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Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

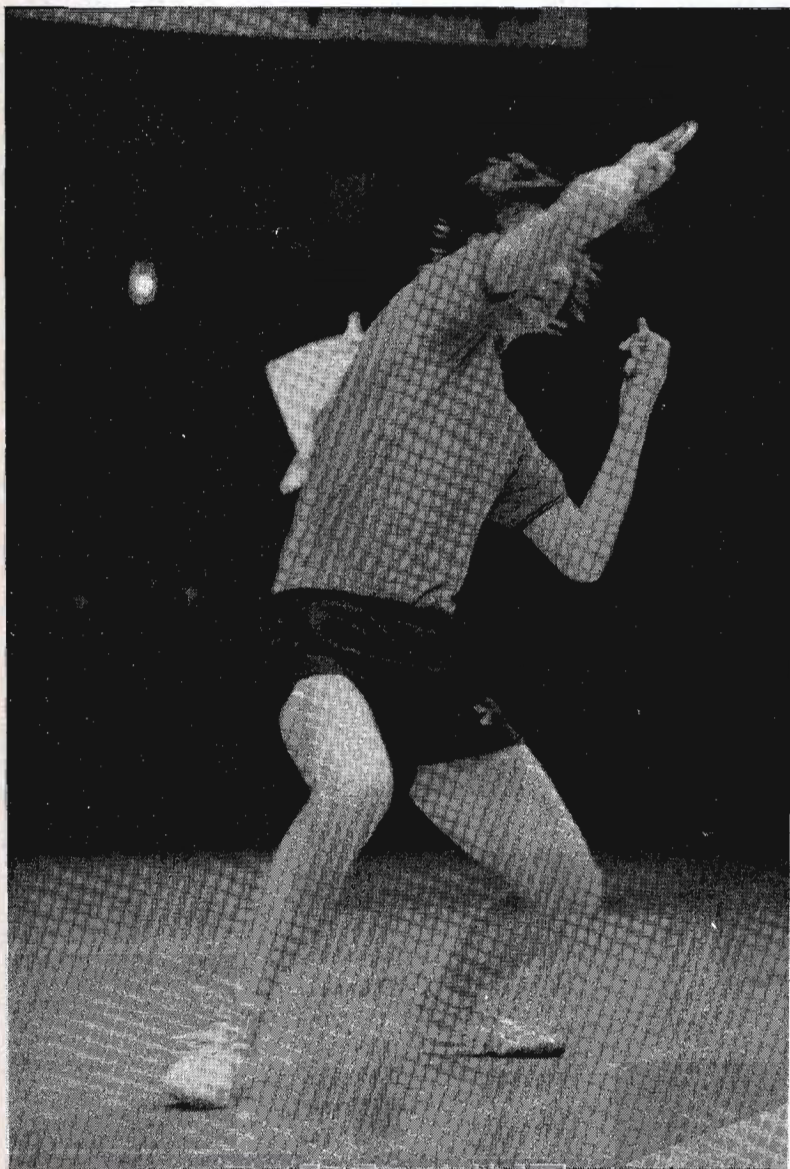
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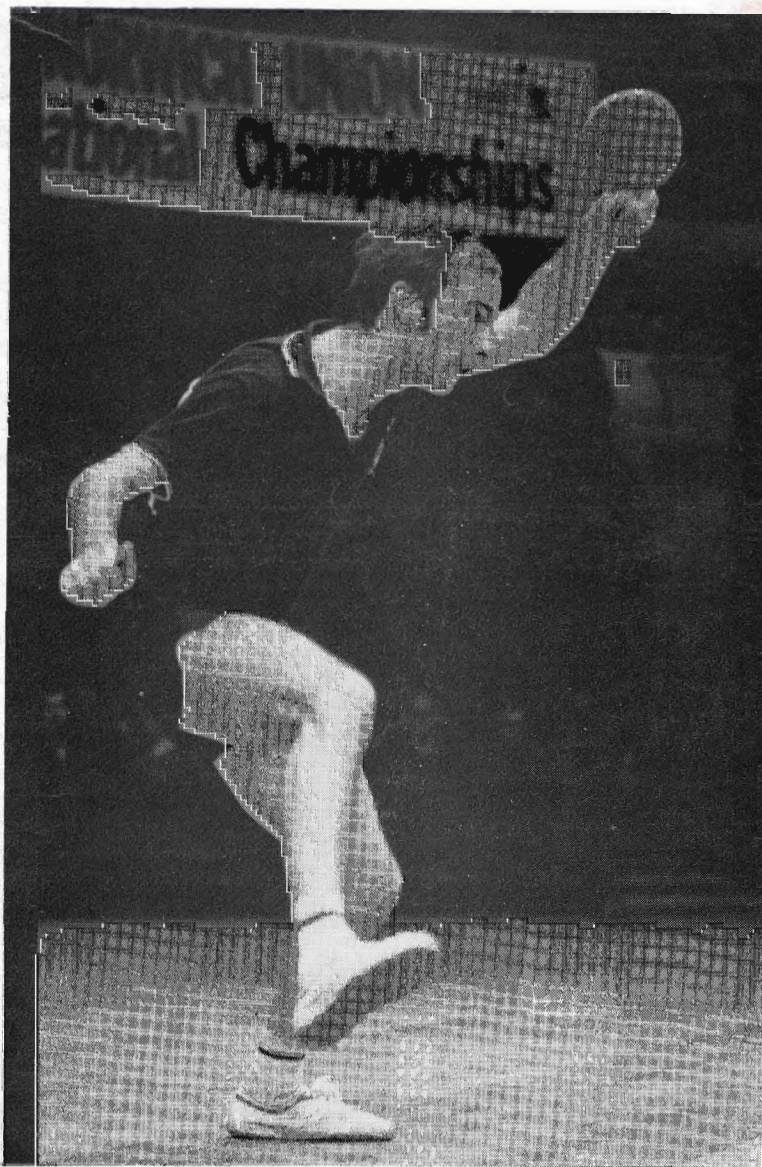
January 1975

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BRIGHTON PEERS



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JACQUES SECRETIN

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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**BRIGHTON
FILLIP**

The success of Nicky Jarvis and Trevor Taylor in winning the men's team title in the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton, could not have come at a more opportune time, occurring as it did, on the eve of our players' departure for the 3rd Commonwealth and 33rd World Championships.

As a confidence-booster it should stimulate the efforts that will be needed for England to retain all seven Commonwealth titles and assure our representatives of being well received both in Melbourne and Calcutta.

Granted, our players did not set the Sussex coast alight in the individual events but there were some heart-warming victories achieved in both team events, none more so than the feats of newcomer Carole Knight in beating Federal Germany's Wiebke Hendriksen and Ursula Hirschmüller.

Few will envy Brian Burn, the new Trainer/Coach, whose task in maintaining the physical and psychological well-being of his squad over quite a lengthy period away from home, is nothing short of daunting. We wish both him and his charges well. Bon voyage and happy landings.

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**On the
International
Front
by The Editor**

DOWN AGAIN

In Budapest, on Dec. 12, England went down to their third successive defeat in the **Premier Division** of the **European League**, but the result could, so easily, have been in the visitors' favour instead of 5-2 to Hungary.

Denis Neale and Nicky Jarvis both played really well and could have won all four men's singles. As it was they both accounted for ace defender, Janos Börzsei, showing great control and patience in waiting for the right ball to "put away."

Neale led Gabor Gergely 9-5 in the third, controlling the Hungarian's loop exceptionally well, whilst Jarvis, against the same player, led 20-18 in the first and 21-20 in the second, before losing in a very even contest.

Neale and Desmond Douglas led 20-16 in both games of the men's doubles yet, incredibly, they lost, but Jill Hammersley was well beaten, as were Douglas and Linda Howard in the mixed. Individual scores:—

- G. Gergeley bt D. Neale -17, 18, 14.
- J. Börzsei lost to N. Jarvis -12, -16.
- J. Magos-Havas bt J. Hammersley 15, 13.
- Gergely/F. Timar bt Douglas/Neale 21, 21.
- Gergely/Magos-Havas bt Douglas/L. Howard 13, 18.
- Gergely bt Jarvis 20, 21.
- Börzsei lost to Neale -16, -14.

On the same night, in Lubeck, Federal Germany went down 1-6 to Sweden, the only home victory being recorded by Wiebke Hendriksen, who beat Ann-Christin Hellman. Both Kjell Johansson and Stellan Bengtsson were put under extreme pressure by Jochen Leiss and Peter Stellweg in their opening engagements, but weathered the storm as they did in the men's doubles, contested by the same four players. Scores:—

- J. Leiss lost to K. Johansson 13, -19, -22.
- P. Stellweg lost to S. Bengtsson -18, 18, -19.
- W. Hendriksen bt A.C. Hellman -18, 15, 15.
- Leiss/Stellweg lost to Bengtsson/Johansson -19, 15, -19.
- E. Hüging/Hendriksen lost to Johansson/Hellman -15, -12.
- Leiss lost to Bengtsson -22, -21.
- Stellweg lost to Johansson -13, -15.

France, who, like England, are without a win, fought valiantly, away to Yugoslavia, in Coka, coming back from a 1-3 deficit to equate the match score at 3-all, only for Dragutin Surbek to snatch victory away from them in beating Jean-Denis Constant, having previously accounted for Jacques Secretin 22-20 in the third.

Milivoj Karakasevic, making his debut in this competition, failed in his two singles. Scores:—

- M. Karakasevic lost to J-D. Constant -17, -18.
- D. Surbek bt J. Secretin 17, -19, 20.
- E. Palatinus bt C. Bergeret -8, 6, 18.
- A. Stipancic/Surbek bt Constant/Secretin 16, 14.
- Stipancic/Palatinus lost to Secretin/Bergeret -11, 20, -10.
- Karakasevic lost to Secretin -11, 16, -14.
- Surbek bt Constant 16, 10.



Current table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	3	3	0	13	8	3
Czechoslovakia	3	2	1	13	8	2
Sweden	3	2	1	13	8	2
U.S.S.R.	3	2	1	11	10	2
Yugoslavia	3	2	1	11	10	2
Federal Germany	3	1	2	8	13	1
France	3	0	3	9	12	0
England	3	0	3	6	15	0

In the **Second Division—Group A**, Holland brought off a stirring 4-3 win over Denmark when in the final set, with the match score poised at 3-all, Bert van der Helm beat Bjarne Grimstrup to bring the house down at Vaardingen on Dec. 14. Scores:—

- N. v Slobbe lost to B. Grimstrup -22, -11.
- B. v d Helm bt C. Pedersen 21, -12, 16.
- S. Heltzel bt S. Poulsen 19, 17.
- C. Deken/v Slobbe lost to Grimstrup/Pedersen -19, -20.
- v d Helm/Heltzel bt Pedersen/Poulsen 15, 19.
- v Slobbe lost to Pedersen -12, -19.
- v d Helm bt Grimstrup 21, 9.

Poland, at home to Belgium, won 6-1 to keep their unbeaten record intact and to maintain their threat to the Netherlands.

Table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	3	3	0	14	7	3
Poland	2	2	0	11	3	2
Denmark	2	1	1	7	7	1
Ireland	2	0	2	5	9	0
Belgium	3	0	3	5	16	0

Big shock in the Second Division—Group B was the 5-2 win obtained by Greece over Italy in the Nikaia National Gymnasium, on Dec. 14, where only Stefano Bosi succeeded in stemming the Grecian onslaught. Scores:—

- K. Priftis bt R. Giontella -12, 10, 15.
- D. Zikos lost to S. Bosi -18, 14, -18.
- M. Louka bt L. La Gioia 14, 18.
- N. Costopoulos/Priftis bt Bosi/Giontella 11, 19.
- Priftis/Louka bt Giontella/La Gioia -17, 9, 14.
- Priftis lost to Bosi -21, 20, -14.
- Zikos bt Giontella 25, 19.

Austria, 6-1 winners over Switzerland in Innsbruck, on Dec. 13, are now the only undefeated country in this division. Scores in this match were:—

- R. Weinmann bt T. Sadecky 13, 5.
- F. Thallinger bt J. Barcikowsky 5, -19, 9.
- R. Gerich lost to V. Lehmann -15, -22.
- G. Müller/Weinmann bt Barcikowsky/Sadecky 20, 11.
- Müller/Fetter bt Sadecky/Lehmann -16, 22, 21.
- Weinmann bt Barcikowsky 10, 13.
- Thallinger bt Sadecky 18, -17, 7.

Table:—

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	2	2	0	12	2	2
Greece	3	2	1	12	9	2
Italy	2	1	1	7	7	1
Switzerland	3	1	2	7	14	1
Luxembourg	2	0	2	4	10	0

EUROPE CLUB CUP

Denis Neale, superceded by Nicky Jarvis as England's No. 1, outshone his Ormesby club-

mate in the 5-2 victory obtained by the former Middlesbrough League champions over Budapest Spartacus in their Europe Club Cup quarter-final tie played at Eston on Dec. 18.

After Jarvis had gone down to Ferenc Timar in the fourth set for the Hungarian side to level the match score at 2-all, it was Neale, having beaten Gyula Kocsis in his first excursion to the table, who put the English club champions back into the lead again and who gave his side the winning lead at the expense of a previously unbeaten Timar.

Jarvis had opened the proceedings with an easy victory over Tibor Kreisz, and Jimmy Walker, having lost to Timar in the second set, succeeded in the penultimate one against Kocsis. Scores:—

N. Jarvis bt T. Kreisz 12, 14.
J. Walker lost to F. Timar -16, -14.
D. Neale bt G. Kocsis 15, 9.
Jarvis lost to Timar -17, -16.
Neale bt Kreisz 7, 11.
Walker bt Kocsis 19, 15.
Neale bt Timar 18, -14, 16.

Round 2 results:—

Men

GSTK Vjesnik w.o. Atus Traismauer, scr.
PSB Borussia, Dusseldorf, 5, Tempo, Amsterdam 1.
Budapest Spartacus 5, PTS Stiga, Helsinki 0.
Mondals BTK 5, CUS, Firenze 0.
Kremlin Bicetre 5, Benfica, Lisbon 1.
Akademic Swishow 5, DT Dommeldange 3.

Women

Gainsford, London 5, Delta Lloyd 2.
ASTK Mladost 5, Capip 1937 0.
Mav Tervezo, Budapest 5, Panathinaikos, Athens 1.
Sparta, Prague 5, TTC Basle 1.
Varbergs BTK 5, Palette Stave 1.
Kaiserberg, Duisberg 5, Politzei SV Vienna 0.
Bologne-Billancourt 5, Akademic, Sofia 4.
Statiztika PSC, Budapest w.o. Benfica, Lisbon scr.

Round 3 results:—

Sparta, Prague 5, Mav Tervezo 2.
Varbergs BTK 5, Kaiserberg, Duisberg 1.

KOREA REPUBLIC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lee Ailesa beat Chung Hyun Sook (10, -19, 21, 6) to win the women's singles title in Seoul, the counterpart men's title going to Choi Sunk Kuk, who had a 3-straight win over Lee Sang Kuk (8, 19, 21).

CZECH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jaroslav Kunz was the winner of the men's singles event in Orlici, beating Milan Orlowski in the final 13, -17, 12, 10. Milislava Zizkova won the counterpart women's event with final victory over Alica Grofova 18, -15, 20, 16.

REVISED WORLD RANKINGS

On Dec. 23, 1974, the International Table Tennis Federation issued a revised individual classification list which will operate for the 33rd World Championships, the draw for which was scheduled to take place in New Delhi on Jan. 4-5, 1975.

Both Hsi En-ting and Hu Yu-lan hold their No. 1 placings from the previous list, but many are the changes that have taken place beneath them.

In the men's list Dragutin Surbek is moved up from No. 7 to No. 2, displacing Kjell Johansson, who is dropped to No. 3. China's Li Chen-shih is elevated from No. 8 to No. 4, displacing Anton Stipanovic, who is demoted to No. 7. But the biggest leap of all is that afforded Liang Ko-liang, of China, who from No. 19 in the previous list, now lies at No. 8. England's Denis Neale is moved down two positions from No. 27 to 29.

Japan's Hiroyuki Abe is the only newcomer, who is brought in at No. 18. Yu Yi-tse, of China, previously at No. 31, is omitted.

Chang-Li, of China, displaces Lee Ailesa, of Korea Republic at No. 2 in the women's list, which demotes Jill Hammersley, of England, from No. 13 to No. 14. Moved up from No. 22 to No. 10 is Huang Hsi-ping, of China.

New list (previous positions in brackets)

are:—

Men

1. Hsi En-ting (China) (1)
2. D. Surbek (Yugoslavia) (7)
3. K. Johansson (Sweden) (2)
4. Li Chen-shih (China) (8)
5. S. Bengtsson (Sweden) (6)
6. M. Orlowski (Czechoslovakia) (3)
7. A. Stipanovic (Yugoslavia) (4)
8. Liang Ko-liang (China) (19)
9. I. Jonyer (Hungary) (5)
10. M. Kohno (Japan) (10)
11. Hsu Shao-fa (China) (11)
12. N. Hasegawa (Japan) (9)
13. G. Gergely (Hungary) (12)
14. S. Sarkhojan (USSR) (13)
15. J. Secretin (France) (14)
16. S. Gomozkov (USSR) (21)
17. Li Peng (China) (26)
18. H. Abe (Japan) (—)
19. Y. Imano (Japan) (15)
20. Tiao Wen-yuan (China) (16)
21. T. Klampar (Hungary) (17)
22. T. Tasaka (Japan) (18)
23. Li Ching-kuang (China) (22)
24. N. Takashima (Japan) (23)
25. J. Kunz (Czechoslovakia) (32)
26. I. Wikström (Sweden) (20)
27. A. Strokotov (USSR) (24)
28. J. Börzsei (Hungary) (25)
29. D. Neale (England) (27)
30. M. Karakasevic (Yugoslavia) (30)
31. W. Lieck (Fed. Germany) (28)
32. Z. Cordas (Yugoslavia) (29)

Women

1. Hu Yu-lan (China) (1)
2. Chang Li (China) (3)
3. Lee Ailesa (Korea Republic) (2)
4. Y. Ohzeki (Japan) (4)
5. J. Magos-Havas (Hungary) (5)
6. Chung Hyun Sook (Korea Rep) (6)
7. Z. Rudnova (USSR) (7)
8. T. Edano (Japan) (8)
9. Pak Yong Sun (Korea DPR) (9)
10. Huang Hsi-ping (China) (22)
11. Cheng Huai-ying (China) (10)
12. M. Alexandru (Rumania) (11)
13. S. Yokota (Japan) (12)
14. J. Hammersley (England) (13)
15. A-C. Hellman (Sweden) (16)
16. Park Mi Ra (Korea R) (14)
17. A. Grofova (Czechoslovakia) (18)
18. Yu Chin-chia (China) (15)
19. B. Kishazi (Hungary) (17)
20. E. Antonian (USSR) (21)
21. Pak Yong Ok (Korea DPR) (20)
22. H. Riedlova (Czechoslovakia) (26)
23. B. Radberg (Sweden) (19)
24. Lin Mei-chun (China) (23)
25. M. Hamada (Japan) (24)
26. S. Federova (USSR) (25)
27. A. Gedraitite (USSR) (27)
28. B. Silhanova (Czechoslovakia) (28)
29. T. Abe (Japan) (29)
30. Yeng Min-chih (China) (30)
31. Yang Chun (China) (31)
32. W. Hendriksen (Fed. Germany) (32)

NEW YEAR HONOURS

Her many friends will be pleased to know that Miss K.M. White was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours for her work in the Department of Employment.

She is one of the group which was brought together to run the World Championships in London in 1938, so many of whom gave notable service for many years thereafter. Kath joined the party for the Cairo Worlds in 1939, was co-opted to the wartime National Executive, and was associated with the Metropolitan Championships in post-war years.

MAKE

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WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

PROMISING INFORMATION

Many thanks to those of you who have made enquiries of my health. Since my last article I have made two more visits to Morfield Eye Hospital and have been given promising information regarding the saving of my left eye. They are hoping to prescribe an eye glass, thus enabling me to read after a 7 months' lapse. Meantime my wife puts pen to paper on my behalf.

Jimmy Andrews was the outstanding player for Weston in their 5-4 win over Exeter with Tony Russe decisively augmenting Jimmy's treble. A similar result went against Exeter away to Plymouth when all depended on the result of the last set when M. Short beat M. Rundle. Bob Parkins had a maximum for the Devon side.

Weston, at home to a weakened Bristol side, had a comfortable 9-0 victory but, away to Newport, the Somerset side went down in a thrilling encounter when, in the final set, Pat Crowley beat Tony Russe after Allan Harrison had registered a maximum for Newport.

Salisbury beat Exeter 7-2 in a much closer match than the final score indicates. Mike Darlington made a fight of it against both Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding and went to three with Chris Shetler. Mike Rattue won Exeter's two sets but Moulding managed to reverse his recent County match defeat. Kevin Rice went very near but could not quite make it against this full Wilts County side.

Newbury, whose side included Simon Heaps, beat Exeter 5-4 with the former junior international winning three and David Reeves and Alan Hicks one each. Mike Rattue (2) was Exeter's best player. Newcomers Exmouth had a surprise 6-3 win over Plymouth, coming back from a 0-2 deficit to win six sets in a row! Paul Stone played well in winning all his three including a defeat for Parkins, the Devon champion.

Newport had a 6-3 win over Poole in front of a disappointingly sparse crowd, but Salisbury, rather unexpectedly, surprised Bournemouth 8-1, whose Steve Wilson was below par and veteran Cyril Bush had a good win over Bruce.

Salisbury, at home to Newbury "B" in the Women's Section, were beaten 6-3 with Mandy Smith obtaining a maximum for the visitors. Bournemouth beat Devizes 8-1, the Hants team comprising Joyce Coop, Julie Reading and Janet New, a formidable side and one hard to beat.

Exeter, at home to Newbury, were able to call on the services of the experienced Pam Mortimer and, at one stage, were 4-3 in the lead. It was then that Jackie Godwin beat June Farmer and Caroline Reeves got the better of Maureen Spray to clinch victory for Newbury.

Newport, at home to Devizes, were beaten 5-4 but, more clear-cut, Plymouth disposed of Salisbury 8-1. Plymouth had a similar win over Exeter with E. Lamb and K. Rowe both beating Pam Mortimer, whose only success, on this occasion, was against Mavis Scott.

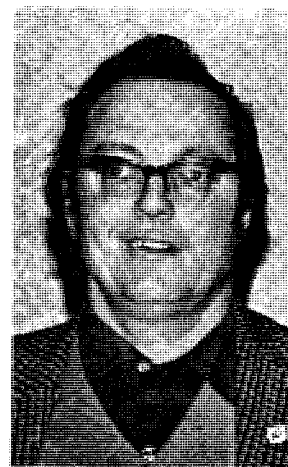
Newbury "B" had a narrow 5-4 win over Newport, whose Betty Jones recorded a treble in vain, the greater credits going to the young players of Newbury, who fight for every point.

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TEAM TITLE FOR ENGLAND

Best Men's Singles Final for years

by PHILIP REID



The Norwich Union International Championships, played in the Dome and Corn Exchange, Brighton, over the period Jan. 9-11, 1975, provided plenty of shocks in the way of results, but as far as the team events were concerned, they were mainly of a pleasant nature.

The Men's Team event was dominated by the inaptly-named England II and it is a matter of conjecture whether the Nicky Jarvis-Trevor Taylor team is stronger than that consisting of Denis Neale and Desmond Douglas. The team events are not usually notable for the number of close matches but there were plenty on this occasion.

In the first round England III had a very good 3-0 win over Canada, where Ian Horsham gave a sparkling performance by defeating

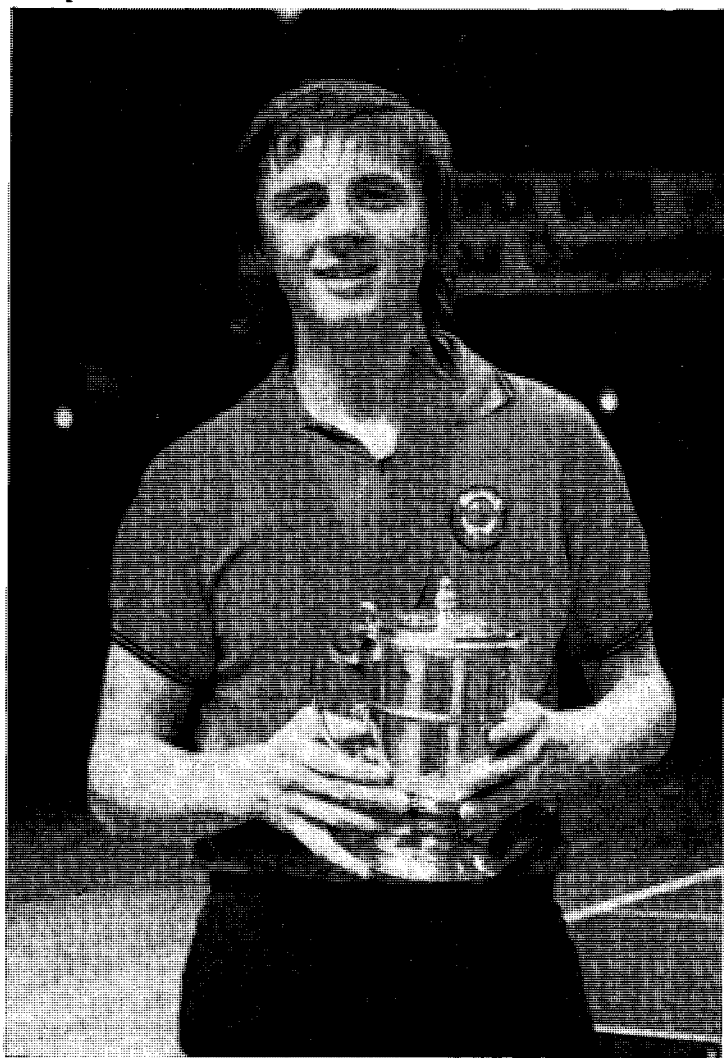
the highly-regarded Errol Caetano — a win which put England firmly on the path to victory. Hungary had sent nothing like their best side and England II had no trouble in beating them 3-0. Ireland only narrowly lost to a useful Yugoslav second team, where Savnik was unbeaten. Two fine wins for Scotland's Richard Yule against France II availed him nought, the vital set being the doubles, lost at -20 in the third.

The second round saw the early—and predictable—eclipse of England III, where Jimmy Walker made an excellent start by taking the first game off Gomozkov and although he took him close in the next two, it was Russia who won the match by a 3-0 margin. 3-0, too, was the margin by which Yugoslavia, China II and China I got home against, respectively, Federal

Germany II, Scotland II and France II. China's two matches were, in fact, all won in straight games with only the doubles going closer than 21-16—an early indication that the Chinese were going to give nothing away.

England II, meanwhile, made further progress at the expense of France I, the highlight being the first set which Jarvis won by the narrowest of margins against the ace French defender, Jacques Secretin, after dropping the first game -10. It was a wonderful fighting display by the England No. 1 and far from being his only performance worthy of note, it was merely the start of several.

Jarvis is one of the greatest fighters the game has ever known and one feels often he is denied his just desserts, but on this occasion, for a change, he was amply rewarded. It



A solo shot of Anatoliy Strokotov with the Oldroyd Cup.



Women's singles winner, Elmira Antonian, of the Soviet Union



Nicky Jarvis and the bearded Trevor Taylor who, as England II, won the men's team event and were further rewarded to the tune of £100 each on the outsize cheques presented by John McDonnell.

only remained for Taylor and Jarvis to beat Birocheau—a feat well within their compass, although had the pair been able to clinch a doubles they had started so well, it would have been another 3-0. In the circumstances the 3-2 win was good enough to take them into the quarter-finals.

England I conceded only the doubles on their way to victory against Yugoslavia II and the Welsh team made a magnificent start against Federal Germany I when Alan Griffiths beat Peter Stellwag two straight. It was a wonderful win for the Cardiff player, who, like Jarvis, never knows the meaning of the word defeat. It was, though, the only match Wales could collect. Incidentally, it was curious that Manfred Baum—later to reach the last eight in the men's singles—failed to get a singles game in either of the Federal German teams!

NO TROUBLE

The quarter-finals brought two extremely close matches, one easy one and a walk-over. China I received the walk-over, owing to the absence of Poland and Czechoslovakia, who were due to play each other.

Russia had no trouble at all in beating Yugoslavia I (who were without Surbek or Stipancic) 3-0 but it needed all Neale's inspiration to take England I to victory against Federal Germany I. Two good wins—over Leiss and Stellwag—and another fine performance in the doubles was his excellent contribution.

In the Women's event there were not the same number of close finishes but there were some pretty good finishes nevertheless.

In the first round Russia disposed of Scotland II without a single game reaching double figures. Ireland put up stout resistance against China II and Karen Senior and Kyra Stewart must be delighted to have won the doubles—the only team to do so in the event. All the remaining matches were settled in three games.

Federal Germany I beat Canada 3-0, England I beat Federal Germany II by the same score and France beat Scotland I 3-0. None of these matches even needed a deciding game. Gabriella Ivasko, of Hungary, took China's Yu Ching-chia to a third game but it was the same match score as the majority of the others—3-0. Russia made their exit at the quarter-final stage where China II carried too much power for them, although Svetlana Federova contained Li Ming well enough to win the second set. England were involved in the remaining three matches.

Two tremendous wins by Carole Knight

against Federal Germany I brought no tangible reward when England lost 3-2, but Miss Knight must be pleased to have beaten players of the calibre of Ursula Hirschmüller and Wiebke Hendriksen.

In the other encounter, China II beat England III 3-0, where only the doubles went to three. Both Chinese teams won in their semi-final encounter, both 3-0, but whilst China II looked convincing enough against Federal Germany I, China I were extended to three games in each of their matches against England I.

SENSATIONS

It was in the Men's Team semi-final where the sensations started. England I went down 3-0 to China I but England II kept the flag flying by beating Russia, amazing, 3-0. It was an incredible and well-deserved performance. No praise is too high for Jarvis and Taylor, who were quite magnificent.

Taylor opened for England against No. 1 seed, Sarkis Sarkhojan. His first game defeat gave no indication of the way Taylor was to

come back, which he did most handsomely, and once he went away in the third there was just no holding him. Jarvis then made the score 2-0 by beating Gomozkov, again after losing the first. The Russians fought hard to take the doubles—a result which would have laid the match wide open—but there was no stopping Jarvis and Taylor, who won two-straight for a place in the final.

The Women's team final was taken by China II, who beat China I 3-0. With all four players hitting practically all the while, it did not provide a particularly interesting final, although the actual standard of play was very high.

More interesting, of course, to English supporters was the England II—China I final. Once again Jarvis put England off to a great start by hitting with great power to account for Wang Chia-lin in two games. In these championships, and particularly the team event, Jarvis moved better and hit with more power than I had ever seen from him previously.

Next Taylor tackled the redoubtable Li Ching-kwang, who carries the fearsome nickname of "Tomahawk." A very close first game was taken by the Chinese player but Trevor bounded back to take the second. A 19-14 lead in the third looked to have secured victory for the consistent Taylor, but the determined Chinese player came back to 19-all. Incredibly, at this juncture he served off and a short rally then culminated in Trevor hitting a winner—England II 2, China I 0.

With such a scoreline behind them England went into the doubles with great spirit and having won the first, led 14-11 in the second. It looked like being settled in three sets but China were not finished yet. In a great fight-back they took ten points in a row to win the second and then took the third. Poor Nicky Jarvis was completely unable to cope with Li Ching-kwang and with the match score 2-2 anything could happen.

In fact most things did. Taylor took the first and could so easily have won two-straight, but nerves—not a thing he suffers from a lot—appeared to hamper his progress in the second. Something which Mike Johns and I found distinctly disappointing was the lack of support given to the England team. At a time when some enthusiasm could have raised the team, the large crowd seemed complacent.

There was, however, nothing complacent about Taylor, who was tenacious and determined. Once again he hit a winner to finish it



E.T.T.A. President, Maurice Goldstein, stands demurely to one side as China's Yen Kui-li and Yu Ching-chia take the spotlight as winners of the women's team trophy.

off at 21-19, and was accorded a warm reception by his team-mates.

DESERVING

Trevor Taylor has brought off many fine wins but he has rarely played better than he did in the team events here. It was a really superb performance by Jarvis and Taylor, fully deserving of the £100 each they received from Norwich Union for their efforts. Yet—amazingly—there were those who felt England II had been given the title “on a plate.” Some people expressed the opinion that Russia had not tried over-hard against England II because they didn't fancy playing China I in the final. There was also the school of thought that China hadn't wanted to win against England with their “Friendship first” ideals.

I talked this over with Mike Johns and we both agreed these suggestions are quite ridiculous. Russia, surely would have welcomed the practice against the Chinese—they are hardly likely to travel that far to throw games. And there was nothing in their play to suggest they weren't giving 100%. China? Well, if they had wished to give the encounter to England they had the chance when they trailed 0-2 and a game and 11-14 in the doubles. In fact they fought back to win and when a mistake was made in the last singles Wang Chia-lin was quick (and correct) to point out the error. It suggested HE minded whether he won or not.

Too often if England lose, they are criticised for not being good enough. If they win, it's because the other team gave it to them.

No—give the team credit when they win. And, come to think of it—a bit of support wouldn't come amiss either.

Individual Events

The individual events provided the best finals seen for many years and many of the earlier matches were very good, too.

In the Men's Singles only one of the eight seeded players failed to reach the quarter-finals, although with the Czech team not in contention there was also the absence of Kunz to be counted. The defeated seed was the Yugoslav, Karakasevic, who went under to Kuo Yao-hua.

English players had a very disappointing time in this event. Donald Parker gave a fine display against Sarkhojan, the No. 1 seed, and clearly the Preston star is still improving. Desmond Douglas—who had a very disappointing time in both team and individual events—lost in the first round to the French defender, Christian Martin. Martin is a very useful player indeed, with good variation of chop and an occasional telling kill. But it should have been within Douglas's scope to deal with him.

Trevor Taylor's victor was Baum, who played like a man inspired. Taylor still appeared tired from the day before and the same could be said of Jarvis, who was defeated by Karakasevic's conqueror, Kua Yao-hua. Only rarely did the two players, who had performed with such credit the day before, look likely to win. Walker started off well against Secretin but the longer the set went on, the less likely he looked to win, although due credit should be given to the French ace, who went from strength to strength. It was another Frenchman, Regis Canor, who put out Horsham in three comfortable games.

LAST SIXTEEN

Only Neale reached the last eight and in fact only three Englishmen were in the last sixteen. Neale, of course, was one and Jimmy Walker another. The third was Alan Hydes, shortly to take up a coaching appointment in New Zealand. Alan beat both Jimmy Langan (Ireland) and D. Jurcic (Yugoslavia) before losing over four games to Gomozkov. It was a pretty good performance by Alan, who will be missed round the tournaments. I am sure everyone, however, will want to wish this



Russia's winners of the men's doubles, Sarkis Sarkhojan (left) and Stanislav Gomozkov, flank men's singles winner, Anatoliy Strokotov, who insisted on joining the group, too!

likeable player every success in New Zealand.

The success of a tournament is not, however, entirely dependent on how far the English players get. This one produced some superb stuff. All four quarter-finals were settled in three games. Neale never really got to grips with Sarkhojan, but 19-years-old Anatoliy Strokotov provided a shock by beating the feared Li Ching-kwang in three games, only the second of which could be termed close. With shrewd ball-placing and powerful hits, the Russian always looked completely in control. Stanislav Gomozkov stopped Baum's march and Secretin's defence, after some initial shakiness, was too steady for Kuo Yao-hua.

In the semi-finals, Strokotov surprisingly out-hit Sarkhojan in some entertaining play which was settled after three games, but not so the other semi-final, featuring Gomozkov and Secretin. Most people were, I think, hoping to see Secretin in the final since a final which has players from the same country is rarely very exciting.

When the French chopper took the first two games all looked well, and a good start in the third seemed to have settled the issue. But it had not. Hitting some spectacular backhands, as only he can, Gomozkov took a very close third and a fourth which was just as exciting. When Gomozkov is hitting well, he looks unbeatable. When—as happened in the fifth game—his timing is fractionally out—he looks as though he has trouble in putting two good shots on in succession. Certainly Secretin's steadiness and sudden kills were responsible for the Frenchman winning the fifth fairly easily.

AS EXPECTED

The Men's Doubles went very much as expected but there was early excitement when Chester Barnes partnered the Chinese player Wang Chia-lin. They reached the third round before losing to eventual winners, Gomozkov and Sarkhojan, but not before they had taken them to five games. Neale and Douglas, England's sole representatives in the semi-final, also lost to the Russian pair, but credit



Mixed doubles winners, Li Ching-kwang and Yen Kui-li, receive their award from John McDonnell, Public Relations Manager, Norwich Union Insurance Group.

should be given to the English duo who recovered from two games down before losing 21-18 in the fifth. In the other half, the unseeded pair of Leiss and Stellwag, reached the last four (having beaten Jarvis and Walker in the quarters) where they went out to Li Ching-kwang and Kuo Yao-hua

The Women's Singles provided a shock before it started—the withdrawal of the No. 1 seed, Zoya Rudnova, through illness. Any suggestions that this would upset the draw were quickly dispelled when her replacement, Elmira Antonian (like Strokotov, only nineteen years of age) played like a player possessed. Linda Howard—the most successful of the English players in this event—played Miss Antonian in the third round and a very fine match was finally won by the Russian at 21-14 in the fifth.

Jill Hammersley—who I had personally fancied to win the tournament—went out at the first time of hitting, to the fiery hitting of the unseeded Chinese player, Yen Kui-li. It was a comprehensive victory—three straight—and can only illustrate the depth the Chinese must have in talent to produce players of such skills, though she eventually went out to the French girl, Claude Bergeret.

Two Chinese players, however, did reach the semi-finals. Liu Hsin-yen beat Svetlana Federova to claim her place in the last four whilst Yu Ching-chia beat the much-improved Hungarian, Gabriella Szabo (who had beaten Karenza Mathews in the first round and Ursula Hirschmüller in the second).

Miss Antonian found herself 1-2 in the semi-final against Yu Ching-chia, but her clever placing of the ball and varied game brought her a well-merited victory. Miss Bergeret, having beaten one Chinese player, found Liu Hsin-yen carried just too much power for her.

ONE PAIR

There was not a very big entry in the Women's Doubles but even in this event England could only manage one pair in the last eight—Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard. Their opponents at this stage were Ursula Hirschmüller and Monika Kneip (Federal Germany). The set was very evenly poised but a good start by the German pair in the fifth carried them to victory. They subsequently lost to No. 2 seeds, Liu Hsin-yen and Li Ming (China) after a match which started well but became one-sided later on. The top half, too, had a German pair and a Chinese pair and the result was the same—a 3-1 win for China. In this instance Yen Kui-li and Yu Ching-chia beat Jana Eberle and Wiebke Hendriksen.

MOST SUCCESSFUL

The most successful event for England turned out to be the Mixed Doubles, although even in this the successes were limited. Three pairs reached the last eight and at this juncture Parker and Anita Stevenson went out to the strong Chinese pair of Li Ching-kwang and Yen Kui-li. It was, however, a very close call as the scores of -18, 20, 19, -11, 19 indicate. Jarvis and Jill Hammersley had an even closer call against Yen Kuo-chiang and Yu Ching-chia but the result was the right way from the English point of view. A great win by Douglas and Linda Howard over Strokotov and Svetlana Federova put them into the semi-final and it was yet another close finish—21-18 in the fifth.

Hopes thus were high that at least one English pairing would appear in the finals, but it was not to be. Li Ching-kwang and Yen Kui-li were too consistent for Jarvis and Jill Hammersley, whilst Douglas and Linda Howard lost after a thrilling encounter to Secretin and Claude Bergeret.

The finals, often an anti-climax, provided some first-rate fare on this occasion, in the main, due to one man.

The Women's Doubles, involving the four Chinese players who contested the Team Event final, was won by Yen Kui-li and Yu Ching-chia, who, by beating Liu Hsin-yen and Li Ming, reversed the result of the doubles in the team

event (won by the latter pair). It was a game with plenty of hit and counter-hit but frankly not very much variety.

In the Women's Singles, Elmira Antonian showed the consistency she had shown throughout the tournament to win with an ease which was totally unexpected. Miss Antonian had all the answers to Liu Hsin-yen and hardly made a mistake throughout the three games. It was a fine, intelligent display and she became only the second Russian (Rudnova was the first) to win the tournament, in this, its 48th time of operation.

Whilst the Men's Doubles provided plenty of action, the ultimate winners were never in doubt. The better all-round pairing of Sarkhojan and Gomozkov won with something to spare.

BEST FINALS

It was the Mixed Doubles and the Men's Singles which produced the best Finals and both appeared on T.V. This could only have been good for the game and the man to thank most is Jacques Secretin. This 25-year-old Parisian, nine times champion of France, is that rarity today—a defensive player. Left-handed, with immaculate footwork, he is well able to come in and kill anything loose. Away from the table he can chop, hit and is able to produce all kinds of varied spin. Above all he is not afraid to give the ball plenty of elevation and his fine placing give him the time to make ground to be ready to receive the return. It was then, perhaps, a little sad he was on the losing side in both finals he reached.

First the mixed. In this Li Ching-kwang and Yen Kui-li hit more or less continuously throughout the five games with some fine winners and there is little doubt their victory was well-deserved. But the player who impressed me most was Claude Bergeret. How much this girl has improved! And what a fine game she played, defending and hitting well enough not to be out-shone by her more famous partner. A match that did credit to all four players.

The best final, however, was unquestionably the Men's Singles, the contestants being Anatoli Strokotov and Jacques Secretin. Without doubt it takes two players to make an attractive final and when the players have such

contrasting styles as these, a good final is always 'on the cards.'

Strokotov made his intentions clear from the outset. He was going to hit Secretin to all corners of the arena, and for a start it worked. With a beautiful all-round attack and the ability to switch wings, the French defender was in all sorts of trouble. But not for long. Having lost the first he started giving the ball more variation and coming in for the odd telling hit himself. 21-17 and the match score level.

Defending, coming in for a hit, more defence, a high top spin return, one chopped, one floated, a heavy side-spin, now a hit. Secretin produced the whole bag of tricks. And the crowd loved it. They sat there spell-bound, almost every point bringing tumultuous applause. And there was Strokotov. Still fighting, still hitting. But the Frenchman was too consistent. 21-14. 2-1 to Secretin.

Back bounds Strokotov with his explosive forehand. Secretin is back on defence (no change this). But Strokotov is proving too consistent. That extra hit is going on. And he wins 21-17. So to the fifth game. Secretin rushes away to a 7-2 lead and it looks all over. But nobody would say so. Too much has happened in this set already. And so it proved.

Strokotov, to his credit, carries on going for his shots and catches Secretin up, overtakes him. Still the fabulous rallies go on. One is considered so good that it is televised on the news several times. And there are many rallies nearly as good as that. It seems impossible the players can keep it up for five games, but they do just that. With a 20-17 lead in this final, tense game, Strokotov seems to have it in the bag. But he hasn't.

Back comes the game Frenchman. 20-18. 20-19. All the tension is there. But then, in comes Strokotov, kills the ball and there is a silence for a few seconds. Then Secretin, great sport that he is, moves quickly round the table to congratulate his victor and the crowd burst into spontaneous applause. Only Marta Luzova—exactly ten years ago—can have been given the applause the English crowd gave these two sporting competitors.

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RESULTS

TEAM EVENTS

MEN

Round 1:
England III bt Canada 3-0
 I. Horsham bt E. Caetano 17, 14.
 J. Walker bt A. Polissois 12, 15.
 Horsham/Walker bt Caetano/Polissois 7, 21.

England II bt Hungary 3-0
 T. Taylor bt I. Asztalos 17, 16.
 N. Jarvis bt B. Frank 12, 9.
 Jarvis/Taylor bt Asztalos/Frank 14, 18.

Yugoslavia II bt Ireland 3-2
 M. Savnik bt L. Langan 16, -18, 10.
 D. Jurcic bt T. Caffrey 17, 15.
 Jurcic/Savnik lost to Caffrey/Langan -15, 17, -14.
 Jurcic lost to Langan -19, -10.
 Savnik bt Caffrey 19, 18.

France II bt Scotland I 3-2
 P. Molodtsov lost to R. Yule -12, -13.
 R. Canor bt J. Wilson 13, 6.
 Canor/Molodtsov bt Wilson/Yule -12, 16, 20.
 Canor lost to Yule 12, -18, -20.
 Molodtsov bt Wilson 14, 15.

Round 2:
USSR bt England III 3-0
 S. Gomozkov bt Walker -18, 18, 18.
 S. Sarkhojan bt Horsham 18, 14.
 Gomozkov/Sarkhojan bt Horsham/Walker 10, 9.

Yugoslavia bt Federal Germany II 3-0
China II bt Scotland II 3-0
 Yen Kuo-chiang bt R. Brown 10, 16.
 Kuo Yao-hua bt A. Mathew 4, 13.
 Kuo Yao-hua/Yen Kuo-chiang bt Brown/Mathew 19, 10.

England II bt France I 3-2
 Jarvis bt J. Secretin -10, 23, 22.
 Taylor bt Birocheau 18, 19.
 Jarvis/Taylor lost to Birocheau/Secretin 17, -18, -18.
 Taylor lost to Secretin -15, -8.
 Jarvis bt Birocheau 13, 16.

England I bt Yugoslavia II 3-1
 D. Neale bt Jurcic 13, 14.
 D. Douglas bt Savnik -19, 14, 10.
 Douglas/Neale lost to Jurcic/Savnik 21, -17, -18.
 Neale bt Savnik 10, 17.

Federal Germany I bt Wales 3-1
 P. Stellwag lost to A. Griffiths -16, -20.
 J. Leiss bt G. Davies 13, 13.
 Leiss/Stellwag bt Davies/Griffiths 19, 13.
 Leiss bt Griffiths 12, 11.

China I bt France II 3-0
Quarter-finals:
USSR bt Yugoslavia I 3-0
England II bt China II 3-2
 Jarvis bt Yen Kuo-chiang 17, 14.
 Taylor lost to Kuo Yao-hua -14, -14.
 Jarvis/Taylor bt Kuo Yao-hua/Yen Kuo-chiang 15, 18.
 Jarvis lost to Kuo Yao-hua -20, -22.
 Taylor bt Yen Kuo-chiang 9, 18.

England I bt Federal Germany I 3-2
 Neale bt Leiss 19, -18, 14.
 Douglas lost to Stellwag -14, -17.
 Douglas/Neale bt Leiss/Stellwag 15, -17, 8.
 Douglas lost to Leiss -18, -16.
 Neale bt Stellwag 19, 15.

China I w.o. Czechoslovakia and Poland (Scratched)

Semi-finals:
England II bt Russia 3-0
 Taylor bt Sarkhojan -16, 14, 9.
 Jarvis bt Gomozkov -14, 8, 19.
 Jarvis/Taylor bt Gomozkov/Sarkhojan 15, 20.

China I bt England I 3-0
 Wang-Chai-lin bt Neale 12, 22.
 Li Ching-kwang bt Douglas 19, 7.
 Li Ching Kwang/Wang Chai-lin bt Neale/Douglas 20, -16, 6.

Final:
England II bt China I 3-2
 Jarvis bt Wang Chai-lin 11, 17.
 Taylor bt Li Ching-kwang -20, 19, 19.
 Jarvis/Taylor lost to Li Ching-kwang/Wang Chai-lin 18, -14, -18.
 Jarvis lost to Li Ching-kwang -13, -6.
 Taylor bt Wang Chai-lin 19, -18, 19.

WOMEN

Round 1:
USSR bt Scotland II 3-0
 E. Antonian bt E. Craig 6, 9.
 S. Federova bt C. Dalrymple 5, 6.
 Antonian/Federova bt Craig/Dalrymple 6, 8.

China II bt Ireland I 3-1
 Liu Hsin-yen bt K. Senior 15, 8.
 Li Ming bt K. Stewart 12, 16.
 Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen lost to Senior/Stewart 21, -11, -17.
 Li Ming bt Senior 17, 10.

Federal Germany I bt Canada 3-0
England I bt Federal Germany II 3-0
 J. Hammersley bt M. Kneip 12, 17.
 L. Howard bt J. Eberle 14, 11.
 Hammersley/Howard bt Eberle/Kneip 19, 12.

France bt Scotland I 3-0
 G. Bergeret bt P. Fleming 8, 9.
 B. Thiriet bt G. McKay 18, 11.
 Bergeret/Thiriet bt Fleming/McKay 6, 7.

China I bt Hungary 3-0

Quarter-finals:
China II bt USSR 3-1

Federal Germany I bt England II 3-2
 U. Hirschmuller lost to C. Knight -16, -17.

W. Hendriksen bt K. Mathews 12, 18.
 Hendriksen/Hirschmuller bt Knight/Mathews 14, 16.
 Hendriksen lost to Knight 17, -17, -20.
 Hirschmuller bt Mathews 12, 20.

England I bt France I 3-0
 Howard bt Bergeret -15, 17, 17.
 Hammersley bt Thiriet 3, 11.
 Hammersley/Howard bt Bergeret/Thiriet 13, 11.

China II bt England III 3-0
 Yu Ching chia bt Stevenson 10, 11.
 Yen Kui-li bt S. Lisle 18, 19.
 Yen Kui-li/Yu Ching-chia bt Lisle/Stevenson -12, 8, 11.

Semi-finals:
China II bt Federal Germany I 3-0

China I bt England I 3-0
 Yen Kui-li bt Hammersley -7, 13, 17.
 Yu Ching-chia bt Howard 17, -19, 16.
 Yen Kui-li/Yu Ching-chia bt Hammersley/Howard -15, 11, 13.

Final:
CHINA II bt China I 3-0
 Liu Hsin-yen bt Yu Ching-chia 18, 21.
 Li Ming bt Yen Kui-li 16, 12.
 Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen bt Yen Kui-li/Yu Ching-chia 18, 12.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men's Singles—Round 3:

S. Sarkhojan (USSR) bt R. Yule (Scot) 15, 13, 16.
 D. Neale (Eng) bt H. Lammers (FG) 14, 13, 8.
 A. Strokotov (USSR) bt R. Canor (Fr) 13, 15, 18.
 Li Ching-kwang (Ch) bt P. Stellwag (FG) 15, 12, 15.
 S. Gomozkov (USSR) bt A. Hydes (Eng) 12, -19, 6, 13.
 M. Baum (FG) bt P. Birocheau (Fr) -15, 14, -12, 15, 17.
 Kuo Yao-hua (Ch) M. Karakasevic (Yu) 17, 12, 16.
 J. Secretin (Fr) bt J. Walker (Eng) -18, 17, 9, 12.

Quarter-finals:
 Sarkhojan bt Neale 12, 14, 17.
 Strokotov bt Li Ching-kwang 12, 17, 7.
 Gomozkov bt Baum 10, 6, 18.
 Secretin bt Kuo Yao-hua 21, 8, 14.

Semi-finals:
 Strokotov bt Sarkhojan 19, 11, 17.
 Secretin bt Gomozkov 17, 17, -20, -18, 12.

Final:
 SIKUKATOV bt Secretin 14, -17, -10, 17, 19.

Women's Singles—Round 2:

E. Antonian (USSR) w.o. M. Zizkova (Cz) and Mania (Po) both scratched.
 L. Howard (Eng) bt Li Ming (Ch) 17, -19, 19, 17.
 G. Szabo (Hu) bt U. Hirschmuller (FG) 14, -16, 16, 19, 16.
 Yu Ching-chia (Ch) bt C. Knight (Eng) -18, 18, 11, 12.
 S. Federova (USSR) bt J. Eberle (FG) 12, 16, 16.
 Liu Hsin-yen (Ch) bt S. Lisle (Eng) -17, 9, 13, 14.
 C. Bergeret (Fr) bt A. Stevenson (Eng) 13, -21, 19, 14.
 Yen Kui-li bt W. Hendriksen (FG) 18, 15, 13.

Quarter-finals:
 Antonian bt Howard -18, 13, 15, -19, 15.
 Yu Ching-chia bt Szabo 12, 8, 12.
 Liu Hsin-yen bt Federova -22, 20, 17, 7.
 Bergeret bt Yen Kui-li -16, 13, -19, 18, 17.

Semi-finals:
 Antonian bt Yu Ching-chia -12, 17, -19, 15, 14.
 Liu Hsin-yen bt Bergeret 20, 15, -19, 14.

Final:
 ANTONIAN bt Liu Hsin-yen.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals:
 Gomozkov/Sarkhojan bt C. Barnes (Eng)/Wang Chia-lin (Ch) -21, 11, -17, 12, 12.
 D. Douglas (Eng)/Neale bt Karakasevic/I. Kosanovic (Yu) 15, -20, -15, 17, 21.

J. Leiss (FG)/Stellwag bt N. Jarvis (Eng)/Walker 18, 18, -16, 17.

Kuo Yao-hua/Li Ching-kwang bt Baum/C. Martin (Fr) 12, 16, 10.
Semi-finals:
 Gomozkov/Sarkhojan bt Douglas/Neale 20, 15, -20, -17, 18.
 Kuo Yao-hua/Li Ching-kwang bt Leiss/Stellwag 21, 18, -11, 17.

Final:
 GOMOZKOV/SARKHOJAN bt Kuo Yao-hua/Li Ching-kwang 16, 19, 12.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:
 Eberle/Hendriksen bt Antonian/Federova 13, 16, 11.
 Yen Kui-li/Yu Ching-chia bt K. Senior/K. Stewart (Ire) 19, 12, 16.
 Hirschmuller/M. Kneip (FG) bt J. Hammersley (Eng)/Howard 18, -14, 19, -14, 16.
 Li Ming/Liu Hsia-yen bt M. Domonkos/G. Hsu (Ca) 11, 12, 17.

Semi-finals:
 Yen Kui-li/Yu Ching-chia bt Eberle/Hendriksen -17, 12, 13, 11.
 Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen bt Hirschmuller/M. Kneip 20, -18, 11, 14.

Final:
 YEN KUI-LI/YU CHING-CHIA bt Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen 18, 18, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals:
 Jarvis/Hammersley bt Yen Kuo-chiang (Ch)/Yu Ching-chia 14, -13, -15, 15, 20.
 Li Ching-kwang/Yen Kui-li bt D. Parker (Eng)/Stevenson -18, 20, 19, -11, 19.
 Douglas/Howard bt Strokotov/Federova 15, -14, 12, -15, 18.
 Secretin/Bergeret bt Wang Chia-lin (Ch)/Li Ming -8, 19, 6, 15.

Semi-finals:
 Li Ching-kwang/Yen Kui-li bt Jarvis/Hammersley 13, 16, -19, 19.
 Secretin/Bergeret bt Douglas/Howard 19, -6, -19, 18, 17.

Final:
 LI CHING-KWANG/YEN KUI-LI bt Secretin/Bergeret 20, 12, -16, -15, 16.

Men's Veteran Singles—Quarter-finals:
 T. Kirby (Midx) bt L. Hoffman (Midx) 7, 17.
 G. Chapman (Sy) bt G. Muranyi (Midx) -13, 9, 8.
 R. Lush (Hants) bt R. Browning (Yks) 16, 16.
 P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt G. Brook (Yks) 14, 17.

Semi-finals:
 Chapman bt Kirby 19, 17.
 D'Arcy bt Lush 6, 21.

Final:
 D'ARCY bt Chapman 13, 7.

Women's Veteran Singles—Quarter-finals:
 M. Proven (Midx) bt M. Hodge (Herts) 10, 9.
 D. Gray (Hants) bt K. Bowden (Herts) 10, 9.
 P. Wales (Hants) bt E. Reeves (Derbys) -13, 15, 14.
 J. Williams (Bucks) bt P. Lauder (Essex) -17, 13, 7.

Semi-finals:
 Gray bt Proven 19, 13.
 Williams bt Wales 15, 11.

Final:
 GRAY bt Williams 17, 12.

Photographic Coverage by PETER MADGE



Tom Blunn, E.T.T.A. Treasurer, displays the Geoffrey Harrower International Table Tennis Trophy, presented to him by Johnny Leach, at Brighton. The award goes to the person having done the most for the game during any one season.



SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

The month of November was a very busy one for our International Squad with visits to Belgium, Norway and France.

NORWEGIAN INVITATION TOURNAMENT 9-10 NOVEMBER — BERGEN

The Scottish team was Elaine Smith, Alan Mathew and Richard Yule, under the leadership of John Braithwaite. The match with Norway was played in the Astveithallen—a new sports centre catering for all indoor sports—and resulted in a 4-3 win for the home team. Star of the Norwegian team was Pal Guttormsen, who beat Yule 2-1 and Mathew 2-0; Pal played in England in the late 60's and reached the European Cadet Final at Thornaby in 1970. In the Invitation Tournament the next day, Elaine Smith won the Women's Singles, beating R. Bysheim 3-0 and Yule lost the Men's Singles final to Guttormsen 1-3 after beating Roy Heggelund in the semi-final. Last event of the trip was a match with Bergen, which Scotland won 5-4.

FRENCH OPEN, 22-24 NOVEMBER—PARIS

A large party travelled over to Paris for this event. Yule and Archie McCulloch lost 0-3 to Holland (v Helm and v Slobbe) and Grace McKay and Patrice Fleming lost 0-3 to Czechoslovakia (Riedlova and Smidova). In the Men's Singles Yule beat Patrick Birocheau (France) 3-2 after being 0-2 down and then lost 1-3 to Janos Borszsei (Hungary).

EAST OF SCOTLAND OPEN— 17th NOVEMBER — EDINBURGH

A large contingent from Durham, Sunderland and Cumbria came North for this major event but participation of almost the entire Scottish Squad prevented the annexation of the principal titles; however, the English took home the Men's Doubles and U-17 titles and a half share of the Mixed.

In the Men's Singles, Yule advanced to the final with wins over John McNee (Cheshire), Peter McQueen (Durham), Terry Forker and Ian Robertson (Northumberland). In the other half, Ram Bhalla came through after hard-fought wins over Bert Kerr and David Fraser. In the final Yule played confidently, slowing down the game and varying the topspin and placing of his returns to such good effect that Bhalla was unable to settle down and Yule won 10 and 12.

Grace McKay beat Carol Walker (Sunderland) 13, 13 in one semi-final of the Women's Singles and Patrice Fleming powered her way into the final in the other at the expense of Shirley Jenkins (Durham). In the final Grace played her usual competent game, chopping, pushing and hitting as opportunity offered, to win 13, -24, 13.

Other results:—

U-17 Boys' Singles:

Peter Masters (Durham) bt John Moir 19, 10.

U-17 Girls' Singles:

Grace McKay bt Elaine Craig 12, 17.

Men's Doubles:

P. Hoyle/I. Robertson bt R. Yule/D. Fraser 17, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

D. Fraser/B. Murtagh bt R. Brown/G. McKay 18, -18, 19.

Women's Doubles:

E. Craig/G. McKay bt B. Murtagh-C. Waite 18, -19, 17.

Veterans' Singles:

Kerr bt W. Hall (Edinburgh).

GLASGOW OPEN, 1st DECEMBER— GLASGOW

This tournament turned out to be a minor triumph for Organising Secretary Jim Graham, who reached all three finals but won only the Mixed with Elaine Smith.

The Men's Singles saw the welcome return to competitive play of Eric Sutherland—now playing "for fun"—he beat Forker to reach the semi-finals where he gave Nigel Eckersley a run for his money before losing 1-2. In the other half, John Wilson, after years of trying, finally found the way to beat Kerr and did so 18, 18, but then lost in the semis to Graham, who had eliminated Archie McCulloch in the previous round. Eckersley, making another of his successful raids into Scottish territory, won the final against Graham 13, 20.

The Women's Singles went to Elaine Smith, who defeated Grace McKay in the semis and Patrice Fleming in the final.

The girls took on the boys in the U-17 Open Singles; Brian Grundy bt Grace McKay in the threequarter finals and then lost to Alan Mathew. In the other half Willy Lochhead played well to eliminate Russell Brown but lost to Tom Devers in the semis. Alan Mathew won the final against Devers 17, 17.

Other results:—

Men's Doubles:

E. Sutherland/P. Forker bt J. Graham/N. Eckersley 20, 15.

Mixed Doubles:

J. Graham/E. Smith bt J. Wilson/P. Fleming 15, -17, 7.

S.T.T.A. TEAM CUP, 7th DECEMBER— EDINBURGH

15 teams from all over Scotland competed in this event, which is open to the Winners and Runners-up in the previous season's Premier Divisional Championships of each affiliated league. In the Semi-finals Gambit (Edinburgh) beat Swifts (Aberdeen) 5-4, and Central (Glasgow) beat Triangle (Aberdeen) 5-4. Over the years Gambit have almost made the Team Cup their own, but this year Central turned the tables: With the score at 4-2 to the Glasgow team, Gambit hit back with Billy Gibbs surprisingly beating Ram Bhalla 18, 23; however, John Wilson (Central) hit through Bert Kerr 15, 14, for Central to win 5-3.

Arrangements for the Perth Open, on Feb '9, are now well underway. Peter Thomson (Perth) Ltd. are sponsoring the championships this season and have put up £125 in prize money (Men's Singles: £40 for the winner). Entries from South of the Border will be welcome—details from A. English, 18 Stuart Avenue, Perth (Tel.: 29129).

SCOTTISH RANKINGS—DECEMBER, 1974

Men

1. R. Yule (London).
2. R. Kerr (Edinburgh).
3. R. Bhalla (Glasgow)
4. J. Wilson (Glasgow).
5. J. Graham (Glasgow).
6. P. Forker (Edinburgh).
7. A. McCulloch (Glasgow).
8. D. Fraser (London).
9. J. McNee (Cheshire).
10. R. Brown (Glasgow).
11. B. Morgan (Aberdeen).
12. A. Mathew (Aberdeen).
13. C. Mathew (Aberdeen).
14. G. Keys (Glasgow).
15. M. Thomson (Aberdeen).
16. R. Thomson (Aberdeen).
17. E. Bruce (Glasgow).
18. J. Wallace (Glasgow).
19. D. Mullin (Glasgow).
20. J. Moir (Aberdeen).

Women

1. Elaine Smith (Edinburgh).
2. Grace McKay (Edinburgh).
3. Patrice Fleming (Glasgow).
4. Elaine Craig (Glasgow).
5. Moira Brown (Glasgow).
6. Margaret Cuthbertson (Grangemouth).

Boys

1. A. Mathew
2. R. Brown
3. J. Moir
4. E. Black (Edinburgh).
5. A. Alexander (Lanark).
6. A. Majid (Edinburgh).
7. W. Lochhead (Glasgow).
8. B. Grundy (W. Dunbarton).
9. I. Donnelly (Glasgow)
10. T. Devers (Glasgow)
11. B. McKinley (W. Dunbarton)
12. D. Fraser (Lanark).
13. M. Stuart (Aberdeen).
14. G. Allen (Aberdeen).

Girls

1. G. McKay.
2. E. Craig.
3. M. Cuthbertson.
4. C. Dalrymple (Falkirk).
5. A. Harress (Falkirk).
6. E. Hardy (Falkirk).

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Brian Kean

FACTS FOR DIGESTION

I would like readers of this article to digest the facts and comments I make and draw their own conclusions as to the reasons why England selectors have overlooked the talents of our own Susan Lisle and left her out of the World and Commonwealth Championships squads.

The undisputable facts underlining Susan's achievements and claim to national team selection are as follows:—

- No. 1—Ranked No. 4.
- No. 2—100% County match record.
- No. 3—Recorded wins over—Linda Howard, No. 2; Karenza Matthews, No. 3.
- No. 4—Won the Cumbria and North of England Opens.
- No. 5—Has lost to only one player ranked below her this season (Anita Stevenson) and this was after the announcement of the teams for the Commonwealth and World Championships, and almost scratched from that particular tournament.
- No. 6—She is only 21 years of age.

Now, the young lady selected in her place is 17-year-old Carole Knight, of CLEVELAND, ranked 6 and who has been shown the way to the dressing room by Susan on two occasions.

So one would assume that a youthful policy had been adopted, and as one who believes in looking to the future, I would bite my tongue and reluctantly see their point of view.

So the Women's team consists of England's No's. 1, 2, 3 . . . 6. Now we come to the men, where the policy is somewhat different, the first five in the ranking list are chosen. However, the 5th player happens to be a lad I have great respect and admiration for—Jimmy Walker, of where?—Yes—CLEVELAND.

Now Jimmy is the same age as Susan and has been around for just as long, and with respect, cannot boast the same success this season. So we have two contradicting methods of selection and on each occasion just happens to work in a manner which favours the choice of a CLEVELAND player.

Brian Burn is the new boss and once a county colleague of SELECTOR Alan Ransome of—Yes—CLEVELAND. Burn very shortly will choose his right hand man. By the time this goes to press it will be known who.

Anyone like to take a bet with me as to who it will be!!

I may be a very suspicious person; however, I feel there are a number of strange coincidences all contributing to Susan's omission from the Orient and down-under-bound jet.

If any of our readers have any comments or points of view regarding the aforementioned, I would be pleased to read same at my new address of: 22 Braemar Avenue, Flixton, Manchester.

THE WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

SHOCKS ABOUT AT LOUGHBOROUGH

by Philip Reid

The Wayfarers English Junior Championships, played over the weekend of Dec. 14-15, at the P.E. Centre, Loughborough College of Education, provided many shocks—neither of the No. 1 seeds reaching the final in the top events.

Pride of place must surely go to Grantham's Suzanne Hunt, who recovered from a game down to No. 1 seed, Melody Ludi, in the quarters before beating the highly-promising Karen Witt in the semi-final.

Meanwhile, in the other half, Cleveland's Angela Tierney beat first the No. 4 seed, Sandra Sutton, and then, in the semis, comprehensively disposed of the No. 2 seed, Caroline Reeves. Thus the final was between the No. 7 and 8 seeds!

If the rankings were low, then the standard of play was not. It was, in fact, the best of the finals. Miss Tierney, of course, is a very experienced competitor and this showed in the first game when Miss Hunt could scarcely make a telling shot.

The second and third games, however, were quite a change-about. Hitting well and moving beautifully, Miss Hunt hit the ball to all corners of the court and many of the rallies were a joy to behold. It was a pity either player had to lose, but the extra consistency of Miss Hunt gave her a well-earned title. Grantham's main claim to fame in the past has been its association with Sir Isaac Newton and its importance as a railway junction. Perhaps Suzanne has given it other reasons!

DIMINUTIVE DUGGIE

The Boys' Singles had less shocks, although the unavoidable absence of Mark Mitchell and Chris Sewell left one or two gaps. The big shock was the semi-final elimination of the holder, Paul Day, by the diminutive Duggie Johnson, Warwickshire's pride and joy.

A similar player to Derek Munt but with more inclination to attack, he possesses a fine temperament, excellent footwork, fighting spirit and the ability to pick out the right ball to kill. It all adds up to a pretty promising player and if his victory over Day was close, none could doubt the merit of it.

Unfortunately he was unable to show anything like the same form in the final, although credit must be given to Andy Barden for the way he punished anything loose. Barden, in fact, had reached the final without being taken to three and few will begrudge this hard-working player his victory.

Boys' Singles—Round 5:
P. Day (Cams) bt N. Smith (Cumb) 15, 5.
D. Iszatt (Essex) bt R. Brown (Kent) 10, 17.
D. Johnson (Warwks) bt M. Crimmins (Surrey) 14, -16, 15.
P. Hunt (Essex) bt A. Wellman (Berks) -15, 12, 15.
M. Shuttle (Surrey) bt I. Kenyon (Kent) -17, 19, 8.
L. Eadie (Essex) bt S. Souter (Cleve) 15, 13.
N. Hallows (Lancs) bt D. Newman (Essex) 18, -14, 16.
A. Barden (Midxx) bt R. Potton (Essex) 13, 7.
Quarter-finals:
Day bt Iszatt 16, 10; Johnson bt Hunt 14, -18, 13; Eadie bt Shuttle -18, 11, 18; Barden bt Hallows 17, 17.
Semi-finals:
Johnson bt Day 19, -10, 16; Barden bt Eadie 13, 16.
Final:
BARDEN bt Johnson 16, 12.

Girls' Singles—Round 3:
M. Ludi (Yks) bt J. Reading (Hants) 19, 18.
S. Hunt (Lincs) bt S. Dove (Midxx) -14, 18, 16.
K. Witt (Berks) bt L. Mellor (Drbys) 14, 14.
J. Skipp (Cleve) bt M. Smith (Berks) 14, 18.
S. Sutton (Essex) bt S. Roebuck (Surrey) 11, 19.
A. Tierney (Cleve) bt J. Mitchell (Surrey) 14, 19.
B. Green (Warwks) bt K. Greenough (Surrey) 15, -16, 20.
C. Reeves (Berks) bt E. Lamb (Devon) 11, 17.
Quarter-finals:
Hunt bt Ludi -14, 18, 16; Witt bt Skipp 19, 21; Tierney bt Sutton -8, 12, 12; Reeves bt Green 14, 12.
Semi-finals:
Hunt bt Witt 19, 11; Tierney bt Reeves 12, 12.

Final:
HUNT bt Tierney -9, 15, 14.
Boys' Doubles—Quarter-finals:
Barden /Day bt R. Hazelwood/S. Hazelwood (Yks) -19, 16, 16.
I. Girdler (Surrey)/Hallows bt K. Beadsley/J. Naser (Yorks) 21, 17.
C. Rogers (Leics)/Shuttle bt Iszatt/Potton 19, 11.
Eadie/Souter bt A. Clark (Nthld)/K. Paxton (Durham) 16, -12, 19.
Semi-finals:
Barden/Day bt Girdler/Hallows 14, 16.
Rogers/Shuttle bt Eadie/Souter -16, 14, 14.
Final:
BARDEN/DAY bt Rogers/Shuttle 9, 15.
Girls' Doubles—Quarter-finals:
Lamb/Sutton bt S. Hemmings (Warwks)/S. Jones (Staffs) 16, 19.
Skipp/J. Williams (Cleve) bt Dove/M. Sangster (Midxx) 16, 9, 20.
Reeves/L. Wales (Hants) bt H. Robinson (Cleve)/S. Watton (Staffs) 11, 11.
Ludi/J. McLean (Yorks) bt J. New (Dorset)/Reading 19, 12.
Semi-finals:
Skipp/Williams bt Lamb/Sutton 16, 19.
Ludi/McLean bt Reeves/Wales 16, 16.
Final:
LUDI/McLEAN bt Skipp/Williams 14, 9.
Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals:
Day/Ludi bt Crimmins/J. Mitchell 17, 18.
Souter/Tierney bt S. Douglas/J. Douglas (Berks) 12, 14.
Iszatt/Sutton bt Newman/S. Ellis (Cams) 16, 18.
Barden/Greenough bt A. Abbot (Essex)/Reading 14, -25, 17.
Semi-finals:
Day/Ludi bt Souter/Tierney 5, -18, 10.
Iszatt/Sutton bt Barden/Greenough 9, 13.
Final:
DAY/LUDI bt Iszatt/Sutton 18, -6, 18.
CADET (U-14) EVENTS
Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals:
Beadsley bt A. Proffitt (Herts) 17, 19.
I. Plummer (Cleve) bt A. Stonell (Essex) 12, 15.
J. James (Midxx) bt G. Inch (Durham) 20, 15.
S. Yallop (Derbys) bt T. Bottomley (Yorks) 17, 14.
Semi-finals:
Beadsley bt Plummer 16, 12.
James bt Yallop -19, 18, 11.
Final:
BEADSLEY bt James 10, 13.
Girls' Singles—Quarter-finals:
Tierney bt M. Smith 8, 13.
A. Gordon (Berks) bt L. Hryzsko (Yorks) 19, 17.
Robinson bt J. Purslow (Berks) 7, -20, 19.
Witt bt M. Wallis (Nthants) 6, 18.
Semi-finals:
Tierney bt Gordon 9, 14.
Witt bt Robinson 11, 13.
Final:
TIERNEY bt Witt 12, 18.

12, -18, -18; lost to Horsham 17, -21, -20.
M. Mitchell lost to Walker -18, -16; lost to Horsham -17, -17; lost to Alderson -9, -21.

League Table				
	P	W	L	Pts
T. Taylor	36	22	14	22
N. Jarvis	36	19	17	19
D. Douglas	36	18	18	18
A. Hydes	36	17	19	17
D. Neale	36	16	20	16
J. Walker	36	16	20	16

CONTROVERSY

JOHN WOODFORD discourses on his fears and offers one solution

Two months ago I wrote in this column that I could not on my life, see how one major sponsor could be found for the 1977 World Championships at Birmingham. Since then, of course, the inflation spiral has taken on the most venomous upward angle ever seen in this country.

Every day we read of more sponsors pulling out or cutting down on their sporting sponsorships. It is therefore even more difficult now to imagine a company, however large, guaranteeing the sort of money that will be required in two years time. I hope I am wrong. If I am, then the E.T.T.A. will have pulled off one of the greatest feats in its entire existence. Let's hope it happens that way.

If it doesn't then the only possible alternative would seem to be a consortium of sponsors, all paying in smaller amounts to reach the required sum, along with the Government grant and the money raised by the players.

I have one other fear. That is, if we do manage to attract the major sponsor, that we do not end up with this sort of title—"The Krispy Crackers World Table Tennis Championships"! The loss of a title like the English Open is bad enough.

The E.T.T.A.'s Open Tournaments Committee must have sensed the danger when they allowed in this season's calendar, the Sussex 2-Star Open to clash with (according to the official diary) the Middlesex Junior 2-Star Open, and then a rather more obscure event on Oct. 20, the Middlesex "Authorised."

I have no doubt that officials of the Middlesex T.T.A. must also have felt a little uneasy that somewhere, somebody was going to suffer as a result of their actions. Some readers will know that the best excuse offered so far is that the calendar was turned upside down owing to the World Championships and the need to bring forward the Norwich Union International Championships.

To make matters still worse, leading England players were despatched to an invitation event in Holland on the same weekend. The result was that the Sussex Open, which has been a show-piece in its class for many years, lost nearly 60 players and was financially crippled to the extent that it may never run again, unless, of course, miracles happen and new sponsors are found.

All this in the town that houses the headquarters of the E.T.T.A.!

So far all that has been offered is sympathy, in which I gather, many National Council delegates have joined.

The principle is a simple one. A tournament that has existed for nearly 40 years, to which people have given a great deal of loyal service, should not be undermined by placing a new event on the same weekend. The National Council should make this recommendation to the Open Tournaments Committee.

Should the committee decide to ignore the recommendation, then the answer lies in the hands of the body who makes the appointments.

THE 'SUNDAY TIMES' SUPER LEAGUE

by John Ballantine
of the "Sunday Times"

TAYLOR'S TEAM FAVOURITES

England's Nicky Jarvis, playing before his local Ormesby crowd, suffered his first defeat of the season in The "Sunday Times" Super League when he was beaten -17, 12, -17 by Ian Horsham. Horsham, a member of Jimmy Walker's team, is now showing the benefit of his trips to China and Japan and was too sharp for Jarvis in the deciding game.

The series of matches played in conjunction with the Cleveland Festival of Table Tennis, was the penultimate event of the current season after matches at Alexandra Palace, Hull and Warley. The last Super League date is March 1, at Basingstoke, in conjunction with the South of England 3-Star Open.

Results on Teesside were:—

Hydes' Team 5, Neale's Team 4
A. Hydes bt M. Johns 18, 19; bt R. Wiley 16, 22, bt Neale 18, -6, 18.
D. Parker bt Wiley 10, 10; lost to Neale 16, -14, -6; lost to Johns 15, -16, -18.
P. Day lost to Neale -17, -19; lost to Johns 16, -10 -19; bt Wiley 13, 7.

Taylor's Team 5, Douglas's Team 4
T. Taylor bt J. Hilton (sub) 13, 9; bt A. Barden 17, 7; bt D. Douglas -19, 11, 16.
P. Taylor lost to Barden -22, -16; bt Douglas -13, 22, 17; lost to Hilton 16, -17, -13.
J. Kitchener lost to Douglas -5, -20; lost to Hilton 16, -14, -20; bt Barden 16, 15.

Jarvis's Team 3, Walker's Team 6
N. Jarvis lost to I. Horsham -17, 12, -17; bt D. Alderson 12, 14; bt J. Walker -12, 21, 18.
R. Yule bt Alderson -19, 13, 19; lost to Walker

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROOF OF THE PUDDING

After playing in tournaments and matches for the past 20 years or so, I always hear the club coach or some other "professor" of the game make the same statements year after year.

"Look at young Jimmy Smith, isn't he great? Look at his fantastic loop; he nearly beat Joe Brown. If he practices his backhand chop, his forehand push, etc., he should make the England team within the next two years, if we can get him to do some running and circuit training to make him fit."

How wrong they are. Surely the most important thing is teaching the boy how to win; all the other things are secondary. How often do you see a boy who is being coached with all the shots and know-how, but finds he cannot put them all together and does not really improve, so decides to retire at the ripe old age of 18 with lots of strokes, and a very fast runner.

I think it would do our youngsters much more good if they were taught how to WIN and play the shots they are best capable of doing. A good example of this is if you look back over the years at our top players. The ones who have lasted the longest are the players who have had the best results and the will to win, and not the players who have a lot of natural talent only.

Over the past decade this has been proven by Denis Neale, who is still England's best player, not the most talented, but a WINNER.

BARRY MEISEL.

The Lodge,
Woodcroft,
Mottingham Lane,
London, SE9 4RT.

ILL FEELING

On Nov. 2 the Hertfordshire team travelled to Rushden, in Northamptonshire, for a 2nd Division East fixture, but due to being held up for 75 minutes in a traffic-jam on the M1, arrived 35 minutes after the scheduled start of the match to find that Northants had claimed the first two sets. This turned a 3-7 result on the table into a 5-5 draw.

Although we accept that Northants were quite within the Rules of the C.T.T.C. when claiming these sets, we feel that it was a particularly unsporting gesture under the circumstances.

The match was due to start at 7 p.m., and as the journey normally takes just under 1½ hours from Watford, we set off at 5-00 p.m. We were within 25 miles of our destination when, about 2 miles before the Newport Pagnell turn-off, we hit the traffic jam. This was at about 5-45 p.m. We eventually turned off the M1 at Newport Pagnell just after 7 p.m. and, by breaking the speed limit most of the way, arrived in Rushden at about 7-20 p.m. We then tried to find the venue with the aid of a hand-drawn map supplied by our kind hosts, but this was very inaccurate and we had to stop and ask the way three times. (Even the home team had difficulty finding the venue!!). We eventually arrived at 7-35 p.m.

Having stated our case, and how strongly we feel about Northants' action, it must be said that 4 out of their 5 players did not want to claim the sets. One of them felt embarrassed enough to apologise about the attitude of the other player and the Northants' officials.

The claiming of these sets is even more surprising when, in last season's fixture Northants were not ready to start on time, with the match starting nearly 30 minutes late!!

However, this season's match was finally played in a surprisingly good atmosphere, which makes it all very sad that ill-feeling has been created by the unsympathetic and rigid use of the Rule Book.

Chris Pickard, Jack Bender, B. White, Barbara Peters, Sue Felstead.

83 Harveyfields,
Waltham Abbey,
Essex.

Scandinavian Open

by Chris Francis

The world's stars gathered at Karlshamn, Sweden, for the Scandinavian Open, played over the period Nov. 28-Dec. 1, with China, Japan and Russia all sending world championship teams. A Chinese official told me that world champion, Hsi-En-ting, was absent because of a back injury.

In the men's team event, Sweden defeated the Soviet Union 3-1 in the semi-final (Sarkhojan bt Johansson) and met China in the final. Lian Ko-liang and Li Chen-shih beat Bengtsson and Johansson 3-0. Japan won the women's team final, Yukie Okzeki and Sachiko Yokota beating Elmira Antonian and Zoya Rudnova, of Russia, 3-0.

Both Swedish stars lost to Chinese players in the early rounds of the men's singles, Johansson coming up against a similar forehand to his own in encountering Liang Ko-liang, whose chop is ever harder than his hit. Bengtsson was outmanoeuvred by the Asian-style play of Li Cho-min.

Liang's bid for the title was rapidly brought to an end by the holder, the powerful Dragutin Surbek, of Yugoslavia, who went on to retain his title at the final expense of his compatriot, Anton Stipanec. England's Denis Neale fell in the first round to Claus Pedersen, the Dane winning 11, 17, -19, 9.

In the same round Des Douglas held a 2 games to 1 and a 12-7 lead over Imano, of Japan, yet, somehow, let the initiative slip and was beaten -13, 12, 16, -18, -11.

From my point of view, as an outsider or spectator, three features of the championships are worthy of note. Firstly the friendliness between Europeans and Asians, both players and officials alike. When, for instance, Stellan Bengtsson was playing with "Captain" Hans Alser's infant son, a couple of Chinese players joined in the fun.

Secondly the "high throw-up" spin serves of the Chinese combined with their cries and shrieks when producing forehand smashes. And, thirdly, the number of lobs produced by players such as Surbek and Johansson in an attempt to counter the relentless forehands of both the Chinese and the Japanese. Johansson, during a game with Liang Ko-liang, leapt over a barrier, backhand lobbed a return but failed to get back in time—a cameraman was in his way!

SCANDINAVIAN OPEN RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals:
D. Surbek (Yu) bt Liang Ko-liang (Ch) 19, 15, 18.
Li Chen-shih (Ch) bt Li Te-yang (Ch) 14, 15, 15.
M. Orlovski (Cz) bt Y. Imano (Ja) 14, 20, 17.
A. Stipanec (Yu) bt S. Gomozkov (USSR) 19, -15, -19, 17, 8.
Semi-finals:
Surbek bt Li-Chen-shih -12, 11, -20, 16, 12.
Stipanec bt Orlovski 17, -15, 23, 20.
Final:
SURBEK bt Stipanec 12, 14, 18.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals:
A.-C. Hellman (Sw) bt H. Riedlova (Cz) 17, 14, 8.
Chang Li (Ch) bt T. Edano (Ja) 10, 15, 10.
Huang Hsi-ping (Ch) bt A. Grofova (Cz) 10, -14, -17, 15, 22.
Hu Yu-lan (Ch) bt Huang Sook Chung (Ko) 14, 13, 14.
Semi-finals:
Huang Hsi-ping bt Hu Yu-lan -16, 18, 20, 16.
Chang Li bt Hellman 6, -18, 10, 18.
Final:
HUANG HSI-PING bt Chang Li 20, 8, -14, 20.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals:
Hsu Shao-fa/Li Peng (Ch) bt G. Gergely (Hu)/D. Neale (Eng) 22, 15, -19, 13.
S. Bengtsson/K. Johansson (Sw) bt J. Kunz/P. Ovarik (Cz) 17, 20, 19.
Liang Ko-liang/Li Cho-min (Ch) bt Orlovski/J. Turai (Cz) 15, 13, 12.

Gomozkov/S. Sarkhojan (USSR) bt Stipanec/Surbek 16, -11, 21, -18, 17.

Semi-finals:
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Hsu Shao-fa/Li Peng 15, 19, 19.
Gomozkov/Sarkhojan bt Liang Ko-liang/Li Cho-min -10, 15, 18, -20, 17.

Final:
BENGTSSON/JOHANSSON bt Gomozkov/Sarkhojan 16, 16, 19.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals:
Hu Yu-lan/Ke Hsian-ai (Ch) bt Lee Ailesa/Kim Soon Ok (Ko) 20, 14, 15.

E. Antonian/Z. Rudnova (USSR) bt Chang Li/Cheng Hual-ying (Ch) -16, 16, 19, 16.

Final:
HU YU-LAN/KE HSIAN-AI bt Antonian/Rudnova 13, -14, 15, 13.

Mixed Doubles—Final:
STIPANEC/E. PALATINUS (Yu) bt Surbek/E. Korpa (Yu) 18, 14, 19.

ENGLISH TEAM RESULTS

Men

Lost to Yugoslavia 0-3.

D. Douglas lost to D. Surbek -16, -14.

D. Neale lost to M. Karakasevic -13, 17, -14.

Douglas/Neale lost to A. Stipanec/Surbek -13, -19.

Women

Lost to South Korea 2-3.

L. Howard lost to Lee Ailesa -12, -7.

J. Hammersley bt Chung Hyun Sook 19, 15.

Hammersley/Howard bt Lee Ailesa/Nak So Sung -17, 13, 13.

Hammersley lost to Lee Ailesa -9, -11.

Howard lost to Chung Hyun Sook -17, -13.

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

With the top divisions of the mixed and junior inter-town leagues taking on a new format, there was a great deal of interest in the first session to see if this could be extended in the future to other divisions.

The junior group was staged at the Four T's Club by the Southampton Association, and despite the "losing" of the Gosport "A" team, which meant they forfeited their first match against Basingstoke "A", the sessions went very well. Bournemouth "A" convincingly beat their "B" team 10-0, while Southampton "A" beat their second string 9-1 in the first session. Bournemouth "A", in the evening session, did not lose a set in defeating Southampton "A", only the first three sets needing a deciding game. Basingstoke "A", the closest rivals to Bournemouth's dominance of Hampshire junior table tennis, had a good win over Bournemouth "B", 7-3, with Janet New having a hand in all Basingstoke's losses. Southampton "B" beat Gosport "A" 6-4 in the other match.

The senior mixed first group matches were played at Bournemouth, but unfortunately, at three separate halls, which, to my mind, defeated the whole object of running this division at a central venue. It meant that spectators were committed to one venue and could not watch any of the other matches. It also meant that both Basingstoke and Portsmouth, quite naturally, asked permission to stage their "A" v "B" matches in their own towns. Bournemouth "A" won both their matches, 10-2 against Portsmouth "A" and 9-3 against Basingstoke "A". Champions Southampton "A" also gained two good wins, 9-3 against Portsmouth "B" and 8-4 against Basingstoke "B". So all now rests on the second session of matches when both senior and junior groups play at Wimbledon Park, Portsmouth, on Sunday, Mar. 9.

Quiz Time with John Pike

Two all-correct winners this year, both with the same name, both from the same town. Geoff and Richard Scruton, from Harrogate, get my congratulations; it was not an easy quiz, and I hope they enjoy their prize from the E.T.T.A. Geoff lives at 96 Forest Lane, while Richard's home is at 79 Kingsley Road.

ANSWERS

1. Scobie Breasley.
2. Cassius Clay and Floyd Patterson.
3. France.
4. B. Pollak.
5. Both clubs play at St. James's Park.
6. Jersey Joe Walcott.
7. Karl Honz.
8. Ian Redpath.
9. Notts County.
10. 32.

HAMPSHIRE CLOSED

by David Cosway



Colin Wilson, Junior Boys' winner.

WORRY-FREE TOURNAMENT

Held for the first time in many years in Basingstoke, there were no worries for the Hampshire Committee as the organisation was in the capable hands of Liz Barker and Avril Waters, with their experience in running their Association's 3-Star Open. Park Prewett Hospital was a new place to me and the hospital management board could not have been more helpful, not only thanking the Hampshire Assoc. for staging the event in their premises, but also donating additional prizes to the women's singles finalists.

The seeding was the subject of some criticism, as three of the top four were Wiltshire players seeded above the "home" county men. Unfortunately in many ways, the seeding was proved right, for not only were all eight seeds in the quarters, but the three "outsiders" reached the semis. The only "Hampshire" player in the semi-final was Steve Wilson, and he comes from Bournemouth, which is now in Dorset! At the quarter-final stage Wilson beat the No. 1 seed and County No. 1, Keith Summerfield, at 17 in the third. Bill Moulding beat Steve Kitchener, Chris Shetler beat Ray Lush and Terry Bruce beat Trevor Smith.

In the semi-finals were the three Snobs players, from Southampton "Premier Division" so it is easy to see why this team have made the division such a closed shop in recent years. Moulding won the first game against Wilson at 18, got hammered in the second -6, but recovered to win the third 19, to put him in the final of an event he last won in 1968. Bruce, the No. 2 seed and holder of the title, lost the first game of the other semi to Shetler, won the second 12, but lost the third -17. The two finalists must have given the Hampshire Committee a great deal of food for thought, for the ironic fact is that both have represented Hampshire on numerous occasions earlier in their careers, but have changed allegiance to Wiltshire.

The final produced some fine rallies and was in doubt until the last point with Shetler just easing out -25, 12, 19, to win his first championship. I do not wish to harp on this

point, but this does prove what I stated in my last report—one day's trials results can be a bit misleading and relying on them has lost the County team their new champion.

The women's singles was another seeding triumph, with the four seeds reaching their allotted semi-final places. Joyce Coop, of Bournemouth, then beat Portsmouth's Sheila Foster 15, 15 and Christine Davies, of Southampton, was a comfortable winner over Linda Wales, of Portsmouth, to reverse two recent defeats by the England-ranked junior. How well Christine played to win the final 16, 20. Although these two meet regularly in local table tennis, Christine is still learning and had the patience to out-push and pick up her loop and hits when the opportunity arose, rather than try to hit Joyce off the table as she has tried in her recent defeats. The second game was a see-saw affair with Christine leading 9-1, trailing 15-20, then winning the next seven points to take her third title. Again this result was a bit ironic as Christine has decided not to be available for County match selection this season.

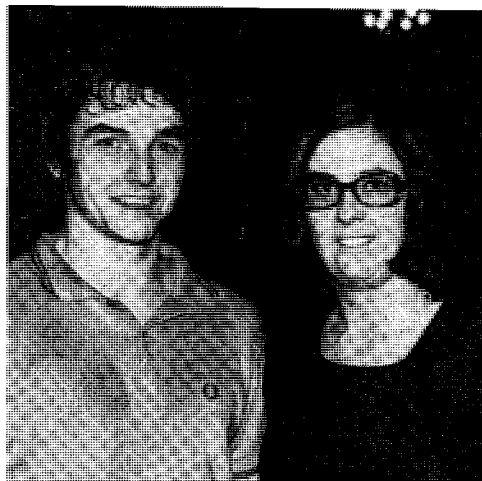
Very little remains to be said of men's doubles finals in Southampton or Hampshire closed tournaments but suffice to say this time it was Bruce and Moulding who beat the holders, Shetler and Summerfield, 17, -16, 13.

The women's doubles, however, was a good win for the two England junior-ranked players Julie Reading and Linda Wales, over the experienced holders of the title, Joyce Coop and Christine Davies, 17, -18, 10.

Perhaps the outstanding performance of the championships was the boys' singles. Bournemouth's Colin Wilson, having disposed of Steve Harris, the County No. 1, in the semi, was faced with a considerable weight disadvantage against the top-seeded Clive Payne, of Basingstoke. Clive has been at the top of his form recently and has been pushing Harris hard to take over his top County ranking, but in the final he was not allowed to settle to his normal game. Colin followed his brother Steve into the championship records with a 17, -19, 16 win. It is hard to believe Colin is only twelve, for he played a mature, sensible game, going for all his shots and, as he told me after, he has another five years to win this title. He must be the best prospect at this age in the county, and if he maintains his progress, surely he will follow the Hampshire girls into the national rankings.

The girls' singles was a bit of an anti-climax, as the expected clash between the England-ranked girls did not materialise. Neither Linda Wales (England No. 5) or Janet New ("A" Group) entered, which left England No. 12, Julie Reading, with a clear field. In the final she beat Basingstoke's Linda Wright 15, 15.

Ray Lush, of Portsmouth, beat Maurice Shave, of Southampton, 14, 19, to take his third veterans' title.



Chris Shetler and Christine Davies, winners respectively, of the men's and women's singles in the Hants Closed.

MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by RICHARD HABGOOD

TOPSY TURVEY

It's been a bit of a topsy-turvey season so far with so many teams, for varying reasons, being so very slow to commence their fixtures.

One such team has been West Bromwich, in the Women's Division. Champions last season, they've only just played their first match against Wolverhampton. As expected, they won 8-2, but it remains to be seen how well they do in their remaining fixtures. I believe Jenny Cornock won't be available for them this season, so possibly they'll struggle without her. Birmingham "A", with successive victories over Leicester, Nottingham and Birmingham "B" under their belts, could possibly lift the women's title this season.

In Veterans' Div. One, Oxford look certain to recapture the Championship they "lent" to Coventry last season. Unbeaten for them is Alf Davies, whose form can only be described as magnificent—only P. Canning (Walsall) has managed to take him to three games.

Also in good form is Stratford in Junior Div. Three. They, too, have an unbeaten record after four matches, and for them, Peter Close and Steven Cull are unbeaten. In this division Hereford are still well placed after dropping a surprise point to West Bromwich.

Junior Division Two sees Gloucester well clear with eight points from four games—Bill Dawe, with a 100% record looks a fine player. Birmingham "B" and Coventry "B" have also started well, but there is a long way to go yet.

Judging by the results to hand, Wolverhampton "C" and Shrewsbury should both gain promotion from Men's Div. Four. These two teams played an excellent draw earlier in December with Chris Neal (Shrews.) being in outstanding form. In fact only Leamington's Bert Banks has got the better of Chris this season.

The picture in Men's Div. Three could well prove to be most pleasing for Nottingham, who probably should not have been relegated from Div. Two last season.

In Div. Two a maximum by Peter Griffiths helped Coventry to a narrow 6-4 victory over Birmingham "B". This could be Coventry's year, but as I've said before, it's early days yet. West Bromwich's chances of a quick return to the top flight took a nose dive with Chesterfield "B" trouncing them 10-0—a result that really surprised me.

Few matches have been played in Div. One. Nottingham "A", so narrowly pipped for the title last season, have played 5 and so too have Oxford who, sadly, have only one win to their credit. So far Oxford have utilised ten players but so much appears to rest on the shoulders of Stan Hahn that I think that Oxford's chances of survival will depend purely just how many times Stan will be available for them. Leicester "B" are also finding the going tough but it really is pleasant to record the name of Charlie Jacques back into the record book.

Secretin Stars

Jacques Secretin, the French champion, led his club, C.S.A. Kremlin-Bicetre, to a 5-4 victory over B.T.K. Mölndals, of Sweden, in a Europe Club Cup quarter-final tie, played in France on Dec. 21.

Secretin had wins over Kjell Johansson (9, -14, 18), Aka Grönlund (8, 12) and Aka Liljegren (9, 13), the other home successes being registered by Vincent Purkart, who beat Liljegren (17, 18) and, in the final set, Grönlund (12, 9).

Dany Dhondt, the home No. 3, was without a win.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

WELL DEMONSTRATED

The success of the coaching programmes throughout the County is well demonstrated by the domination of the women's ranking by juniors. Although the boys have yet to reach the same relatively high level, Jim Hayward, the County Chief Coach, tells me that there are many showing considerable promise, and the future looks bright.

Main coaching centres include Highfields, at Wolverhampton, where Jim is assisted by Colin Pearce and Andy Beattie, and much credit goes to them for the present strength in junior girls. Etheridge School is another centre in Wolverhampton, with Len Dawes in charge. Also, in the south of the County, is Joseph Leckie School, at Walsall, where Sid Parker and John Blackman hold regular sessions. Ron Harvey, the County Coaching Secretary, runs the sessions at Alleynes School, Stone, and Peter Hancocks covers the Potteries, with coaching at Northwood Stadium. It is interesting to note that Wilf Hadley, who has been helping Ron Harvey at Stone, has recently obtained the support of the Stafford Association to start coaching for 9 to 12-year-olds at the new Riverside Centre, in Stafford. Altogether a very encouraging situation for the future.

24 boys and 10 girls attended the coaching rally on Dec. 8, at Joseph Leckie School. At the end of the day, top placing in the merit table were as follows:—

Boys: 1, Neil Rafferty (Cannock); 2, Paul Draisey (Wolverhampton), 3, Nigel Lockley (West Bromwich); 4-equal, P. Arnold (Wo.), R. Stinton (W.B.); P. Lee (W.B.); 7-equal, David Wood, Andrew and Russell Hadley (all Stone).
Girls: 1, Stephanie Jones (Wo.); 2, Janine Alderton (Wo.); 3, Shirley Hunt (Wo.); Clare Underwood (St.); 5, Frances Carr (Wo.); 6, Margaret Harvey (St.); 7, Joanne Chubb (Wo.).

Top positions in the boys' ranking come from all parts of the County. Robert Legge (Cannock) currently holds No. 1 spot, followed by Peter Machin (Potteries), Robin Pritchard (Walsall), Nigel Lockley (W.B.), Neil Partridge (Walsall), Neil Rafferty (Cannock) and Robert Cartwright (Potteries). Gail Round Stephanie Jones, Shirley Hunt, Susanne Watton and Janine Alderton, all from Wolverhampton, head the girls.

The Lilleshall weekend courses continue to be a feature of the County programme. The advanced course (15-21 years) is on April 25-27. Unfortunately the latter clashes with the Joseph Leckie Junior Open Tournament, now in its 3rd year and growing in popularity. Juniors in the County should get their entries in early to avoid disappointment.

News from John Dainty, Wolverhampton Press Officer, also includes a junior item well worth a mention. Nine-year-old Andrew Dixon recently scored his first win in Division 8 of the Wolverhampton League. Well done, Andrew! You obviously have a lot of victories to look forward to in higher divisions. With Tony Isaacs joining evergreen Jeff Robbins in the Woodfield "B" team, a sequence of six wins has taken them to the top of Division 1, ahead of the strong Cambridge "A" team of Steve Dunning, Ray Dixon, Steve Cartwright and Chris Davies, which at present holds top position in the neighbouring Walsall League. Newly-promoted Goodyear, with Eddie Bates and Roger Dudley gaining some notable wins,

have made an immediate impact to hold third place. Woodfield "C", in Division 2, field an all-women's team of Janet Carr, Sue Shields and Heather Johnston, and there are surely not many such teams playing at such a high level.

Isaacs has obviously opted to play for the Potteries in the Wilmott Cup, and with Steve Rowe and Adrian Higgs, they had an easy win over Macclesfield.

In the Stone Championships, John Griffiths, of Doultons, took the singles title in a fine waiting game against the defensive Brian Lockett. Junior Clare Underwood (Eccleshall), although beating the holder, Shirley Boone, in an earlier round, failed in the final against Elva Parry (Wedgwoods), who also won the mixed with Emlyn Williams (Meaford). Clare had the consolation of winning the U-15's title from Andrew Hadley.

Stafford League have had trouble this year due to the withdrawal of a number of top teams during the close season. This has left the first two divisions seriously depleted, and although recruitment of new entries to the lower divisions has maintained the total number of entries at a reasonable level, the current imbalance is not a happy situation and will present a problem to correct next year. However, this is one of the ups and downs which small leagues have to suffer from time to time.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

CHALLENGE MAINTAINED

Cambridge kept up their championship challenge in the East Anglian League when they beat Beccles by 8-2. John Thurston was in good form, winning 2 singles and a doubles, while all three women's sets were won by Cambridge. The only defeats came in men's singles, Paul Chisnall and Mick Byrd each losing a set. Cambridge now have 7 points from 4 matches and share the lead with Norwich, who have also dropped one point.

In the South-East Midlands League, Cambridge were beaten 8-2 by Northampton, but the Veterans just got home 6-4 in their top-of-the-table clash with the Midlanders. In this victory Thurston won three singles and a doubles with Ron Nunn, while Ken Green gave good support with two victories.

In the men's section of the S.E.M. League, Ely are still unbeaten and look like retaining their title. Cambridge and Wisbech are in the lower half of the table and should this section be made into two divisions they may find themselves in Division 2. In the Junior Section Ely are so far unbeaten, as are North Herts. In the Veterans' section Cambridge scored a vital victory over Northampton, the current leaders, and this should make for a close finish.

In the Cambs. League, Soham I and N.C.I. I share the lead in Div. I, both having scored 11 points from 6 matches. Soham had an easy 9-1 win over Press, and New Chesterton Institute went one better by beating Y.M.C.A. II 10-0. Wilburton, the early leaders, kept in the hunt with a good 6-4 win over Y.M.C.A. I, and occupy third place. The two University teams are still bottom, though both have managed their first points of the season. University I drew with Soham II, while the second team picked up their point against Fisons.

Telephones I are running away with Div. II, having won 8 consecutive matches, their latest victims being Swavesey, who were beaten 10-0.

The nearest challengers, Impington I and Cambridge Evening News, met in a match lasting nearly 4 hours, with Impington getting home 6-4 by winning the final doubles 23-31 in the third game. Steve Lee beat Trevor McGhee on "Expedite" in this match, which is a rare occurrence at this level. Torchbearers II gained their first points in this division by beating Fire Service 9-1 and shared bottom place with Firemen and Swavesey.

Six of Cambridgeshire's top table tennis juniors had a successful tour of Sweden, where they were the guests of the Stockholm Club, Huddinge B.T.K., who had previously visited the County last April. The boys and girls each played a friendly match against the Huddinge Club and also competed in one of Sweden's top tournaments, the Huddinge B.T.K. Vardkarsen. In the team matches the boys gave a creditable performance to draw 5-5, while the girls excelled to win 7-2. For the boys Keith Richardson was outstanding, winning 2 singles and a doubles in partnership with brother Brian who, along with Michael Crowson, won a singles. In the girls' match, County champion, Ruth Newman, was unbeaten, while Carol and Susan Ellis each won two singles. Keith Richardson was the most successful Cambridgeshire player in the tournament, reaching the semi-final of the singles before losing to Stockholm's No. 1.

Results:—

- K. Richardson bt Larsson 18, 16; bt Sjoren -18, 22, 19; lost to Skoglund -19, 13, -19.
 - B. Richardson lost to Sjoren -13, 19, -13; lost to Skoglund -8, -13; bt Larsson 9, 20.
 - M. Crowson bt Larsson -12, 14, 14; lost to Skoglund -19, -17; lost to Sjoren -6, -15.
 - K. Richardson/B. Richardson bt Skoglund/Sjoren 16, 18, 16.
- RESULT: Huddinge B.T.K. 5, Cambridgeshire 5.
- C. Ellis bt Halberg 9, 16; bt Landin 19, 12; lost to Gustaffson 17, -16, -19.
 - R. Newman bt Landin 10, 12; bt Gustaffson 17, 15; bt Halberg 13, 10.
 - S. Ellis bt Landon 19, 18; bt Halberg 18, 16; lost to Gustaffson -15, -19.
- RESULT: Huddinge B.T.K. 2, Cambridgeshire 7.

SOMERSET NOTES

by Mike Hawkins

AMBITIOUS "CIDERMEN"

The Senior County team are doing well, having dropped only one set in two matches, beating Dorset (9-1) away and Cornwall (10-0) at Bath. This fine start has certainly put the Somerset side in a good promotion position in 2nd Division West.

We are now hoping for a good win over Wiltshire, at Weston Y.M.C.A. on Dec. 21, and should this have occurred the "cidermen" should be in good tune for their all-important fixture away to ambitious Berkshire on Feb. 22.

The juniors have lost both their opening matches but will doubtless improve their present position as the season goes on, under the leadership of Fred Laidler. One junior to keep a close watch on is Jeremy Musselwhite.

On the coaching side, Mrs. Doreen Henderson has a full diary this season and is doing a grand job for the future of table tennis in Somerset.

The Stiga National Club Championships are causing a certain amount of interest which must be good for the game, and on Dec. 23 a real ding-dong struggle was forecast for the meeting of Dunkerton, N.E. Somerset champions, and Oldfield Park Baptists, Bath champions, on the latter's table.

The Oldfield team includes Tony Clayton and England junior hopeful Chris Sewell. Dunkerton's team comprises Paul Hewitt, John Higgs and Jon "George" Hill. Hewitt, the Dunkerton captain said: "Oldfield ought to win this one on the basis of experience. Should Dunkerton win we stand a very good chance of becoming area finalists." My own prediction gives Oldfield an outright victory and to do well in this national competition; if Dunerton win . . . I will eat my hat.

Weston-super-Mare "A" lead the 1st Div. of the Somerset Inter-Town League from Bridgewater "A", whilst in Div. 2, Chard would appear intent on aiming for a quick return with three wins in a row with a set analysis of 21 against 9.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Alan G. Birks

HAT TRICK FOR HILL

The recently-opened North Kesteven Sports Centre proved to be an excellent and popular venue for the Lincolnshire Closed Championships. The event attracted a total of 117 entries, four more than last year, with 34 coming from Lincoln itself, 30 from Grimsby and 21 from Grantham. The Men's Singles had 66 competitors, exactly the same number as last season. The event was organised by the Lincolnshire T.T.A., with Mrs. Joan Robinson as Organising Secretary, and staged by the Lincoln T.T.A. For several years previously the tournament had been held in Grimsby.

Lincolnshire's number one player, Brian Hill, clinched his twelfth victory in the last thirteen years in the Men's Singles with a win over his Wyberton team-mate, M. East, 16, 17. The odd year out was 1965, when the title went to Scunthorpe's Peter Skerratt. Three of the seeded players were eliminated in the third round when S. Morley (Grimsby) lost to G. King (Wyberton) -15, 14, -14. M. Shearer (Grimsby) lost to J. Radley (Lincoln) -13, -18, and C. Judson (Lincoln) lost to W. Moran (Grimsby) -17, 15, -11. Radley went on to beat Moran 15, 13 to face Hill in the semi-final, losing -6, -15. In the other half of the draw P. Taylor beat his fellow Grimsby player, B. Allison, 13, 14, to go into the semi-final against the No. 2 seed, East. The first game went to East 17 but Taylor won the next 20. In the decider East fought back from 4-7 down to 11-11 and went on to win 21-15.

In the top half of the Men's Doubles the seeded pairs met in the semi-final with Hill and East beating Taylor and Moran 15, 11. In the other half, however, seeds Shearer and Allison went out in the second round to Edmonds and Plaskitt (Grimsby) and the seeded Judson and Smith (Grimsby) lost to King and Robinson (Boston). In the semi-final Edmonds and Plaskitt beat King and Robinson in straight games. In the final, holders Hill and East won 14, 18 to give Hill his second title.

The Mixed ran true to form with the four seeded couples reaching the semi-finals. In the final the holders, D. Armstrong (Boston) and J. White (Spalding) were beaten by the new partnership of Hill and B. Voss (Mablethorpe) in straight games. Hence Hill won three titles without conceding a single game. A nice day's play!

There were two upsets in the second round of the Women's Singles with the seeded J. Robinson (Boston) losing to R. Jeal (Grantham) and M. Burgess (Spalding) going down to A. Gunthorpe (Lincoln). This brought together Mrs. Jeal and Miss Gunthorpe and the latter triumphed but then went out to Miss White in the semi-final. In the other half, S. Hunt (Grantham) beat seeded player C. Judson (Lincoln) 18, 16 but then lost to Mrs. Voss in the semi-final. It is good to see two junior girls getting as far as the semis. Thus the stage was set for a repeat of last year's final but on this occasion the result was reversed with Miss White beating Mrs. Voss 12, 13.

In the Women's Doubles, last year's beaten finalists, Miss White and Mrs. Burgess, went one better this time and defeated Mrs. Voss and Mrs. Judson 14, 13 to give Jean White a second title. Suzanne Hunt retained her Girls' Singles crown with a win over her County Junior partner, Marie Featherstone (Grantham) in straight games and so became the first holder of the Basil Bennet Cup, a trophy donated by a former Grimsby player now living in Australia.

Only two of the finals went to three games, and those at opposite ends of the age range, the Boys' Singles and the Veterans' Singles. B. Edlington (Gainsborough) retained his Veterans' title in a repeat of last year's final against J. Radley. In the third game Edlington fought back from 14-16 down to lead 20-18 and went on to win 21-19.

In the Boys' event the seeded C. Burlinson (Scunthorpe) went out in the third round to M. Norman (Louth) -19, -18, who then lost to top seed N. Neal (Grantham) -22, -13. This left the way clear for the two top-ranked boys in the County, Neal and K. Eldred (Grantham) to fight out the title. Eldred won the first game but Neal fought back to take the next two and clinch the second junior title for Grantham. Scores: 18, -19, -14.

At the end of the Championships the Chairman of the County Association, Mr. J. J. Robertson (Louth) thanked the staff of the Sports Centre for their co-operation, the Organising Secretary and all who had worked towards the success of the day. He then introduced the County Match Secretary, Mr. A. G. Birks (Skegness) who presented the trophies.

KENT NOTES

by Eileen Koutikoff

ANOTHER HURDLE

Kent first team won the Second Division (South) last season and came so close to earning their place back in the Premier Division in the "Play-offs." All the players put everything into making Kent a Premier County again and to lose this place by a margin of only 2 points, after playing so well, put moral at a very low ebb. But . . . the chance has gone and the players will have to find their best form for every match to get a second crack this season, but with Surrey and Sussex being relegated and in contention, they will find it very much tougher.

Kent's first match against Middlesex II gave them another hurdle to overcome, as they lost 3-7. However, this sort of performance is unlikely to be repeated in future matches, with the sort of form the joint Kent No. 1's, Barry Meisel and Clive Morris, are now showing.

Kent could well get another chance to compete for a Premier place, but if they do pull it off where does the County go from there? Players and officials alike, are only too aware that they have not enough strength at No. 1. Morris and Meisel could certainly take a big share of the responsibility, but to have any competitive chance in the Premier, a County must have at least one top class player who holds an England ranking.

Kent, up until two seasons ago, had Tony Piddock in the side. He once got as high as England No. 5 and was Kent's No. 1 for 13-14 years, but when he retired he left a very big gap to fill.

It frustrated the "Kent Development Committee" when they lost John Dabin from their selection list. He dropped out of table tennis when he was almost certainly going to be bestowed with a senior England ranking, following on from his England Junior No. 2 status. Kent are in need of a player of his standard now! but the rare quality the County inherited in Dabin is not easily replaceable.

Andy Mitchell was another sad loss to the County side. He was another talented player who could have helped keep Kent in touch with the top class. Mitchell retired at the ripe old age of 17! Mitchell, as a junior, won the majority of tournaments within Kent and was the Kent Closed Champion three years in succession and had pretty convincing results in Open Tournaments. At 16 Mitchell played Denis Neale in a tournament and showed then what promise he had by taking him to three games. There is no doubt Mitchell had something special in the way of talent but seemed to be overcome with nerves when representing his County. Perseverance may well have diminished this but Andy demanded too much of himself and felt he had gone as far as he could and the time he devoted in order to practise, could be better spent on other recreations which did not involve so much dedication and hard work.

However, Mitchell and Dabin are still very much involved in the game, as both feel they

would like to put something back into it. Both are at this moment helping Bromley Coaches, Alan Fisher and John Dunhill bring youngsters into the game and encourage talented ones to the full extent. The efforts seem to be paying off as Bromley have a stream of promising youngsters and their juniors have, perhaps, the best coaching facilities for boys in Kent.

15-years-old Ian Kenyon, of Bromley, the Kent Junior No. 1 and Senior No. 9, is the most promising youngster coming up and is thought to have so much natural talent that he may well be destined for a senior England ranking. It is a little surprising that the England selectors have not yet acknowledged him with a ranking. The County have and he will soon be making his debut for the Kent second team.

It looks like Kent are going to have to play the waiting game. There are several juniors that will undoubtedly develop along with Kenyon and within a few seasons could be "Socking it to" the players in the Premier Division.

The biggest problem Kent officials have to face is keeping these promising players interested in the game, once they pass the junior stage. It's a problem they are dealing with now and one they are determined to solve, as Kent's standard without them, has no real hope of being any higher than second division.

The only other hope for increasing Kent's strength would be imports of top class players, but the miracle of this kind of player moving into the County is remote. But hope is justifiable, as many of Kent's ranked players have been exported to other Counties over the past few years.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

POINT SALVAGED

In their first match of the season in Division 2 East of the County Championships, Norfolk were quickly 0-3 down against Suffolk at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. Mick Musson lost to John Kitchener, newly ranked as No. 11 in the country; Neville Graver lost to their captain, Mike Palmer, and John went down to David Henderson, a Norwich League player. It was left to Betty Cassell and Edna Fletcher to stop the rot by accounting for Judith Langridge and Debby Wootton, but Kitchener and Kevin Savage quickly made it 1-4. Betty Cassell then had a surprisingly easy victory over Janet List, the Norwich champion, but Kitchener beat Neville Graver. Norfolk had to win the last three ties to salvage a point. This they did, Musson and Edna Fletcher disposing of Palmer and List, Turner seeing to Palmer, and in the third game of the final set of the evening, Musson was home at 18 against Henderson. A splendid fight back!

The first East Anglian League tables have appeared. Norwich head both Division 1 and Division 2. In the first, they are equal with Cambridge with 5 points, being followed by Dereham, Wisbech and Kings Lynn with 4 each. Wymondham have 3 points, Lowestoft 2, and Yarmouth and Beccles have no score. In the second, Norwich, with 8 points, are followed by Wisbech with 6, Bury, Dereham and Yarmouth with five.

Yarmouth U-15 and U-17 Junior Championships were held at Erie Electronics, Mike Archer beating N. Calver 10, 15 in the former, and Paul Durrant ousting Mike Archer 18, 19 in the latter. Also played were the Town Handicap Singles, in which John Fuller (-6), on vacation from Warwick University, beat Ray Lee (+16) 31-30, 31-29, and Handicap Doubles, when Fuller and Archer gained the day against Paul and Ron Durrant 31-29, 31-29.

Wilmott Cup results include Wisbech 1, Norwich 8 and St. Neots 6, Yarmouth 3. In the Rose Bowl, Norwich Women (Mrs. Ruth Hogg, her daughter, Wendy, and Mrs. Pat Ross) went down 3-5 to Lowestoft, but Norwich Juniors thrashed Colchester 9-0 in the Carter Cup.

HERALDING HEREFORDSHIRE

by Ian R. Crickmer

SUPPLEMENTARY MATCHES

The three Western Division counties which wished to meet on a home and away basis in their competition, have agreed on three supplementary matches between themselves, the first of which saw Worcestershire Seconds beat Herefordshire 6-4 at Cripplegate, Worcester. Mike Prosser was outstanding for the visitors, taking his tally to four successes on six visits to the table versus his former County colleagues. Fittingly, the clash of the opposing No. 1's was the highlight, and his set with Nick Bottomley was at a superb level throughout. The other Herefordshire wins came from Margaret Newcombe, in her singles over Sheila Foley, and via Audrey Lawrence and Neville Meredith in the mixed doubles. Taking the match as a whole, however, the conclusion is that, Prosser excepted, the Herefordshire players are still in considerable trouble versus exponents of the modern style, such as Bottomley, Andrew Oakley and Michael Sykes.

At the time of this encounter, negotiations were still in progress with Gloucestershire to secure the County services of Graham Bonser, a regular for Ledbury, in Hereford Division 1. However, although he has not yet been awarded representative honours by them, Gloucestershire are unwilling to sanction Bonser appearing for another county, since they feel the situation would alter entirely if the County of Avon came into existence. The side which had played at Shrewsbury therefore represented the County against Glamorgan Seconds, at Swansea. Again Prosser stood firm for two singles, his win over Walter Hussey being particularly meritorious. The news story of this match was provided by Graham Williams, normally the Welsh county's non-playing captain. With Michael Owen elevated to Premier Division duty in the enforced absence of John Mansfield, Graham spent all Saturday afternoon contacting potential reserves without success, and, forced eventually to play himself, scored three victories towards his team's 8-2 margin!

Ledbury continue their stranglehold on Division One of the Hereford League, with maximum points and only ten sets conceded in eight matches. Village Farm occupy the next two places, the Challengers, with 16 points from 10 matches and The Dodgers having 14 from 9 fixtures. Smart and Brown Sapphires, rated among the pre-season contenders, are struggling in eighth position with only 5 points. Division Two is dominated by Rank Xerox, playing all their fixtures away, and still on maximum record after 9 matches. Civil Service Hawks are in second spot, beaten only by the leaders. At the foot of the table, Police 'A' finally got of the mark with a 6-4 win over Wiggins 'A', forcing the latter in the final position.

Newcomers Pembridge 'B' are yet another team with full points, heading Division Three from Saunders Valve Night Owls, whose only defeat has been by Pembridge. By contrast, no team has an intact record in the Fourth Division—Civil Service Harriers, fighting for their lives near the foot of the table, first drew with fellow-strugglers City Sports 'B' and then captured the only point so far conceded by the leaders, Saunders Valve 'B'. At the beginning of December, College Hill Youth Club could boast that their teams had maximum points, but they reckoned without the M.E.B. In Division Five, M.E.B. 'A' beat the Youth Club side 9-1 to take a two points lead at the top, and the M.E.B.'s second string went one better in Division Six with a clean sweep over College Hill. The latter still lead by two points, but the M.E.B. have a match in hand and now record a far superior sets average.

Hereford's juniors met with a set-back to their Midland League aspirations when West Bromwich forced a draw at Village Farm—with Mark Owen off colour and successful this time only in the doubles, it was left to

Michael Owens to record a maximum with Jeremy Bower contributing the valuable fifth victory. It was pleasing to note three Herefordshire names in the English Junior Closed draw at Loughborough—Michael Owens did well in a Cadet Singles second round clash to take the opening game from Hertfordshire's Adam Proffitt before bowing out 21-18, 13-21, 12-21, and Mark Owen reached the third round before he was eliminated by the beaten finalist Johan James. of Middlesex 20-22, 12-21. It is to be hoped this augurs well for wider County representation at national level, with Hereford entrants in the four National League Team competitions and in the Stiga Club event. I personally was sorry to learn that the efforts of the new combined counties' Schools' organisation for Hereford and Worcester had gone unheeded in the Herefordshire sector—despite circulation to all schools on the new Education Authority's list, the new County Secretary, Steven Hales, of Redditch, tells me the only entries he received for the E.S.T.A. qualifying competitions were for schools in the former Worcestershire area.

Two further victories for Hereford 'A' in the Worcestershire County League give added significance to their forthcoming battles with Malvern and Halesowen. First Redditch were beaten 7-3 at Village Farm—the three losses were sustained by Ledbury's Brian Powell, a last-minute substitute in the Hereford line-up. At full strength, with Graham Bonser in Hereford's side for the first time, Dudley were crushed 9-1 at Allensmore—it must be some time since Hereford dealt so with Dudley, who have been a force in Worcestershire since affiliating in 1969.

Finally, I hear the Herefordshire Closed is scheduled for Sunday, March 9th, at Wiggins' Canteen. Richard Owens is to relieve the pressure by staging the juniors' event separately, and the new-look tournament is expected to prove more attractive both to Hereford and to Leominster, with a larger entry anticipated from the latter.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Bob Bridges

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

My notes in November caused an upset or two in the County Selection Committee, so much so that at the meeting of the Executive on Nov. 18, a representation from the selectors tried to get a motion through to the effect that any criticism of them (which November's Notes included), should be made at the Executive Meeting and not in the Notes of this magazine.

There's another four issues this season—anything could happen!

January matches in the County programme are of some importance to Hertfordshire. Adam Proffitt finds favour and is included in the Junior 1st team in their crucial match away to Kent on Jan. 18. Richard Jermy, Jonathan Proffitt, Sheila Harper and Lindsey Booth complete the line-up.

On the same day, Senior 1st travel to Suffolk for their last but one match in Division Two East. Team selection for this has not been made as these notes are written, but whatever the outcome, there should be something on Herts' last match against Cambridgeshire, at Cheshunt Boys' and Youth Club, Waltham Cross, on Feb. 15 (6-30 p.m.).

The thing that causes the biggest headache in trying to fulfill the County Programme is getting venues for home matches. Only North Herts. and Cheshunt are able to offer venues, the latter taking the lion's share with Cheshunt Boys' and Youth Club. A new venue has been offered by Cheshunt T.T. Club secretary, George Butcher, and this will be used for the Eastern Division match against Essex III on Feb. 22 (7-30 p.m.) and is the Cheshunt Club, Albury Ride, Cheshunt. The one big advantage this club has over other venues—a bar!!

Don Berry scored first time with a Men's

Singles Championship victory over holder, Geoff Giles, in the Watford League Closed, at Leavesden Hospital, last month. Consolation for runner-up Giles was his two wins in the Doubles events. Barbara Peters came close to the triple-crown on the women's side, but just failed to make the Mixed.

WATFORD CLOSED RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals:

D. Berry bt S. Seaholme 19, 14.

G. Giles bt D. Seaholme 17, 18.

Final:

D. Berry bt G. Giles -20, 10, 8.

Women's Singles:

B. Peters bt S. Smith 9, 15.

Men's Doubles:

Giles/W. Pickford bt D. Berry/J. Hiron 17, 14.

Women's Doubles:

Peters/S. Boyce bt J. Treadwell/S. Mellor 16, 18.

Mixed Doubles:

Giles/Boyce bt A. Thomas/Peters 11, 20.

Minor Singles:

Thomas bt B. Whitehead. 15, 20.

Boys' Singles:

G. Clegg bt P. Burgess 20, 19.

SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS CHATTER

by Leslie Constable

ELY FAVOURITES

Ely and Bedford occupy the top positions in the Men's section, with Ely having the best chance of success, being undefeated. Newcomers Daventry are finding it hard going and so far have not succeeded in winning and are at the bottom of the Division with Peterborough, who also have yet to collect their first win.

In the Junior Section the top four teams, Bedford, North Herts, Ely and Hunts Central, all have a good chance of winning the title and we shall almost certainly see a close finish. Aylesbury, who are competing for the first time, are in the middle of the table and seem to be holding their own. In the Women's section, Dunstable and North Herts hold the top positions, with the former team having a slight edge. But Cambridge, last season's champions, who have only played one match, which they won, should be in there again at the finish.

The two bottom positions in this section are occupied by Ely and Wisbech, who have yet to win, and the plight of Bedford, who have played 4 and lost 4, is even more precarious. In the Veterans' section, Northampton head the Division, but were recently beaten by last season's champions, Cambridge, so that there will be another close finish here. R.A.F., who are new to the League, hold third position, but Kettering, who are right behind them, are more favourably placed.

I should like to appeal to the Secretaries or Press Officers of the various teams in this League to send me more details of matches played, so that I can insert these in my reports in this magazine. I am constantly being asked why I do not give these details, but I can hardly put forward for printing what I have not received. Thank you in anticipation of your help in future months.

Leading positions:—

South-East Midlands Table Tennis League

Men	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bedford	5	4	1	0	38
Ely	4	4	0	0	37
Juniors					
Bedford	5	4	0	1	36
North Herts	3	3	0	0	27
Women					
Dunstable	3	3	0	0	28
North Herts	2	2	0	0	20
Veterans					
Northampton	4	4	0	0	36
Cambridge	3	3	0	0	25

SUSSEX NOTES

by Robin Pierce

RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL

After an absence from the county scene of eighteen months, the former Sussex champion-John Clarke, has announced that he wishes to be considered for County Championship play once again.

This is great news for us as the outlook, to say the least, is somewhat bleak at the moment. John's first match is for the reserves, but there is little doubt that his game will improve by leaps and bounds in the coming weeks, so 2nd Division South outings are very much on the cards.

Brighton are making a strong bid for the double in the Men's Inter-League. They slaughtered Hastings 8-1 in Division 1. All credit, though, to Steve Manlow, who out-hit Clarke.

In Division 2, Brighton outclassed plucky West Weald 9-0, no ties going beyond two games.

Crawley are also unbeaten in Division 1, as are Littlehampton, Don Miller, of Haywards Heath, did very well to beat both John Millward and Chris Wells, but an Andy Meads maximum saw Crawley home 7-2.

Littlehampton continue to dominate Junior West. Unbeaten Hastings and Brighton are fighting it out in the Eastern Section.

Anything can now happen in the Women's section, where Hastings, Eastbourne and Worthing are all in with chances. Worthing missed Suzanna Kavallierou against Hastings. Linda Wales scored a maximum for Worthing but was taken to 19 in the third by Anita Gedge.

Eastbourne, who have yet to play Worthing, will have a hard time against Anita, Beverley Godfrey and Sue Franklin. Diane Gard will have to score a full house to give them any sort of chance.

Crawley had something of a shock in the Ascot National Butterfly League. Unrated Hastings held the New Town lads to the bitter end and only went down 4-5.

Brighton's Roger Chandler, John Clarke and Robin Stace, despite the last-named sustaining a back injury, returned from Gravesend as 6-3 winners. This was sweet revenge for the 3-6 defeat in the women's match.

Div. 1.—Brighton 8, Hastings 1; Haywards Heath 2, Crawley 7; East Grinstead 4, Little-Inter-League Results: hampton 5.

Div. 2.—Brighton 9, West Weald 0; Littlehampton II 7, East Grinstead II 2; Lewes 2, Bexhill 7.

Women.—West Weald 5, S.W. Sussex 4; Worthing 3, Hastings 6.

Junior West.—Littlehampton 9, Worthing 0; S.W. Sussex 7, East Grinstead 2.

Junior East.—Bexhill 7, Lewes 2.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

THREE SURVIVORS

All three member leagues of the County Association have been involved in national competitions over the past month. Three teams survive to compete in the next round of the various sections. St. Neots top the list with both men's and women's teams disposing of Gt. Yarmouth, whilst Hunts Central Junior Boys earned themselves a trip to Derby in the second round of the Carter Cup.

St. Neots' women travelled to Yarmouth and pulled off a 6-3 win, with Belinda Chamberlain, Diane Bushby and Barbara Pace equally sharing the spoils. Peterborough went down 4-5 at the hands of Kings Lynn, Shelly Holland won twice with Evelyn and Jean Allinson taking one each. Hunts Central were outplayed at Cambridge, losing all sets.

St. Neots also carry the County's

colours in the Wilmott Cup, beating the Norfolk League by the same 6-3 margin as their women. Alan Lamprell won his three, supported by Gordon Cockram (2) and Eddie Haslop (1). Central were pipped 4-5 by a Bedford team led by unbeaten David Rawlinson. Stephen Andrews and Jim Sizer each took two for the hosts, Sid Burgess losing the deciding set.

Hunts Central, represented by Alan Smith, Steven Fisher and Leno Coppolaro, were 9-0 winners over Peterborough. Seven juniors from the County were invited to a preliminary squad session at Longsands School, St. Neots, in early December. They were:—Belinda Chamberlain, Jean Allinson, Melanie Ringrose, Steven and Mark Fisher, Alan Smith and Gregg Baker.

Hunts Central

N.C.I., the reigning champions of the Premier Division, lead another Cambridge-based side, Telephones, by 9 pts. after their opening four fixtures. The former were surprisingly held 5-5 by lowly Brampton. N.C.I., playing without their No. 1, John Thurston, had Stephen Andrews unbeaten on this occasion.

Telephones were close 6-4 winners away to St. Ives "A" with Albert Jackson recording a maximum. St. Ives "B" were good 7-3 victors against St. Neots, with Kevin Moore starring with a maximum, including the scalp of County men's singles champion, Len Saywell. This St. Ives team also gained victory, 8-2, at Brampton, with Moore again unbeaten, as was leading junior, Alan Smith.

In Div. 1, St. Ives "C" had a similar victory over nearest rivals, Montahu "A", who are now 4 pts. adrift.

St. Neots

Achilles are in the position they have held over the past few seasons, leading Div. 1 of the St. Neots League at present by 7 pts. After losing to St. Ives 4-6 in their opening encounter, they have only dropped 1 set in their next three engagements. St. Ives, in turn, have had reverses at the hands of Little Paxton Spiders and St. Neots Aces. Spiders are unbeaten, with McGuigan, Haslop and MacArthur gaining 25 from a possible 30 pts. The Paxton club also lead Divs. 2 and 3, with the "B" and "C" teams also unbeaten.

Peterborough

City "A" have a maximum 10 pts. from their opening 5 matches, winning 42 sets. Hotpoint "A" follow with 3 pts. and a game in hand. These two teams lead both Ramsey teams in the Premier Division. Ramsey "B" had Arthur Bodle unbeaten on two occasions as his side beat City "B" and Venturers "A". Perkins "B" and NALGO "A", both unbeaten, top the first and second divisions. Playing in the Reading Junior Select, Belinda Chamberlain reached the last 16 in the U-17 girls' singles, losing -21, -15 to Sandra Sutton, of Essex, nationally ranked at No. 4.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

RECORD ENTRY

The most important event in the last month has been the County Closed Junior Championships held on Dec. 8, at Lea & Perrins Factory, Worcester. A record entry of 50 players was received for the Boys' Singles. Although there was a big gap between the finalists (Simon Claxton and Andrew Oakley) it was encouraging to see a good number of promising players well below the age limit. The first two games of the Final were strongly fought but Claxton forged well ahead to win at 21-8 in the decider.

Nicky Oakley (younger brother of Andrew) teamed up with Keith Hackett (Halesowen) and did very well to reach the Junior Doubles Final. They could not, however, match the experience of Claxton and Oakley, who retained the Championship.

The Junior Girls' event provided a good

deal of interest. The County ranking, as a result of pre-season trials, had been decided following some very close results. The Championship results could cause some re-thinking because Judy Bytheway (No. 3) beat Leslie Duffield (ranked No. 1) in straight games. There was a very good and closely-fought final with Mandy Mytton eventually winning at 21-17 in the deciding game. This is most encouraging, as Mandy has another 4 seasons as a Junior.

The Juniors continue to make the news with Saucerers Apprentices team (Claxton, Oakley and Sykes) proceeding almost unchallenged in Division 1 of the Worcester League. From 6 matches they have 12 points with 55 events for and only 5 against! Derek Baddeley lost his first singles event in Worcester Division 1 after 4 seasons when Claxton got home at 24-22, 24-22. However, Claxton's unbeaten record went when Nick Bottomley, making a rare appearance in the Worcester League, beat him 12, 13!

Keith Wilkinson, a member of the Worcestershire County Cricket team last season, and who visits Buckingham Palace for a presentation, is playing his first season in the Worcester League. He is representing St. Martin's "B" in Division III, but is already proving he is capable of playing in a higher standard.

The County Executive Committee is unfortunately suffering from a lack of officials with some of the hardest workers having to take on 2 or 3 jobs. In particular the post of Hon. Treasurer has not been filled. It is well known that it is the "last straw which breaks the camel's back" and, as probably is the case in other League and County Committees, there are always a few stalwarts who keep things going—but what happens if they become disillusioned! It is often remarkable that those who get most out of the game, find that their heavy playing programme prevents them helping on administration. Sympathy abounds!

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLOSED JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Boys' Singles:

Semi-finals: S. Claxton (Worcester) bt K. Hackett (Halesowen) 5, 17.

A. Oakley (Worcester) bt N. Mytton (Evesham) 5, 3.

Final: CLAXTON bt Oakley 16, -20, 8.

Boys' Doubles:

Semi-finals: Claxton/A. Oakley bt J. Duffield/S. Dorrell (Kidderminster) 7, 10.

N. Oakley/ K. Hackett bt P. Talbot/D. Meredith 13, 18.

Final: CLAXTON/OAKLEY bt N. Oakley/Hackett 8, 12.

Girls' Singles

Semi-finals: J. Bytheway (Kidderminster) bt L. Duffield (Kidderminster) 18, 13.

M. Mytton (Evesham) bt A. Munro (Worcester) 9, 4.

Final: MYTTON bt Bytheway 20, -18, 17.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan Cavell

FIRST WIN IN 5 YEARS

The County Committee were gratified to see the County team beat Hertfordshire to record its first win for five years. Gareth Samuel and Chris Neale both played well and reliable Mrs. Sheila Rogers was ably supported by teenager Miss Sue Evans. Miss Evans, a member of the Pontesbury Club, is a product of the recent coaching activities being organised in the County by Paddy Jackson.

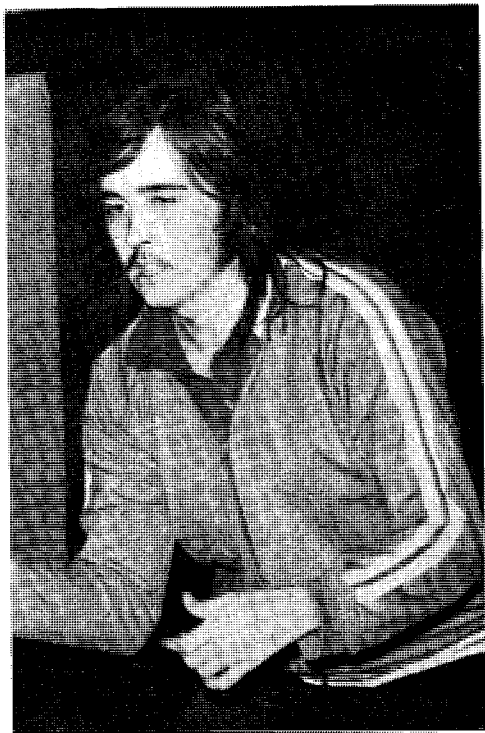
The Telford Association's committee has decided again to support the E.T.T.A.'s lottery in support of the World Championships in 1977. It also proposes to make use of the recently-opened Shifnal Sports Centre by running an American tournament for its registered members who have not played in any County or town teams (excluding Junior teams). It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

ESSEX NOTES

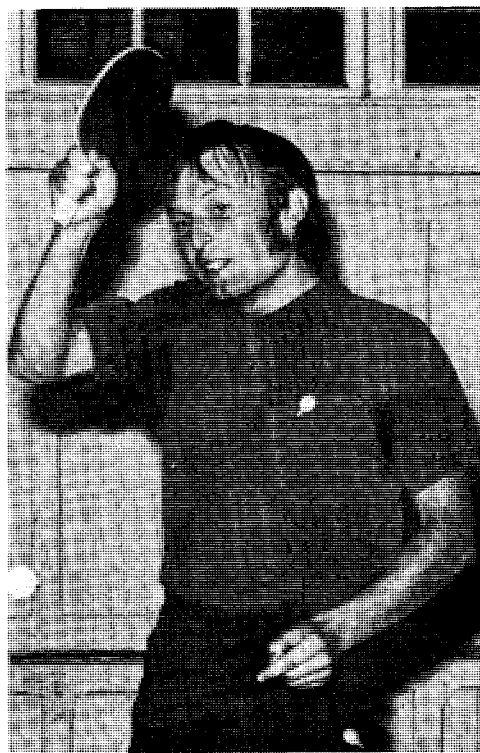
by Geoff Newman

DRAMATIC RISE

Essex officials and fans are delighted by the dramatic rise in the National rankings of our two star men this season. Ian Horsham coming in at No. 6 while County captain, David Brown, is No. 10. Both play for the very strong Fellows Cranleigh Club, who are this season competing in Europe.



IAN HORSHAM



DAVID BROWN

Photos by G. Gale.

Ian has been further honoured by being selected for England in the Norwich Union International Championships and is also reserve for the English team competing in

the World and Commonwealth Championships. Well done, both of you.

The Essex league championships for 1974-75 has commenced. 90 teams have entered representing 19 leagues, there being 34 senior teams, 20 junior teams and 36 veteran teams. This season, for the first time, sees the merger of the Senior and Reserve competitions into one competition, thus giving the 2nd and 3rd teams their chance to progress.

A new scoring system has also been introduced which in the Senior and Junior competitions gives 4 points for a 10-0, 9-1, 8-2 win; 3 pts. for a 7-3, 6-4 win; 2 pts. for a draw; and 1 pt. for a 4-6, 3-7 defeat. The Veterans' system is 4 pts. for a 9-0, 8-1 win; 3 pts. for a 7-2, 6-3, 5-4 win; and 1 pt. for a 4-5, 3-6, 2-7 defeat. First division results up to Dec. 1st:—

Senior:

Chelmsford "A" 6, Romford "A" 4.
Harlow "A" 3, Dagenham "A" 7.
Southend "A" 8, Basildon "A" 2.

Junior:

Barking 8, Southend "A" 2.
Romford "A" 4, Chelmsford "A" 6.

Veterans:

Basildon "A" 4, Southend "A" 5.
Romford "A" 4, Thurrock "A" 5.
Southend "B" 1, Dagenham "A" 8.

A number of our players have had some excellent results on the Tournament Circuit, with our Junior squad in particular, shining.

The recent Southend Open was a big success, sponsored by the H. W. Stone, of Leigh Group of Companies. The Southend League are to be congratulated on their organisation. Middlesex junior, Andy Barden, was the star of the tournament, notching 4 titles. Our own David Brown defeated Trevor Taylor before becoming a Barden victim. Les Eadie, Dave Newman and Sandra Sutton all reached the semi-final stage in a strong junior entry. Shelagh Hession kept the County's flag flying by winning the women's singles and only just losing the final of the mixed with Ken Beamish, another Essex stalwart.

The Clacton League have just completed their own internal Combination Competition with John Owen, John Mann and Mark Corley the eventual winners. Over at Chelmsford the League competition is hotting up with Rosebery "A" and Maldon Wanderers "A" leading

the chase for honours. Chelmsford senior men gained a good 7-2 win over Bury in the Wilmott Cup to keep their interests alive nationally.

Dagenham, after their success in the Bromfield Trophy last season, hope to go one better this year with their boys particularly strong (R. Potton, K. Caldon, L. Eadie), while the girls' team will have Sandra Sutton, Penny Abbott and Janet Boulter. Both teams could go far in the Carter Cup and the Bromfield Trophy.

East London are undertaking a most ambitious venture this season. They have obtained a sponsor for their Closed Championships on Sunday, Jan. 19, and have hired the Leyton Baths, Leyton High Road, E.10, for the occasion.

Braintree are having a difficult season at inter-league level but in their domestic competition things are really hotting up with six teams contesting Division 1. Braintree officials are having further talks with the local council with a view to leasing premises for League events.

The Colchester League report an increase in teams and interest. One of the most pleasing aspects being the youngsters that are coming along well. Len Barton being the instigator of that improvement. In the Romford League, Gidea Park, the Div. 1 champions, are setting the pace but arch rivals Dagenite are breathing down their neck.

Romford are particularly proud of their Hon. Sec., Phyllis Lauder, who was profiled in the "Sunday Times" recently. In the "Corinthians of Sport" competition, Phyl was a runner-up, having played table tennis for England in the 1938 Worlds, wicketkeeper for Middlesex Ladies' Cricket team, hockey for Middlesex and the South of England, plus athletics, squash, badminton, while recently she has taken to bowls as well. Incidentally Phyllis is a Life Member of our Association.

STIGA WELSH OPEN

Closing date for the Stiga Welsh Open Championships is February 16, 1975, and entries should be sent to Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans, at 198 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff, CF2 6BQ.

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NORTHANTS NOTES
by Dennis Millman

The Northampton Premier Division again appears to lie between U.T.C. "A" and Y.M.C.A. "A". This state of affairs has existed for many seasons, and this year the only teams capable of making an impact on the situation are Roadmenders and Y.M.C.A. "B", and their chances are slender. U.T.C. "A" represented by John Palmer, John Goodall, John Aspinall and the unbeaten Colin Hogg, are currently holding a four-point lead over the Y.M.C.A. trio of Dick Ingle, Steve Lyon and Phil Snelling, but either side could take the title.

The Kettering League is also likely to be a straightforward battle between Kettering Town "A" and Rothborough "A", with the Rothwell side holding a one-point lead at the half-way stage, thanks to a fine Geoff Atkinson treble in the match between the two teams, when the final result was a draw.

The leading averages in the Kettering League are as follows:—

Premier Division—1, Geoff Atkinson, 100%; 2, Dennis Millman, 89%; 3, Graham Feakin and Dave Pipe, 87.5%; 5, Terry Sutton, 85%; 6, Steve West, 78%, 7, Dick Cole 75%; 8, Anne Wallis, 70%.

First Division—1, Dave Bosworth, 100%; 2, Reg Hicks, 83%; 3, Bill Lisk, 82%.
Second Division—1, John Herbert, 100%; 2, Keith Nicoll, 90%; 3, John Kimbell, 86%.
Third Division—1 Mervyn Baxter, 100%; 2, Gordon Milne, 92%; 3, Ken Jarvis, 89%.

The Wellingborough League has the most interesting look about it with Rothborough's 7-3 win against Compton Nomads "A" opening up the situation at the top. Rothborough "A", Compton Nomads "A" and holders, Kettering Town "A", are likely to fight out a close finish, with Finedon Allen Road and Old Grammarians likely to fall short of the leading three, despite the individual abilities of Finedon's Brian Dangerfield, Cliff Brown and Peter Bliss, and Geoff Atkinson, Martin Tribe and David Hoddle, of the Grammarians.

Before the next issue of these notes is published the local tournament season will be upon us, with Kettering and Northampton setting the ball rolling in late January. Let us hope that in this time of financial stress, all league players will rally round to give the tournament organisers an excellent entry and a rewarding, if exhausting, experience.

WELSH NOTES



by H. ROY EVANS

Glamorgan's tussle with Yorkshire was reminiscent of the matches we had years ago when we were in the Premier Division before—in Walter Sweetland and Brian Kennedy's time. Tight struggles, with victory going sometimes to them, sometimes to us.

And so it was at Leeds, but this time we just lost, and that could be a serious loss. We were three up, and held match points for four-up in the mixed, only to lose, and see victory slide away by the odd set. Now we must look for victory against the strong Essex side.

The Cardiff Open provided Tony Clayton with a title that ought to have gone to John Hilton, but then that was his fault. Game up and 20-15 in the second, with Tony looking just that bit too casual. But John clowned a bit, and Tony tightened a bit, so that it was Tony in the end who took away the title he'd come with.

Tony's semi-final victim was Nigel Eckersley, whilst John accounted for Alan Griffiths, who, like Clayton, didn't seem to be able to get through Hilton very well.

Graham Davies and Alan Griffiths took the doubles with a good win over Hilton and Peter D'Arcy.

Best Welsh performance came from Flintshire's Junior, Julie Ralphs, who repeated her Swansea Open form, accounting for Barbara Roden, Sandra Pickering and Audrey Coombes-Jones before wilting before the steadiness of Margaret Phillips in the final. A fine show by Julie, who looked good, too, in the girls' singles in which she beat Pat Allen, thus reversing the Swansea result.

John Hook, another North Walian, won the boys' singles from Jonathan Hardiker.

Plans for the bumper Welsh Open are now materialising. In addition to the European Regional Group Matches, which take place before the Welsh Open itself, there's the team event, which will include Czechoslovakia, England, Federal Germany and Hungary, then the Individual Events, all sponsored by Stiga, and then a series of Challenge Matches in three other Welsh centres—Pembroke, Aberystwyth and Deeside. A veritable Festival of Table Tennis!

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

"FIRST AND LAST" "A" WIN TEAM K.O. COMPETITION

The power crisis of last year put paid to this popular event, but it was successfully completed at Ilfracombe on Sunday, Dec. 1, with eight teams entering. After a day-long session, the top teams duly met in the final, which was between the "First and Last" "A", from Plymouth, and Heavitree "A" from Exeter.

Some fine play was expected and we were certainly not disappointed. The match started at a cracking pace from Mike Rattue, of Exeter, and Keith James, from Plymouth. Both were in top form and Keith just got the better at 18 in the final game. Paul Stone pulled one back for Heavitree with a win over Mike

Short, but then Barry Davies was too strong for Mike Rundle, putting the Plymouth side back in the lead. James again had a narrow win, this time against Stone, and the doubles combination of James and Short was too strong for Rattue and Stone. Rattue played brilliantly to beat County No. 1, Davis, Short just got the better of Rundle and Davis finished it off by beating Stone in straight games, giving the Plymouth team a 6-2 win. A great match, played in excellent spirit, despite old rivalries and I was particularly impressed by Mike Short, who has improved considerably.

The awards were presented by the Mayor of Ilfracombe, and Mike Edmunds and his teams of helpers from the North Devon area of our County, are to be congratulated on the splendid organisation throughout the day.

In the Devon League Plymouth teams are leading the way in the three divisions and will take some stopping, even at this early stage in the season.

Leading positions:—

	Senior One				
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Plymouth "A"	4	3	0	1	29
South Devon	3	2	0	1	19
Plymouth "B"	3	2	0	1	17

	Junior One				
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Plymouth "A"	3	3	0	0	22
South Devon "A" ..	4	2	1	1	21
Tavistock	3	1	1	1	16

	Junior Two				
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Plymouth "C"	3	3	0	0	25
Plymouth "D"	3	2	0	1	23

IRISH NEWS

by MAX McNEILL

After an absence of 2 years Ireland returned to the 2nd Division of the European League this season but our initial fixtures against Poland and Netherlands both resulted in defeat.

The match against Poland was the first international to be played in Cork and resulted in a 5-2 win for the visitors—Ireland's only successes were by Jim Langan, who played very well to beat Woznica, and by Langan and Tommy Caffrey, who beat Woznica and Skibinski in the men's doubles.

In our second encounter, away to Netherlands, we went down 3-4 after leading 3-2. At this stage in the match victory seemed in sight when Langan led van Slobbe 12-5 in the 3rd, but eventually lost -17. Langan was involved in all three Irish successes. In the singles he beat Bert van der Helm and teamed up with Caffrey to beat van der Helm/van Slobbe, and in the mixed partnered Karen Senior to victory over van Slobbe/Heltzel.

Our remaining fixtures are against Denmark (Home) on Feb. 20, and Belgium (Away) on March 20.

The 1st major tournament of the season was the Munster Open, played in Limerick, on 18-19 Oct. The tournament was dominated by the Polish team, who had defeated Ireland the previous day. The only title to stay in Ireland was the mixed doubles, in which Langan and Karen Senior scored a good win over Woznica and Noworyta 16, -12, 21.

In the recent Leinster Open on Dec. 6-7, in Dublin, Caffrey repeated his victory of last season when he beat Jim Langan 20, 17 in the men's singles final. Karen Senior confirmed her No. 1 position in the country when she beat Kyra Stewart 18, 20 to take the women's singles title.

Selected to represent Ireland in the Norwich Union International Championships, in Brighton, were:—Jim Langan, Tommy Caffrey, Karen Senior and Kyra Stewart.

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STIGA NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

by JOHN PIKE

After a quiet opening start to this season's Stiga National Club Championships, the tempo steps up in the next two weeks when teams with a nationwide interest battle through a tough second round draw for the Stiga-Ormesby Cup.

Like the F.A. Cup, there will be plenty of David and Goliath ties at this early stage of the competition, but one of these is unlikely to be in the North East where the cup holders Ormesby, travel to Sunderland Y.M.C.A. The Sunderland trio of David Svenson, Chris Neath and Peter McQueen looked good in their 8-1 win over the Wanderers at Hartlepool, but it will be a much different story when they face the best club side in England.

In the all-Yorkshire clash at Harrogate, Villa take on King Cross Libs. from Halifax. For the first time in the history of the competition, two church teams meet in the Lancashire group when Waterloo Methodist, from the Oldham League, receive Gidlow Methodist, from Wigan.

After beating Horwich 9-0 in the first round, the strong English Electric side of D'Arcy, Allinson and Boasman, now have a home tie against Little Lever C.C. Like the Liverpool side, Little Lever also had a good opening win with Riley, Hallows and Farnworth taking an 8-1 advantage against Greenbrook, from the Bury League.

Two new teams meet at Warrington, where Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club have the Railway Club, from Sale, as their visitors.

The one tie in the Lincolnshire group is at Lincoln itself, where the Constitutional Club meet the Three Aces, from Grantham.

Two good ties look in prospect for the East Midlands with Earl Shilton at home to Nottingham N.A.L.G.O., and at Chesterfield, Sheepbridge play the Junction Club, from Glossop.

Moving across to the West Midlands and at Birmingham, Handsworth Victoria receive the Redditch side, Saint Bede, while at Kidderminster, Tomkinson's can let off steam against Valves, from Coventry.

Over in East Anglia, the Y.M.C.A. at Kings Lynn have the Cambridge side, Soham, as their visitors.

With a lot of action taking place in the South of England, the next port of call is at Bletchley, where A.H.W. meet Fullers, from the Watford League. For this home tie, A.H.W. can thank Robert Harman and Tony Clark, who showed up well in their 5-1 win over Aylesbury Sports.

Reading Post Office and Centre One (Slough) are two other clubs with home matches against Maidenhead British Legion and A.W.R.E. (Aldermaston) respectively.

If the Tennyson Club look a good bet to win zone 11, then firm favourites to take zone 12 must be Fellows Cranleigh, from East London. While the Willesden side are doing battle at Gunnersbury Triangle, from the Acton League, Fellows Cranleigh go to East Thurlock with their sights firmly set on a place in the final at Birmingham in April.

Andrew Bawden and Robin Milne gave Maldon Wanderers a 7-2 win over Springfield and an away tie with Hutton T.T.C.

In the Essex group there are home games for Gidea Park (Romford) and Valiants (Beacontree) with North Weald and Chadwell Heath supplying the opposition. In the first round, Gidea Park beat Ivri Maccabi 5-0, while Niel Brierley and David Wright gave North Weald a 5-2 win over Grove, from the Harlow League. Weston Y.M.C.A. and the Bath side, Oldfield Park Baptist, both recorded good wins in the West Country group. The Y.M.C.A.

trio of Garland, Philpott and Andrews, looked sharp in their 7-2 win over Ransome, Hoffman and Pollard, while Dunkerton, the home side, had no answer to Paul Drew, Chris and Ray Sewell in their clash with Oldfield Park.

Newcomers from Exeter, Heavtree "A", travel to West Wilts for their game with Studley, and if they win this, they travel again to meet the winners of the Weston-Oldfield Park Clash.

Man-of-the-match award in Snows 5-4 win over Ryde went to W. Moulding, and as a result of this, the Southampton club now go to Bournemouth for a meeting with old rivals Merton.

The final tie is at Hastings, where the Tigers play the Crawley League side, Gossops Forresters. In their first round tie, Jim Barry was unbeaten for the Tigers in a 7-2 win over the Spartan Club, from Brighton.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

SHROUDED IN SECRECY

Following their close win over Essex II, the senior side were due to travel to Southampton on Dec. 14, with David Welsman and Chris Strathearn regaining their places at the expense of Gerry Walsh and Barry Hill. The prospects look encouraging for the chance of an early return to the Premier Division, but a long, hard struggle lies ahead.

The second team started well with a 7-3 win over Berks when Derek Holman was the star of the match. The Junior 1st fought well despite defeats by Middlesex and Essex. Mick Kercher reckoned the first of these matches to be the best he had ever seen. The Junior 2nds fared better, beating Hants II, following a draw against Herts.

Within the County there is always something happening in Guildford and in the Leatherhead and Epsom League. Fortunately, for me, their activities are not maintained in the dark secrecy which, so far, shrouds the doings of the other leagues.

Guildford were due to stage, over the weekend of Jan 4-5, their annual handicap pairs tournament incorporating, for the first time, a singles handicap competition, run on a group basis, with a perpetual challenge trophy to honour the memory of the late Miss Doreen Allison. Miss Allison did much for table tennis locally and her death last year was greatly mourned.

In a handicap tournament anything can happen, and Committee Treasurer, Barry Vine, is being spoken of by several in the know! The Leatherhead, Epsom and District League organised a magnificent tournament for boys and girls from schools and youth clubs from a wide area competing for trophies donated by the local newspaper—the "Surrey Comet."

The League's Press Secretary, Bob Pearson, reports that from nearly 100 players, the overall champion was a fine attacking player from Chessington Y.C., Chris Ray. In the quarters he comfortably beat pretty Christine Lowes (Tolworth Girls) but had a harder fight against Jane Redford (Tolworth) in the semis. The other finalist was Anne Temple (Cheam High) who was tipped by many.

In her semi-final, Anne astonishingly disposed of Keith Milsom (Cheam Fields) 10 and 10. The final was a far better encounter than the 13, 14 scoreline suggests.

The tournament ran like clockwork from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., thanks mainly to the organiser, Leatherhead League Sec., Gail McCulloch, who was ably assisted in the marathon task by Angela Bott, Chairman John Denman presented the awards including the splendid "Surrey Comet" Gold Trophy, to the overall winner.

Several scouts from local clubs were watching for talent and kept an especial eye on some of the very young contestants. The youngest of all, 9-years-old Michael Hammond

(Chessington T.T.C.) managed two good wins against older boys.

Arrangements are well in hand for the County Closed Championships with the senior and junior events to again be separated. The Junior events will take place at Beverley School, New Malden, on Mar. 8-9, with Norman Hooper, of 37 Cedarcroft Road, Chessington, accepting entries up to Feb. 14. The senior tournament has been scheduled for Mar. 16, at the same venue, and Mrs. J. M. Bourne, Sunny Path, Walpole Avenue, Chipstead, CR3 3BP, will close her books on Feb. 21.

ANGLO-CHINESE INTERNATIONALS

by George Yates and John Woodford

The gulf that once existed between the Asian and European style of play was seen to be appreciably narrowed at Thornaby Pavilion on Jan. 3, when England triumphed 6-3 over the penholders of the People's Republic of China. Throwing caution to the wind after Nicky Jarvis had gone down in the opening set, Desmond Douglas hammered his way to a convincing win over Li Ching-kwang.

It was a heartening effort by the Birmingham player and one that put new heart into the subsequent displays given by Denis Neale and Jill Hammersley, both of whom shrugged off deficits in the opening game, won, and put England into a 3-1 lead.

China narrowed the gap with a win in the women's doubles, but a rejuvenated Jarvis belied his earlier mediocrity by beating Yen Kuo-chiang in convincing style. Back swung the pendulum when Carole Knight lost her singles, but Douglas, blasting back, gave England a decisive 5-3 lead on which Neale, in beating Li Ching-kwang, added the final gloss. Scores:—

N. Jarvis lost to Wang Chia-lin -14, -15.
D. Douglas bt Li Ching-kwang 19, 13.
J. Hammersley bt Yen Kui-li -18, 16, 11.
D. Neale bt Kuo Yao-hua -12, 16, 17.
Hammersley/C. Knight lost to Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen -17, -12.
Jarvis bt Yen Kuo-chiang 17, 13.
Knight lost to Yu Ching-chia -12, -13.
Douglas bt Wang Chia-lin 19, 13.
Neale bt Li Ching-kwang 13, 18.

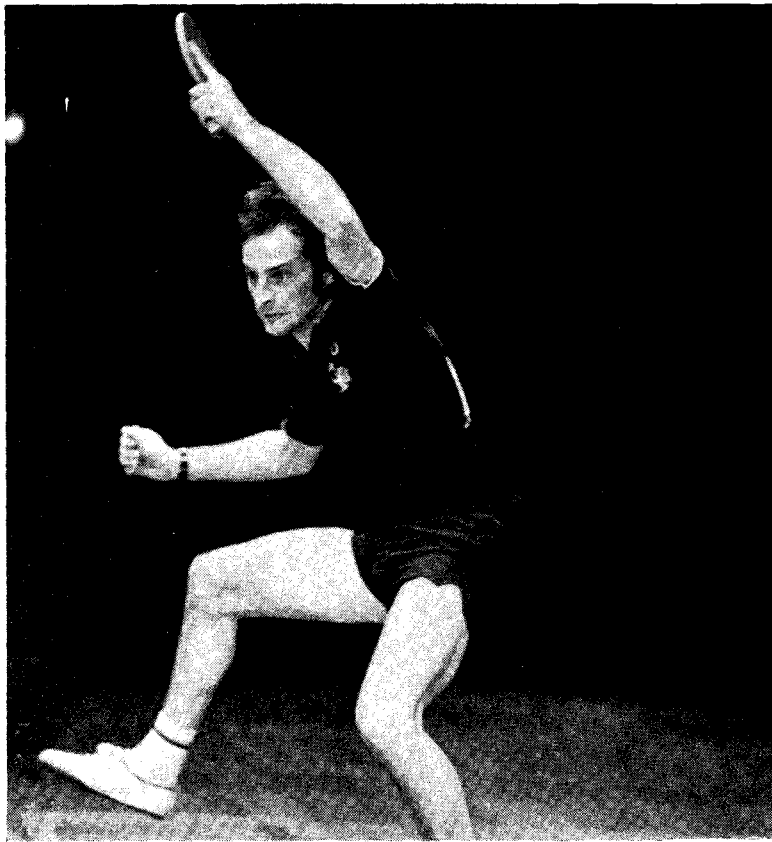
Watched by a crowd of 1,000, China gained their expected revenge when they defeated England 5-3 at Crystal Palace on Jan. 7. England's "man-of-the-match" was Trevor Taylor, the reigning Commonwealth champion, who won twice. The other player who must have impressed the selectors was Jimmy Walker. In a match marred by umpiring errors, his flashing backhand caused many problems for Li Ching-kwang, the top Chinese player on this tour.

N. Jarvis lost to Wang Chia-lin 17, -9, -16.
T. Taylor bt Kuo Yao-hua 16, 19.
J. Hammersley lost to Yu Ching-chia 17, -11, -18.
Jarvis/J. Walker lost to Li Ching-kwang/Wang Chia-lin -18, -21.
L. Howard lost to Yen Kui-li -13, -14.
Walker lost to Li Ching-kwang 19, -20, -20.
Hammersley/Howard bt Li Ming/Liu Hsin-yen 10, 10.
Taylor bt Yen Kuo-chiang 24, 17.

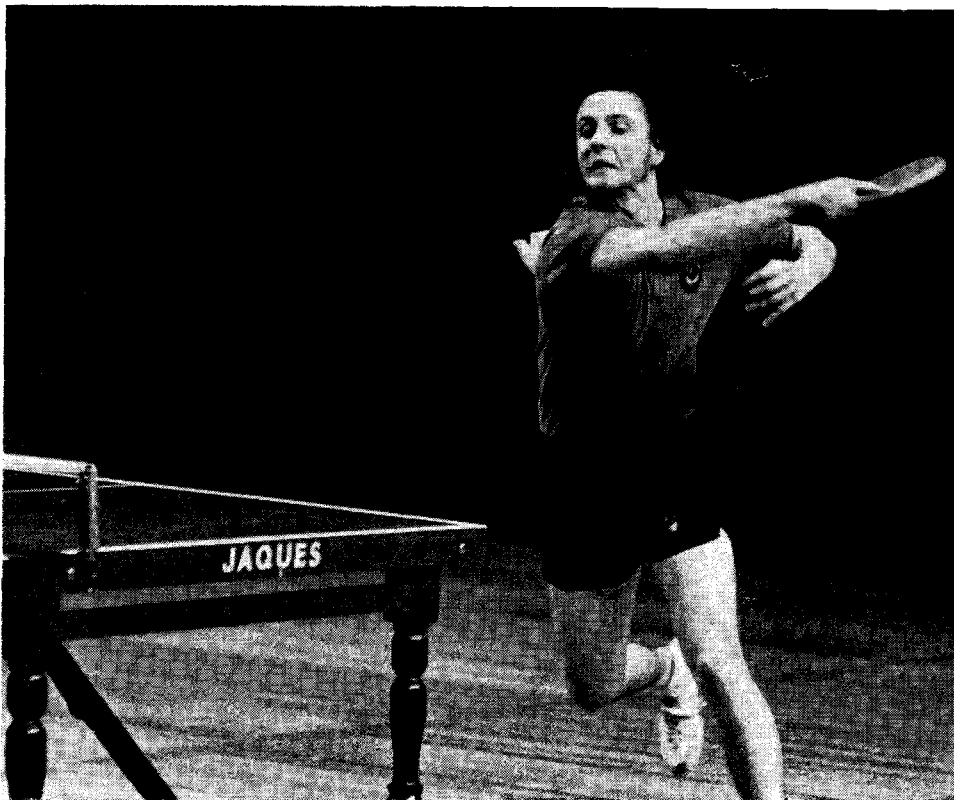
MIKE JOHNS MARRIES!

This headline will doubtless come as something of a shock to many people in table tennis but at a quiet church in Clitheroe, Lancs., on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1974, at 11-15 a.m., the Weaverham wanderer finally took the plunge when he married Annette Rung.

The many friends Mike has made in his years in the sport will offer their heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future to him and his bride.



ACTION WITH ROSS!



These two action shots taken by Yorkshire photographer Tony Ross, of Hessle, depict the endeavour that was put into the men's singles final at Brighton by Jacques Secretin and Anatoliy Strokotov.

(N.R.) is the Referee, with Jim Hobday as his Assistant.

Entries close on **THURSDAY, Feb. 20, 1975**, the provisional times of play being:—

- Apl. 3—2 p.m. Qualifying Competitions.**
6-30 p.m. Men's Singles 1st, 2nd and 3rd Rounds.
- Apl. 4—9 a.m. Women's Singles 1st and 2nd Rounds.**
9-30 a.m. Men's Doubles 1st and 2nd Rounds.
11-30 a.m. Women's Doubles 1st Round.
2-30 p.m. Mixed Doubles 1st, 2nd, Q-F and S-F Rounds.
Consolation Events.
6-30 p.m. M.S. Q-F and S-F Rounds.
W.S. Q-F and S-F Rounds.
X-D. Final.
- Apl. 5—9 a.m. M.D. 3rd, Q-F and S-F Rounds.**
W.D. 2nd, Q-F and S-F Rounds.
10 a.m. Consolation Events.
1-30 p.m. Finals.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ralph Gunnion

FIELD DAY

The continuing good form of our Juniors again must make the headlines this month.

Doug Johnson had a field day at the English Junior Closed, reaching the final where he unfortunately lost to Andy Barden. However, his one memorable moment must have come in the semi-final when he defeated the reigning champion and top seed, Paul Day, in three excellent games. The final, I believe, and reported elsewhere in this issue, was a completely different story, but nevertheless, well done, Doug.

Again at the E.J.C., an unfortunate 2nd round draw pitched our own Beverley Green and Karen Groves into battle against each other. This came after Bev had beaten Linda Wales, the No. 5 seed, in the first round. Bev got the better of Karen after two good games and then progressed to the quarter-finals where she lost to Caroline Reeves. This is not a bad performance from someone who is not ranked!

The Tamworth League are reporting excellent attendances for their coaching scheme. Some sixty pupils are attending their weekly sessions, which is a real credit to Tamworth, and in particular, Don Storr, for they are the smallest league in our Association.

Geof Taylor, our Umpires' Secretary, is getting a little disheartened for people not willing to take the County Umpires' test paper. Our County list only includes nine people who are qualified to take matches and so if you feel like having a go, and wish to contribute to the affairs of our Association, contact Geof at 75 Glendower Avenue, Whoberley, Coventry, CV5 8BD (Tel.: (0203) 78632).

Also will you please note my new address: 17 Boscobell Road, Cheswick Green, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands.

P.P.S.—On behalf of the Officers of the W.T.T.A. our very best wishes to you all for 1975.

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LECKIE JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1975

Please note that due to circumstances beyond the Tournament Committee's control the above tournament has had to be cancelled.

This decision has been taken with a great degree of reluctance. It is hoped that the event will be staged again in 1976, subject to certain financial problems being resolved.

Norwich Union

English Championships

This season's Norwich Union English Championships are to be held at Crystal Palace N.R.C. over the period Apl. 3-5 with the finals at 1-30 p.m. on Saturday, Apl. 5, 1975. Tournament Organiser is John P. Heritage, with Geoffrey Daniels as Assistant. Len Pilditch

ASCOT/BUTTERFLY NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by KEITH PONTING
CHANGE OF NAME

Another season's competition has started in earnest, under the new title and, no doubt, there will be many hard-fought matches during the coming months leading up to the finals in June. Whatever happens, one famous name will disappear from the records, as the North Yorkshire League have changed their name to an equally well-known one, Ormesby.

Wilmott Cup

Blackpool started the campaign with an easy 8-1 win over Southport, Roy Frankland and Mick Foulkes being unbeaten, as was Brian Baxter for Sheffield against Halifax. Bradford had a "whitewash" over Grimsby, with Steve Kosmowsky, Richard Priestley and Robert Shutt in form. Leeds can thank K. Powell for their close win over Bury, whilst Huddersfield took only 74 minutes to get the five needed against Bolton. 5-1 wins were recorded by Preston at Liverpool, against the Business Houses, and Manchester, at Farnworth.

Alan Croome, Alf Saunders and Rod Corbett, of Nottingham, were too good for Grantham, as were Anthony Isaac and Steven Rowe for the Potteries against Macclesfield. The other match in this zone resulted in an easy 6-0 win for Chesterfield, Mike Billington, Derrick Marples and Eric Hall doing the damage against Widnes.

Oxford's Cecil Jackson, Stan Hann and Paul Bishop had little trouble against West Brom, and the same can be said for Paul Birch, Steve Lyon and Ray Kingston, as Northampton overcame Aylesbury. A comfortable win for High Wycombe over Leamington Spa but closer things at Hunts Central. In a fine match a maximum by Dave Rawlinson saw Bedford home.

Another close affair at Cambridge where John Thurston again came to their rescue and was unbeaten against Lowestoft. Steve Francis and Robert Mitcham were in form for Norwich and Wisbech had no chance. Two each for N. Graver, J. Turner and D. Hardy gave Dereham a comfortable passage at Beccles. Five in a row for Ely's M. Palmer, S. Palmer and B. Jones had Stowmarket reeling and Bury, despite winning the first set, went down 2-7 at Chelmsford, Steven Whiteley and David Newman playing well. Cheshunt's reliable Barry White, Jack Bender and Chris Pickard found things to their liking against Luton, as did N. Brierley, G. Bassett and C. Carle at King's Lynn for Harlow.

Reading's trip to Maidenhead was well worthwhile, Derek Basden, Albert Foster and Paul Trott coming away with a 5-1 win. North Herts and Staines both had 5-0 wins against St. Albans and Barnet. Don Smith played well for Acton against Barking but, alas, was on the losing side, as Peter Hunt, Devindre Sehmbi and Alex Abbott just did enough to win 5-4. Once again Laurie Landry was the star for Willesden in their win over Newbury. Bracknell had no chance against North Middlesex and lost every set, only one needing a decider. Watford soon found themselves 1-3 down against S.W. Middlesex but fought back well to take the last four. Slough had no answer to R. Philips and E. Snook, of Wembley, crashing 1-8.

Good play by D. Price, A. Rowden and D. Penfold made sure that Eastbourne had the edge over Byfleet, and a fine maximum from K. Caldon helped Dagenham overcome Basildon. A real thriller at Hastings, where Crawley just won in the final set. No player was unbeaten, which indicates just how close the sets were. Unlucky John Moore won three for Leatherhead but all in vain, as Southend

just held on. Former East London player, Stuart Gibbs, now with Billericay, won all his sets to give his team a close win against Romford.

Unfortunately Gravesend's R. Coussens had to retire during his first set against Brighton and missed the remainder of the match. Brighton are a strong team at the best of times and Gravesend had no real chance. Newcomers Exmouth, had a tough draw at Bristol, whose Chris Sewell showed his class, being unbeaten. Brian Reeves won two and John Hartry one for Bristol, whilst Paul Stone, Paddy Shepherd and Phil Kelly all played well for Exmouth. Plymouth travelled across the Solent to take on another new entry, the Isle of Wight, and returned as winners. Bob Parkins, the Devon champion, excelled and was responsible for the Plymouth win.

A tight match at Bournemouth, who just got home against Insurance Offices for whom Alan Cooke scored a treble. Exeter found Salisbury too strong, who fielded the entire Wiltshire men's County team. Bill Moulding and Chris Shetler won their sets and Mike Rattue and Mike Darlington responded for Exeter. Another fine performance by Keith Summerfield helped Southampton beat London Civil Service. Steve Lyons was the star for Central in their win against London Banks, being well supported by Selwyn Pokroy and Derek Holman, whilst Louis Palaczy, Bernard Harrison and Dave Nicholson, of Basingstoke, were too strong for Poole.

Rose Bowl

A good start for Derby with Marilyn Deakin, Carol Downer and Susan Holmes easily getting the better of Wirral. Last year's beaten finalists, Stockport, mean to get there again. Without Di Johnson, they still won comfortably against Nottingham, thanks to Susan Lisle, Doreen Schofield and newcomer Wendy Shaw. Reliable Jean White scored yet another treble for Spalding, well backed up by Mary Burgess and Monica Green, and won well against Chelmsford. Bury St. Edmunds' winning trio of Judith Langridge, Janet List and Marilyn Collins, had things their own way against Dereham, and the same can be said for Valerie Scripps, Janet Rogers and Sally Hurst for Cambridge, who outplayed Hunts Central.

An excellent performance by Southend against London Civil Service, and in particular by Linda Barrow, who was unbeaten. Willesden were 3-4 down but played well to win the last

two sets. Acton's Lesley Dove was unbeaten in this match. I. Baker was Basildon's outstanding player in her team's win over Harlow. Margaret Dignum was also outstanding for Brighton against Gravesend, but it was not enough as Sylvia Cooms, Pamela Butcher and Sandra Armitz won two each. Bromley and Leatherhead were all square at 3-3 but lost two sets to the home team. Thames Valley won five of the seven sets played, thanks to Kay Greenough, against Byfleet, and Diane Gard did likewise for Eastbourne in their 5-2 win over Crawley.

Carter Cup

A good match at Leeds where the home team finished just ahead of Halifax. Steve Hazelwood unbeaten and had a particularly fine win over Kevin Beadsley. Sheffield took the last three sets against Stockport with Brian Baxter the star of the match. There were some close games in the Bolton v. Hull match, with Michael Thirkettle, Joe Naser and Michael Harrison playing well for Hull. Lone winner for Bolton was Nigel Hallows.

Bury had a convincing win over Manchester thanks to Philip and Geoffrey Hoy and Graham Winskill. Nigel Lockley was unbeaten for West Brom against Stratford, helping his team to a 6-3 win.

Steven Fisher, Alan Smith and Leno Coppolaro outplayed Peterborough at Hunts Central and the Cheltenham youngsters did the same to Oxford, David Hodgetts, Michael Hodgetts and Guy Greening being in top form. Another rather one-sided match was at Bedford, who easily beat Northampton 8-1, Ian Goswell and Keith McConnell being unbeaten. Also unbeaten were Nathaniel Neal and Keith Eldred for Grantham against Luton. Like their senior team the Dereham boys gave their league a double over Beccles with a 5-1 win.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE MATCH

England's all-important European League match against Federal Germany will take place at Upbury Manor School, Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent, on Thursday, February 27, 1975, commencing 7-30 p.m.

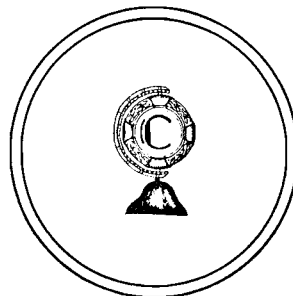
Tickets, priced £1.50 each (Juniors £1), are available from Tom Graham, Esq., 367 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, Kent (Phone: Medway 571919). Cheques are to be made payable to "Medway Towns Table Tennis League." Please include s.a.e.

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Pickwick International Invitation

by George R. Yates

Milan Orlowski, of Czechoslovakia, on Saturday, Dec. 7, 1974, justified his No. 6 world ranking by the manner of his victory in the Pickwick International Invitation tournament at Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre, in winning £500, the biggest prize ever offered in an English competition.

Orlowski, the European champion, was not extended to a deciding game in any of his five sets, though Claus Pedersen, a Dane who came through with a superior points average, put up strong resistance in the final, having accounted for Denis Neale, England's No. 2, in the semi-finals.

Orlowski won the final 21-19, 21-19. The most compelling of the matches at the morning session was between Nicky Jarvis, the England No. 1, and his Indian counterpart, Niraj Bajaj, of Bombay, in which the Cleveland player edged home 21-19, 22-24, 25-23, having earlier been let off the hook by Danny Seemiller, the 20-year-old American champion, from Pittsburgh.

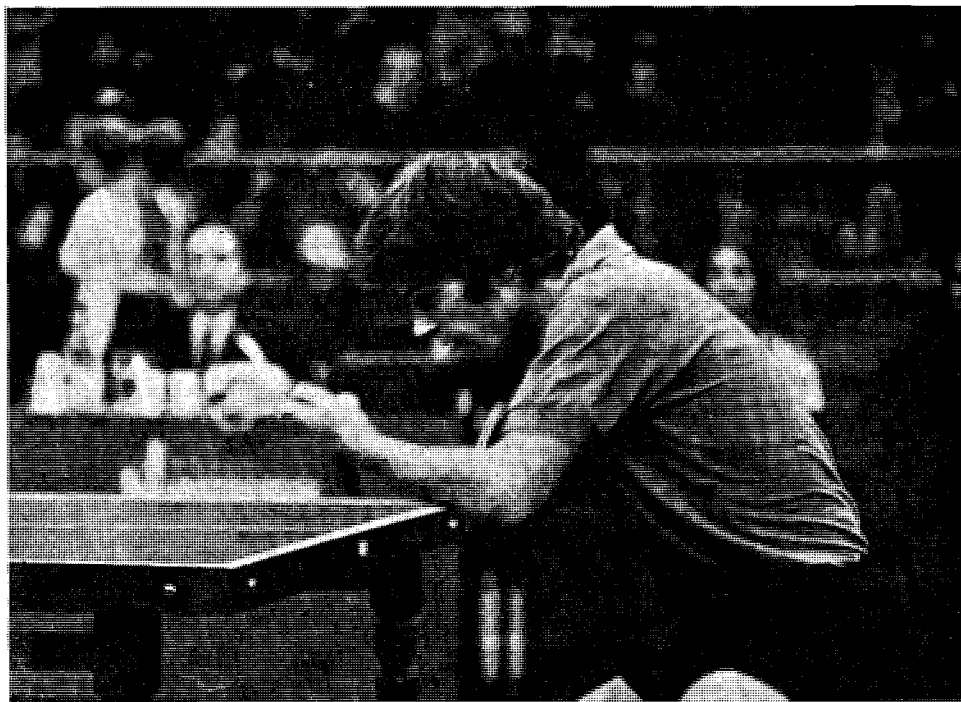
Neale also had difficulty in coping with the unorthodox style of the American left-hander but went on to top his group with a win over Jarvis, who now ranks above him nationally. In a splendid challenge match, Jill Hammersley, England's leading woman player, had an easy win, 21-18, 21-10 over Alica Grofova, a most docile Czech champion and earned £250.

Group B

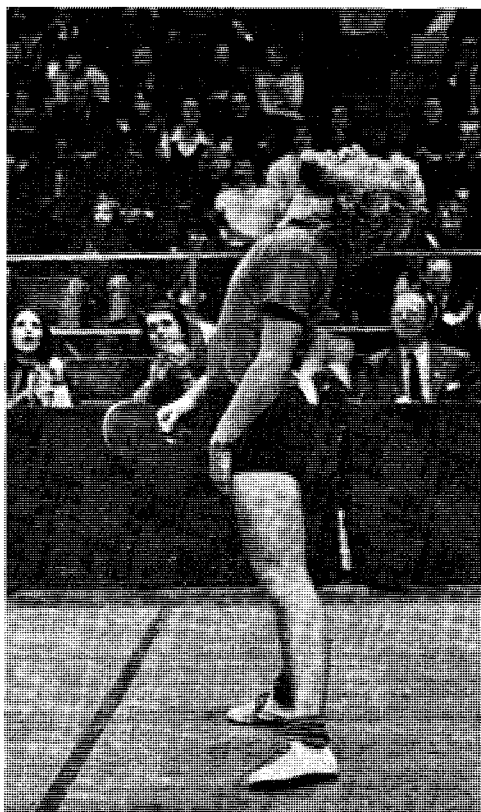
M. Orlowski (Cz) bt C. Pedersen (Den) 18, 16.
 E. Caetano (Can) bt C. Barnes (Eng) 17, 17.
 Pedersen bt Caetano 10, 18.
 Orlowski bt Barnes 18, 14.
 Barnes bt Pedersen 18, 17.
 Orlowski bt Caetano 12, 17.
Semi-finals:
 Pedersen bt Neale -10, 9, 16.
 Orlowski bt Jarvis 13, 16.
Final:
 ORLOWSKI bt Pedersen 19, 19.

FEBRUARY ISSUE

As the Editor is not due back from Calcutta until February 20, the next issue of this magazine will not be published until early March and will be a combined Feb./March issue. Thereafter will follow three more issues dated April, May and June, making up the series of eight.



Milan Orlowski — "Mr. Pickwick" himself.



A study of Claus Pedersen looking to the heavens for a ball he just did not see flash by.



Mr. Monty Lewis, Managing Director of Pickwick International, together with his wife and players (l to r) Errol Caetano, Danny Seemiller, Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale.

Results:—

Group A
 D. Neale (Eng) bt N. Bajaj (India) 16, 12.
 N. Jarvis (Eng) bt D. Seemiller (USA) -13, 19, 16.
 Jarvis bt Bajaj 19, -22, 23.
 Neale bt Seemiller -18, 18, 9.
 Seemiller bt Bajaj 12, 18.
 Neale bt Jarvis -19, 11, 22.

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GLoucestershire NOTES

by J. E. Cooper

BRIGHT PROSPECT

At only ten years of age, Andrew Golding is one of a number of bright young prospects that are being produced in Gloucestershire these days.

Andrew is a pupil of Nailsworth Primary School, and has attended the coaching sessions which have been running regularly at the school for the past two years. He plays for his local club, "Nailsworth Town", in the Third Division of the Stroud and District League, and more than holds his own against senior opponents.

Andrew is a left-hander, with a well-balanced, all-round game, and has already appeared on the honours list of his League. He is the current Under-13 champion, and the previous season, with his partner, Keith Wand, won the Under-15 doubles. At a recent ranking tournament, held in Stroud for Junior Boys of Under-17, he was ranked at No. 4, although several years younger than any of the other participants.

Andrew's parents, Trevor and Jean Golding, are well-known in the table tennis circles of both Bristol and Stroud, Jean having played for Gloucestershire many times, and there is no doubt that their encouragement has helped a great deal. Perhaps in later years, when Andrew is playing for Stroud Seniors, they will not lose 3-7 to Notts "C", nor 0-10 to Notts "B".



Andrew Golding.

Gloucester Closed (held at Bristol)

Results:—

Boys

U-13—D. Morgan (Gloucester) bt G. Slack (Cheltenham).

U-15—D. Hodgetts (Cheltenham) bt P. Lewis (Bristol).

U-17—C. Sewell (Bristol) bt W. Dawe (Gloucester).

Girls

U-13—S. Giles (Stroud) bt C. Rowe (Bristol).

U-15—J. Dovey (Gloucester) bt W. Simmons (Bristol).

U-17—V. Cruwys (Cheltenham) bt Dovey.

Intermediates (U-21)—Sewell bt Dawe.

Women

Mrs. Matthews (Cheltenham) bt Mrs. Giles (Stroud).

[Jane Dovey (aged 14) went out to Mrs. Matthews in the semi-final].

Men

P. Reeves (Somerset) bt Sewell.

Veterans

D. Rowe (Bristol) bt P. Slack (Cheltenham).

Women's Doubles

Mrs. Golding/Mrs. Giles bt Mrs. Rowe/Mrs. Achurch.

Men's Doubles

Sewell/Mildred bt Adams/Bowles.

Mixed Doubles

D. Harvey/Miss D. Rees bt S. Morman/Mrs. Matthews.

In the Carter Cup, Bristol beat Plymouth 7-2 (Sewell 3, P. Lewis 2, N. Stopher 2) and in the Western League beat Poole 5-4. On Nov. 16 Bristol lads took part in Panel coaching at Worle. Bristol is now making regular use of the Whitchurch Sports Centre, and on Dec. 27 arranged a family session for 1975's Sport for the Family Year.

Cheltenham's men's side went out 0-10 to Wolverhampton, and their Juniors 4-6 to Leicester (3 from M. Hodgetts and the doubles). Cheltenham seconds beat a Stroud team 9-1 with 3 each from W. Hare, D. Sweeney and J. Weatherall.

Gloucester boys, in the Midland Counties League, beat Shrewsbury 7-3, and Leicester 7-3, whilst the vets lost 1-9 to Leamington. In the County Junior League, Gloucester turned out two new youngsters to join Jane Dovey—Joanne Baughan and 11-year-old Jackie Bullock. With 3 from Jane and 2 from Joanne (including a win over L. Willsher) and the doubles, made it 6-4 to Gloucester girls.

And if you are out in Australia, say hello to John Charles, who is over there, touring the World!

IN THE COACHING FIELD

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

Films used as an aid to coaching are now stirring some interest among the coaches themselves who, in the past, have looked on same as little more than a gimmick. This may be due to the publicity and advertising of the Gerard Holdsworth films, or the increasing trend in most fields of education to use the help of visual aids.

On a recent student coaches' course, held at Horwich, near Bolton, enquiries on the booking of films came from students, who asked Peter Simpson, who was running the course, how the various films could be obtained. I noticed that the people involved in making these enquiries were either teachers or involved with educational establishments.

While present at a coaches' refresher and advancement course at Lea Green, a copy of the new students' logbook was on view. Although the book was not complete, being still in its rough form, not only student coaches, but many qualified coaches enquired as to when the finished product would be available to all coaches, even though they themselves were no longer students.

From the result of what was only a very brief discussion, it appears that this book should have been available long ago, and could have been a "best seller" by now.

It is possible that the coaches attending this particular course were not the best example of what might be termed the average coach. The course, which may not have been intended to cater for all grades, attracted 49 applicants ranging from 2-star to student coaches. It was the best-attended course of this type that I have witnessed.

Organised by Peter Simpson, assisted by Peter Hirst, who took the place of Harry Dignan, we were treated to a talk by Don and Bernard Yarnold on their stay at Kolboda, Sweden's table tennis school.

It was not so much their talk that I felt was of most interest—having read of their exploits in two separate issue of this magazine—but the opportunity to ask questions and try out some of the methods used in Sweden. Hence there were 48 Bengtssons all banging balls over nets. I was more like Johansson!

During discussions the subject of table tennis in schools came up. Questions were asked as to how would a coach make the first approach to a school. I have since heard that one coach, acting on information gained at the course, approached five separate schools. The result? Coaching now takes place in all five!

Organisation within the Panels continues to improve, some more so than others. The amount of work done in a Panel will always revolve around willing workers. These are commodities that, like bread, sugar and salt, can be in short supply with the restoration to norm taking much longer to effect.

In Panel 8 the National coaching register shows 75 names. It is often difficult to get 3 or 4 coaches to attend a coaching session. It is even more difficult at County level to think of people to ask. It was therefore a joy and a relief to see Peter Simpson running a course in the area for student coaches.

Twelve students, still at present keen to work, have attended 7 out of the 8 sessions scheduled, without losing any on the way. I have even had an enquiry from one student as to whether he can attend the next County squad meeting!

Still with Panel 8, a course was arranged for invited Juniors over the weekend of Dec. 6-8, at Lilleshall. 26 boys and girls attended what proved to be a very energetic programme including pre-breakfast cross-country running. The pupils were also able to see how they shaped on the tables during pre-set exercises, by means of Video recording.

Shaped was a very apt description, for it was the first time many of the pupils were convinced of their positions and body shape whilst playing. The camera did, in five minutes, what many hours of talking could not.

On Jan. 15 a course was being arranged at the Birkenhead Sports Centre, for student coaches under the direction of Don Collister, the local coaching officer, acting for National Coach, Peter Simpson.

Forms giving future dates at this venue are available from the aforementioned or, in difficulty, from me at 1 Shenley Road, Liverpool 15.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

NORTH SEA CUP

We were honoured to have as our guests during the period Nov 28-Dec. 2, players and officials of the Bergen T.T.A., in Norway. This was the return visit following the journey we made to their country in Oct.-Nov., 1972.

In the North Sea Cup match series played on the Friday, between representative teams from the two leagues, we failed to regain the trophy from the Norwegians, losing all team events with the exception of the Men's "B" team encounter.

This was disappointing, as although the Boys' U-17 team was without Andrew Clark (engaged in the Reading Junior Select), the Men's "A" and "B" teams contained our full County Squad. The inexperienced Boys' U-15 team also lost easily. The Women's team of Phil Clark and Pauline Jackson won their match, but as this was only a friendly it did not count in the final result.

In the invitation tournament, held on the Sunday, Ian "Benny" Robertson scored a spectacular win over Peter Hoyles to take the men's singles, while Barbara Kearney ousted Phil Clark in a 3-game thriller to win the women's singles final.

New Junior Rankings

SUZANNE MOVES TO No. 2

The National Selection Committee have issued a revised ranking list both for Juniors and Cadets (U-14) following the Wayfarers English Junior Championships held at Loughborough in December.

As can be seen from the previous rankings shown in parentheses, both No. 1's, Paul Day and Melody Ludi, retain their positions, but the winner of the girls' singles at Loughborough, Suzanne Hunt, has risen six places to No. 2.

The full lists read:—

BOYS

1. Paul Day (Cambs) (1)
2. Andrew Barden (Middx) (2)
3. Mark Mitchell (Middx) (4)
4. Chris Sewell (Gloucs) (3)
5. Douglas Johnson (Warwks) (7)
6. Robert Potton (Essex) (14)
7. Les Eadie (Essex) (8)
8. Nigel Hallows (Lancs) (5)
9. Steven Souter (Cleve) (12)
10. Martin Shuttle (Surrey) (17)
11. Chris Rogers (Leics) (9)
12. David Iszatt (Essex) (10)
13. Robert Wiley (Cleve) (6)
14. Ian Smith (Lancs) (20)
15. Maxwell Crimmins (Surrey) (11)
16. Ian Girdler (Surrey) (13)
17. Kevin Caldon (Essex) (16)
18. David Newman (Essex) (18)
19. Andrew Bawden (Essex) (19)
20. Gary Roberts (Berks) (15)

GROUP "A"

G. Alden (Nths), B. Baxter (Yks), K. Beadsley (Yks), S. Boxall (Surrey), M. Douglas (Sussex), K. Edwards (Wilts), M. Harrison (Yks), A. Clark (Nthld), C. Reed (Cumb), A. Kilburn (Cleve), J. Proffitt (Herts), G. Pugh (Sx), D. Reeves (Berks), K. Richardson (Cambs), D. Sehmbi (Ex), P. Trott (Berks), P. Hunt (Ex) and K. Paxton (Dur).

CADETS

1. K. Beadsley (Yks) (1)
2. J. James (Middx) (6)
3. D. Bennett (Norfolk) (2)
4. I. Plummer (Cleve) (9)
5. B. Tyler (Middx) (4)
6. A. Proffitt (Herts) (7)
7. D. Yallop (Derbys) (—)
8. G. Sandley (Middx) (11)
9. J. Naser (Yorks) (3)
10. A. Stonnell (Essex) (5)
11. A. Bottomley (Yorks) (8)
12. G. Inch (Durham) (—)
13. C. Wilson (Hants) (—)
14. S. Harmer (Beds) (10)

GIRLS

1. Melody Ludi (Yorks) (1)
2. Suzanne Hunt (Lincs) (8)
3. Caroline Reeves (Berks) (2)
4. Angela Mitchell (Middx) (3)
5. Angela Tierney (Cleve) (7)
6. Linda Wales (Hants) (5)
7. Sandra Sutton (Essex) (4)
8. Beverley Green (Warwks) (—)
9. Julie McLean (Yks) (6)
10. Kay Greenough (Surrey) (9)
11. Susan Dove (Middx) (10)
12. Karen Witt (Berks) (—)

GROUP "A"

B. Chamberlain (Hunts), J. Campion (Middx), N. Carne (Cleve), K. K. Groves (Warwks), E. Lamb (Devon), J. Mitchell (Surrey), J. New (Dorset), J. Reading (Hants), M. Sangster (Middx), J. Skipp (Cleve), J. Williams (Cleve) and K. Cropper (Lancs).

CADETS

1. A. Tierney (Cleve) (1)
2. K. Witt (Berks) (2)
3. A. Gordon (Berks) (6)
4. M. Smith (Berks) (7)
5. L. Hryszko (Yks) (3)
6. H. Robinson (Cleve) (4)
7. J. Purslow (Berks) (8)
8. M. Wallis (Nthts) (5)
9. M. Reeves (Middx) (—)

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: CLEVELAND FESTIVAL OF TABLE TENNIS :

by ALAN RANSOME

In the Cleveland Festival of Table Tennis, played at Thornaby Pavilion over the period Jan. 3-5, 1975, the Chinese national team gave a display which will be talked about for decades.

Their visit started on the evening of Friday, Jan. 3, when obviously still suffering from the long journey and strange conditions, they only produced an average performance, losing to England 3-6.

Nevertheless, this was a great display by Brian Burn and his English team. Denis Neale and Desmond Douglas played superbly, both being undefeated, while Jill Hammersley won her singles and Nicky Jarvis also played his part. Carole Knight, on her home international debut, was unable to make any impression on Yu Ching-chia.

Chai-lin, but England's No. 3 team at last drew blood with David Alderson beating Yen Kuo-chiang.

The semi-finals produced two real international matches, England I beat China II, with both Neale and Douglas beating the defensive Yen Kuo-chiang, while China I defeated England II, Jarvis and Taylor, 3-0. The final saw Li Ching-kwang, nicknamed "Tomahawk," finding his true form and gained personal revenge over Neale and Douglas. England achieved some consolation in winning the doubles.

The Chinese were even more dominant in the women's team event, China I beat England II (Karenza Mathews and Carole Knight) 3-0. China II beat England I (Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard) with the loss of only the doubles. The Chinese I and II teams put on an interesting display in the final with the first team winning 3-0.

The highlight of the whole weekend was the 15, 14 victory by Li Ching-kwang ("Tomahawk") over Wang Chai-lin in the M.S. final, in which some of the rallies had to be seen to be believed. Denis Neale, England's most experienced player, summed it up: "The best table tennis I have ever seen anywhere in the world in 15 years."

In the singles the Chinese were so much in command it was almost embarrassing. Kuo Yao-hua beat Jarvis 13, 13; Li Ching-kwang beat Trevor Taylor 13, 13; Wang Chia-lin crushed Douglas 13, 11; Kuo Yao-hua hammered David Alderson 7, 12, and so it went on. To add to England's woes Welshman Alan Griffiths had a 21, -13, 18 victory over Neale in Round 2 of the men's singles and, not to be outshone, Graham Davies had a notable 19, -12, 15 win over China's Yen Kuo-chiang.

Even in the women's events, where Li Ming beat world-ranked Jill Hammersley, and Liu Hsin-yen beat Linda Howard, it was almost the same tale, with Karenza Mathews falling to Yu Ching-chia. Strangely enough, the only player to offer real resistance was the least experience of the England squad, Carole Knight. She could have won before going

down to Li Ming 16, -19, -21—a tremendous performance by the Ormesby girl.

English pairs won both the men's and women's doubles, but one could not help gaining the impression that these victories were by courtesy of China not wishing to hog the whole championships. The two events that England did not dominate were the ones in which the Chinese did not participate—the U-19 singles, where David Alderson won the male event, beating Paul Day, and Carole Knight completed an Ormesby double by beating Linda Howard.

As for the festival itself, it was an unqualified success and clearly the top table tennis event ever staged in the North-East. The players provided the feast, while the organisation ran without a single hitch. Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department, together with Cleveland Table Tennis Assoc., had a weekend to be proud of. Results:—

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals

Li Ching-kwang (Ch) bt T. Taylor (Beds) 11, 13.
Kuo Yao-hua (Ch) bt N. Jarvis (Cle) 13, 13.
Wang Chai-lin (Ch) bt D. Douglas (Wks) 13, 11.
D. Parker (Lancs) bt I. Horsham (Ex) 16, 17.

Semi-finals:

Li Ching-kwang bt Kuo Yao-hua 18, 16.
Wang Chai-lin bt Parker -15, 15, 13.

Final:

LI CHING-KWANG bt Wang Chai-lin 15, 14.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals:

Li Ming (Ch) bt J. Hammersley (Bucks) 18, 10.
Yen Kuei-li (Ch) bt S. Lisle (Ches) 16, 15.
Liu Hsin-yen (Ch) bt L. Howard (Sy) 15, -21, 15.
Yu Ching-chia (Ch) bt K. Mathews (Wx) 17, -21, 11.

Semi-finals:

Li Ming bt Yen Kuei-li 16, 20.
Yu Ching-chia bt Liu Hsin-yen 17, 15.

Final:

LI MING bt Yu Ching-chia 20, 16.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals:

Kuo Yao-hua/Li Ching-kwang bt A. Barden (Mx)/P. Day (Cams) 14, 15.
Horsham/D. Seemiller (USA) bt Jarvis/J. Walker (Cle) 12, 15.
Parker/T. Taylor bt Wang Chai-lin/Yen Kuo-chiang (Ch) 16, 19.
Douglas/D. Neale (Cle) bt G. Davies/A. Griffiths (Wa) -15, 9, 21.

Semi-finals:

Kuo Yao-hua/Li Ching-kwang bt Horsham/Seemiller 13, 21.
Douglas/Neale bt Parker/Taylor 17, 14.

Final:

DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Kua Yao-hua/Li Ching-kwang -14, 9, 17.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals:

Liu Hsin-yen/Li Ming bt Lisle/A. Stevenson (Lei) 18, 19.
C. Knight (Cle)/Mathews bt J. Skipp/J. Williams (Cle) 12, 6.
Yen Kuei-li/Yu Ching-chia bt E. Craig/G. McKay (Sc) -18, 8, 9.
Hammersley/Howard bt B. Kearney (Nth)/C. Walker (Du) 14, 18.



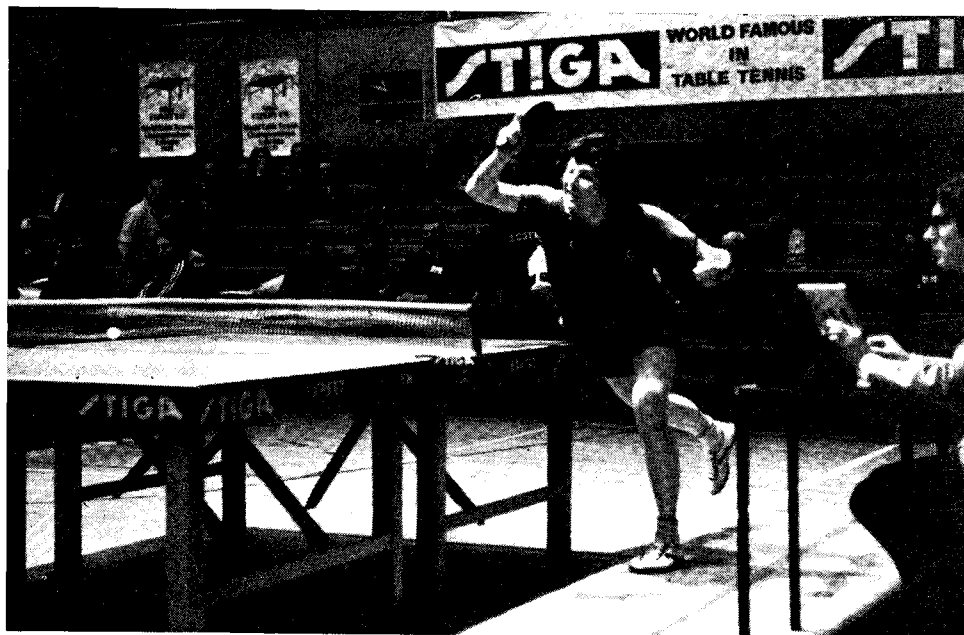
Li Ching-kwang, dubbed "Tomahawk," gets in some practice prior to winning the men's singles in the Cleveland 3-Star Open.

Photo by Mathew Brawley, Cleveland.

The Halex international team event commenced on Saturday, Jan. 4, and this attracted a tremendous entry. Teams were supplied as follows:—

England—3 men's, 3 women's; China and Scotland—2 men's, 2 women's; Wales—1 men's, 1 women's; and 1 men's team from Cleveland, Essex, Lancashire, Middlesex, Cheshire, Durham, Northumberland and East Anglia.

China bounced back from their previous evening's defeat looking for revenge. China men's No. 1 started it off with a 3-0 thrashing of their host, Cleveland (Tony Martin and Malcolm Corking). Andy Barden and Mark Mitchell, of Middlesex, received the same treatment from Li Ching-kwang and Wang



Local Teesside hero, Denis Neale, who was beaten by Alan Griffiths, of Wales, in Round 2 of the Cleveland 3-Star.

Photo by Mathew Brawley, Cleveland.

Semi-finals:

Knight/Mathews bt Liu Hsin-yen/Li Ming 19, 9.
Hammersley/Howard bt Yen Kui-li/Yu Ching-chia -16, 16, 12.

Final:
KNIGHT/MATHEWS bt Hammersley/Howard 18, 17.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals:

Li Ching-kwang/Yen Kui-li bt Walker/Knight 9, -11, 15.
Neale/Mathews bt Yen Kuo-chiang/Yu Ching-chia 17, -19, 16.
Jarvis/Hammersley bt Wang Chai-lin/Li Ming 16, -17, 13.
Kuo Yao-hua/Li Hsin-yen bt Douglas/Howard 20, 18.

Semi-finals:

Li Ching-kwang/Yen-Kui-li bt Neale/Mathews -20, 16, 19.
Kuo Yao-hua/Li Hsin-yen bt Jarvis/Hammersley 13, 18.

Final:
KUO YAO-HUA/LI HSI.-YEN bt Li Ching-kwan/Yen Kui-li 18, 15.

U-19 M.S.—Quarter-finals:

Douglas bt J. McNee (Sc) 19, 16.
Day bt Parker 14, 14.
D. Alderson (Cle) bt M. Mitchell (Mx) -15, 16, 22.
Barden bt M. Shuttle (Sy) 9, -19, 15.

Semi-finals:

Day bt Douglas 18, 20.
Alderson bt Barden 14, 18.

Final:
ALDERSON bt Day 17, -9, 17.

U-19 W.S.—Quarter-finals:

Howard bt A. Tierney (Cle) 12, 12.
Stevenson bt P. Fleming (Sc) 7, 18.
E. Smith (Sc) bt K. Rogers (Lei) 18, 19.
Knight bt Skipp 13, 11.

Semi-finals:

Howard bt Stevenson -21, 16, 20.
Knight bt Smith 17, 15.

Final:
KNIGHT bt Howard 17, -15, 19.

which Dave is helping to build.

Back to the County team and I believe that in Eric Hall, Maurice Billington, Ivor Warner and the girls, Jackie Billington and Sandra Walters, we have a team capable of beating Notts. David Yallop is included in the 2nd team together with Neil Marples and Arthur Downer, and the girls are Carole Downer and Marilyn Deakin. They had a home game against Clwyd.

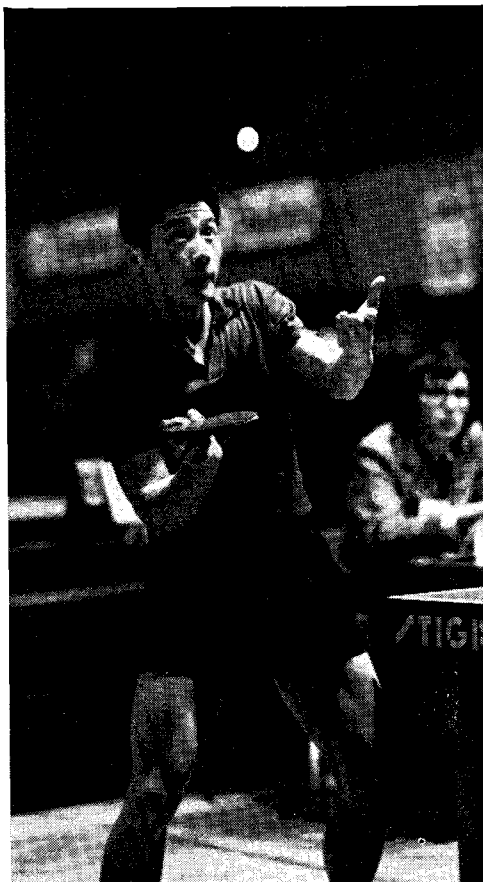
On the Coaching front both Derrick Marples (Chesterfield) and Keith Smart (Derby) are very active. Keith has been running sessions at Lancaster Centre and the new Derby Sports Centre, Low Lane, assisted by Dave Stills. Also now regaining fitness is Doug Foulds, making a good recovery from his cartilage operation.

Doug made a return to league play in Div. 3 but is now back in the top flight but not yet in his club's first team. This could well come

following a club reshuffle at the Christmas period. Keith Smart has applied to go to Lilleshall and he certainly intends to improve his coaching technique, thus enabling him to give better service to Derby.

The County Challenge Cup 1st round ties are almost complete with only 4 outstanding matches at the time of writing. Handicapping appears to be good with the highest win so far being 6-3. Three 5-4 wins and these with the match result hanging in the balance on the outcome of the last set. Holders Coalite still have 3 teams in the competition with a chance of a fourth, for I still await the result of their "A" team's match with Chesterfield Y.M.C.A.

In Midland League matches I only have Derby's results. The men's "A" team have played four but have only won one and drawn one. Not performances that look likely to keep them in the higher division.



China's Kuo Yao-hua in action at Thornaby Pavilion.

Photo by Mathew Brawley, Cleveland.


DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Walter Reeves

A change was effected in the County 1st team with Ivor Warner taking over the No. 3 position from David Yallop for the match with neighbours Notts. Also coming into the team were Jackie Billington and Sandra Walters to replace Mandy Mellor, who is suffering a loss of form, and Susan Holmes, who is retiring at the end of the season.

At this point it would be opportune to mention that Susan has recently announced her engagement to County team captain, Dave Smith. Our congratulations to both of them, although I understand the wedding is not planned until two years' time. They have a lot of work to do in preparing their home,

just great



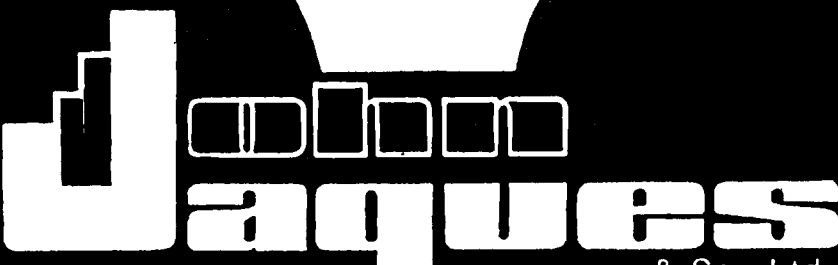
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OPEN TOURNAMENT SURVEY

by ALAN CROOK and LAURIE LANDRY

The Reading Junior 2-Star Select, staged at the Meadow Sports Centre over the weekend of Nov. 30-Dec. 1, proved to be extremely successful for all concerned. Five out of the six singles events were actually won by the top seed, but, as usual, there were several upsets along the way.

The upgrading of the Tournament ensured an excellent turnout of top juniors, with only two of the leading ranked boys and one of the girls unable to attend. Gillette Industries again sponsored the competition and this season the prize monies had been increased to £200.

Paul Day took the top honours in the Boys' U-17 event by beating Bob Potton in the final, but only reached this stage after a tremendous semi-final duel with Chris Sewell, in which Day exploited gamesmanship to the full and which, although no doubt showing his fighting qualities and determination to win, won him few friends among the spectators. Potton achieved his well-deserved place in the final by disposing of Mark Mitchell in the quarters and Andy Barden in the semis.

Melody Ludi won the counterpart girls' final against Caroline Reeves by a comfortable margin, but at one stage in her semi-final it looked doubtful that she would reach this encounter, for she trailed Linda Wales 6-14 in the third game, before squeezing through 21-19.

In the girls' doubles, Melody and Karen Groves lost in the final to the favourites, Angela Mitchell and Sandra Sutton, after having ousted the No. 2 seeds, Caroline Reeves and Linda Wales, whilst in the boys' doubles Chris Rogers and Martin Shuttle created the surprise of the evening by defeating Barden and Day. Ludi and Day were awarded a walk-over in the final of the mixed after Nigel Hallows had to leave in order to catch his last train home to Lancashire.

In the U-11 and U-14 events, held on the Saturday, the boys' singles title went predictably to Bryon Johnson and Kevin Beadsley respectively. Johnson was never seriously tested by any of his opposition, while Beadsley only had problems in his quarter-final tie against Johan James, which he eventually won -19, 17, 16. The boys' doubles final resulted in a decisive victory for James and Adam Proffitt.

The U-11 girls' singles produced the only unexpected result of all the singles when the unseeded Susan James, of Cornwall, came through to lift the title. Karen Witt met Angela Tierney in the final of the U-14 girls' event but never recovered from a particularly nervous start and lost in 2-straight. Karen's disappointment was tempered by a win with Mandy Smith in the doubles final against Jo Douglas and Mandy Wallis, the latter being the surprise finalists, who put out the No. 1 seeds, Helen Robinson and Angela Tierney.

Jill Hammersley was in top form at the Middlesex 3-Star Open, played at Picketts Lock over the weekend of Dec. 7-8, winning three titles, although she was made to struggle in the final of the women's singles by Susan Lisle, especially in the second game when the Cheshire girl actually led 18-13 before she realised that she might win and lost a bit of her concentration.

Main interest in the men's singles, won by Denis Neale, was the elimination of America's Danny Seemiller by Donald Parker, and of Claus Pederson by Peter Taylor.

Parker played superbly in allowing Seemiller a little initiative, but it was apparent that the American could not control his two

surfaces when he was going for the ball. Pederson, on the other hand, had probably not come across someone like Peter Taylor before.

The younger of the Taylor brothers followed up with a win over Desmond Douglas before falling to the quick hitting of Jimmy Walker, the losing finalist. Parker continued his good form with a comfortable win over top-seeded Nicky Jarvis in the quarters.

It was Walker who eventually stopped the Lancastrian, in the semis, at which stage Neale brought to a halt the sequence of successes obtained by Canada's Errol Caetano, which included wins over Tony Clayton (17, 17), Trevor Taylor (15, 17) and David Bevan, the former Gloucestershire player (16, 17).

Up to his meeting with Parker, Seemiller had ousted Paul Day (9, 14) and John Hilton (-15, 15, 15). Andy Barden was beaten by John Kitchener, who subsequently lost to Walker. Ian Horsham had a -18, 14, 17 win over "Les" Haslam before facing Neale, who had a score to settle with the Essex player who, it will be recalled, had defeated the England No. 2 in the Midland Counties 3-Star Open at Warley.

Parker, in combination with Trevor Taylor, reached the final of the men's doubles, but the Lancs/Beds pair were no match for Neale and Douglas in the final. The latter, on the other hand, came in for similar treatment in the final of the mixed when he and Linda Howard played second fiddle to Jarvis and Mrs. Hammersley.

Jill, with Linda, won her third title in the women's doubles with a comfortable final victory over Carole Knight and Karenza Mathews.

Results:—

READING JUNIOR 2-STAR SELECT

UNDER-17 EVENTS

Boys' Singles—Quarter-finals:

P. Day (Cams) bt L. Eadie (Essex) 14, 7.
C. Sewell (Gloucs) bt D. Johnson (Warwcks) 15, 17.
R. Potton (Essex) bt M. Mitchell (Middx) 19, 15.
A. Barden (Middx) bt I. Gieroler (Surrey) -17, 13, 19.

Semi-finals:

Day bt Sewell -17, 19, 17.
Potton bt Barden 16, -17, 21.

Final:

DAY bt Potton 17, 15.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals:

M. Ludi (Yorks) bt L. Wales (Hants) -17, 12, 19.
C. Reeves (Berks) bt S. Sutton (Essex) 11, 15.

Final:

LUDI bt Reeves 15, 10.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals:

C. Rogers (Leics)/M. Shuttle (Surrey) bt R. Jermyn/J. Proffitt (Herts) 16, 14.
Barden/Day bt Johnson/R. Mountford (Warwcks) -18, 17, 13.

Final:

ROGERS/SHUTTLE bt Barden/Day 11, -11, 10.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals:

A. Mitchell (Middx)/Sutton bt K. Greenough (Surrey)/S. Hunt (Lincs) 18, 20.
K. Groves (Warwcks)/Ludi bt Reeves/Wales -18, 17, 21.

Final:

MITCHELL/SUTTON bt Groves/Ludi 11, -14, 16.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals:

Day/Ludi bt M. Grimmins (Surrey)/J. Mitchell (Surrey) 22, 14.
N. Hallows (Lancs)/Hunt bt Barden/A. Mitchell -21, 16, 19.

Final:

DAY/LUDI w/o N. Hallows/S. Hunt.

UNDER-14 EVENTS

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals:

K. Beadsley (Yorks) bt B. Tyler (Middx) 13, 15.
D. Bennett (Norfolk) bt A. Proffitt (Herts) 8, 16.

Final:

BEADSLEY bt Bennett 10, 13.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals:

A. Tierney (Clev) bt L. Hyrsko (Yorks) 19, 17.
K. Witt (Berks) bt J. Purslow (Berks) 12, 16.

Final:

TIERNEY bt Witt 7, 20.

Boys' Doubles—Semi-finals:

Bennett/A. Stonell (Essex) bt M. Laird/I. Plummer (Clev) 14, 17.
A. Proffitt/J. James (Middx) bt Beadsley/A. Bottomley (Yorks) -17, 17, 13.

Final:

A. PROFFITT/JAMES bt Bennett/Stonell 14, 13.

Girls' Doubles—Semi-finals:

J. Douglas (Berks)/M. Wallis (Northants) bt H. Robinson

(Clev)/Tierney -19, 11, 15.
M. Smith (Berks)/Witt bt V. Blanckaert (Holland)/M. Reeves (Northants) 15, 13.

Final:

SMITH/WITT bt Douglas/Wallis 18, 18.

UNDER-11 EVENTS

Boys' Singles—Semi-finals:

B. Johnson (Berks) bt G. Gatley (Berks) 5, 3.
M. Oakley (Surrey) bt G. Russell (Surrey) 16, 8.

Final:

JOHNSON bt Oakley 15, 17.

Girls' Singles—Semi-finals:

S. James (Cornwall) bt H. Williams (Middx) 11, 21.
P. Townsend (Wilts) bt S. Cresswell (Surrey) 13, 9.

Final:

JAMES bt Townsend 10, 13.

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals:

D. Parker (Lancs) bt I. Jarvis (Clev) 14, 16.
J. Walker (Clev) bt P. Taylor (Beds) 20, 14.

E. Caetano (Canada) bt D. Bevan (Gloucs) 16, 17.

D. Neale (Clev) bt I. Horsham (Essex) 21, 11.

Semi-finals:

Walker bt Parker 15, 21; Neale bt Caetano 13, 11.

Final:

NEALE bt Walker 13, 15.

Women's Singles—Quarter-finals:

J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt S. Hession (Essex) 9, 19.
K. Mathews (Middx) bt J. Hellaby (Essex) 10, 12.

S. Lisle (Ches) bt C. Reeves (Berks) 18, 16.

L. Howard (Surrey) bt J. Hartwell (Middx) 9, 18.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley bt Mathews 15, 13; Lisle bt Howard 16, -19, 5.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY bt Lisle 13, 19.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals:

B. Johns/M. Johns (Ches) bt N. Eckersley (Ches)/C. Rogers (Leics) 10, 8.

Parker/T. Taylor (Beds) bt Caetano/P. Taylor 14, 20.

A. Barden (Middx)/P. Day (Cams) bt D. Brown (Essex)/O.

Haslam (Middx) 16, -18, 20.

D. Douglas (Warwcks)/Neale bt G. Davies/A. Griffiths (Wales) 19, 17.

Semi-finals:

Parker/Taylor bt Johns/Johns -20, 16, 12.

Douglas/Neale bt Barden/Day 9, 12.

Final:

DOUGLAS/NEALE bt Parker/Taylor 12, 10.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals:

Hammersley/Howard bt M. Considine/J. Williams (Bucks) 12, 12.

Lisle/A. Stevenson (Leics) bt S. Dove/M. Sangster (Middx) 15, 12.

D. Court (Middx)/Hession bt L. Barrow (Essex)/M. Walker (Middx) 16, 17.

C. Knight (Clev)/Mathews bt Hellaby/E. Tarten (Essex) 18, 13.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley/Howard bt Lisle/Stevenson 10, 11.

Knight/Mathews bt Court/Hession 20, 9.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY/HOWARD bt Knight/Mathews 11, 10.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals:

Jarvis/Hammersley bt Day/M. Ludi (Yorks) 14, 15.

Parker/Stevenson bt T. Taylor/Lisle -20, 19, 17.

Douglas/Howard bt M. Johns/Court 19, 15.

Neale/Mathews bt Brown/Hession 11, 5.

Semi-finals:

Jarvis/Hammersley bt Parker/Stevenson 21, 14.

Douglas/Howard bt Neale/Mathews 18, -11, 11.

Final:

JARVIS/HAMMERSLEY bt Douglas/Howard 19, 13.

Veteran Singles—Semi-finals:

P. D'Arcy (Ches) bt D. Somers (Middx) 3, 14.

P. Leckie (Bucks) bt T. Kirby (Surrey) 15, 13.

Final:

D'ARCY bt Leckie 13, 21.

NEW ZEALANDERS FOR CHINA

1974 New Zealand champions, Richard Lee and Yvonne Fogarty, together with Robert Blair and James Morris, go to China after the Calcutta World Championships for coaching and training. All except Morris are left-handers.

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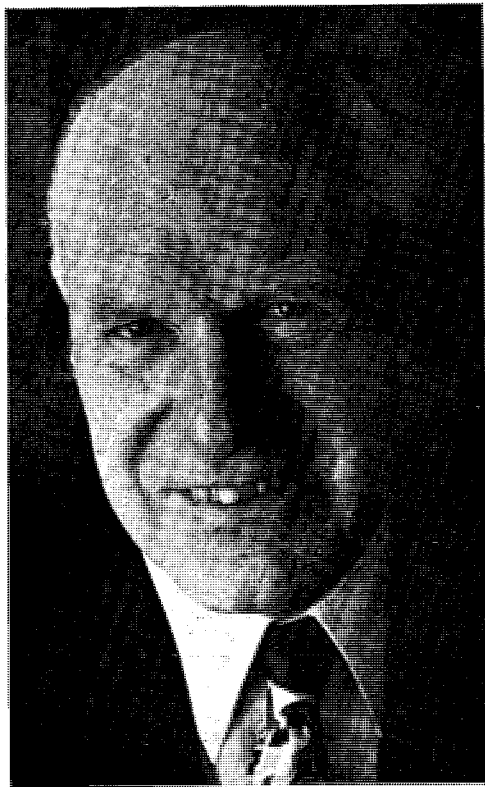
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K. C. WILKINSON

Photo by courtesy of "Evening Post," Wellington, N.Z.

Among New Zealanders honoured by the Queen in the New Year Honours List, under the section British Empire Medal, Civil Division (B.E.M.), was Kenneth Cecil Wilkinson, for services to sport, especially table tennis, Lower Hutt. Ken, of Course, is the Secretary of the N.Z. Table Tennis Association, a position he has honoured for the past 25 years.

Trofeo Caballero Tournament

THE HAGUE, 21st DECEMBER, 1974

by Bernard Chatterley

GAY CABALLERO EVENT

Setting off from England, with Eastern Region signalmen on strike, the Friday before Christmas, the Grove/St. Chad's entry for the Trofeo Caballero Tournament were full of good cheer, despite having to drive to Harwich instead of travelling by train, but with the North Sea in good mood, the party soon settled down in their cabin on the "St. George."

Waiting outside the harbour at the Hook of Holland for almost two hours was no joke, but once through Customs we were met by the friendly Secretary of the WIBATS Club, Mr. Cor Vos, and a colleague, and were whisked away by car to the Club H.O. to meet players with whom we were to do battle.

With the Belgian Club, ATLANTIC, dropping out at the last moment, the entry finally comprised nine teams from Holland, including the famous TEMPO TEAM, PHOENIX and DELTA LLOYD, plus OLYMPIA, from Yugoslavia, P.S.V. HILDESHEIM, from West Germany, and ourselves.

Our hosts, after an hour of practice, carried us in their cars to the sumptuous Badhotel, in Scheveningen, where we were shown to our rooms, the newly-wed Susan Harness (nee Beckwith) and her husband, Paul, a Metropolitan Police weight-lifter, were delighted

with their panoramic view from the sixth floor, and Stuart Gibbs, Kevin Caldon and myself were equally pleased with our quarters. There had been a small mix-up over Elaine Tarten's room, but the friendly management soon sorted things out, despite having to cope with the arrival of an Italian Opera Company and a girls' hockey team.

On Saturday morning we were collected and taken to Wibats Club for the commencement of the tournament and the arrangements for the whole day were so smooth that it was barely necessary to make an announcement over the speaker system.

The tournament was run on a group system, with three clubs in each group with two going through to the quarter-final. Our first match was against St. Oger (Holland) and with everyone in good form we cruised to a 5-0 victory which ensured our place in the next session. The second match was a little different, Delta Lloyd were really powerful, including Bert van der Helm, Bert Schoofs and Sonja Heltzel. Despite a great performance from Stuart and Elaine, we dropped the vital first set, the mixed, and with Kevin and Sue both losing, we were soon 0-3 down. Stuart, out of top competition for so long, then produced great form in narrowly going down to van der Helm in a set which had the crowd gasping, fine rallies, great attacking play from Gibbs, hitting seemingly impossible winners from way back, and good countering from the Dutchman. At the same time Elaine was losing to Miss Heltzel and the match was all over.

Incidentally, when referring to the crowd it must be mentioned that the tournament was played on eight tables in the Wibats Club and I would estimate that at no time during the whole day were there less than 150 people watching.

And so to the quarter-final where we were drawn against Mittenstandsbank, and here had we won just 7 more points we would have been through to the cash positions.

In the opening mixed the pairing of Stuart and Elaine fell just short of par and left us with a 0-1 deficit. Kevin came to the table next against Bert van der Ham, and what a performance he put on. Out of competition for three weeks with a mystery elbow condition, he fought as if his life depended upon it. After losing the first he stormed back to take the second and held a small lead in the third. With no luck on his side, he suddenly found himself 16-20 down but again summoned his reserves to rally to 20-all, 21-all, 22-all before going down 23-25. Whilst this was going on, Sue was giving her all against her opponent, losing the first 20-22 and never quite managing to get on terms in the second, finally conceding at 19-21. If only one of these two sets had been won the picture of the match would have been entirely different, because Stuart then came to the table to commence a salvage operation and superbly he did it against Rene van Heybeeck. After losing the first he came back to take the second in convincing style, again using all his vintage shots, and then stormed through in the latter

stages of the third to win. But it was to no avail, for Elaine, on the next table, was going down to her very awkward opponent, and so we lost 1-4 and Mittenstandsbank went through to the semi-final and later the final against Tempo.

The final provided a little consolation for Gibbs when van Heybeeck beat the highly-ranked Nicco van Slobbe in the second men's singles but Tempo came through comfortable winners by a 4-1 margin to take the trophy and one thousand guilders cash given by the Caballero Cigarette Company.

Our team were then guests of the host club, back at the hotel, at a superb dinner, the cost of which I refuse to guess at. With speeches from the hosts, mainly in Dutch, which we did not understand, I rose to reply and make a small presentation to our friends and, having kept it very short, returned to the more serious business of eating and drinking.

Despite sailing through a force eight gale on our return, we can look back on the tournament with nothing but pleasure and admiration for the way it was organised. A lesson indeed for all of us in England, not in organisation, for we also do this well, but in effort all round. In Holland, and other European countries, it appears that players are prepared to put more into the game than ours are, they are prepared to put their hands in their pockets to support their clubs and make them a vital part of their lives. The Wibats Club is just one example of this, their own clubhouse, with tournament conditions for eight tables, spectator space, a bar, serving food and drink all day, adequate shower facilities and changing rooms. In fact, a perfect club atmosphere, but, it all needs effort and this they are prepared to put in, hard work, selling pools tickets and other things, good public and press relations, all important things which the vast majority of players in England are not prepared for, being usually content to leave it to a few hard workers instead of creating a real CLUB effort.

We thank you, WIBATS, for a wonderful weekend; we hope you will invite us again.

RUBBER BAT RESULTS


Henry Buist (Kent) retained his men's singles title in the International Club Hard Rubber Bat Open, played at Barnet on Jan. 12, 1975. Losing finalist was Peter Taylor (Beds) who, in the semis, accounted for Derek Schofield, Buist having beaten Laurie Landry. Pauline Piddock won the women's singles, beating Jean Williams in the final. (A full report will appear in the next issue).

DEATH OF HARANGOZO

It is with regret that we report the death, on January 13, 1975, of Vilim Harangozo, the Yugoslavian Swaythling Cup player, at the age of 50. It was in the World Championships of season 1953-54, at Wembley, that Vilim, in partnership with Zarko Dolinar, won the men's doubles title.

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County Championships Round-up

continued from page 36

JUNIOR SOUTH

Essex III 3, Hampshire 7

Essex fought hard against this useful Hants side, but couldn't quite make it. Kevin Owers, on debut, narrowly lost both B.S. and combined well with Tim Heeney to take B.D. Steven Newman had dreadful set v Clive Payne, but recovered confidence to beat Stephen Harris and collect X.D. with Carol Taylor. Colin Wilson took both B.S. for Hants, both in 3 games.

Middlesex 10, Oxfordshire 0

Sussex 8, Buckinghamshire 2

Not as much between these sides as the score might suggest. Danny Cammiade unbeaten, all straight.

JUNIOR NORTH

Cheshire 7, Lancashire II 3

Cleveland 9, Cumbria 1

Yorkshire 9, Northumberland 1

Northumberland never recovered from the shock of Andrew Clark's opening set defeat by Andrew Metcalf (on debut). Real strength in depth here shown by Yorkshire with their girls again untroubled.

JUNIOR SOUTH-EAST

Essex II 7, Berkshire II 3

A not too inspiring match. Alex Abbott's unbeaten B.S. record retained, and sister Penny beat Janet Thorpe neatly 19, -17, 12; a pity this set subsequently forfeit as Penny not eligible to play it. Simon Douglas ran the lackadaisical Les Eadie very close and deserved to win.

Sussex II 10, Sussex II 0

Resistance shown by Mark Wragg the best part of this Sussex performance; their girls outclassed by more experienced opponents.

Kent 10, Hampshire II 0

Conceded by Hampshire; apparently let down by transporters.

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Clwyd 6, Nottinghamshire 4

Staffordshire 0, Warwickshire 10

Leicestershire II 6, Shropshire 4

First win for this team who took the first three, dropped the next two, and took the next three. Phil Smith, Leics, and Les Barker, Shropshire, the best players.

JUNIOR EAST

Northamptonshire 7, Lincolnshire 3

Gary Hamilton and Gary Alden both unbeaten in a confident display by Northants, who are aiming at a play-off place this season. Suzanne Hunt made sure Lincs did not go home empty handed.

Suffolk 3, Norfolk 7

A very tight set between visiting Doug Bennett and Kevin Savage, won by Bennett 13, -23, 21. This made sure of the first point, and then Paul Durrant and Michael Archer each scored again.

Cambridgeshire II 9, Huntingdonshire 1

After struggling for so long, Cambs have really blossomed; a particularly good G.D. win for Vivienne Rowell and Pat Tingey over Jean Allinson and Belinda Chamberlain (Belinda picking up the only visiting win in G.S.). If Cambs do take the Division, and this seems possible, it will be a most remarkable achievement.

JUNIOR WEST

Devon 8, Cornwall 2

Still hampered by injuries, Devon shrugged off their worries and took the first six. Terry Fairbanks didn't like being demoted to No. 2 and showed this in the best way by beating Ian James 19, 21 in first set.

Wiltshire 6, Glamorgan 4

Worcester 10, Somerset 0

Dorset 5, Gloucestershire 5

VETERAN SOUTH

Hertfordshire 5, Wiltshire 4

Essex II 7, Kent 2

Vic Ireland led Jim Bromley 21-20 in 3rd when expedite introduced; the Kent man played it better to win 20, -13, 22. Later, he trailed Laurie Fountain 3-10 in 3rd, led 17-15, and finally lost 15, -18, -19. Both doubles to Essex, and good win for Pam Anker 20, 17 over Judy Brenchley.

Huntingdonshire 1, Essex 8

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire 9, Staffordshire 0

Leicestershire 5, Clwyd 4

Splendid match for unbeaten visitor, Don Hobbs; convincing W.S. win by Glenys Odams; captain's performance by Bryan Hall to beat Vic Ralls at 4-4.

Warwickshire 5, Oxfordshire 4

Worcestershire 3, Nottinghamshire 6

What a recovery by John Burraston to beat Malcolm Crane 20, -18, 21 after being 1-10 in 3rd! Nice M.D. set, won by Worcs, but they still can't get 5 in the same match.

C.T.T.C. TABLES

(up to and including 28th December)

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	3	3	0	0	20	7	6
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	18	9	4
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	13	14	4
Warwickshire	3	1	0	2	14	13	2
Yorkshire	3	1	0	2	13	14	2
Glamorgan	3	1	0	2	11	16	2
Bedfordshire	3	1	0	2	10	17	2
Lancashire	3	1	0	2	9	18	2

2 SOUTH

Surrey	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Sussex	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Essex II	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Middlesex II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Hampshire	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Kent	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

2 NORTH

Cleveland	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Yorkshire II	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Cheshire II	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Lincolnshire	3	0	2	1	13	17	2
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Durham	2	0	1	1	7	13	1

2 MIDLAND

Derbyshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Leicestershire	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Staffordshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Gloucestershire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Warwickshire II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Nottinghamshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

2 EAST

Hertfordshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Suffolk	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Norfolk	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Northants	2	0	1	1	7	13	1

2 WEST

Somerset	3	2	1	0	24	6	5
Berkshire	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Devon	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Wiltshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Worcestershire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Cornwall	3	0	0	3	4	26	0
Dorset	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

SOUTHERN

Kent II	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Surrey II	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Sussex II	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Oxfordshire	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Berkshire II	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

NORTHERN

Cleveland II	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Durham II	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Cheshire III	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Northumberland II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Cumbria	1	0	0	1	1	9	0

MIDLAND

Derbyshire II	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Warwickshire III	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Northamptonshire II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Clwyd	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Nottinghamshire II	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Staffordshire II	2	0	1	1	9	11	1

EASTERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex III	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Hertfordshire II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Norfolk II	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Bedfordshire II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Cambridgeshire II	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Huntingdonshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

WESTERN

Worcestershire II	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Glamorgan II	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Gwent	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Shropshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Herefordshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

JUNIOR PREMIER

Middlesex	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Yorkshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Essex	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Berkshire	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Surrey	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Cambridgeshire	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Leicestershire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Lancashire	3	0	0	3	10	20	0

JUNIOR SOUTH

Middlesex II	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Hampshire	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Sussex	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Hertfordshire II	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Essex III	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Buckinghamshire	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Oxfordshire	3	0	0	3	0	30	0

JUNIOR NORTH

Cleveland	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Yorkshire II	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Durham	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Lancashire II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Cumbria	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Northumberland	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

JUNIOR SOUTH-EAST

Essex II	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Surrey II	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Kent	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Berkshire II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Hertfordshire	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Hampshire II	3	0	0	3	3	27	0
Sussex II	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Warwickshire	3	3	0	0	30	0	6
Clwyd	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Derbyshire	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Staffordshire	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Leicestershire II	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Shropshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Nottinghamshire	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

JUNIOR EAST

Norfolk	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Cambridgeshire II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Northamptonshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Suffolk	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Bedfordshire	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Lincolnshire	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Huntingdonshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

JUNIOR WEST

Worcestershire	4	2	2	0	28	12	6
Dorset	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Devon	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Glamorgan	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Wiltshire	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Gloucestershire	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Cornwall	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
S							

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

CONSOLIDATION

In the December matches, Essex consolidated their position at the head of the Premier Division with their crushing of Glamorgan, and at the other end of the table, Lancashire got off the mark v Warwickshire; this means that all teams have points, a most unusual situation after 3 matches apiece! Cleveland lead the 3 divisions in which they are engaged, Middlesex top two Junior Divisions, and Derbyshire (whose Junior side last season took the County's first-ever title) find themselves heading both 2nd Midland and Midland Divisions.

PREMIER

Glamorgan 1, Essex 8

A. Griffiths lost to I. Horsham 19, -13, -16; lost to D. Brown -13, -17.

G. Davies lost to I. Horsham -11, -21; lost to R. Potton 18, -20, -20.

M. Owen lost to D. Brown -14, -17; lost to Potton -15, -17.

Davies/Griffiths beat Brown/Horsham 11, -19, 19.

Mrs. B. Gray lost to Miss J. Hellaby -18, -10. Owen/Gray lost to Potton/Hellaby -13, -16.

Warwickshire 4, Lancashire 5

D. Douglas beat D. Parker 5, 9; beat P. Bowen 14, 11.

P. Judd lost to Parker -17, -11; lost to N. Hallows -17, 11, -10.

D. Munt beat Bowen 18, -15, 20; lost to Hallows -15, -11.

Douglas/Judd lost to Bowen/Hallows -20, 10, -16.

Miss B. Green beat Miss B. Williams 20, 20. Munt/Green lost to Parker/Williams 27, -16, -11.

Warwicks came back in a most exciting match from 1-4 to 4-all, but then Nigel Hallows rounded off a splendid weekend by overcoming Paul Judd. Lancs did well to take both Doubles, particularly the Mixed, where they recovered from a game and 9-15 down! Des Douglas, superb in his singles, and Beverley Green continuing her fine run.

Cheshire 5, Yorkshire 4

M. Johns lost to A. Clayton -22, 16, -18; beat A. Fletcher 22, 20.

J. Hilton lost to Clayton -18, -14; beat D. Rayner 10, 16.

N. Eckersley beat Fletcher -12, 17, 19; lost to Rayner -18, -19.

Hilton/Johns lost to Clayton/Fletcher 14, -16, -10.

Miss S. Lisle beat Miss S. Broadbent 15, 17. Eckersley/Lisle beat Rayner/Broadbent -15, 24, 20.

Cheshire had never before beaten Yorkshire, and they had to work for this one! Four times behind in the match and the score showed 3-4 and Nigel Eckersley 13-17 down in the 3rd to Alan Fletcher. But the White Rose man was allowed only two more points, and then John Hilton wrapped the match up.

Bedfordshire 3, Middlesex 6

T. Taylor beat A. Barden 19, -13, 10; lost to M. Mitchell -17, -20.

P. Taylor lost to Barden -19, -10; beat D. Tan 19, 20.

F. Nilam lost to Mitchell -15, -12; lost to Tan -13, -15.

Taylor/Taylor beat Mitchell/Tan 20, 20.

Mrs. B. Hammond lost to Mrs. D. Court -14, -16. Nilam/Hammond lost to Barden/Court -16, -15.

Splendid win for Mark Mitchell v Trevor Taylor.

2nd SOUTH

Hampshire 1, Surrey 9

Surrey took all the close ones early on, leaving Hampshire just M.D.

Essex II 8, Kent 2

Sussex 6, Middlesex 4

A very nice win for Diane Gard v Diane Court by 13, -12, 19.

2nd NORTH

Lincolnshire 5, Cheshire II 5

Cheshire never behind, nor more than a set ahead. Expedite called into play in W.S. when Doreen Schofield led Jean White 20-18. Doreen took the game at 19 but Jean took 2nd and 3rd, both at 14. Best set that between the two Brians, with Johns beating Hill 16, -19, 14.

Yorkshire II 8, Northumberland 2

Brian Baxter, Melody Ludi and Julie McLean all on senior debut, and Julie had a splendid win 15, -13, 10 over Barbara Kearney. But only John Kedge and Peter Hoyles really showed the form expected in this Division, and the hosts were flattered by the result.

2nd MIDLAND

Nottinghamshire 2, Derbyshire 8

Staffordshire 5, Leicestershire 5

Warwickshire II 4, Gloucestershire 6

Nothing here worthy of mention? I would have thought Gloucs' breaking of a 14-match losing run, and Leics 8-match winning streak ending, merited a few lines

2nd EAST

Norfolk 5, Suffolk 5

The outstanding John Kitchener inspired Suffolk, who led 3-0 and then 5-2 before the hosts (whose women were unbeaten) came back for a deserved point.

Hertfordshire 6, Norfolk 4

Very good performances by John Fuller and Neville Graver for the visitors (although the latter won only one game) and by Barry White and Jack Bender for Herts. The hosts a little fortunate to win, but they took the vital points.

Cambridgeshire 8, Northamptonshire 2

Cams always well in control, with Northants picking up the last two sets for a more respectable result.

2nd WEST

Berkshire 9, Dorset 1

A fairly comfortable win with the strength of the Berkshire women very evident. Syd Brice worked hard and was rewarded with an 18, -15, 18 victory over Simon Heaps.

Devon 10, Cornwall 0

Devon far too strong for Cornwall, handicapped by late injury to Sheila Rapsey. Good set between old friends Barry Davis and John Bassett, won by Davis 17, -14, 18, and nice senior debut for visiting Ian James.

Somerset 5, Wiltshire 5

SOUTHERN

Kent II 10, Berkshire II 0

Kent, the 3-game kings, winning all 6 which went the distance (v Sussex they won all 7!).

Oxfordshire 4, Sussex II 6

NORTHERN

Cleveland II 9, Cumbria 1

Northumberland II 3, Durham II 7

MIDLAND

Derbyshire II 8, Clwyd 2

Nottinghamshire II 4, Warwickshire III 6

2 sets forfeited by Warwickshire, who played Lasek and Griffiths in reverse order.

Northamptonshire II 6, Staffordshire II 4

A fine team effort by Northants, who had lost the first three sets, all in straight games. They levelled at 3-all, and then Gary Alden fought back from 10-16 in 3rd to beat Keith Fellows 8, -12, 19. Aided by Christine Dille, Gary then took X.D., also at 19 in 3rd, for a 5-3 lead and finally John Palmer took the last set 12, 10 v Chris Davis.

EASTERN

Huntingdonshire 2, Essex III 8

Norfolk II 8, Cambridgeshire II 2

Bedfordshire II 4, Hertfordshire II 6

WESTERN

Shropshire 2, Worcestershire II 8

Glamorgan II 8, Herefordshire 2

JUNIOR PREMIER

Berkshire 5, Essex 5

G. Roberts lost to D. Iszatt -20, -20; beat D. Sehmbi 18, 15.

P. Trott lost to Iszatt -15, -16; lost to D. Newman -15, 20, -19.

D. Reeves lost to Sehmbi 14, -16, -19; beat Newman -17, 12, 23.

Reeves/Roberts beat Newman/Sehmbi 16, -15, 17.

Miss C. Reeves beat Miss S. Sutton -16, 19, 20. Trott/Miss K. Witt lost to Iszatt/Sutton -8, -18. Reeves/Witt beat Miss J. Boulter/Miss A. May 8, 13.

Berkshire took the close games in the first half of the match, and led 5-1. Essex showed their fighting qualities and took the last 4, three of which were very tight. A fair result, although Berkshire obviously disappointed to see such a lead eaten away.

Leicestershire 1, Middlesex 9

C. Rogers beat A. Barden -13, 16, 16; lost to M. Mitchell -13, 15, -16.

G. Hall lost to A. Barden -8, -14; lost to M. O'Mahony -19, -17.

K. Hall lost to Mitchell 17, -17, -11; lost to O'Mahony 12, -17, -13.

G. Hall/Rogers lost to Mitchell/O'Mahony 19, -12, 14.

Miss G. Sinkinson lost to Miss A. Mitchell -4, -12.

K. Hall/Miss J. Revill lost to Barden/Mitchell -10, -15.

Revill/Sinkinson lost to Miss S. Dove/Miss M. Sangster -13, -5.

A good win for Chris Rogers over English Closed Champion, Andy Earden and nice display by Kevin Hall v Mark Mitchell were all Leics could manage against a very useful-looking Middlesex.

Surrey 6, Lancashire 4

M. Shuttle lost to N. Hallows -17, -18; beat I. Smith 18, 16.

I. Girdler lost to Hallows -10, -18; lost to K. Williams 19, -12, -18.

M. Crimmins beat I. Smith 11, 16; beat K. Williams 9, -17, 19.

Crimmins/Girdler beat Hallows/Smith 16, 19. Miss K. Greenough beat Miss K. Cropper -16, 16, 17.

Shuttle/Miss J. Mitchell beat Williams/Miss J. Dixon 10, 17.

Greenough/Mitchell lost to Cropper/Dixon -13, -19.

Max Crimmins (unbeaten) and Nigel Hallows in top form in an excellent match. Ian Girdler and Martin Shuttle, neither at their best in singles, but played important part in doubles successes, but G.D. went to Lancashire. Kay Greenough troubled by Kathy Cropper in G.S. but came safely through.

Yorkshire 7, Cambridgeshire 3

B. Baxter lost to P. Day -20, -13; lost to K. Richardson 19, -18, -11.

M. Harrison lost to Day -12, -5; beat G. Davies 9, 10.

K. Beadsley beat Richardson 17, 14; beat Davies 11, 19.

Baxter/Harrison beat Day/B. Richardson -18, 17, 13.

Miss M. Ludi beat Miss P. Tingey 10, 6. Beadsley/Miss J. McLean beat K. Richardson/Miss R. Newman -17, 22, 12.

Ludi/McLean beat Newman/Tingey 8, 13.

Important win by Keith Richardson over Brian Baxter cancelled by Yorkshire's success in B.D. Cams fate sealed when they failed to capitalise on their recovery from 15-20 in second game of X.D.; home girls otherwise untroubled.

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