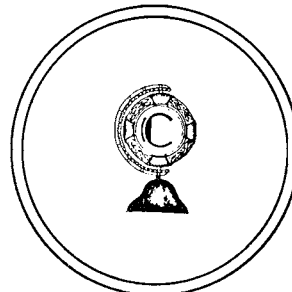
E.S.T.T.A. Boys' Under-16 team winners, Millom School, with Yorkshire and England cricketer, Geoff Boycott, who presented the Cumbrians with the Leach-Carrington Cup.

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OPEN TOURNAMENT SURVEY

Contributed by R. B. Hudson, A. E. Ransome, R. Partridge,
G. R. Yates, J. R. Moorhouse and Joan Robinson

Cheshire's Nigel Eckersley was the M.S. winner in the **South Yorkshire 1-Star Open**, played at Sheffield on Feb. 8, his final victim being Paul Randell, of Leics, whose Karen Rogers gained revenge in beating Melody Ludi in the W.S. final.

Eckersley was again a winner in the men's doubles when partnered by Phil Bowen, whilst Miss Rogers also claimed a second title in the W.D. with Mandy Mellor.

Denis Neale did not lose a single game in winning the M.S. title at Rothwell, Leeds, in the **Yorkshire 2-Star Open**, played on Feb. 22. For the second time running Susan Lisle reached three finals, but unlike last season, when she won three titles, had to be content on this occasion, with one—the W.S. at the expense of Karen Rogers.

Miss Rogers made up by winning the W.D. with Mandy Mellor, and the mixed with Randell.

It was disturbing to have the country's top four boys, Day, Barden, Mitchell and Sewell, missing from the **West Midlands Junior Select** over the weekend of Feb. 22-23. But the tournament, generally, was not good, with several players suffering from the after-effects of the Lilleshall Training Camp, which had only finished the day before.

In the U-17 B.S., Martin Shuttle again proved his worth by beating Les Eadie and Doug Johnson before losing, in the final, to Bob Potton. Trevor Burrows also played well in beating Nigel Hallows and Maxwell Crimmins.

Melody Ludi excelled in winning the G.S. title, closely, from Angela Mitchell. Julie Reading had a good win over Sandra Sutton, as did Jill Wilson, of Somerset, in beating Karen Witt, whilst Angela Tierney notched up a win over Suzanne Hunt in a somewhat scrappy quarter-final tie.

Best performance in the U-14 B.S. came from Colin Wilson, who beat three ranked players in I. Plummer, A. Stonnell and A. Bottomley, before losing to Adam Proffitt. James, of Middlesex, did not play but Kevin Beadsley appears to be leading the field in this category.

In the U-14 G.S., Jo Douglas did well to beat Linda Hrysko and Mandy Smith. Karen Witt had her chance in the final when she led Angela Tierney 9-4 in the deciding game.

The **Basingstoke/South of England Open** was held over the weekend of Mar. 1-2, with the junior events being held on the 1st. There were over 40 entries for the boys' singles but a poor entry for the girls—just 16. The boys' final was an entertaining one with Andrew Barden beating Paul Day -18, 18, 18. The girls' final was also well contested with Melody Ludi beating Caroline Reeves 15, 20.

The senior events, held on the following day, proved hectic for the organisers, with over 160 entries for the M.S., 40 W.S., 80 M.D. and 50 X.D. The day's play began at 9 a.m., and thanks to good administration, the finals started at 7 p.m.

As was the case last season, the main spoils went to Denis Neale who, in the M.S. final, accounted for Desmond Douglas but without endearing himself to the spectators in the process. In the M.D. Neale and Douglas beat the junior tandem of Barden and Day, whilst in the X.D. Neale and Karenza Mathews got the better of Douglas and Linda Howard in a repeat of last year's final.

Once again Jill Hammersley won the W.S. final, proving far too good for Linda Howard and beating her far easier than last year. The W.D. title changed hands with Jill and Linda

beating Karenza and Carole Knight.

Miss Elizabeth Barker, the tournament secretary, was awarded the Lansing Bagnall Trophy for her work in connection with the tournament.

As many as 70 entries had to be turned back for the **Fenland 2-Star Open**, played at Kings Lynn on Mar. 9.

Trevor Taylor again took the lion's share of the £221 prize fund, convincingly beating Brian Hill in the M.S. final. The latter played well to beat Kevin Caldon, who had earlier ousted Peter Taylor (-18, 13, 20), and then Nigel Eckersley in the semis.

Karen Rogers confirmed her recent promotion in the national ranking list by beating No. 2 seed Sue Henderson, in the semis, and top-seeded Shelagh Hession in the final. In fact Karen did not drop a game in this event.

As expected, the Taylors romped home in the M.D. where the scratch pair of Ian Collins and Chris Pickard caused the only surprise in beating John Hilton and Peter D'Arcy.

The boys' singles provided some very spectacular encounters, and not a few surprises, with top-seeded Chris Rogers losing in the semis to Keith Richardson, who then lost in a quick-hitting final to Caldon.

The average players seemed to appreciate the group system for the early rounds, although it contributed to some delay in the schedule. But our thanks to Stan Ford for his patient efforts.

Up in Bolton, on the same date, Nigel Hallows retained his U-17 B.S. title in the **Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open**, the beaten finalists again being Steve Souter who, on this occasion, went out like a lamb.

Jill Purslow took the U-17 G.S. title from Jane Skipp, but in the U-14 event she went under to Linda Hrysko. The same thing happened in the G.D. events, with Miss Purslow and Alison Gordon most comfortable winners over Miss Hrysko and Cathryn Howarth in the U-14 event, yet losing to the self-same pair in the higher age category.

Young Beadsley had matters all his own way in the U-14 B.S., in which Bryn Tyler was the beaten finalist. In the U-17 B.D., Hallows and Smith got the better of Beadsley and Joe Naser, in the semis, before beating Andrew Clarke and Keith Paxton.

In the **East of England 2-Star**, played at Scunthorpe on Mar. 16, Susan Lisle was in splendid form to win all three titles. In the W.S. she beat Karen Rogers, the pair subsequently combining to win the W.D., and title No. 3 came in the mixed when Susan had Roger Hampson as her partner.

The surprise in this latter event was the elimination in Round 3 of Mike Johns and Susan Hunt by Mike Harrison and Miss A. Kennedy who, after winning the first game 21-18, fell away to lose the second -8, only to come back and edge home in the decider 25-23.

Harrison had a further success in the B.S. After knocking out top seed Hallows, in the semis, he went on to take the title, beating Robert Wiley in the most exciting final of the day.

The G.S. was not as expected, between the country's Nos. 1 and 2, for Julie McLean changed all that by comprehensively thrashing top-seeded Melody Ludi in the semis, and then getting the better of Suzanne Hunt in the final.

Cheshire players dominated the M.S. with Mike Johns retaining his title over John Hilton who had disposed of Nigel Eckersley. K. Guy,

of Halifax, provided the only surprise in beating "King of the Vets," Peter D'Arcy (17, 18) in Round 1 and reaching the quarters. The M.D. title was taken for the third year running by the Johns brothers.

South Yorkshire 1-Star

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt R. Shutt (Yorks) 12, 16.
P. Randell (Leics) bt P. McQueen (Durham) 11, 18.
Final
ECKERSLEY bt Randell 16, -17, 14.
Women's Singles—Semi-finals
K. Rogers (Leics) bt C. Grayson (Yorks) 10, 9.
M. Ludi (Yorks) bt S. Broadbent (Yorks) 18, 19.
Final
ROGERS bt Ludi 15, -19, 13.
Men's Doubles—Final
P. BOWEN (Lancs)/ECKERSLEY bt C. Rogers (Leics)/Randell -16, 15, 8.
Women's Doubles—Final
M. MELLOR (Derbys)/ROGERS bt Broadbent/J. Walker (Yorks) 21, 17.
Mixed Doubles—Final
R. BROTHWELL (Yorks)/WALKER bt M. Billington/J. Billington 16, 13.
Boys' Singles—Semi-finals
M. Harrison (Yorks) bt Rogers 15, 16.
R. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt S. Hazelwood (Yorks) 13, -19, 22.
Final
HARRISON bt R. Hazelwood 12, 17.
Girls' Singles—Semi-finals
Ludi bt L. Hrysko (Yorks) 9, 16.
J. McLean (Yorks) bt M. Bird 11, 16.
Final
LUDI bt McLean -18, 19, 20.

Yorkshire 2-Star

Scores not to hand

M.S.: D. NEALE (Cleve) bt P. Bowen (Lancs).
W.S.: S. LISLE (Ches) bt K. Rogers (Leics).
M.D.: A. FLETCHER (Yorks)/NEALE bt R. Hampson/B. Kean (Ches).
W.D.: M. MELLOR (Derbys)/ROGERS bt B. Kearney (Nthld)/Lisle.
X.D.: P. RANDELL (Leics)/ROGERS bt Hampson/Lisle.
V.S.: D. SCHOFIELD (Ches) bt A. Hartshorn (Lancs).

West Midland Junior 'Select'

Under-17 Events
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals.
D. Johnson (Warwks) bt D. Iszatt (Essex) -14, 15, 16.
M. Shuttle (Surrey) bt L. Eadie (Essex) -22, 20, 19.
M. Crimmins (Surrey) bt D. Sehmbi (Essex) 16, 17.
R. Potton (Essex) bt C. Rogers (Leics) 12, -18, 16.
Semi-finals
Shuttle bt Johnson -17, 19, 14.
Potton bt Crimmins 14, 19.
Final
POTTON bt Shuttle 12, 20.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
M. Ludi (Yorks) bt J. Reading (Hants) 15, -11, 6.
C. Reeves (Berks) bt J. New (Dorset) 18, 12.
A. Mitchell (Midxx) bt B. Green (Warwks) 13, -20, 10.
A. Tierney (Midxx) bt S. Hunt (Lincs) 10, -18, 21.
Semi-finals
Ludi bt Reeves 13, 17.
Mitchell bt Tierney -19, 16, 17.
Final
LUDI bt Mitchell 22, 19.
Boys' Doubles—Final
K. BEADSLY/J. NASER (Yorks) bt Rogers/Shuttle 9, 17.
Girls' Doubles—Final
MITCHELL/SUTTON (Essex) bt Hunt/K. Witt (Berks) 19, 19.
Mixed Doubles—Final
POTTON/MITCHELL bt Iszatt/Sutton 21, -21, 18.
Under-14 Events
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
C. Wilson (Hants) bt A. Stonnell (Essex) -13, 16, 21.
A. Proffitt (Herts) bt D. Bennett (Nflk) 16, 20.
Beadsley bt Naser -20, 17, 13.
B. Tyler (Midxx) bt D. Ward (Warwks) 19, 16.
Semi-finals
Proffitt bt Wilson -12, 12, 8.
Beadsley bt Tyler 14, 9.
Final
BEADSLY bt Proffitt 3, 19.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
Tierney bt J. Purslow (Berks) 17, 16.
A. Gordon (Berks) bt H. Robinson (Cleve) 16, 16.
J. Douglas (Berks) bt M. Smith (Berks) 17, -10, 12.
Witt bt J. Hemming (Warwks) 8, 12.
Semi-finals
Tierney bt Gordon 16, 20.
Witt bt Douglas 10, 8.
Final
TIERNEY bt Witt 13, -15, 16.
Boys' Doubles—Final
BEADSLY/NASER bt S. Harmer (Beds)/Proffitt 16, 21.
Girls' Doubles—Final
GORDON/PURSLOW bt Robinson/Tierney -7, 15, 16.

Basingstoke/South of England 3-Star

Final Scores
M.S.: D. NEALE (Cleve) bt D. Douglas (Warwks) 16, -18, 11.
W.S.: J. HAMMERSLEY (Bucks) bt L. Howard (Surrey) 7, 15.
M.D.: DOUGLAS/NEALE bt A. Barden (Midxx)/P. Day (Cams) 15, 15.
W.D.: HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt K. Mathews (Midxx)/C. Knight (Cleve) 13, 18.
X.D.: NEALE/MATHEWS bt Douglas/Howard 13, -7, 12.

Fenland 2-Star

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
T. Taylor (Beds) bt C. Pickard (Herts) 14, 15.
J. Hilton (Ches) bt R. Mitcham (Nflk) 12, 18.
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt P. D'Arcy (Ches) 17, 20.
B. Hill (Lincs) bt K. Caldon (Essex) -14, 13, 9.

SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS CHATTER

by Leslie Constable

STILL IN COMMAND

Ely are again champions of the Men's Section and among their recent victories was a 10-0 win against former champions Cambridge! This season has seen the rise of Dunstable, who have challenged Ely closely and maybe we shall see them as champions in the none too distant future. It has again been a disappointing season for Cambridge, who cannot seem to produce a team that will compare with the tops in this division.

In their first season in the League, Daventry have found the going very hard and have not, so far, won a match, although they are only three points behind Peterborough. In the Junior section, North Herts are at the top by a wide margin and I do not think that Ely can catch them despite having matches in hand.

North Herts also top the Women's section and here, again, Dunstable are challenging. Last season's champions, Cambridge, have faltered and will almost certainly finish third. Wisbech and Ely are having it tough, both being pointless.

It now seems that Northampton may pip Cambridge in the Veterans' section, although it may be the last matches will decide. New-comers R.A.F., have done well.

In the Reserve and Veterans' Division Tournament at St. Ives, there were ninety entries in the various events. In the Men's Reserve Singles final A. Smith (Hunts Central) beat J. Horne (Northampton) -15, 12, 15. In the Women's Reserve Singles Miss L. Booth (North Herts) beat Mrs. M. Maltby (Northampton) 16, 15, and in the Junior Reserve Singles Miss S. Harper (North Herts) beat Miss N. Chaplin (Daventry) 16, 16. In the Veterans' Singles final John Thurston (Cambridge) beat George Tsow (Northampton) -15, 13, 14, and in the Veterans' Doubles final S. Roberts and G. Cockram (St. Neots) beat C. Bull and Tsow (Northampton) -24, 8 and 8.

Other successes in the tournament were: Men's Reserve Doubles: R. Gallo/J. Horne (Northampton); Women's Reserve Doubles: S. Harper/L. Booth (North Herts); Junior Reserve Doubles: N. Chaplin/N. Douglas (Daventry); Reserve Mixed Doubles: M. Edwards/Mrs. M. Maltby (Northampton).

SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE

(Leading positions as at 10th March, 1975)

Men	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ely	9	9	0	0	81
Bedford	13	8	2	3	79
Bletchley	12	9	2	1	78
Wellingborough	13	7	2	4	72
Dunstable	8	7	1	0	65

Women	P	W	D	L	Pts
North Herts	7	6	1	0	55
Cambridge	5	4	0	1	38
Dunstable	4	3	1	0	30
Northampton	6	2	2	2	28
Wellingborough	5	2	1	2	27

Juniors	P	W	D	L	Pts
North Herts	8	8	0	0	71
Bedford	9	5	1	3	56
Wellingborough	9	5	1	3	55
Hunts Central	8	6	0	2	54
Dunstable	8	3	1	4	39

Veterans	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cambridge	9	9	0	0	72
Northampton	8	7	0	1	68
R.A.F.	10	5	2	3	57
Kettering	7	5	1	1	46
Bedford	9	4	0	5	46
North Herts	7	4	1	2	43

Reserves	P	W	D	L	Pts
North Herts	7	6	0	1	53
Daventry	7	4	1	2	45
Northampton	6	4	1	1	43

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Ludi/J. McLean (Yorks) bt B. Kearney (Nthld)/G. Stocks (Yorks) 19, 10.
Lisle/Rogers bt Broadbent/L. Hrysko (Yorks) 12, 17.
Final
LISLE/ROGERS bt Ludi-McLean 20, -20, 10.
Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
R. Hampson (Ches)/Lisle bt Eckersley/B. Voss (Lincs) 20, 21.
Hill/C. Moran (Lincs) bt N. Marples/A. Marples (Derbys) 17, -22, 12.
HAMPSON/LISLE bt Hill/Moran 16, 13.
Final
Boys' Singles—Semi-finals
R. Wilely (Cleve) bt I. Collins (Kent) 22, 18.
M. Harrison (Yorks) bt Hallows 19, 13.
Final
HARRISON bt Wilely 10, -19, 20.
Girls' Singles—Semi-finals
McLean bt Ludi 15, 7.
S. Hunt (Lincs) bt K. Groves (Warwks) 14, 10.
Final
MCLEAN bt Hunt -20, 19, 14.
Veterans' Singles—Semi-finals
M. Shearer (Lincs) bt B. Edlington (Lincs) 11, 5.
D'Arcy bt J. Radley (Lincs) 10, 15.
Final
D'ARCY bt Shearer 19, 15.

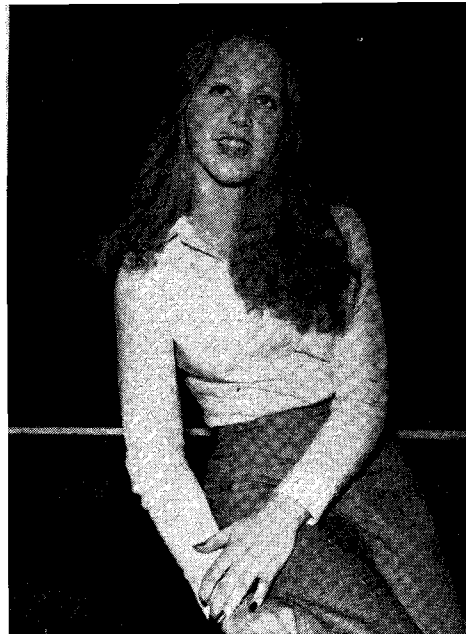
Semi-finals
Taylor bt Hilton -14, 12, 13.
Hill bt Eckersley -11, 17, 19.
Final
TAYLOR bt Hill 9, 6.
Women's Singles—Semi-finals
S. Hession Essex bt L. Barrow (Essex) 19, 12.
K. Rogers (Leics) bt S. Henderson (Surrey) 13, 20.
Final
ROGERS bt Hession 19, 15.
Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
P. Taylor (Beds)/T. Taylor bt M. Musson (Nflk)/R. Thornton (Berks) 16, 13.
Eckersley/M. Harper (Cams) bt I. Collins (Kent)/Pickard 13, 16.
Final
TAYLOR/TAYLOR bt Eckersley/Harper 13, 17.
Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
Barrow/M. Walker (Middx) bt Henderson/Hession -12, 16, 15.
C. Reeves/K. Witt (Berks) bt J. Campion (Middx)/Rogers 15, 12.
Final
REEVES/WITT bt Barrow/Walker 17, -11, 20.
Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
T. Taylor/B. Chamberlain (Hunts) bt C. Rogers (Leics)/Rogers 17, 10.
Hilton/Hession bt Eckersley/C. Downer (Derbys) 13, 11.
Final
HILTON/HESSION bt Taylor/Chamberlain 13, 7.
Boys' Singles—Semi-finals
K. Richardson (Cams) bt Robers 16, 18.
Caldon bt D. Bennett (Nflk) 20, 10.
Final
CALDON bt Richardson -19, 13, 19.
Girls' Singles—Semi-finals
Reeves bt Chamberlain 6, 19.
M. Sangster (Middx) bt Witt 17, 17.
Final
REEVES bt Sangster 13, 12.

Lancashire Junior 2-Star

Under-17 Events
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
N. Hallows (Lancs) bt R. Baxter (Yorks) 19, 12.
K. Paxton (Durham) bt A. Clark (Nthld) 15, -26, 19.
I. Smith (Lancs) bt S. Turner (Lancs) 17, 16.
S. Souter (Cleve) bt G. Hoy (Lancs) 14, 14.
Semi-finals
Hallows bt Paxton 11, -9, 16.
Souter bt Smith 20, 14.
Final
HALLOWS bt Souter 15, 13.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
L. Hrysko (Yorks) bt C. Bladon (Lancs) 14, 11.
J. Purslow (Berks) bt M. Smith (Berks) 18, -21, 15.
J. Skipp (Cleve) bt A. Hepple (Ches) 14, 11.
A. Gordon (Berks) bt N. Carne (Cleve) 14, 17.
Semi-finals
Purslow bt Hrysko 11, 18.
Skipp bt Gordon 14, 20.
Final
PURSLOW bt Skipp -14, 17, 15.
Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals
Hallows/Smith bt K. Beadsley/J. Naser (Yorks) 14, 18.
Clark/Paxton bt K. McParlland (Cleve)/Souter 9, -9, 5.
Final
HALLOWS/SMITH bt Clark/Paxton 15, 17.
Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals
Gordon/Purslow bt Skipp/J. Williams (Cleve) 17, -17, 22.
C. Howarth (Yorks)/Hrysko bt K. Cropper/J. Dixon 10, -18, 18.
Final
HOWARTH/HRYSKO bt Gordon/Purslow 18, -12, 19.
Under-14 Events
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals
Beadsley bt I. Reed (Cumb) 15, 16.
Naser bt T. Gatley (Ches) 12, 16.
B. Tyler (Middx) bt A. O'Connor (Lancs) 11, 12.
S. Yallop (Derbys) bt S. Harmer (Beds) 16, 14.
Semi-finals
Beadsley bt Naser 15, 16.
Tyler bt Yallop 16, 13.
Final
BEADSLEY bt Tyler 7, 17.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals
Gordon bt S. Dickerson (Warwks) 12, 19.
Hrysko bt C. Ruane (Yorks) 9, 8.
Purslow bt Howarth -22, 11, 19.
Smith bt L. Holmes (Derbys) 18, 18.
Semi-finals
Hrysko bt Gordon -20, 9, 13.
Purslow bt Smith 14, 11.
Final
HRYSKO bt Purslow 19, 18.
Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals
Beadsley/Naser bt Harmer/B. Johnson (Berks) 19, 17.
G. Sandley (Middx)/Tyler bt N. Harris/F. Hill (Yorks) -13, 14, 19.
Final
BEADSLEY/NASER bt Sandley/Tyler 10, 17.
Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals
Gordon/Purslow bt Julie Dixon (Lancs)/Smith 9, 15.
Howarth/Hrysko bt Dickerson/S. Midgeley (Warwks) 11, 19.
Final
GORDON/PURSLOW bt Howarth/Hrysko 13, 6.

East of England 2-Star

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
J. Hilton (Ches) bt B. Johns (Ches) 19, 8.
N. Eckersley (Ches) bt P. Randall (Leics) 16, -20, 15.
B. Hill (Lincs) bt K. Guy (Yorks) -20, 11, 16.
M. Johns (Ches) bt A. Fletcher (Yorks) 16, 18.
Semi-finals
Hilton bt Eckersley -18, 13, 18.
Johns bt Hill 17, 16.
Final
JOHNS bt Hilton 17, 19.
Women's Singles—Semi-finals
S. Lisle (Ches) bt S. Broadbent (Yorks) 5, 15.
K. Rogers (Leics) bt M. Ludi (Yorks) 17, -20, 8.
Final
LISLE bt Rogers 20, -15, 14.
Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
Johns/Johns bt N. Hallows/I. Smith (Lancs) 9, 13.
Fletcher/P. Glynn (Warwks) bt P. D'Arcy (Ches)/Hilton 17, -16, 15.
Final
JOHNS/JOHNS bt Fletcher/Glynn 15, 19.



GLAMOUR GIRL

The Essex T.T.A. magazine "Scimitar" continues to progress and their "Lovely Ladies" feature is proving popular. As Essex like to share all good things they feel that readers of "T.T. News" might like to share in their good fortune, so for your delight, a peep of Julie Kelly, aged 17, from Upton Park, pictured at a recent County match. Julie plays regularly in the Romford League.

FIFTH TITLE FOR NEALE

After a gap of four years Denis Neale again succeeded in winning the men's singles title in the Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace, on April 5, beating Nicky Jarvis, to equal the record of Chester Barnes in winning the title five times, Jill Hammersley, with a final victory over Carole Knight, gained her third successive win in the women's singles, to equal a feat previously performed by Di Rowe and Mary Wright.

Most popular win was that obtained by Paul Day and Andrew Barden, who accounted for Jarvis and Jimmy Walker to take the men's doubles title. Victory in the women's doubles went to Miss Knight and Karenza Mathews, whose final victims were Mrs. Hammersley and Linda Howard. Jarvis and Jill Hammersley won the mixed over surprise finalists Day and Melody Ludi.

A full report (by John Woodford) will appear in the May issue, as will a tribute to Karenza Mathews, who announced her impending retirement immediately prior to the championships.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Peter Charters

ALL THE CHAMPIONS

All "Closed" Championships now having been completed, the roll of honour is as follows:—

Berkshire Closed

M.S.: Paul Trott.
W.S.: Caroline Reeves.
U-21: Gary Harding Memorial Trophy: Garry Roberts.
B.S.: David Reeves.
G.S.: Karen Witt.
Cadet B.S.: Bryon Johnson.
Cadet G.S.: Jo Douglas.
V.S.: Bert Foster.

Reading Closed

M.S.: Paul Trott.
W.S.: Karen Witt.
B.S.: Andrew Wellman.
G.S.: Alison Gordon.
V.S.: Ray Harrison.

Bracknell Closed

M.S.: Simon Douglas.
W.S.: Jill Purslow.
B.S.: Clive Mann.
G.S.: Rosamund Crabtree.
V.S.: Derek Crombie.

Newbury Closed

M.S.: Simon Heaps.
W.S.: Caroline Reeves.
B.S.: Alan Hicks.
G.S.: Mandy Smith.
V.S.: Geoff Dunks.

Maidenhead Closed

M.S.: Brian Sweetzer.
W.S.: Mary Stafford.
B.S.: Robin Halliday.
G.S.: Denise Henry.
V.S.: Arthur Duffield.

Didcot Closed

M.S.: Garry Roberts.
W.S.: Desa Wingent.
B.S.: Garry Roberts.
V.S.: Dave Wingent.

The future of Berkshire table tennis looks bright with four of the six men's singles titles going to juniors and the other two going to players under 21 years of age. Junior girls took more than half the six women's singles championships, Karen Witt and Jill Purslow still being Cadets.

GERMAN JUNIOR VISIT

Four boys and four girls from Berkshire were taken to Germany last month to attend a training camp as guests of the W.T.T.V., a regional association who at this time boast Germany's top junior boy and girl players.

Juniors Paul Trott, David Reeves, Simon Douglas, Andy Wellman, Caroline Reeves, Karen Witt, Janet Thorpe and Mandy Smith, with Peter Charters and Tony Reeves in charge, had an eventful mini bus ride to Munster. An unscheduled over-night stop in Antwerp due to vehicle failure, resulted in a late and tired arrival at the Sports Centre in Munster. From Monday to Thursday the Berkshire players were involved in a training camp organised by Herr Dieter Steffen, the W.T.T.V. junior captain, and Herr Bernie Vossebein, the W.T.T.V. trainer. A triangular match with Berkshire, W.T.T.V. and Munster was arranged in which the Berkshire teams were: Boys I—Paul Trott and David Reeves; Boys II: Andy Wellman and Simon Douglas; Girls I—Caroline Reeves and Karen Witt; Girls II—Janet Thorpe and Mandy Smith. Berkshire girls proved their strength with the first team beating Munster I 3-0, and W.T.T.V. 3-1. The girls' second team lost to W.T.T.V. I but beat Munster II 3-2. The boys had no team successes but both David and Paul had one win each out of their three singles sets played.

On the Friday the group travelled to Dillengen to take part in the German Junior Open over the weekend of Mar. 29-30. With the standard of the opposition being so high, any winning result in the first rounds was grate-

fully received. Again we looked mainly to our girls to get results as the standard of the male opposition was particularly good, and every one of the Berkshire boys was due to meet a seed if they succeeded in their first round matches. As it turned out, Karen Witt was the only English girl to win a round in the Girls' Singles when she beat Monika Stork, from Germany. Unlike the English Junior Open, all players have to be nominated by National Associations to play in the German equivalent, so all the German girls in the tournament were of high standard. Caroline found this out by falling in three games to another German girl who proved her ability in the next round by defeating the seed Reinert two straight. Karen went out to Luxembourg's most successful girl, Risch, who also went on to beat a seed and reach the quarter-finals.

David Reeves and Simon Douglas both won their first rounds against Swiss and Luxembourg opposition respectively. David then went out to the eventual Championship winner, Englebert Hugging, Dave losing the first 21-23. Simon was beaten -18, -17 by Tot-Horgosi, the Yugoslavian No. 1 boy. All other Berkshire players were ousted in their first round.

In the mixed, Simon Douglas and Janet Thorpe won their first round against the Swiss No. 2 pair, but although playing well, lost in the next round to a very good German combination. Easily Berkshire's most successful performance in the Championships was the effort by David Reeves and Karen Witt in the mixed. In the first round they beat a German-Belgian combination and then came up against the Italian second pair of Appollini and Corsini and recorded a fine win. But the best was yet to come, for in Round 3 they met the joint No. 1 seeds and German Mixed Doubles Champions, Wosik and Schmitz. Dave and Karen did the apparent impossible and ran out winners, 19 in the third. The Berkshire pairing went out in three games to another German pair at the quarter-final stage. To show the strength of the Germans in this event, two more German pairs fought out the final.

The tour ended with an overnight drive through France, leaving Dillengen shortly after the finals of the tournament.

As we have come to expect, the W.T.T.V., in the form of Dieter Steffen, his colleagues, and his players, were perfect hosts and we look forward to their return visit to Berkshire at Easter, '76.

Coaching Panel No. 2

In order that information can be collected covering coaching activities in the counties of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Middlesex and Essex, which form "Panel 2", would all coaches organising rallies or regular sessions please send details to their respective representatives as follows:—

Middlesex—D. Hope, 56 Queen Anne's Place, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2PT.

Beds. and Essex—R. Gore, 2 Vista Road, Wickford, Essex.

Herts.—D. Harris, 150 Carlton Crescent, Luton, Beds., LV3 1EW.

It is hoped that when all the information is collated this will be the first step to improving the coaching facilities in Panel 2.

THE GAME IS FOR THE PLAYERS

by JOHN CORSER

Table Tennis Correspondent of 'The Observer'

At the Norwich Union English Championships I was amazed to see umpires insisting that players served so that the ball could be seen from the umpire's chair. As an interpretation of the rules, this is an entirely new

departure. Until now all rules have been formed and interpreted in the interests of the players.

I believe that it is vital that all services are seen to be fair. However, other sports arrange matters so that no unnecessary constrictions are placed on the play. For example, an umpire in cricket (whether at the crease or at square leg) will move if he is unable to see the play or is in the way of the players.

It is patently absurd to ban a player from using a particular service at one end of the table when it is permitted at the other. This is the case with every service banned because the server's body hides the ball. Consider the case of two players whose most devastating services happen to be of this type. Just suppose that these two players oppose each other and choose to hold these services in reserve until the end of the deciding game. This is not an unlikely situation, but one player is permitted to use the service and the other is not. Not only is this unfair—it is entirely unnecessary.

Two alternative remedies come readily to mind. First, the umpire can move his position. Second, a service judge could be placed opposite the umpire.



KARENZA MATHEWS

who announced her impending retirement prior to the Norwich Union English Championships.

IS THIS A RECORD ?

Guinness Superlatives Limited, the publishers of the Guinness Book of Records, have received a claim from the former Miss Wendy Woodhead, that she is the youngest person to have represented England at table tennis at senior level. Miss Woodhead was just one month short of her 16th birthday when she represented England against Wales in April, 1932.

As this kind of statistic is not readily available from our archives, I would be pleased to hear from any player who can claim to have represented England at senior level at an earlier age than Miss Woodhead.

Albert Shipley,
E.T.T.A. Administrative Secretary.

THE ASCOT BUTTERFLY NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by KEITH PONTING

Ormesby still in all four Competitions

It is interesting to note that of all the Leagues who entered the competitions way back in October, only one is still in with a chance of winning all four. The league is Ormesby (formerly North Yorkshire). Under the guidance of their Coach, Alan Ransome, they have an abundance of talent, and my guess is that this famous league will, one day, win all four competitions in the same season—but not just yet. In the Wilmott Cup competition the Pre-Quarter Finals winners qualify for prize money, each successful team earning £5. The prize money will increase from now onwards and will include all competitions from the Quarter-Final stages, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Ascot Sports Company. The holders of all competitions are still involved and there could be some very interesting matches before the season comes to an end.

Wilmott Cup

The holders, Ormesby, had their usual encounter with Northumberland, and Jimmy Walker, David Alderson and Nicky Jarvis gave nothing away in taking the first six sets. The Manchester trio of Phil Bowen, Brian Clements and Kevin Forshaw had to fight hard against a plucky Sheffield team but just had the edge. The Potteries have had a fine season and their win over Stockport was outstanding, thanks to Tony Isacc, Steven Rowe and Trevor Burrows. Paul Judd, Doug Johnson and Derek Munt, representing Birmingham, had quite an easy passage by overcoming Oxford without reply.

A very close match at Cheshunt, with Paul Day doing his best to take things Ely's way. Despite a fine maximum from this brilliant player, Cheshunt's team of Jack Bender, Chris Pickard and Barry White, just did enough between them and won in the last set. Alan Shepherd is never lost for words when praising his own players, and this was evident in his report of the match when North Middlesex beat Willesden. David Tan was unbeaten, but Melvyn Waldman had all the bouquets from Alan for his superb form throughout the match. Another player in good form was East London's Ian Horshaw, who took three from Brighton in a 4-2 win, whilst it was good to see our old friend from Exeter, Chris Strathearn, shining for Central London as they had the better of Bournemouth.

Rose Bowl

Pride of place in this competition must go to Chesterfield for their wonderful win over Leicester's women, including Karen Rogers and Anita Stevenson. Karen won all her sets but Sandra Walters and Mandy Mellor both beat Anita, and helped by Jackie Billington, all got the better of the Leicester No. 3, Glenys Odams, to bring off a memorable 5-4 win. The Chesterfield trio must have a great chance of making further progress, for Leicester put out Stockport in the previous round. Another Ormesby-Northumberland clash saw Angela Tierney, Carole Knight and Barbara Kearney win two each for the Cleveland team, whilst another triumph was Bradford's, thanks to Pam Dawson, Melody Ludi and Sylvia Broadbent, who were too good for Blackpool. Two wins each from Sally Hurst, Valerie Scripps and Janet Rodgers, for Cambridge, halted Cheshunt's progress, and the same can be said for Wembley against St. Albans. The holders, Central London, go marching on thanks to maximums from Karenza Mathews and Jill Hammersley. After just getting through the previous round, without Linda Howard, Guild-

ford welcomed her back against Eastbourne and she was unbeaten, along with her sister, Sue Henderson. Eastbourne's only success came when Diane Gard beat Ruth Miles. Bournemouth have done well to reach this far and their team of Joyce Coop, Janet New and Julie Reading, were too good for Basingstoke.

Carter Cup

Yet another meeting between Ormesby and Northumberland resulted in the holders again coming out on top with Stephen Souter in fine form. An excellent maximum by Chris Rogers swung the balance in favour of Leicester against Birmingham. Able support was given by Graham Hall, who beat Clive Wainwright with the score at 4-3 to Leicester. Another exciting match at Dunstable saw the home team just get the better of the final set thanks to Garry Hamilton's brilliant maximum. Richard Jermyn was outstanding for North Herts, but to no avail, as the Wembley trio of Steven Matthews, Keith Thorn and Michael O'Mahoney won enough between them. Alan Shepherd says: "Tell Alan Ransome to clean the Cup for us," and who can blame him after a superb 9-0 win for his youngsters against Barking. Mark Mitchell, David Iszatt and Andrew Barden are certainly after the trophy and will take some beating. Thames Valley also have a fine team and overcame Bromley due to the fine play of Martin Shuttle, Newbury's two top boys, David Reeves and Paul Trott, just too good for plucky Bournemouth.

Bromfield Trophy

Ormesby, who just lost the final last season, seem determined to have another go this time, and with Norma Carne, June Williams and Jane Skipp in their line-up, they must have a chance as, I am sure, Liverpool will vouch for. E.T.T.A. President, Maurice Goldstein, told me he could not believe the score when his young girls played their hearts out to win 5-4 thanks to a brilliant three from Beverley Green and two wins from Karen Groves. No trouble for Grantham as Suzanne Hunt, Lynn Harker and Marie Featherstone completely crushed Chelmsford 9-0. Newbury's Caroline Reeves was outstanding against North Acton, but her efforts were all in vain, as two wins from Susan Dove, Marilyn Sangster and Jill Campion saw the London team through. Not to be out-done by the boys, the North Middlesex girls are having a good season and Philomena Conlon, Angela Mitchell and Barbara Devine gave St. Albans little chance. The holders, Dagenham, seem certain to reach the finals following a fine 6-3 win over Southend with Sandra Sutton being their mainstay. Former winners, Guildford, are still plugging away and Jayne Mitchell was outstanding as they beat Gravesend. Once more Julie Reading and Janet New were unbeaten as Bournemouth accounted for Basingstoke.

4th Round Results

WILMOTT CUP

Northumberland 0, Ormesby 6
Manchester 5, Sheffield 2
Stockport 1, Potteries 5
Oxford 0, Birmingham 5
Cheshunt 5, Ely 4
Willessden 3, North Middlesex 5
Brighton 2, East London 6
Bournemouth 2, Central London 7

Quarter-final Draw

(to be completed by 27-4-75)

Manchester v Ormesby
Potteries v Birmingham
North Middlesex v Cheshunt
Central London v East London

J.M. ROSE BOWL

Ormesby 6, Northumberland 0
Bradford 7, Blackpool 2
Chesterfield 5, Leicester 4
Cheshunt 1, Cambridge 5
Wembley 6, St. Albans 3
Central London 6, Southend 3
Eastbourne 1, Guildford 6
Basingstoke 0, Bournemouth 6

Draw:—

Bradford v Ormesby
Cambridge v Chesterfield
Central London v Wembley
Bournemouth v Guildford

CARTER CUP

Northumberland 1, Ormesby 6
Hull 4, Leeds 5
Leicester 5, Birmingham 3
Dunstable 5, Norwich 4
North Herts 4, Wembley 5
Barking 0, North Middlesex 9
Bournemouth 2, Newbury 5
Bromley 3, Thames Valley 5

Draw:—

Ormesby v Leeds
Leicester v Dunstable
Wembley v North Middlesex
Thames Valley v Newbury

BROMFIELD TROPHY

Liverpool 0, Ormesby 6
Wolverhampton 4, Birmingham 5
Grantham 9, Chelmsford 0
North Acton 6, Newbury 3
North Middlesex 5, St. Albans 0
Southend 3, Dagenham 6
Gravesend 3, Guildford 5
Bournemouth 7, Basingstoke 2

Draw:—

Birmingham v Ormesby
Grantham v North Acton
Dagenham v North Middlesex
Bournemouth v Guildford

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George Yates

FOUR TITLES FOR GRAHAM

Graham Hoy (17), of the Greenbrook Club, made history at the finals of the Bury and District League Closed Championships on April 11, when he won all four titles open to him, a feat never previously performed.

In the final of the men's singles he beat the defending champion, Ted Foster (Little Lever C.C.), after retaining his boys' singles title with victory over his younger brother, Geoffrey.

Partnered by Nigel Hallows (Little Lever C.C.), and Carol Bladen (Westbrook), the men's and mixed doubles titles also went into the Hoy satchel, to complete a memorable evening's play.

Bury's inter-town team also made history when on Mar. 22, at Oldham's Community Centre, they won the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy for the first time. In the semi-final they accounted for Manchester 7-2 and repeated the score-line in the final encounter against Hyde.

Philip Bowen won the M.S. title in the Manchester and District Closed Championships beating Kevin Forshaw in the final. Susan Lisle took the counterpart W.S. title with a final victory over Mary Leigh. Roger Idowu won the B.S. and Jack Clayton the vets', his final victim being Derek Schofield. Rumour has it that Peter D'Arcy did not fancy his chances against 'Fiery Jack.' The Liverpoolian cum Salfordian cum Mancunian did enter but withdrew on the night!

Chester have won the first division title of the Lancashire and Cheshire League for the first time in their history, having been represented by the Johns brothers, Mike, Brian and Ian, but a black mark to the Chester League, who failed to send a representative side to compete in the Norman Cook tourney, giving Hyde a walk-over in the final.

Bolton, with an unblemished record in Div. 2 (North), and Hyde in Div. 2 (South) will be the promotees to Div. 1 next season.

Liverpool, with eight wins out of eight, have won the championship of the Women's first division, whilst the lads from Barrow have taken the Junior Div. 1 title from Manchester, the previous holders.

Dilemma

By THE EDITOR

In an endeavour to keep faith with correspondents, in conjunction with covering the World and Commonwealth Championships, it became necessary to enlarge the Feb./March issue of this magazine or make more enemies than friends.

The excess material necessitated a further four pages and, being conscious of the weight limitations covered by a 5p stamp, the solution appeared to be a double supplement of County Notes on lighter weight paper. This was mocked up and at a local sub-Post Office the scale registered 4 ozs. precisely.

After delivery of the magazines from the printer, and the subsequent hurly-burly of enveloping same, they were then taken down by car to the Sorting Office at a few minutes before midnight on Friday, March 14. It came as a bolt from the blue when, on being ready to set forth for Hull on E.T.T.A. business the following morning, a 'phone call was made from the P.O. drawing attention to the magazines being under-stamped as same were over the stipulated weight for a 5p stamp. (By a whisker, I'll be bound!).

A request was made for the Editor to present himself at the Sorting Office armed with the necessary number of 2p stamps to make up the difference. A counter proposition was made for the P.O. to frank the offending envelopes with a further 2p and the cost would be met on demand, there and then, if need be.

This proposal was declined on the grounds that no such machinery was available to conduct such an operation, the only alternative being—if the magazines were to go forward that day—to surcharge each one 4p.

The time needed to purchase a shipping order of 2p stamps on a Saturday morning, plus that needed to affix same, would have prevented attendance at the all-important meeting in Hull. So the decision was taken, on grounds of expediency, to let the magazines go forward and take the consequences.

It is to be hoped that the number of subscribers to take actionable offence will be few, more so in that those extra four pages cost the E.T.T.A. far more than the 4p which a subscriber might have been called upon to pay. More than a few have not!

A postscript to this lamentable saga is provided by the Post Office, whose Assistant Head Postmaster (Postal) in Bolton, subsequently rang, firstly to apologise for his Department's lack of customer relationship, and then to say that a refund of 2p would be made on every claim to hand. But in view of the astronomical rise in postal charges which became operative on Monday, March 17—a rise which will ensure a loss on this season's operations—would it be worth it? Apologies, subscribers, one and all.

Extract from 'The Shell Book of Firsts'

by PATRICK ROBERTSON

The first table tennis sets were manufactured by John Jaques & Son Ltd., and marketed in 1898 by Hamley Bros., of Regent Street, under the name "Gossima." The inventor of the game was a Croydon engineer called James Gibb, a distinguished athlete, who had won the 4-mile English Championship while a Cambridge undergraduate in the 1870's, and who was one of the founders of the Amateur Athletic Association (1880). The date at which he originally devised Gossima is uncertain, though 1889 is sometimes quoted. It began as an impromptu wet-weather pastime played on the Gibb family's dining-room table with cigar-box lids for bats and balls fashioned from champagne corks. The latter were too irregular and Mr. Gibb next tried using small

indiarubber balls covered with cigarette-paper to make them white. These proved too heavy for fast play and he decided to try hollow celluloid balls, sending to America to have them specially made. Celluloid answered admirably and Gibb felt ready to launch the game commercially. The manufacturer he approached first, Messrs. Jeffries, turned it down, but Jaques were enthusiastic. As Gossima, the game was slow to catch on, and John Jaques decided to change the name to "Ping Pong." It immediately became immensely popular, sweeping the country during the course of 1901 to become the first of a succession of Edwardian crazes. In other countries, including the U.S.A., the game enjoyed a similar phenomenal success. The French, however, held aloof, one Parisian newspaper asserting it to be a proof of England's moral degredation that so much

attention could be paid to Ping Pong while her soldiers were dying in South Africa.

Table tennis bats were originally either of plain wood or in the form of vellum-covered battledores. The first with a studded rubber surface was Bryan's Atropus Paten Ping Pong Bat, announced in the September, 1902, Army and Navy Stores catalogue, price 2s. 8d.

Table tennis club: The first was established in Moorgate Street in the City of London, early in 1901.

Table tennis-tournament (Open): The first was the Championship of London, held at the Royal Aquarium on 14th December, 1901. The winner of the men's event was R. D. Ayling, and of the women's, Miss V. Eames, of Streatham.

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STIGA ORMESBY CUP STIGA GAINSFORD CUP

QUARTER-FINALS - SEMI-FINALS FINALS

By John Pike

Table tennis is very much an academic sport when it comes to staging cup finals. Last year the finals of the Stiga National Club Championships were held at Loughborough University, while this year's finals will be held in Birmingham over the weekend of April, 19-20, at Aston University. At that level the facilities are obviously fit for champions and so it augurs well for the 16 clubs taking part.

Stiga, of course, have played their part, for they are putting up the sort of prize money that should guarantee some of the best table tennis seen in the Midlands for a very long time.

Two trophies will be at stake, the Stiga Ormesby Cup for men, and the Stiga Gainsford award for women. It will be a two-day event with the quarter-final matches on Saturday and the semi-final ties on Sunday.

With so many of England's top players on view it promises to be a table tennis bonanza.

As in previous years, two teams again dominate this year's competition, and so I must go for Ormesby, from the north-east, to retain the men's trophy, while in the women's section Gainsford look all set to book another ticket into Europe by taking the cup back to London. Both teams have the class and experience to take on, and beat, the best of the rest.

In the men's section, the job of stopping Ormesby reaching the semi-final falls to Gatley Y.M.C.A. A tall order this for the Stockport club, seeing the holders are likely to include England's No. 1 and 2, Denis Neale and Nicky Jarvis.

Beaton 5-0 in last year's final, the Fellows Cranleigh club, from East London, must be hoping for another crack at the holders. David Brown, Ian Horsham and Ian Robertson should quickly dispose of the pride of Luton, Dunstable Vauxhall, but will then have to wait anxiously for the semi-final draw.

The match that looks balanced on a knife edge is that between the Chesterfield side, Sheepbridge, and the Birmingham club, Handsworth Victoria. Playing down the road, as it were, from their own club, I think the Birmingham trio of Gunnion, Hayward and Judd, should prove too much. Having said that, players of the calibre of Marples, Croome and Wallhead will certainly not fall lightly at this stage of the competition.

Making it four teams from the south, the final ties is between Chadwell Heath and the St. Annes club, from Staines. The odds must slightly favour the Ilford side, following their 6-1 win over the West Country champions, Heavitree Social.

Inspired by the England No. 1, Jill Hammersley, Gainsford first won the Stiga Gainsford Cup back in 1969, and have held a tight grip on it since then. No strangers to the European Cup, their trip to Birmingham almost seems a formality. Also in their line-up is Karenza Mathews, who announced her retirement recently after well over two hundred appearances in the England team. Yes, it is going to be a tough job for the Conservative Club ladies of Chesterfield.

Like their men's team, Fellows Cranleigh were beaten 5-0 in the final last year, but should have no trouble with their first hurdle, Letchworth Settlement, from North Herts. After that a lot will depend on the semi-final draw, but one club I expect to do well is the young Ormesby side. Leading their challenge will be 18-year-old Carole Knight, and if she gets the right sort of support, anything could happen. In the recent Norwich Union English Championships, at Crystal Palace, Carole came

very close to taking the women's singles title away from Jill Hammersley. Gatley Y.M.C.A. will be no pushover, however, for they have their own star in Susan Lisle, another England-ranked player. Following their win at Exeter, the Merton Club, from Bournemouth, should have enough class in Janet New, Joyce Coop and Julie Reading, to reach the semi-final at the expense of Byfleet L.T.C.

By helping the game at club level, Stiga will have played no small part in getting our players ready for the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham.

The Magnificent Years (1967-1974) of Bradford Schools Table Tennis

by A. B. MARKHAM

(Bradford Schools' T.T.A. Secretary)

Before 1967 there was no organised table tennis in Bradford Schools, but at the time of writing there is a thriving league, spearheaded by Melody Ludi, the National No. 1 Junior girl, and Lynda Hryszko, the Cadets No. 3 girl, among other boys and girls of promise. A Bradford Middle School has won the West Yorkshire U-13 team championship for the last two years. Nowadays Bradford Schools' Table Tennis is indeed a pacemaker in Yorkshire, but things were not always so good.

In 1967 coaching sessions were started by Hans Soova, a 3-star coach, in a small school gymnasium, with only 4 tables. Within a very few months, demand had grown, and larger premises were needed. Fortunately the Bradford Educational Authorities have always been most helpful with facilities, and larger premises, with 10 tables, were found. During the following two years 40-60 players turned up regularly for coaching.

By this time it was obvious that there was a real need for competition, so in 1969 the Bradford Schools' Individual Tournament was begun, in different age groups, and was an instant success with 86 entries in the first year. This year's entries should near the 200 mark. The number of teachers who give coaching in schools has grown along with this increase in demand.

In 1970 the Schools' Senior League began, with 2 divisions of eight teams in each, and by 1972 the interest had spread to younger age groups, so that two divisions were started for the U-13's. Each year new schools are entering, and the standard of play has improved noticeably from season to season.

As the standard of play began to rise, Hans Soova began advanced coaching sessions. This has produced a number of players for the County, and will produce many more in the not too distant future. The first County player to come through the system was Sylvia Broadbent, the present Yorkshire Ladies No. 1, who is helping the system enormously as a 1-star coach, a most pleasant personality in the game besides being a fine example of dedication and skill to the schoolchildren. Misses Ludi and Hryszko have already been mentioned. Among the boys, Philip Halmshaw was a County junior last season and is a County senior this, David Renton was a County junior last season, and Peter Simpson has started well as a County junior this year.

The coaching sessions are continuing with great vigour, and the progress is aided by great teamwork among 1-star coaches. Steve Worsman and Sylvia Broadbent, club coaches Stanley Clegg and Awo Subris, and student coaches Tony Markham and Mike Smith, who runs a Saturday morning mini-league as part of the coaching session.

Our chairman, Headmaster David Robinson, has watched all the growth and success with great satisfaction. He agrees that a large part of any progress made is because of the tremendous dedication of, and hard work done by, our coaching secretary, Hans Soova, a brilliant coach besides being a fine player in his own right.

For many years now Bradford has had a strong and well-organised League. Now that the Schools' Table Tennis Association is gaining in strength and support, the Schools' Table Tennis Committee can see a time in the not too distant future when "Bradford Metro." will be a stronghold of Table Tennis in the Yorkshire County set-up.

... and so much in so short a time!

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Charles M. Wyles, Chairman of the ETTA and Hon. Secretary of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships, convened a Press Conference in Melbourne and gave, inter alia, the following information:—

(a) Jersey has been given an option to hold the Fourth Commonwealth TT Championships in 1977. Dates would be either immediately before or immediately after the 34th World Championships, to be held in Birmingham from April 11-25, 1977. Jersey has been given until the end of April of this year to advise whether they wish to take up this option, and this decision will depend upon progress in the building of a £6 million sports and tourist complex in Jersey. If Jersey does not take up its option, Mr. Wyles will make a recommendation on an alternative venue. He stated that the ETTA would not be an applicant.

(b) Mr. Keith Bowler, Hon. International Secretary of the Australian TTA, was elected Chairman of the Commonwealth TT Championships, to take office immediately on the conclusion of the Championships then in progress.

The Management Committee of the Commonwealth Championships, elected by delegates in Australia, comprises:—

Africa—Dr. A. A. Efunkoya (Nigeria) and D. Parkash (Kenya); Asia—A. Lam (Singapore) and T. D. Ranga Ramanujan (India); Europe—C. M. Wyles and G. R. Yates (England); North America—A. M. Werier (Canada) and Oceania—A. Harding (New Zealand).

Classification Committee: Denis George (Scotland) (Chairman), Dr. Efunkoya and A. M. Werier.

CUMBRIA'S FIRST-EVER

In winning the Boys' U-15 singles title in the Yorkshire Junior 2-Star Open, Chris Reed became Cumbria's first-ever event winner in an English Open tournament.

Due to pressure on space in the Feb./March issue apologies are duly tendered to Rea Balmforth, Geoff Newman, Maurice Chalk and Laurie Landry, whose write-ups in respect of the Yorkshire Junior, Essex Senior, Burford Junior and Lancashire Senior tournaments were omitted.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES SUPER LEAGUE

ONE MAN'S VIEW

by MIKE LAWLESS

Having passed by way of London, Hull, Birmingham and Thornaby, the 1974-75 "Sunday Times" Super League came to a predictable and gentle close at Basingstoke on Saturday, March 1, with Trevor Taylor's team taking first place. As at other venues, spectator reaction at best was really no more than passive acceptance of some excellent table tennis, and I feel that a playing format, although perhaps logical for participants, requiring the public to maintain interest for over three hours is partly to blame.

Nevertheless, the "Sunday Times" Super League has fulfilled, once again, its promises to produce good table tennis, financially reward players and, possibly the most important one of giving junior players regular competition with and against the top "prati-quants" in the country.

To say that the last series of matches underlines the benefit that juniors have extracted from the experience would be to exaggerate, but for three young players it was a day to savour. First Graham Sandley, a 12-year-old from Middlesex, made his debut—being chosen by Denis Neale to replace the absent Robert Wiley — against Commonwealth Champion Trevor Taylor, took a game off Peter Taylor (who incidentally coaches Graham), and then showed no lack of assurance when being interviewed by a "Sunday Times" reporter.

For Andrew Barden, England Junior Champion, the reward for his efforts was less emotional, but more concrete. Andrew, recent winner of three consecutive tournaments, took on and beat the No. 2 player in the country, Nicky Jarvis, 23-21, 21-23, 21-14.

Paul Day, the No. 1 junior, can also reflect with satisfaction on his wins over Ian Horsham and Jimmy Walker.

In spite of increases in prize money in a number of tournaments, most of the top players of our sport are still far short of "earning a living" at the game and two off-table incidents can be said to illustrate this state of affairs. The first was one of the leading players pleading for his winnings early, and the second, not without humour at the time, was the view of the agonised expression on the face of a player obviously more adept at wielding a bat than at mental calculation as he anxiously tried to equate his team's placing with the continually changing match scores. That these efforts were more than the natural desire for success was borne out by conversation.

Results of all matches at Basingstoke and the final league table are shown below, and I think the organisers can look back on a job well done.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	Pts
Taylor	45	26	19	26
Douglas	45	24	21	24
Hydes	45	23	22	23
Jarvis	45	22	23	22
Neale	45	21	24	21
Walker	45	19	26	19

Match Results

D. Neale's Team bt T. Taylor's Team 5-4

Neale bt P. Taylor 14, 17; lost to T. Taylor -18, -14; bt J. Kitchener 18, 10.

M. Johns bt P. Taylor 19, 19; bt T. Taylor 19, 18; bt Kitchener 15, 17.

G. Sandley lost to P. Taylor -18, 21, -13; lost to T. Taylor -13, -11; lost to Kitchener -20, -0.

D. Douglas' Team bt N. Jarvis' Team 6-3

Douglas bt R. Yule 9, -20, 13; bt Jarvis 13, 10; bt M. Mitchell 19, 19.

A. Barden lost to Yule -17, -16; bt Jarvis 21, -21, 14; bt Mitchell 14, 18.

A. Clayton lost to Yule -10, -22; lost to Jarvis 14, -14, -18; bt Mitchell 18, -13, 10.

A. Hydes' Team bt J. Walker's Team 6-3

D. Parker bt Walker -18, 13, 19; bt C. Sewell 13, 16; lost to I Horsham -17, 10, -19.

D. Brown lost to Walker -16, -6; bt Sewell 15, -18, 15; lost to Horsham 22, -23, -16.

P. Day bt Walker -12, 18, 16; bt Sewell 14, -19, 11; bt Horsham 15, 12.

ALBRIGHTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Village Vigour

The Albrighton T.T.C. has now purchased a brick-built hall, which it has hired for playing sessions since 1955, for £5,500. The village is in Shropshire, close to the Shropshire-Staffordshire boundary, and has a population of about 5,000.

The Club was formed as a result of a public meeting called by Alan Cavell, now the Club's treasurer, and John Cutler, then chairman of the local youth section of the Conservative Party. The Club has always been non-political and open to anyone interested in table tennis. Mrs. Esmé Cavell has been its secretary since its formation in 1955.

The Club joined the Wolverhampton and District T.T.A. in 1956 and has given that Association much administrative support over the years. Club member Graham Haden was its hon. secretary from 1957 to 1960 and he was followed from 1960 to 1966 by Alan Cavell, who had been inter-league secretary from 1957 to 1960. Mrs. Esmé Cavell was the hon. treasurer of the Association from 1958 to 1966. Arthur Thomas served on the Management Committee from 1961 to 1970 and Reg Smith

has been serving since 1973. Arthur Thomas is now a Vice-President and Alan and Esmé Cavell have been life members since 1966. The Club first entered two and subsequently four teams in the Wolverhampton T.T.A. Mrs. Rhoda Haden and Mrs. Esmé Cavell represented Wolverhampton on many occasions and played for Staffordshire County teams.

The Club's first attempts to obtain competitive play with Shropshire clubs were abortive. The Wellington T.T.A. was not then affiliated to the E.T.T.A. and the only matches that the Club could play were with the affiliated Wellington Y.M.C.A.

The Wellington T.T.A. became affiliated in 1968 and the Club tentatively entered one team. In 1969 the Club was a founder member of the Telford T.T.A., which incorporated the Wellington T.T.A., whose spasmodic existence had started about 1944. The Club gradually increased its number of teams in the Telford T.T.A. to four, and Alan Cavell became chairman of that Association in 1972.

The Club has contributed greatly to the playing strength of the Telford T.T.A. C. Bullock, P. Gosnell, W. Harris, R. Smith, Mrs. E. Cavell and Mrs. M. Robinsaw have all represented Telford on many occasions. Mrs. Cavell has also played for the Shropshire County team. Club juniors N. Austin, D. Clibborn, G. Clibborn and Miss J. Alderton are current members of the Telford town junior team.

As the Club gradually expanded the need for it to have its own headquarters became increasingly more pressing. For a number of years the Club tried unsuccessfully to secure a long lease on the hall. When the hall was advertised for sale the Club immediately took steps to buy it.

The hall was built in 1934: it needs repairs and complete redecoration. Work parties have already begun these tasks and it is hoped that the premises will eventually be suitable for County matches. Expansion of the present coaching activities is being planned.

The Club's Management Committee consists of Chairman, D. R. Bluck; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. Cavell; Hon. Treasurer, A. Cavell; Committee: K. Barnes, B. Bradley, W. Clibborn, J. Ellis, R. Farnworth, R. Hambleton, J. Livesley, R. Smith and S. Wynn.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ASTOUNDED

I was astounded when I heard the news that Melody Ludi, a member of our club and ranked No. 1 Junior all this season, was not selected to represent England in the Federal German Championships.

I stand to be corrected, but I was given to understand that to qualify for selection as an England player one had to play and win in a number of "Select" tournaments and also be highly ranked throughout the season. Not only has Melody fulfilled these qualifications but she has surely underlined the fact that she should have been selected with some good wins over Senior opponents in the Welsh Open.

Could it be that to qualify for selection, if you live in the North East or the South of England your chances of being selected are far greater, irrespective of ranking?

I feel it would "clear the air" if the Selection Committee could state their reasons in the way players are selected, as there have been some selections and omissions in the past which were very difficult to understand.

ERIC HILL,

Hon. Secretary,
Clayton Heights T.T. Club.

Highgate House,
Highgate Road,
Clayton Heights,
Bradford, BD13 2RR.

DEMOTIVATION

How to de-motivate a player without trying!

Melody Ludi finished the 1973-74 season as No. 4 in the Junior rankings. (Please note 14 years of age ranked No. 4 did not play for England). She started this season as No. 1 and has stayed there to the time of writing. Her record in Junior Open Tournaments reads:— in the "Select" Open Tournaments Cleveland, Reading, West Midlands, Middlesex Invitation she won, adding another 4 Open Junior titles to her credit this season—that is 8 wins out of 9 entries.

Her one failure was in the National Junior Closed where she lost to Suzanne Hunt in the fourth round, so did a lot of other top seeds in the girls' and boys' events who were aggressive type players, relying on movement, speed and hard hitting. As everybody knows who went to that tournament the floor surface was far from adequate for that type of player. It favoured those whose movement was little or none at all.

Why has Melody not been picked to represent England in the Federal German Junior Open? S. Hunt, ranked No. 2, and the Cleveland girl, Angela Tierney, who is ranked No. 5, were chosen. It is a mystery, because the boys' selection has gone on merit, Paul Day No. 1 and Andrew Barden No. 2. Day was neither a finalist nor winner in the National Closed, so why leave Melody out of the team?

As selectors and coaches you know that the greatest honour a player can have is to represent his or her country at their particular choice of sport. Then you also must know there is nothing more demoralising to a player than being No. 1 in the country and not being picked or ever have been picked to play for England. When the chance arises and one is then overlooked, it could demolish a great future and a great player.

HANS SOOVA,

3-Star Diploma Coach.

Oakleigh Lodge,
West Lane,
Baildon,
West Yorkshire.

MEMORIES RECALLED

What memories are recalled by the letters in the recent issue about table tennis in the 1920's and 1930's!

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

from F. G. "Jimmy" Mannooch

"Jimmy" Mannooch did a very excellent job as Programme Editor at the World Championships at Wembley in 1954. My first meeting with "Jimmy" was at the Kent Open, 1934/35, and I believe he was responsible for reviving this tournament after a lapse of eight years. I was at Wembley in 1954, and my particular job was to organise the movements of a fleet of coaches transporting the players and officials back to the hotel in London. This was quite interesting, especially when one famous player wanted to get back to town quickly, and had to be "persuaded" to wait until I had a full quota of passengers for the coach.

I played in the 1938 World Championships at the Royal Albert Hall, and remember the seven tables on the gallery. In fact, in the men's doubles, my partner (Gerald Frischer) and I managed to beat the leading Yugoslav pair, Marinko and Heksner, 3-2 on a gallery table. Perhaps they were put off by the wide-bladed wooden bat, almost unique in those days of straightforward pimped rubber—newfangled reverse and sandwich rubber had not then been invented. After being promoted to one of the four tables in the arena on the ground floor, we were then quickly disposed of by Victor Barna and Laszlo Bellak. From these Championships the game that stands out most in my memory was the Swaythling Cup meeting of Richard Bergmann, then Austrian No. 1, and Sol Schiff (U.S.A.). At that time, Schiff was perhaps the hardest hitter in the world, and this match produced a wonderfully spectacular tussle, with Bergmann retrieving the terrific hitting of his opponent and gradually wearing him down, eventually finishing right on top. This was table tennis at its best.

I was at the World Championships of 1935, and had a very minor job as a table steward. I didn't go to the Championships of 1926 at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London (I didn't get interested in the sport until 1931), but I did go to the Memorial Hall in 1933 to see a wonderful match between Hungary and England. Hungary's team was, I believe, Barna, Kelen and Glancz, and they won 5-4. England's team was weakened by the absence of Fred Perry, but A. A. Haydon, R. D. Jones and A. G. Millar put up a great fight. Incidentally Adrian Haydon was a great hitter with an unorthodox grip and controlled the game close to the table. In fact, his style—unique at the time in the top class—was not unlike some of the great Asiatic players who came to the front two decades later.

NOSTALGIA

from H. H. Bridge

I well remember the stylish play of your correspondent, H. H. Bridge, who was also a well-known amateur footballer for Wimbledon F.C. Readers from this era will remember the celebrated Symons brothers, Julian and Maurice, who played for Clapham T.T.C. in the London League. Recently, I read a most interesting book, "Notes from Another Country," written by Julian Symons, who is now one of the top "thriller" writers in the world of fiction. The book I read is a biography of part of Symon's life, and covers his table tennis exploits in the 30's and experiences with such famous clubs as West Ealing, Indian Students (Gower Street) and others. Julian and I exchanged letters and reminiscences, and I was sorry to hear that his brother, M. A. Symons, died a few years ago.

LESLIE M. BROMFIELD.

"La Folie,"
76 Old Fort Road,
Shoreham Beach,
Sussex, BN4 5HA.

WEAPON OF TACTICS

"The match shall be continuous." At least that is what the rules say. However, the rule has been broken countless times in every close game in the last few years. As soon as a player loses two points in a row, he stops the game for towelling—if his adviser does not urge him to do that after the first miss!

Sure, sometimes the need for towelling is genuine, but most often it is only a weapon of tactics.

Why can't Table Tennis have a rule regarding towelling? Say, players could stop for drying themselves only at each change of service till 20-20, after which only when the score is even. In case somebody perspires more, a sweat-band should be used. The towelling would lose its tactical affect, as the stop would not be unexpected anymore, nor would a player be able to stop the game time and time again at his convenience.

K. JAVOR,

State Coach to Victoria T.T.A.

Flat 7,
5 Anderson Street,
Caulfield, Victoria 3163,
Australia.

TABLE TENNIS ON FILM

We were very interested to read in the January issue of "Table Tennis News", John Sullivan's report ("In the Coaching Field", page 28) of the growing interest in films and allied visual aids amongst the coaching fraternity.

He was kind enough to give this Company a share of the credit for the trend, and we can confirm that films are rapidly gaining favour amongst coaches not only of table tennis but of the entire range of sporting activity. Once a coach has discovered the impetus which film gives to the performance of specific skills and to competitive ambition, he becomes a firm advocate of the medium.

It is nevertheless true, as Mr. Sullivan indicated, that many students and coaches are ill-informed about the availability of films on their sport, and we should be most grateful for the hospitality of your columns to state that our films at all events can be booked on application to the undersigned, either by post to the address given, or by telephone to (01) 828 1671.

If any potential users of the films have particular problems or difficulties to overcome, we shall be glad to render them every service we can.

IAN M. COLLINS.

Registered Office:
31 Palace Street,
London,
SW1E 5HW.

COMPETITIVENESS

Are players getting enough competition? For the average league player it is a matter of one league match per week during the season, with the possibility of a couple of cup matches. Throw in the annual closed championships (power cuts permitting) and a knock-up at the club, always providing that the hall is not already booked for the local Women's Institute meeting.

What can be done about such a situation? Players in this area, even our top men and women, do not get enough top class competition. If any reader has the answer I would be pleased to have the knowledge.

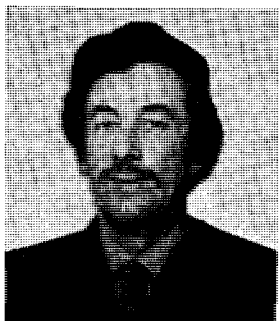
M. HAWKINS.

87 Newton Road,
Tweryon-on-Avon,
Bath, BA2 1RP.

COMMISERATIONS

Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Gladys Goldstein who, as the result of an accident, is at present nursing a broken arm.

CONTROVERSY



John Woodford

... responds to protest

My copy of "Table Tennis News" (Feb.-Mar. edition) was still lying on the front-door mat when a very troubled John Wright telephoned to protest at possible implications in that edition in this column concerning fixture manipulations.

Inevitably, when faced with writing a column of this nature, it happens occasionally that people feel that they are being shot at unfairly. I must therefore apologise to John Wright, as he feels that my story contained implications that in his capacity as secretary of the County Championships he has moved fixtures to suit Middlesex. My point is that any fixture secretary must have the maximum advantage of seeing the whole picture and he would not be human if he didn't work to see that his own teams had a good deal.

As everyone connected with English table tennis knows, John Wright is in every respect the toughest taskmaster in the sport when it comes to seeing that everything is 100% above board.

John points out that the vast majority of changes to County Championships fixture dates were agreed as far back as last August at a meeting. Other counties besides Middlesex were involved. I say that if the championships is to retain its status, counties should not be allowed to move matches around to this extent. But, of course, John Wright correctly makes the observation that it is up to them to change the rules at the A.G.M., but now it's too late to do that for next season.

Having the advantage of replying to John Wright's letter in this edition, several points emerge:

I doubt if anything in this matter that I have written could be described as "libellous" or "disgraceful," but again I regret that John has read certain implications that were not intended.

What does emerge from the hornet's nest is that wholesale changes have been made by a number of counties, most of them before the season commenced, and a few after. The fact that Bedfordshire were allowed to change all ten of their home matches is, I feel, wrong.

Quite rightly, John Wright has a powerful position as secretary of the County Championships. I think he should recommend to all counties at the start of the season that the level of changes allowed during this campaign cannot be tolerated again, otherwise the allocation of County championship weekends in the fixture list becomes a farce.

To change the subject completely, here is a different sort of controversy to end the season: The theory has been put forward in the South that anti-loop rubber for defenders, especially veterans, is leading to acute attacks of "tennis elbow"! We have certainly had three cases in Sussex of veteran choppers, all using the black rubber, who have been out

of the game for weeks at a time with the same complaint.

But before I am accused of making more scurrilous statements by the trade, I hasten to add that I do not hold with the anti-loop rubber theory. I think that any veteran defender, whatever rubber he is employing on his bat, is likely to be affected by this complaint. "Table Tennis News" would like to hear from anyone with views, strong or otherwise, on the spread of the dreaded "tennis elbow", not to be confused, of course, with the other elbow trouble, acquired usually, on licensed premises!

Last month's discourse on fixture manipulation has aroused a hornets' nest in Middlesex with the first stinging response from John Wright, who writes:—

Although I realise that the damage done by an article in one month's magazine can be but partly undone by corrections and apologies printed in the next month's, I must reply to the libellous statements made by John Woodford in his "Controversy" column (Feb./Mar., 1975).

Mr. Woodford is a member of the Sports Writers' Association and I was of the opinion that a good journalist checked the truth of allegations before rushing into print. I do, of course, accept that the article so written would not be as interesting as that produced by a mind so blissfully uncluttered with facts.

Yes, Middlesex did change Junior Premier matches from the dates originally scheduled: the matches v Surrey, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex were involved. The dates of the Berkshire and Cambridgeshire matches were changed with the willing agreement of those two Counties (each of those two changing two dates in addition to the Middlesex change). I understand that Essex and Surrey were less keen to change, but they definitely agreed. However, Mr. Woodford seems totally unaware of C.T.T.C. Rule 21 which allows changes provided that both Counties involved notify me of such change by 10th August: I could, therefore, not prevent the changes if I wanted to! This rule was introduced in 1957 and I would have thought that one so keenly interested in the C.T.T.C. would by now have been aware of it; is the fact that the amended dates were all printed in the Handbook sufficient proof that the changes were made according to rule?

It is perhaps worth recording that other Counties, notably Hertfordshire and Worcestershire, have in recent seasons used Rule 21 to amend a number of matches on their fixture lists, and that this season Bedfordshire has changed the date of every one of its 10 Home matches. But, of course, this was not mentioned; after all, I have no close connection with any of these Associations.

In the 11 seasons that I have served as Secretary of the C.T.T.C. I have attempted to treat all Counties, regardless of strength, size, or personal connection, equally. The statements made in Mr. Woodford's article are utterly disgraceful and without foundation in fact; I expect a full and public apology.

... and from Len Pilditch, of 16 Hilton Avenue, North Finchley:—

Having read John Woodford's article with utter disgust, I think the least that he can do is to give an apology to John Wright and perhaps read the Rules of the County Championships.

If two counties agree a change of date before a set date in August then that date shall be fixed, not if the Secretary agrees. As for his suggestion that John would use the rule book to help Middlesex, I can only wonder if Mr. Woodford knows what he is on about.

John Wright would not give an inch to Middlesex. In fact, they are probably fined more than any other county such as for players being attired in the wrong colour

shorts. Woe betide Middlesex should John happen to walk in, as he often does!

Other matters apart, I should like to ask Mr. Woodford why Middlesex should not be allowed to use their Juniors in both Senior and Junior matches. Would he have the two juniors in question play in senior matches only? I don't think that Alan Shepherd and his Essex team would be very proud of winning the Junior Premier title that way, not against a Middlesex Junior second team.

... And from A. J. H. Wickens, of 2 Frensham Walk, Farnham Common, Slough, Buckinghamshire, SL2 3QF:—

Controversial writing, yes, but not to the point of making unfounded accusations of corruption—I refer to the last part of John Woodford's article in the February/March issue. It would have been easy for him to have checked his "law" by a quick glance at the County Championship Handbook before jumping into print with his scurrilous allegations. The dates of fixtures printed in the Handbook are as fixed at 10th August. If two Counties agree, before 10th August, to play on a date other than that in the provisional list, JOHN WRIGHT HAS NO SAY IN THE MATTER, and John Woodford need only have read C.T.T.C. Rule 21 to have known that. Perhaps he chose not to read it, preferring to indulge in irresponsible innuendo without actually knowing he was wrong!

... And from Brian Webb, of 26 Churchill Close, Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe, Bucks., HP10 9LB:—

Whilst appreciating that John Woodford's "Controversy" column must under this heading be always sounding off on controversial subjects, his inference in the February/March issue shows a complete lack of understanding of the personality whose integrity he challenges.

As anyone who knows John Wright will confirm, and I can indisputably claim the longest association in Table Tennis, the last thing that friends, team members or associates will expect are decisions biased in their favour. At the best they will receive a scrupulously fair judgment based entirely on the rules and circumstances. In a border-line case the benefit of any doubt will almost certainly favour the other party rather than the personal friend.

Unless John has had a dramatic and sudden change of character Middlesex will have received no different consideration than any other County participating in the County Championships, which, of course, is exactly as it should be.

John's debut in competitive table tennis in 1954 was in one of the lower divisions of the North Acton T.T.L. as a member of Mr. Webb's Acton Nalgov Team.—(Ed.).

... And from M. D. Watts, of "Gleneagles," 25 Church Green, Sycamore Way, Canewdon, Essex:—

Re "Controversy" in the February/March, 1975, edition, I know that John Woodford likes to stir up feeling for the articles that he writes for "Table Tennis News," but I feel that he has gone too far when he attempts to belittle the fine efforts of John Wright, the County Championships Secretary.

Surely John Woodford should check up on his facts. If every County wanted to change all their fixtures they can do so: (County Championship Rule 21), so his statement about not tolerating a batch of similar requests to Middlesex is wrong. When officials do not carry out their duties efficiently they deserve some criticism, but in this case he is entirely wrong, and I hope in the next edition of "Table Tennis News" we may see an apology to this effect.

Divisional Tables

(up to and including 16th March)

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	6	5	0	1	36	18	10
Cheshire	6	5	0	1	34	20	10
Middlesex	6	4	0	2	34	20	8
Yorkshire	6	2	0	4	26	28	4
Warwickshire	6	2	0	4	25	29	4
Bedfordshire	6	2	0	4	24	30	4
Lancashire	6	2	0	4	20	34	4
Glamorgan	6	2	0	4	17	37	4

2nd SOUTH (Final Table)

Surrey	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Sussex	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Middlesex II	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Essex II	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Kent	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Hampshire	5	0	1	4	14	36	1

2nd NORTH

Cleveland	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Yorkshire II	4	2	2	0	28	12	6
Lincolnshire	4	0	3	1	18	22	3
Northumberland	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Durham	4	0	2	2	14	26	2
Cheshire II	4	0	2	2	10	30	2

2nd MIDLAND (Final Table)

Derbyshire	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Staffordshire	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Leicestershire	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Gloucestershire	5	2	2	1	27	23	6
Warwickshire II	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Nottinghamshire	5	0	0	5	13	37	0

2nd EAST (Final Table)

Cambridgeshire	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Hertfordshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Norfolk	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Northamptonshire	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Suffolk	4	0	1	3	12	28	1

2nd WEST

Berkshire	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Devon	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Somerset	5	2	2	1	30	20	6
Wiltshire	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Worcestershire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Cornwall	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Dorset	6	0	0	6	4	56	0

SOUTHERN (Final Table)

Surrey II	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Kent II	4	2	1	1	28	12	5
Sussex II	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Oxfordshire	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Berkshire II	4	1	0	3	10	30	2

NORTHERN (Final Table)

Cleveland II	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Cheshire III	4	2	2	0	26	14	6
Cumbria	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Durham	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Northumberland II	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

MIDLAND (Final Table)

Derbyshire II	5	4	1	0	38	12	9
Warwickshire III	5	3	1	1	26	24	7
Staffordshire II	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Nottinghamshire II	5	1	2	2	25	25	4
Clwyd	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Northamptonshire II	5	1	0	4	15	35	2

EASTERN (Final Table)

Hertfordshire II	5	5	0	0	35	15	10
Bedfordshire II	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Essex III	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Huntingdonshire	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Norfolk II	5	1	0	4	19	31	2
Cambridgeshire II	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

WESTERN

Gwent	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Glamorgan II	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Worcestershire II	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Shropshire	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Herefordshire	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

JUNIOR PREMIER

Essex	6	5	1	0	42	18	11
Middlesex	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Berkshire	6	3	2	1	33	27	8
Yorkshire	6	3	2	1	32	28	8
Surrey	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Cambridgeshire	6	1	2	3	29	31	4
Lancashire	6	1	0	5	23	37	2
Leicestershire	6	0	1	5	14	46	1

JUNIOR SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex II	5	5	0	0	45	5	10
Sussex	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Hampshire	5	3	0	2	33	17	6
Essex III	5	1	2	2	26	24	4
Hertfordshire II	5	1	2	2	20	30	4
Buckinghamshire	5	0	2	3	12	38	2
Oxfordshire	5	0	0	5	3	47	0

JUNIOR NORTH

Cleveland	6	5	0	1	42	18	10
Durham	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Yorkshire II	5	4	0	1	31	19	8
Cheshire	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Northumberland	5	2	0	3	17	33	4
Cumbria	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
Lancashire II	5	0	0	5	15	35	0

JUNIOR SOUTH-EAST

Surrey II	6	4	2	0	40	20	10
Essex II	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Kent	5	3	2	0	36	14	8
Hertfordshire	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Berkshire II	5	1	0	4	22	28	2
Hampshire II	5	1	0	4	10	40	2
Sussex II	5	0	0	5	7	43	0

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Clwyd	6	5	1	0	38	22	11
Derbyshire	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Warwickshire	5	3	0	2	38	12	6
Nottinghamshire	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Staffordshire	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Leicestershire II	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Shropshire	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

JUNIOR EAST

Cambridgeshire II	5	5	0	0	35	15	10
Norfolk	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Northamptonshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Suffolk	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Bedfordshire	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Huntingdonshire	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Lincolnshire	5	0	0	5	18	32	0

JUNIOR WEST

Dorset	6	5	1	0	47	13	11
Glamorgan	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	35	25	8
Devon	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Worcestershire	6	2	2	2	34	26	6
Wiltshire	6	2	2	2	31	29	6
Cornwall	6	1	0	5	15	45	2
Somerset	7	0	0	7	10	60	0

VETERAN SOUTH

Essex	5	5	0	0	34	11	10
Essex II	6	5	0	1	35	19	10
Hampshire	5	3	0	2	29	16	6
Kent	5	3	0	2	26	19	6
Wiltshire	5	1	0	4	17	28	2
Hertfordshire	5	1	0	4	12	33	2
Huntingdonshire	5	0	0	5	9	36	0

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire	6	6	0	0	50	4	12
Nottinghamshire	6	5	0	1	34	20	10
Warwickshire	6	4	0	2	29	25	8
Oxfordshire	6	2	0	4	24	30	4
Staffordshire	6	2	0	4	22	32	4
Leicestershire	6	2	0	4	21	33	4
Clwyd	6	2	0	4	20	34	4
Worcestershire	6	1	0	5	16	38	2

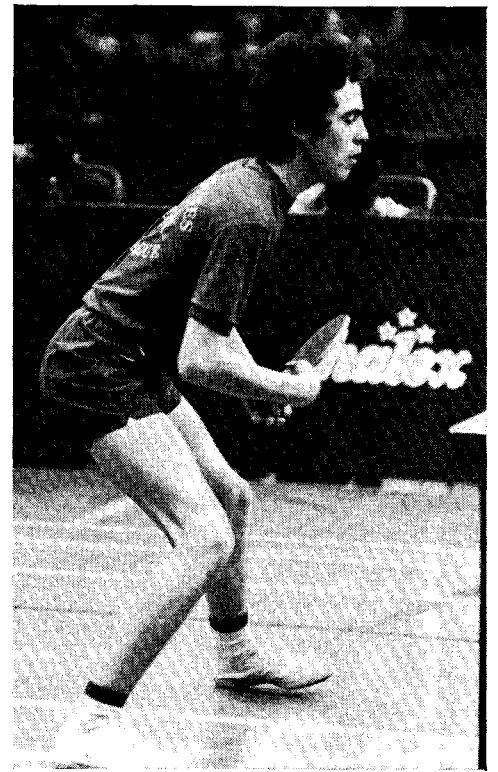
GLoucestershire NOTES

by John Cooper

SEWELL SUPREME

In the Gloucestershire match against Derbyshire young Chris Sewell played superbly to win three sets against tremendous defensive play from Derbyshire. Conditions at the CEGB Headquarters could not have been better. There was plenty of light and space, yet still the Derby chaps were crashing into the crowd in trying fantastic retrievals, and mostly succeeding. With 3 from Sewell we managed a draw with the help of our doubles combinations, which included the return of Mrs. S. Matthews.

Sewell has had another "Sunday Times" Super League game, this time with Ian Horsham's team. Chris also had a good day in the Basingstoke men's event with a win over



CHRIS SEWELL

Photo by Tony Ross.

I. Robertson (ex-ranked) and G. Davies (the Welsh No. 2) before going out to Trevor Taylor after getting the first end and only losing the middle one at 19.

Of course, in the Bristol closed Sewell's name appears several times as below:—

- M.S.: Sewell bt Reeves.
- M.D.: Sewell/Mildred bt Bowles/Reeves.
- X.D.: B. & P. Reeves bt P. Lewis/M. Jubb.
- W.S.: J. Achurch bt P. Rowe.
- W.D.: Watts/Lewis bt Rowe/Achurch.
- V.S.: D Rowe bt N. Thompson.
- B.S. U-17: Sewell bt G. Musselwhite.
- B.D. U-17: Sewell/Lewis bt Mayo/Stopher.
- G.S. U-17: W. Simmons bt D. Vowles.
- G.D. U-17: Wilson/Lovell bt Simmons/Vowles.
- B.S. U-15: Lewis bt Wolfe.
- B.D. U-15: Lewis/Wolfe bt Crewe/Totterdell.
- G.S. U-15: W. Simmons bt D. Vowles.
- G.D. U-15: Simmons/Vowles bt C. Rowe/G. Sperring.
- B.S. U-13: K. Morris bt M. Smith.
- G.S. U-13: C. Rowe bt L. Pradon.

Cheltenham have had two draws in the County Junior League, their girls with Bristol "A", and their boys with Bristol "B". Bournside School has two tables and teachers there thought they would see if the girls were interested. 60 turned up. That will need some organising, table scheduling or purchasing!

Gloucester boys, in the Midland Counties League, dropped their first point in drawing with Coventry, but promotion is assured.

Stroud girls had a good draw with Bristol "A" girls. They achieved this without Susan Giles but with thanks to Louis Wilsher, who contributed 3 wins. Stroud men lost to Birmingham "C" 3-7. Now I must mention Andrew Golding again. At aged 10, playing in the third Div., he has won all three of his sets over the last 14 weeks and in the Stroud Closed reached the last 8 in the Men's, putting out four 1st. Div. players in the process.

And to end with Chris Sewell we mention his visit to the Welsh Open where he reached the quarter-finals in the Men's Doubles with his international partner, Jiri Turai, of Czechoslovakia.

County Championships Round-up

continued from page 36

guess that this team would have won the Division; as it was, they finish 2nd to Gwent, with a really choked Worcs dropping down to 3rd.

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Essex 9, Leicestershire 1

R. Potton lost to C. Rogers -19, -21; bt G. Hall 15, 16.

D. Iszatt bt Rogers 15, 17; bt P. Smith 8, 10. D. Newman bt Hall -19, 17, 15; beat Smith 6, 16. Newman/Potton bt Hall/Rogers 18, 19.

Miss S. Sutton bt Miss G. Sinkinson 6, 11. Iszatt/Sutton bt Smith /Miss J. Revill 9, 12. Miss P. Abbott/Miss C. Taylor bt Revill/Sinkinson 12, 13.

No comparison between this match and the fixture of last season, the only stirring contest that between Bob Potton and Chris Rogers. Just too easy for Essex.

Berkshire 6, Surrey 4

P. Trott bt M. Shuttle 19, -7, 17; bt M. Crimmins 18, 21.

D. Reeves lost to Shuttle -15, 20, -17; bt K. Seager 16, 19.

G. Roberts lost to Crimmins -15, 12, -10 bt Seager 19, 16.

Reeves/Roberts bt Crimmins/Seager 13, 13. Miss C. Reeves bt Miss G. Greenough 10, 11.

Trott/ Miss K. Witt lost to Shuttle/Miss J. Mitchell 17, -19, -19.

Reeves/Witt lost to Greenough/Mitchell 19, -19, -15.

A good team effort by the winners, but Paul Trott deserves special mention for his two singles wins, and Caroline Reeves likewise for her comfortable defeat of Kay Greenough.

Lancashire 2, Essex 8

N. Hallows lost to L. Eadie -17, -11; bt D. Newman 21, 17.

I. Smith lost to Eadie -14, -18; lost to A. Abbott -19, -16.

G. Hoy lost to Newman 24, -13, -16; lost to Abbott 13, -14, -19.

Hallows/Smith bt Eadie/Newman 15, -17, 20.

Miss K. Cropper lost to Miss S. Sutton -14, -18. Hoy/Miss J. Dixon lost to Abbott/Miss C. Taylor -12, -17.

Cropper/Dixon lost to Sutton/Taylor -19, -17.

Yorkshire 6, Middlesex 4

B. Baxter lost to A. Barden -19, -13; lost to M. Mitchell -9, -11.

M. Harrison lost to Barden -14, -16; beat M. O'Mahony (walkover).

K. Beadsley beat M. O'Mahony 13, 14; bt M. Mitchell (walkover).

Beadsley/Harrison bt Mitchell/O'Mahony -17, 15, 19.

Miss M. Ludi bt Miss A. Mitchell 15, 9.

Baxter/Miss J. McLean lost to Barden/Mitchell -21, 19, -12.

Ludi/McLean bt Miss S. Dove/Miss M. Sangster 10, -19, 13.

Much dejection in the Middlesex camp from this result. The failure of the hired mini-bus involved them in great delay and they did not arrive at the venue until 4:10 for a 2:30 start. With a Premier match following, it was agreed that play would cease at 6:30 with any unplayed sets being claimed by Yorkshire. The fine doubles play of Yorkshire was largely responsible for the match score being 4-11 when "time" came and Middlesex took back no points from a match they had expected to win.

Leicestershire 2, Cambridgeshire 8

C. Rogers lost to P. Day -16, -18; bt K. Richardson 16, 13.

G. Hall lost to Day -12, -10; bt G. Davies 20, 18. K. Hall lost to Richardson -16, -15; lost to G. Davies -22, -17.

G. Hall/Rogers lost to Davies/Day -16, -10. K. Hall/Miss I. Revill lost to Richardson/Miss S. Ellis -16, -9.

Miss G. Sinkinson lost to Miss R. Newman -18, -13.

Revill/Sinkinson lost to Ellis/Newman -15, -14.

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

Buckinghamshire 5, Essex III 5

A dream debut for Elaine Sayer who in G.D.

and G.S. conceded a mere 26 points.

Hertfordshire II 1, Middlesex II 9

Herts fought well, but Middlesex were really much too strong and worthy division winners.

Sussex 7, Hampshire 3

With Sussex at full strength for the first time, and Hampshire with 3 reserves, a bigger margin than this was anticipated (by me, anyway!). Colin Wilson opened with a fine 18, 16 win over Mike Douglas and later took the first game from Gerald Pugh.

JUNIOR NORTH

Cheshire 3, Cleveland 7

(And not 7-3 as the signed scoresheet said!).

Durham 8, Lancashire II 2

The scoreline harsh to this young Lancashire team. The best set that between the two stars, Keith Paxton and Steve Turner, won by Paxton 16, -20, 14.

Northumberland 8, Cumbria 2

The English Schools' Championships deprived Cumbria of two of their players, and then one of their girls failed to appear. The team fought, but found Andrew Clark at his best and well supported by Glen McCardle, Eddie Thomas and Valerie Smith.

JUNIOR SOUTH-EAST

Hertfordshire 9, Hampshire II 1

A struggle against the odds for Hampshire, with Linda Clemett recording their only set.

Berkshire II 3, Kent 7

Surrey II 6, Essex II 4

Kevin Caldon, for Essex, was in a class of his own, with none of his three sets ever in danger. Gary Stewart had a vital win over Andy Bawden (-17, 9, 18) at 4-11 with the more experienced player inhibited by the pressure; Bawden had earlier gone down to Steve Boxall from a good position. Suzanne Roebuck fortunate to take the first from Helen Gore, but made few errors in second, but Keith Seagar, and the Surrey Mixed Doubles, disappointing.

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Derbyshire 7, Leicestershire II 3

Hardly Division-winning form from Derbys, who had to wait until the 9th set to be sure. The difference between the sides was the girls, with Lindsey Mellor and Allyson Marples unbeaten. Robert Allen won 2 x B.S. for Derbys, both in 3, but with Stephen Webb, found David Gannon and Steve Kenney too steady in B.D., where the Leics pair won -22, 18, 15.

Shropshire 1, Nottinghamshire 9

Staffordshire 3, Clwyd 7

JUNIOR EAST

Bedfordshire 4, Northamptonshire 6

Cambridgeshire II 6, Norfolk 4

If at first you don't succeed . . . The 3rd season Cambs have fielded a Junior 2nd team; the 1st was awful; the 2nd showed some slight progress; the 3rd sees the winning of a Division. And they did it the hard way, dropping the first two sets and probably deserved their victory as they won all three Doubles. All six players featured in wins, so take a bow Tony Holmes, Geoff Davies, Mike Crowson, Derek Kiddle, Vivienne Rowell and Pat Tingey. Norfolk now keep their fingers crossed that Cambs do not lose badly to Lancs in Junior Premier, as a place in the Challenge depends on that. Congratulations too, to Paul Durrant, who went undefeated through the season in Singles.

Huntingdonshire 6, Lincolnshire 4

None of the home successes came from their girls as Suzanne Hunt and Marie Featherstone continued their good run.

JUNIOR WEST

Wiltshire 3, Devon 7

Cornwall 0, Dorset 10

Glamorgan 6, Worcestershire 4

Gloucestershire 8, Somerset 2

Jill Wilson well and away the best Somerset player and the home boys totally eclipsed the visitors. Nine of the games involving boys

failed to get into double figures.

VETERAN SOUTH

Essex 8, Hertfordshire 1

Hampshire 8, Huntingdonshire 1

Wiltshire 3, Essex II 6

1-8 on the table, but Essex managed to get their order wrong and forfeited two sets.

VETERAN MIDLAND

Clwyd 5, Worcestershire 4

Clwyd led 5-2 (all in straight games) and Worcs took the last pair for greater respectability. Don Hobbs again in good form and earlier Diana Moss had won Worcs's first ever W.S. set (at the 19th attempt, although only her 2nd try).

Clwyd 3, Warwickshire 6

Nottinghamshire 1, Cheshire 8

What a way to win a Division! 7-2, 8-1, 9-0, 9-0, 9-0 and now 8-1.

Oxfordshire 5, Leicestershire 4

Worcestershire 2, Staffordshire 7

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

TYKES CLAIM TWO

Delight in the County over the elevation of Andrew Barden to No. 6 in the latest E.T.T.A. Ranking List and the introduction of Mark Mitchell at No. 18.

The County sides are all doing well though there was considerable disappointment over the Junior Premier team's loss to Yorkshire on a day when a breakdown in the mini-bus meant that a delay of over 2 hours and a hiring of 3 cars meant that we had to concede 2 sets.

The Senior Premier team are assured of at least 3rd place whilst the second team also had a good season with David Jemmett outstanding. The new second Junior side are almost certain winners of Junior (South) and have been a great success, giving County experience to young players Bryn Tyler, Johanne James, Wojtek Strasburger and Graham Sandley, as well as the girls Elizabeth Kern and Jill Campion.

Inter-league competition ended with North Middlesex winning the Victor Barna (3-a-side) with their 2nd team runners-up although unbeaten. They were pushed into second place as they dropped points with two 5-4 victories. Willesden finished third.

In the second division of this competition Wembley were first and S.W. Middlesex runners-up, both now being due for promotion. In the N. Pegg competition, the 1st division is not yet settled but Uxbridge and North Acton have gained promotion from the 2nd division. The Junior division is not yet finalised.

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County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

WHO GOES DOWN?

Although in most Divisions a clear pattern has now emerged, the scene in the Premier is still covered in a dense fog. Four matches remain (Essex v Yorks, Glamorgan v Lancs, Middlesex v Warwicks, Bedfords v Cheshire) and in theory any two of five Counties could make the big drop to the 2nd Division, and any of the remaining three could take the title.

Surrey and Cambridgeshire are certain of places in the Senior Challenge at Shenley on 26th and 27th April, with Cleveland needing to avoid a 2-8 defeat by Yorkshire II to join them. Berkshire's move to 2nd West seems likely to have paid off, as a draw with Devon will put them at a stage never before reached. Surrey II, Derbys II, Cleveland II have all won Regional Divisions and must await the fate of their 1st teams to see if they go up; Bedfordshire II wait to see if their 1st team comes down and blocks their 2nd Division place (as runners-up to Herts II) and Gwent too, are up.

Essex need 3 sets from Middlesex to recapture the Junior Premier title, last won in 1971-2, which should not be beyond them, and the only certain Junior winners are Middlesex II and Cambs II. The keen Herts Association, spurred by "Big Bob" Bridges, stage the Junior Challenge as well, also at Shenley, on 3-4 May. Herts had high hopes of being involved in both sets of matches, but it was not to be (this season).

The two Essex teams have galloped away with Veteran South, and if, as expected, Cheshire challenge, they will stage this match on 4th May.

PREMIER DIVISION

Middlesex 8, Glamorgan 1

A. Barden bt A. Griffiths 21, -15, 17; bt G. Davies 11, 9.

M. Mitchell bt Griffiths 15, 15; bt J. Mansfield -22, 18, 17.

D. Tan bt Davies 17, 19; bt Mansfield 12, 11. Mitchell/Tan lost to Davies/Griffiths 16, -16 -15.

Mrs. K. Mathews bt Mrs. B. Gray 12, 9.

Barden/Mathews bt Mansfield/Gray 19, 15.

A comfortable win for Middlesex for whom Mark Mitchell opened splendidly v Alan Griffiths; he later had to work very hard to get the better of John Mansfield.

Cheshire 9, Glamorgan 0

M. Johns bt A. Griffiths 13, 19; bt G. Davies 18, 16.

J. Hilton bt Griffiths 18, 11; M. Owen -17, 13, 16.

N. Eckersley bt Davies 14, 16; bt Owen 13, -17, 11.

Johns/R. Hampson bt Davies/Griffiths -11, 13, 18.

Miss S. Lisle bt Mrs. B. Gray 12, 11.

Hampson/Lisle bt Owen/Gray 9, 17.

Lancashire 2, Bedfordshire 7

D. Parker lost to T. Taylor -14, -17; bt P. Taylor 13, -19, 19.

P. Bowen lost to T. Taylor 13, -10, -21; lost to F. Nilam 19, -21, -19.

N. Hallows lost to P. Taylor -13, -15; bt Nilam 12, -21, 19.

Bowen/Hallows lost to Nilam/T. Taylor -15, -14.

Miss B. Kirkman lost to Mrs. B. Hammond -18, 16, -14.

Parker/Kirkman lost to P. Taylor/Hammond -15, -15.

Yorkshire 4, Middlesex 5

A. Clayton bt A. Barden -12, 17, 19; bt M. Mitchell 16, 8.

A. Fletcher lost to Barden -13, 18, -12; bt D. Tan 19, 15.

D. Rayner lost to Mitchell -17, 19, -17; lost to Tan -19, -18.

Clayton/Fletcher bt Mitchell/Tan -16, 8, 13.

Miss S. Broadbent lost to Mrs. K. Mathews

-5, -16.

Rayner/Broadbent lost to Barden/Mathews -16, -12.

Despite a fine fight back in the closing stages, which almost gave Yorkshire the points, another 4-5 reverse for the hosts. Tony Clayton back to his best form, but all the players contributed to a really excellent match.

Essex 4, Warwickshire 5

I. Horsham lost to D. Douglas 19, -10, -13; bt P. Judd 13, 12.

D. Brown lost to Douglas -11, -13; bt D. Munt 11, 12.

R. Potton bt Judd -20, 16, 24; lost to Munt -20, -18.

Brown/Horsham lost to Douglas/Judd -17, 16, -15.

Miss S. Hession lost to Miss B. Green -17, -16.

Potton/Hession bt Munt/Green 15, 17.

A really surprising result which could, I suppose, even have been 3-6. An extremely fine, and absolutely crucial, victory for Beverley Green over Shelagh Hession.

2nd DIVISION SOUTH

Hampshire 4, Essex II 6

Kent 1, Sussex 9

Terry Farlie (No. 5) was played above both Ian Kenyon (2) and Ray Tilling (3) which meant that 3 sets were played which should not have been. Kent "won" two of these, both forfeited, and 3-7 on the table became 1-9. A bad end to the season for Kent, for whom little has gone right.

Middlesex II 2, Surrey 8

Despite the surprise of an opening set defeat for Steve Lyons (-19, 14, -13, to Dick Phelps) the Division winners powered on to a convincing win. David Welsman very sharp, and Chris Strathearn the model of consistency.

2nd DIVISION NORTH

Cleveland 8, Durham 2

Cleveland 10, Cheshire II 0

The well below standard Cheshire team (their men were 4, 22, 23) well beaten.

Durham 5, Yorkshire II 5

Never more than a set in this battle, with the lead changing hands regularly. Two nice wins for Keith Paxton (adding to his success over Alan Ransome in the Cleveland match) and the sharing of the points a just decision.

2nd DIVISION MIDLAND

Gloucestershire 5, Derbyshire 5

Ivor Warner, replacing Eric Hall, really came good here with two singles wins, the second (over Roy Morley) when Derby's unbeaten record looked in danger. The large crowd saw a fine match, and Chris Sewell again unbeaten (but 20, 23 v Maurice Billington).

Leicestershire 0, Derbyshire 10

With this match certain to decide the Division, a fine game seemed likely, but it became the saddest meeting of the season with not a ball struck. Derbys, on arrival, discovered the venue to be smaller than the minimum laid down in C.T.T.C. rules and felt themselves at a serious disadvantage with two defenders in their side. There never seemed any likelihood of Leics being able to provide the alternative venue requested by Derbys, and telephone calls to the Championship Referee and to myself produced the answer that Derbys could claim the match; this they duly did.

But with whom does one sympathise? Leics have played regularly at this venue, but in my view this does not mean they have a right to expect Counties to accept its limitations without prior warning. I have long held, and expressed, the view that Counties who accept venues (or dress) standards less than those required, weaken the position of a County which might later wish to complain. As for Derbys, by claiming they risk the probability of being called unsporting (by Counties other

than Leics) but their insistence on the rules might have been more convincing had they themselves abided more closely by them this season.

An unhappy occurrence, from which one hopes much has been learned.

Nottinghamshire 3, Gloucestershire 7

Warwickshire II 3, Staffordshire 7

Four of the five full-distance sets went to the visitors, but Warwickshire feel that Tony Isaac let his enthusiasm go a little too far with his celebration swim. It was, after all, 11 p.m., and the River Bourne was very cold (was that why he performed fully clothed?).

2nd DIVISION EAST

Suffolk 1, Cambridgeshire 9

John Kitchener's win over Michael Harper apart, Cambs rarely in trouble and fully deserved their biggest ever victory over Suffolk.

Norfolk 7, Northamptonshire 3

Norfolk glad to see John Fuller back again; he crushed Rod Marchant and ended all thoughts of a Northants revival.

2nd DIVISION WEST

Berkshire 9, Somerset 1

Bob Thornton went down in the first set to Brian Reeves, but fairly comfortable after that.

Dorset 1, Cornwall 9

Somerset 5, Devon 5

There must have been a good reason for the result sheet reaching me with names and signatures on it, but I will confess I had expected some scores! (These came later)!!

Worcestershire 3, Berkshire 7

On her 100th first team outing, Joyce Lloyd took the table v Caroline Reeves with the match score 0-5. She duly obliged with scores of -19, 18, 17, but not until the 9th set did Worcester score again.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Oxfordshire 4, Berkshire II 6

Surrey II 5, Kent II 5

Not a convincing Surrey performance, but just good enough to give them the Division.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Cheshire III 5, Cleveland II 5

Northumberland II 3, Cumbria 7

The first 5 sets all needed the deciding game, and Cumbria then led 4-1. Their better women were unbeaten, and Jennifer Pachul in particular had a good day. Andrew Clark picked up two M.S. wins and nice to see Cumbria establishing themselves as a winning team after a long struggle as Cumberland.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Derbyshire II 8, Nottinghamshire II 2

9-1 on the table, but Derbys had men in the wrong order and forfeit a set.

Northamptonshire II 4, Warwickshire III 6

All 3 doubles sets to Northants, but the stronger visiting men swayed a closely fought battle. Eddie Lasek and Graham Binney the pick of the bunch.

Staffordshire II 6, Clwyd 4

EASTERN DIVISION

Hertfordshire II 6, Essex III 4

Herts did well to recover from 1-3 down, with Tony Hammond, Simon Proffitt and Linda Towler all playing their part. A nice new venue for Herts at the Cheshunt Club, which will probably be used some more!

Norfolk II 2, Hertfordshire II 8

Essex III 9, Cambridgeshire II 1

Bedfordshire II 10, Huntingdonshire 0

WESTERN DIVISION

Worcestershire II 3, Glamorgan II 7

With Worcs unbeaten, and Glamorgan having gone down to Gwent, three Counties interested in this match. But for the second season running Worcs were to be deprived; this time by a Glamorgan side far stronger than any they had turned out before. I would

Continued on page 35