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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 65

October 1974

Price 13p

APPRENTICE INTERNATIONALS



Photo by Tony Ross

T.T. equipment — best b(u)y

**Jaques**

Published each month, October to May inclusive. Postal subscriptions £1.35 for eight issues.

Advertisements: Miss Cynthia Scrivens, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA. Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

Circulation: Albert W. Shipley, Administrative Secretary, E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA. Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

Distribution: Mrs. E. Doreen Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs., BL1 6JH. Phone: Bolton 42223.

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On the International Front

by The Editor



State of Limbo

What can one make of the dilemma in which the E.T.T.A. now finds itself in respect of financial support for the 1977 World Championships from affiliated member leagues.

Without a dissident voice at the annual general meeting in July the membership gave their approval for the Association to undertake the colossal task. And yet, at the very same meeting, a proposed compulsory levy failed to find favour as did numerous amendments introduced to alleviate compulsion.

Thus, now being in a state of limbo for a season at least, one can only hope that consciences will be sufficiently pricked to induce voluntary efforts and signs are from numerous areas—not least Birmingham, where at the National Exhibition Centre, Bickenhill, from March 26 to April 5, 1977, the Championships will be held—that such action will be taken.

All such efforts will henceforward be publicised in this journal and to this end, irrespective of further proceeds from another national raffle, the income will be chronicled if only to try and induce others to play their part.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen.

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Deputy Chairman: G. R. Yates

Hon. Treasurer: T. Blunn

General Secretary: E. R. Taylor

Management Committee:

I. R. Crickmer, M. Goldstein, A. E. Upton and K. Watts.

FRANCE PROMOTED

France, as a result of beating Poland 4-3 in a play-off between the champions of Divisions 2A and 2B, gained promotion to the **Premier Division of the European League** but it was a desperately close affair with Christian Martin just getting the better of Witold Woznica 23-21 in the deciding game of the final set to get the French team home. Full scores (Polish names first) in match order were:—

S. Fraczyk lost to C. Martin -18, 20, -14.

W. Woznica bt P. Birocheau 14, 15.

Czeslawa Noworyta bt Claude Bergeret 17, 20. Woznica/Fraczyk lost to Birocheau/R. Canor -12, -18.

Woznica/Noworyta bt Birocheau/Bergeret 15, 17.

Fraczyk lost to Birocheau -15, -21.

Woznica lost to Martin 19, -16, -21.

The play-off between Ireland and Turkey for promotion to **Division 2** was played in Frankfurt on June 23 and resulted in a 5-2 win for Ireland. Again in match order the scores (Irish names first) were:—

J. Langan bt O. Vardar 11, 11.

T. Caffrey lost to V. Alexandridis 21, -18, -12.

Karen Senior bt P. Gülleoglu 6, 10.

Langan/Caffrey bt Aleksandridis/M. Ozrajac 10, 13.

Langan/Senior bt Vardar/Gülleoglu 13, 19.

Langan lost to Aleksandridis -17, -19.

Caffrey bt Vardar 13, 20.

At the **Biennial General Meeting** of the European Table Tennis Union the President, Jupp Schlaf, drew attention to the undoubted importance of the European League and indicated that the Press and mass media were very interested indeed. To maintain their interest, it was essential that the policy of fixing match dates should be strictly adhered to. After many years of effort and persuasion by the Union's Management Committee, the Yugoslav Association agreed to participate and it was agreed that it would be unwise to request them to participate in the Second Division. Accordingly they were admitted into the Premier Division, which for the 1974-75 season would comprise 8 teams, two of which would be demoted.

The full fixture list for the forthcoming season reads:—

Premier Division

October 17, 1974

Hungary v Soviet Union

Federal Germany v France (Saarbrücken)

Czechoslovakia v England

Sweden v Yugoslavia

November 7, 1974

France v Czechoslovakia

Soviet Union v Federal Germany (Moscow)

England v Sweden (at Belper)

Yugoslavia v Hungary

December 12, 1974

Czechoslovakia v Soviet Union

Hungary v England

Federal Germany v Sweden (Lübeck)

Yugoslavia v France

February 27, 1975

England v Federal Germany (Guildford)

Sweden v Hungary
Soviet Union v France
Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia

March 20, 1975

Hungary v Czechoslovakia

Soviet Union v England

Federal Germany v Yugoslavia (Hamm)

France v Sweden

April 10, 1975

Federal Germany v Hungary

(Oberrau bei Aschaffenburg)

England v France (Horwich, Bolton)

Sweden v Czechoslovakia

Yugoslavia v Soviet Union

April 24, 1975

Sweden v Soviet Union

France v Hungary

Czechoslovakia v Fed. Germany (Prague)

England v Yugoslavia (Hull)

Second Division — Group A

October 17, 1974

Ireland v Poland

Belgium v Netherlands

November 7, 1974

Denmark v Belgium

Netherlands v Ireland

December 12, 1974

Poland v Belgium

Netherlands v Denmark

February 27, 1975

Ireland v Denmark

March 20, 1975

Belgium v Ireland

Poland v Netherlands

April 10, 1975

Denmark v Poland

Second Division — Group B

October 17, 1974

Luxembourg v Austria

Switzerland v Greece

November 7, 1974

Italy v Switzerland

Greece v Luxembourg

December 12, 1974

Austria v Switzerland

Greece v Italy

February 27, 1975

Luxembourg v Italy

March 20, 1975

Switzerland v Luxembourg

Austria v Greece

April 10, 1975

Italy v Austria

West European Group

March 4-5, 1975

National Sports Centre, Cardiff

Dates and venue for the **Mediterranean Group** have yet to be finalised.

EQUIPMENT

The following equipment for use in the European League for Seasons 1974-75 and 1975-76 was adopted by the Executive Committee of the E.T.T.U. when they met at Göppingen over the period of the 17th European Youth Championships:—

- Tables:
Premier Divisions — Stiga
Other Divisions — Joola
- Nets:
All Divisions — Joola
- Balls:
All Divisions — Barna Super

EUROPE CLUB CUP

English Club Champions, **Ormesby** (men) and **Gainsford** (women) have first round byes in this season's Europe Club Cup competition but Ormesby are called upon to travel in Round 2 (scheduled for completion by October 27) being drawn away to Le Logis Boitsford, of Belgium. Gainsford have a home tie with the winners of the 1st Round match between Delta Lloyd (Holland) and 7 a 9 Barcelona (Spain). The draws:

Men

Round 1—Olympiakos SFP, Piraeus, Greece v Atus, Traismauer, Austria.

Round 2—GSTK Vjesnik, Zagreb, Yugoslavia v Rd. 1 winner; Tempo Amsterdam, Holland v PSV Borussia, Dusseldorf, Fed. Germany; Le Logis Boitsford, Belgium v Ormesby, England; PTS Stiga ry, Helsinki, Finland v Bp Spartacus, Hungary; Mondals BTK, Sweden v CUS Firenze, Italy; Lisboa e Benfica, Portugal v Kremlin-Bicetre, France; DT Dommeldange, Luxembourg v Akademic Swishow, Bulgaria; 7 a 9 Barcelona, Spain v Sparta Praha, Czechoslovakia.

Women

Round 1—Delta Lloyd, Holland v 7 a 9 Barcelona, Spain.

Round 2—Gainsford, England v Rd. 1 winners; Capip 1937, Luxembourg v ASTK Mladost, Yugoslavia; Panathinaikos AO, Athens, Greece v Mav Tervezo, Budapest; TTC Basel, Switzerland v Sparta Praha, Czechoslovakia; Varbergs BTK, Sweden v Palette Stave, Belgium; Politzei SV Wien, Austria v Kaiserberg, Duisberg, Fed. Germany; Bolougne-Billancourt, France v Akademic Sofia, Bulgaria; Lisboa e Benfica, Portugal v Statistzika PSC, Budapest, Hungary.

Winners last season were:—

Men—GSTK Vjesnik, Zagreb. Runners-up: Boo Kfum, Sweden.

Women—Statistzika, Budapest. Runners-up: Gainsford, England.

APPROVED TOURNAMENT DATES

The E.T.T.U. have sanctioned the following dates in respect of national open tournaments:

- 1974
- Oct. 11-13 Polish Open (Krakow).
12-13 Spanish Open (Alicante).
19-20 Netherlands Invitation (The Hague).
- Nov. 1-3 Belgian Open (Knokke).
16-17 Hungarian Jubilee Invitation (Budapest).
- 22-24 French Open (Paris).
29
- Dec. 1 Scandinavian Open (Karlshamn).
5-8 Soviet Union Invitation (Vilnius).
- 1975
- Jan. 8-11 **ENGLISH OPEN** (Brighton).
Feb. 18-19 Swiss Open (Zurich).
21-22 **IRISH OPEN** (Dublin).
Mar. 6-8 Bulgarian Invitation for Women (Russe).
7-9 **WELSH OPEN** (Cardiff).
22-23 **SCOTTISH OPEN** (Edinburgh).
28-30 Czechoslovak Open (Prague).
29-31 Federal German Junior Open (Offenburg).
- Apr. 4-6 Europe Top 12 (Vienna).
May 5-9 Soviet Union Junior Invitation (Ukraine).
17-18 **ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN** (Worthing).
- Aug. 4-10 18th European Youth Championships (Zagreb).

BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Biennial General Meeting of the European Table Tennis Union, held in the Hotel Petrovaradin, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, on April 11/74, it was reported that the next

European Championships, the 10th, would take place in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1976. Further options were noted as follows:—

- 1978 Budapest, Hungary.
1980 A provisional application was on hand from Greece.

On behalf of the Swiss Association, Mr. Hugo Urchetti put in an option for 1982.

The following options were noted in respect of the **European Youth Championships**:—

- 1975 Zagreb, Yugoslavia (Aug. 4-10).
1976 Austria.
1977 France.

Future options on the staging of the **Europe Top 12** tournament were lodged by:—

- 1975 Austria (Vienna).
1976 Federal Germany.
1977 Yugoslavia.
1978 Czechoslovakia.

Mr. H. Roy Evans, President of the **International Table Tennis Federation**, took the chair, to announce that there being no contesting nominations, the following had been unanimously re-elected:—

- President—Jupp Schlaf (Federal Germany).
Vice-President—Josef Nekvasil (Czechoslovakia).
Hon. General Sec.—Mrs. Nancy Evans (Wales).
Hon. Treasurer—Henk van Dilst (Netherlands).

A ballot for seven members of the Management Committee was then conducted, with Denis George (Scotland) and Brian Everson (Wales) acting as tellers. This resulted:—

- Dr. G. Lakatos (Hungary) 26 votes
Mr. L. Makarov (USSR) 26 „
Mr. S. Danet (Rumania) 25 „
Mr. M. Kapetanic (Yugoslavia) .. 21 „
Mr. L. Hammarlund (Sweden) .. 17 „
Mr. G. Duclos (France) 17 „
Mr. X. Hadjisarantos (Greece) .. 12 „
Dr. K. Smekal (Austria) 12 „
Mr. G. R. Yates (England) 12 „
Mr. L. van Gelder (Belgium) 11 „
Mr. J. Justed (Norway) 6 „

A second ballot between Messrs. Hadjisarantos, Smekal and Yates resulted in the election of the E.T.T.A's Deputy Chairman, George Yates, who polled 11 votes with Xenophon Hadjisarantos (10) and Dr. Karl Smekal (7).

Appointments made at the Management and Executive Committee Meetings subsequent to the Congress were:—

Classification Committee

- Dr. Gyorgy Lakatos (Hungary) Chairman;
Ella Constantinescu (Rumania),
Stanko Rebolj (Yugoslavia),
Werner Haupt (Federal Germany).

Publicity Committee

- George Yates (England) (Press Officer),
Chairman;
Stig Hagberg (Sweden),
Mihaly Kosak (Hungary),
Bas den Breejen (Netherlands).

Referees' Committee

- Leonid Makarov (USSR) Chairman;
Louis van Gelder (Belgium),
C. Goran-Brandel (Sweden),
John Wright (England).

Technical Committee

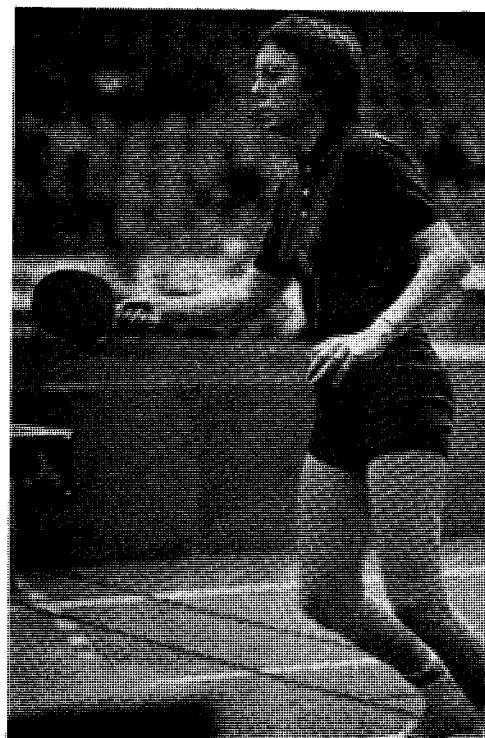
- Mihovil Kapetanic (Yugoslavia) Chairman;
George Roland (Belgium),
Dr. Karl Smekal (Austria),
Jerzy Idzikowski (Poland).

Youth Committee

- Sever Danet (Rumania) Chairman;
Hans-Jürgen Hasse (Federal Germany),
Xenophon Hadjisarantos (Greece),
Trayon Kazakov (Bulgaria).

Teaching and Training Committee

- Lollo Hammarlund (Sweden) Chairman;
Martin Sklorz (Federal Germany),
Charles Roesch (France),
Prof. Ernst Demetrovic (Czechoslovakia).



JILL HAMMERSLEY.

Photo by Tommy Andersson, Sweden.

NEW CLASSIFICATIONS

Both the International Federation and the European Union have issued new classification lists resulting in England's Jill Hammersley being elevated six places in the World list, from No. 19 to No. 13, and from No. 6 to No. 4 in Europe. Karenza Mathews, after being omitted from the last European list, is brought back in at No. 18 but there is no place for her in the I.T.T.F. classifications.

Denis Neale is demoted from No. 16 to No. 27 in the I.T.T.F. list but regains favour in the eyes of the E.T.T.U. Classification Committee with the No. 16 position after being a non-runner in the previous list.

As a result of their successes in the last European Championships, in Novi Sad, Milan Orlowski and Judit Magos take over the lead roles in the E.T.T.U. lists, both rising from fourth position in taking over from Stellan Bengtsson and Zoya Rudnova. New lists (previous positions in brackets):—

WORLD RANKINGS

Men

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

Continued on next page

29. Z. Cordas (Yugoslavia) (—)
30. M. Karakasevic (Yugoslavia) (26)
31. Yu Yi-tse (China) (29)
32. J. Kunz (Czechoslovakia) (21)

Ebby Schöler (Federal Germany) (19), Istvan Korpa (Yugoslavia) (23)—now resident in Germany—Li Fu-jung (China) (24) and Choi Sung Kuk (S. Korea) (27) no longer command a position.

Women

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

Missing from the previous list are Ilona Vostova (Czechoslovakia) (23), Mirjana Resler (Yugoslavia) (24), Chou Pao-chin (China) (29) and Di Schöler (Federal Germany) (30).

EUROPEAN RANKINGS

Men

1. Orłowski (4)
2. Johansson (2)
3. Jonyer (3)
4. Bengtsson (1)
5. Gergely (8)
6. Surbek (5)
7. Klampar (6)
8. Stipancic (7)
9. Sarkhojan (9)
10. Secretin (10)
11. Kunz (11)
12. Wikström (—)
13. Stokratov (12)
14. Börszei (13)
15. Gomozkov (14)
16. Neale (—)
17. Karakasevic (16)
18. Lieck (15)
19. B. Burnazian (USSR) (—)
20. Cordas (—)

Women

1. Magos (4)
2. Rudnova (1)
3. Alexandru (3)
4. Hammersley (6)
5. Hellman (10)
6. Kishazi (5)
7. Antonian (9)
8. Radberg (7)
9. Grofova (2)
10. Federova (15)
11. Reidlova (14)
12. E. Wetzel (Fed. Germany) (—)
13. Silhanova (12)
14. U. Hirschmüller (Fed. Germany) (—)
15. Hendriksen (8)
16. H. Lotaller (Hungary) (13)
17. Gedraitite (11)
18. K. Mathews (England) (—)
19. E. Palatinus (Yugoslavia) (—)
20. A. Hernadi (Hungary) (—)

Both the men's and women's lists have been extended from 16 to 20 places, Albertina

Rangelova (Bulgaria) (16) being the only player previously listed not now included.

CANADIAN COACH

The Canadian Table Tennis Association have appointed the Yugoslavian international, Zlatko Cordas, as their National Coach. He commenced his duties on July 15 on a one-year contract and was accompanied to Canada by his wife, Irena, also a leading player and coach in her own right.

SOUTH AFRICAN BOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS

On the occasion of its Silver Jubilee the South African Table Tennis Board ran its 13th Inter-Provincial and Open Championships in Durban during July, which were voted a huge success with hardly standing room in the hall for the Open Finals night, despite the fact that raised seating had been installed to cater for the large crowd expected.



Our picture, supplied by C. M. Bassa, Esq., President of the S.A.T.T.B., shows Men's Singles Champion, Suren Bhagwan, receiving his trophy from the hands of Mrs. Bassa. In the final Bhagwan had a 15, 12, 14 win over K. Valjee.

Iris Barry was the winner of the counterpart women's event for the fourth consecutive time. She has won this title 8 times in all and she is seen reclaiming her award from Mrs. U. I. Desai.

Invitation to Den Haag

Mr. Cor J. Vos, Editor of the Dutch T.T. magazine, Tafeltennis, is anxious to have an English club team (2 men, 2 women) competing in his forthcoming Trofeo Caballero tournament to be held in The Hague on Saturday, Dec. 21/74.

Players' age is immaterial, must be members of the same club, but hospitality and travel costs will be borne by the Wibets Club in respect of the four players and a non-playing captain.

One thousand Dutch florins is the prize for the winning team; 2nd f.750; 3rd f.300; 4th f.250.

Caballero is the name of the most popular cigarette in Holland and the makers, Ed. Laurens, of The Hague, are the sponsors of this International Mixed Team Tournament organised by the Dutch club, Wibats, of which Mr. Vos is their Secretary.

Last season's winners were the Delta Lloyd club, of Amsterdam, whose team was Carel Deken, Leo Lucas, Sonja Heltzel and Annetie van Moorst. Defeated finalists were Weiss Rot Weiss, of Kleve (West Germany) whose team included Wiebke Hendriksen, the Federal German international and Corbillon Cup player.

Interested clubs should contact Mr. Vos at Maarsbergenstraat 368, The Hague, Holland, without delay.

E.T.T.A. SELECTION COMMITTEE

Following a proposal by John Wright (Middlesex) seconded by Frank Briggs (Yorkshire) the E.T.T.A.'s National Selection Committee will this season comprise R. J. Crayden (Chairman), A. W. Shipley (Secretary), the national Trainer-COACH, B. R. Merrett (Women's captain) together with L. F. Landry, D. Schofield and A. R. Ransome. Ken Mathews was re-elected as International Squad Manager.

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Obituary

Ray Syndercombe

The Kent Table Tennis Association were sad and extremely shocked to learn of the sudden death of Ray Syndercombe, one of Kent's top, if not the best player in his day.

Ray Syndercombe was only in his early forties when this tragedy happened, without any indication or pre-warning of the coronary which was to cause his death.

Ray's name was household around table tennis circles during the period 1955/60. He represented the Woolwich League, as their No. 1, at a time when it was undoubtedly the strongest league in Kent, and it was often joked how much harder it was to represent Woolwich than it was to represent Kent.

Ray represented his county for 7 years, and at one time was ranked England No. 9. Without the pressures of business that took up so much of his time, and more practice on the table, it was thought by his friends and fellow players he could have taken his pimped rubber bat with him further up the England ranking list.

During his playing career Ray's name must have appeared in more table tennis columns than any other player. He won scores of local honours several times and earned himself the title of the Kent "Doubles King" because of his fast and brilliant footwork and remarkable reading of the game, which enabled him to judge his movements in such a way, never to impede his partner's vision or play.

Although Ray did give up table tennis quite some time ago, again due to business pressures, he still retained his keen interest in the game and kept in touch with his friends and the table tennis world.

His last attendance was at the end of last season's Kent Closed, discussing the changes in the game since the all-pimped rubber bats of his day to the now virtually all-sponge.

The Kent County Executive Committee would like to pay tribute to this great player and popular man and offer their sincere condolences to his wife and family.

EILEEN KOUTIKOFF.

'Sunday Times' Super League

In the first set of matches held in conjunction with the North Middlesex 2-Star Open and attended by "Sunday Times" Editor, Harold Evans and his famous columnist, Michael Parkinson, the results were:—

N. Jarvis (3), D. Brown (2), M. Mitchell (1)	6
D. Neale (2), M. Johns (1), R. Wiley (0)	3
T. Taylor (2), P. Taylor (2) J. Kitchener (2)	6
A. Hydes (Absent), D. Parker (3), P. Day (0)	3
B. Burn (reserve) (0)	
D. Douglas (2), A. Clayton (1), A. Barden (2)	5
J. Walker (3), I. Horsham (1), D. Alderson (0)	4

Wins of significance were brought off by Nicky Jarvis, who beat Denis Neale 15, -12, 17 and by Donald Parker, who got the better of Trevor Taylor 18, 20. A full report will appear in the November issue.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

EXTENSIVE COACHING

The summer started with North Middlesex League finishing off last season by reaching the final of the Wilmott Cup Competition—a marvellous achievement.

We have had an extensive coaching programme during the close season with three groups—a main County squad, a follow-up group, and an Under-14 squad. During this period Tony Pacitto has been organising the follow-up and U-14 squads whilst the main County group was run with David Tan and

Peter Partos (former Hungarian international and Gloucester County player) assisting me.

With two junior teams for the first time, there is much to play for and with juniors Andrew Barden and Mark Mitchell also our two leading seniors, we have high hopes in the Junior Premier Division. Our girls are Angela Mitchell, Sue Dove, Marilyn Sangster and Jill Campion.

The North Middlesex League had good reason to be proud of the exploits of their three players in the European Championships, namely Mark and Angela Mitchell, together with Andy Barden, whose deeds are recorded elsewhere in this magazine by Tony Ross, our roving correspondent from Hessle, North Humberside.

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The *hallex* English Under-13 Singles Championships

WHITE ROSE DOUBLE AT REDDITCH — by Ian R. Crickmer

Middlesborough's Angela Tierney, on one of her last Yorkshire appearances before the acceptance of the new County of Cleveland, joined Kevin Beadsley, of the Halifax League, in a White Rose double at the Finals of the Hallex English Under-13 Singles Championships played at the Abbey Stadium, Redditch, on May 25.

Miss Tierney was, in terms of figures, taken close only once, dropping the opening game to Mandy Wallis (Wellingborough) before winning through 21-18 in the third. Miss Wallis, who thus qualified for the third position, followed up by defeating Karen Witt, of Reading, the ultimate runner-up, 21-17 in the deciding game. Tierney v Witt had an anti-

climatic result, the former winning 15 and 10.

Beadsley, too, found the third placed player the hardest to overcome. Having won six sets in straight games, he opened comfortably 21-5 against Douglas Bennett (Norwich) but then conceded the middle game 14-21.

A victory for Bennett would have created a triple tie involving Beadsley, Bennett and Adam Proffitt (Barnets). However, Beadsley preserved his unbeaten record and Proffitt took second position.

The positions of all finalists were:—

Girls

1. Angela Tierney (Middlesborough) .. 6-0
2. Karen Witt (Reading) 4-2
3. Mandy Wallis (Wellingborough) 3-3 (Games 7)
4. Maxine Abbott (Barking) 3-3 (Games 6, Points 239)
5. Vanessa Cruwys (Cheltenham) 3-3 (Games 6, Points 198)
6. Kim Vincent (Thames Valley) 2-4
7. Julie O'Malley (Liverpool) 0-6
8. Janet Withers (Plymouth) failed to report

Boys

1. Kevin Beadsley (Halifax) 7-0
2. Adam Proffitt (Barnets) 6-1
3. Douglas Bennett (Norwich) 5-2
4. David Ward (Coventry) 4-3
5. Richard Bergemann (Bournemouth).. 3-4
6. Paul Speare (Cornwall Schools) 2-5
7. Terry Bramford (Nottingham) 1-6
8. Trevor Gatley (Cheshire County) 0-7



The boys (1 to r, back): David Ward, Terry Bamford, Adam Proffitt, Paul Speare and Douglas Bennett. (Front): Trevor Gatley, Richard Bergemann and Kevin Beadsley. Photo by John O'Sullivan.



The girls (1 to r, back): Kim Vincent, Angela Tierney, Mandy Wallis, Julie O'Malley and Karen Witt. (Front): Maxine Abbott and Vanessa Cruwys.

Photo by John O'Sullivan.

SURREY NOTES

by Ted Simpkin

POWERFUL SAY

1973-4 ended for Surrey with the exile of the County team from the Premier Division. The ambition for 1974-75 of a speedy return to the top will not be easy of realisation and Kent and Sussex (now with Roger Chandler) should have a powerful say in the matter. No new blood of the necessary calibre is yet in sight, although in the years ahead the prospects are bright. The fight back begins at Guildford on Nov. 2, against Essex II, and Guildford deserves to see a fight after some of the surrenders which have been witnessed there in the past.

The County is waiting for the juniors to come through, and if all goes according to expectation, in three to four years Surrey will be back in the big time. In view of the hard work which is being put into the coaching of juniors it is somewhat galling to note that the leagues in Croydon, Wandsworth and Byfleet are making hardly any contribution.

The County A.G.M. heard the sad news of the death of the Assistant Secretary, Miss E. D. Allison, who had worked hard for the Association over several years, particularly in company with the retired Chairman, Percy Lawes, and will be sorely missed. She had given over 20 years dedication to the Guildford League, nursing it through difficult days and continuing to serve it until shortly before her death, and her many, many friends will not forget her.

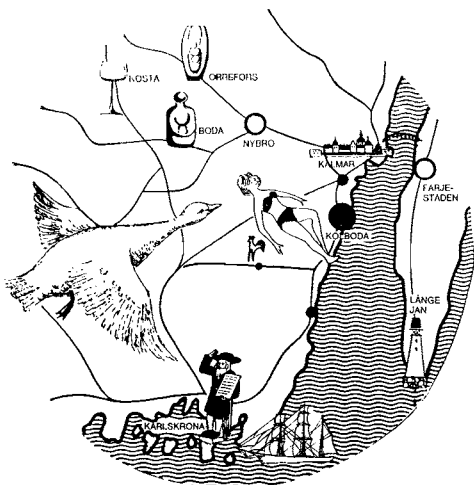
The A.G.M. took nearly twenty minutes behind closed doors to re-elect (almost unanimously) Fred Joyce as their Chairman, but Fred was even more pleased to hand over, the job of Secretary to volunteer Alan Hatchett of Thames Valley. Alan is fortunate to have Mary Wright as his Assistant Sec. and Fred Joyce to look after the present rather meagre funds.

A bouquet to the Epsom and Leatherhead League. Their member club, Chessington, circulated all firms, schools, and former clubs in the area with news about the league and were successful in obtaining four new clubs and 9 new teams for the current season. I would love to be able to report similar initiative from other Surrey leagues, and we all live in hope!

VISIT TO KOLBODA

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS SCHOOL

KALMAR, SWEDEN - JULY, 1974



by **DON RICHARDS**
and
BERNARD YARNOLD
(E.T.T.A. Diploma Coaches, Coventry)

An international table tennis course in Sweden! Well, it would make a change from going to Lilleshall again this year. Bernard had kept the original advert from the April '73 issue of Table Tennis News, and last December wrote for further information.

After a letter or two each way, we booked for the week of July 14-21. The cost? By the time we had budgeted for everything, it didn't look as if we would see much change from £150 each. Considering this outlay, what motivated us to travel this distance for table tennis?

During last season, Bernard had read a couple of articles in the United States magazine "Table Tennis Topics," which gave a clearer insight of the organisation of the course. It appeared that many good players of various nationalities had been to Kolboda over the last two years, and this year it was hoped to have Christer Johansson (coach to the Swedish National team) in charge of groups of top players for three weeks during the summer. One of those weeks was the week we had booked.

Sweden, of course, are the current World Men's Team Champions. We wanted to discover how far their training methods contributed to this success. At the same time, we would surely improve our own individual games. Perhaps we would make contacts for international exchanges at a later date; and at least see some of what was reputed to be a wonderful country.

It was obvious that physical training would take up some part of the course, thus we embarked upon a programme of circuit training and running a few months ahead. Don lost over a stone in weight and Bernard had never felt fitter in his life.

THE OUTWARD JOURNEY

The big day arrived, and we travelled to Immingham for the Thursday afternoon boat to Gothenburg. We took Bernard's new Triumph 1500, as we reckoned it would be reliable and economical on a long journey as well as comfortable with its nylon-covered reclining seats.

Don swallowed his sea-sick tablet, Bernard looking on with a quizzical smile hoping his

many crossings on the Mersey ferry boats would stand him in good stead. "Hello, we've stopped, said Don, three minutes after setting sail. It turned out that Immingham is a contained harbour and we have to enter a lock to bring the water down to sea level. A small tug closes in behind us to assist the ship into the lock. "She's going a bit fast, how's she going to stop?" Crash! the tug collides with the ship, sending a shudder along its whole length, and manages to take a large chunk out of the side of the lock as well. The captain moves the ship a little further down the lock—we couldn't see his expression! The tide was out, and thus half-an-hour was spent lowering the ship some 25 feet before we entered the Humber estuary.

The crossing was calm and pleasant. Eernard nearly adopted a nautical look by growing a beard when the cord on his electric shaver snapped. But Don's genius with a pair of scissors made the connection good. We shared a cabin with a Swede returning from Gothenburg, so asked where was the best place to put up for the night. You might have guessed! Being local, he hadn't a clue, but suggested we find the local tourist office (touristbyra).

Twenty-five hours later we were off the ship to a sunny reception. Don kept saying "Drive on the right," but it was a nightmare finding our way around Gothenburg. To add to the confusion, trams rattled at great speed down the streets, something Bernard hadn't seen since he was a lad in Liverpool.

Eventually we parked, and asked a delicious little Swedish girl the way to the "touristbyra." She understood Bernard's gesticulations; and soon we had a hotel room for the night. Now for some food—we groaned at the £2.75 one restaurant was charging for a rump steak. Don spotted a Chinese with an English translation, and a reasonable price list. Food is dear in Sweden, and we had budgeted accordingly, but still brought some cans of beans and beer along with us.

The following day (Saturday) we took the coast road South to Varberg before heading East across country. Kalmar was 250 miles from Gothenburg, and we had to reach

Kolboda camp by 5 p.m. Sunday. Thus, time was on our side, and the journey was taken at a leisurely pace through the extensively wooded countryside of Småland. The area was also dotted with numerous lakes.

A lay-by provided us with a pleasant picnic spot, and the first can of beans was consumed. Good progress was maintained along the tarmac-surfaced and largely traffic-free Swedish roads, and by late afternoon we reached Kalmar. This is an historic town nestling on the edge of the Baltic Sea, and an obvious tourist centre, as we discovered when finding a number of hotels fully booked.

So it was back to the "touristbyra," and they fixed us in a guest house on the outskirts of town. The landlord and his wife couldn't speak a word of English (except "Do you speak Swedish?"), but we managed to get breakfast at 8 o'clock Sunday morning as requested.

Whilst in the "touristbyra" we had asked the whereabouts of Kolboda camp, as the literature sent to Bernard had placed the site 15 miles south-east of Kalmar—in the sea! We were relieved to be given a brochure showing its location due South—just on dry land.

Armed with other information purloined from the "touristbyra," we visited Oland on Sunday morning. This large offshore island is now a mecca for Scandinavian holidaymakers. Access was made easier two years ago with the opening of a bridge from the mainland. Stretching for three miles across Kalmarsund, it is the longest road bridge in Europe.

The west side of the island was fairly busy, especially the town of Borgholm and its castle dating back to the eleventh century. The east side was quieter, and the pastoral nature as described in the brochures, with windmills every few hundred yards, was apparent. However, the brochures claimed it never rained in Oland during the summer, and, of course, we proved them wrong! This was a foretaste of the general weather pattern over the rest of the week—hazy sunshine with the odd showers of rain.

THE ARRIVAL

With lunch over we headed back on to the mainland and down to Kolboda. The camp was instantly recognisable from a postcard sent by the organiser earlier in the year. The accommodation was in two-bunk chalets, with washbasin and adjoining lounge area—very useful for dumping all the luggage and airing sweaty table tennis gear. Toilets and showers were a 30-yard walk away in a separate building, which was a nuisance if one needed to get up in the night.

The table tennis hall was a 400-yard walk down the road—at least it was a walk for



The adventurers — Don Richards (left) and Bernard Yarnold.



Three lads from Y.M.C.A. Kristianstad (l to r) Ola Forslund, Maths Malmström and Hans Thalín.

everyone else, unless they could cadge a lift off us. A converted farm building, the hall stood on a piece of land within a few feet of the Baltic Sea. Fourteen tables (12 Stiga Experts, 2 Barnas) were housed along its length. The runback was not generous, about 10 feet, but adequate for training purposes. In an adjacent building there were seven more Stiga tables, but these were not used as our course numbered 24 players, who could all be accommodated in the main hall.

Back at the camp centre, we glimpsed other course participants for the first time as we sat down to the evening meal. "Hello, table tennis friends from England," said a rotund, dark-haired man in his thirties. "I'm Johan Messa, the organiser. It is good to see someone come from England after so many enquiries." Indeed, Johan confirmed our suspicions that we were the first Englishmen to stay at the camp.

Johan Messa played for Sweden as a junior in 1956-57. The idea of starting a table tennis school came to him during his years as a coach at an athletics club near Stockholm. In 1969, he heard that the owner of the camp-site at Kolboda had expanded the camp facilities to accommodate residential sports courses, and Johan persuaded the Swedish T.T.A. to let him run a series of courses there. By now, Johan was one of ten national coaches travelling all over Sweden on club visits. He wanted to bring people to one centre rather than waste time and energy travelling the length and breadth of the country. So successful was the first venture that other courses followed in 1970-71, and the Swedish national team trained there. In 1972, the International Table Tennis School was started and attracted 600 pupils that first summer.

After the meal everyone was gathered together and introduced to the coach in charge, Thomas Stenberg, trainer of the Swedish junior team. He was to be assisted during the week by two colleagues from his club in Norrköping, Steffan Johansson and Mats Wielbass. We were fortunate in having the services of Thomas Stenberg, for the following week he was to leave Kolboda to take up his new duties as Swedish women's team captain, as well as continuing his involvement with the juniors as secretary of the education committee. Training of the Swedish junior and men's teams would pass into the hands of Nils-Bertil Billing, from the Falkenberg club, of which Stellan Bengtsson is a member. This reshuffle of duties amongst Sweden's top coaches was necessitated by the resignation of Christer Johansson, who will now train the Federal German side.

The course itself was to be conducted in

English, the only language common to all participants. Most players were Scandinavian, and all children in these countries learn English from the age of nine. The average age was only 17-18, and many leading juniors were in attendance, including the Norwegian No. 1 junior, Odd Monsen, and the Finland 1 and 3, Jarmo Jokinen and Michol Grünstein.

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE.

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

FRANCIS JARVIS ELECTED PRESIDENT

No doubt her many friends in Table Tennis will be delighted with the news that Mrs. Francis Jarvis has been elected as the President of the Devon County Table Tennis Association. For many years Francis carried the burden of County administration in addition to doing her share as a member of the National Council, umpiring at International matches and major

championships—all this while nursing her husband, Roy, through a long and serious illness. Sadly, Roy is no longer with us to share the honour given to Francis—something he would have been very proud about. The Presidency is a fitting reward for many years devoted service to our County and I am sure Francis will carry out her duties with distinction.

A blow to the County came when Barbara Pearson announced her retirement from County play. Barbara has been a tower of strength in the County team for many years and will be badly missed. Her services to Devon will not be lost however, as along with Paddy Shepherd, she will be looking after the youngsters within the County and it is hoped that they will benefit from these experienced Coaches.

The County administration will again be in the same hands under the Chairmanship of Tony Hill and it is our hope for another successful and happy season.

TEAM SELECTIONS

The E.T.T.A. has been invited to send a team to participate in the Polish International T.T. Championships in Warsaw from Oct. 10-12 and the following players have been selected to represent this country:—

Nicky Jarvis, Desmond Douglas, Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard. N.P.C.: Bryan Merrett.

The same quartet, spearheaded by Denis Neale, will comprise the England party taking in the European League match against Czechoslovakia in Prague on Oct. 17 and the Netherlands Invitation Team Tournament being played at The Hague from Oct. 19-20.

SWEDISH CONTACT

Huddinge BTK, of Sweden, are promoting their "Vardkasen" tournament from Nov. 30—Dec. 1 in Stockholm.

Invitations have already gone out to Peter Charters, Laurie Landry, Gerald Coteman and Michael Kercher seeking club entries, a positive reply having already been received from Mr. Coteman.

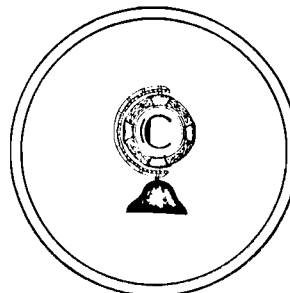
Others who may be interested are asked to contact Mrs. Karin Sjören, at Musseronvagen 34, 141 46 Huddinge, Sweden, without delay, possibly seeking the advice of the foregoing personalities before doing so.

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PRIZE WINNER

Charles M. Wyles, O.B.E., Chairman of the E.T.T.A., hands over the keys of the Morris Marina to Mr. R. N. Kapur, of Harrow, Middlesex, winner of the first prize in the World Championships Lottery conducted last season by Lou Hoffman.

Also in the picture (left to right): Lou Hoffman, Mr. T. G. Butler, Merchandising Co-ordinator, Austin-Morris Group, British Leyland (U.K.) Ltd., Mr. T. W. Edwards, Sales Manager, Stewart and Arden Ltd., Croydon, Surrey, and, on the extreme right, Derek Tremayne, former General Secretary of the E.T.T.A.

The presentation was conducted at the Berkeley Square showrooms of Stewart and Arden on August 14.

Photo by Goodchilds Ltd., London W.C.2.

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

The Finals

by KEITH PONTING

Another successful season's competitions was concluded on Sunday, June 2, at the Edward Herbert Building, Loughborough University of Technology, when eight teams and their supporters gathered for the finals.

The day started sensationally when it was announced that Silvertown would play the Carter Cup final with only two players, the reason given being that Les Eadie preferred to play in an exhibition match at a Pontin's holiday camp! This is the first time a team has played short in a National Final and it spoils the match as a spectacle and for their opponents, North Yorkshire. The Yorkshire lads are difficult to beat at any time and after their brilliant win over the holders, North Middlesex, in the semis, Silvertown were in with a great chance. However they lost 0-7 and Robert Wiley, David Alderson and Stephen Souter must have felt that their long journey was not worthwhile. All credit though to the other two Silvertown lads, Robert Potton and Colin Webb, who played their hearts out to try and restore some credit for their league.

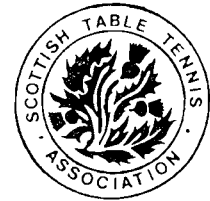
The Bromfield Trophy for girls, proved a much more interesting encounter and after some fine play by all the girls, Dagenham ran out winners over North Yorkshire by 5-3. The London team got off to a good start by winning the first two sets and at one time led 3-1. North Yorkshire pulled back to level at 3-3 which set the stage for the match between the No. 1's, Elaine Tarten for Dagenham, and the new Junior Open Champion, Carole Knight. Elaine

easily won the first game at 14 but Carole found her form in the second and after a ding-dong struggle won 22-20. The third went one way and then the other but eventually Elaine came through to win 22-20. It had been said that Elaine had lost some of her enthusiasm after a hard season but this was not evident as she fought and fought and this set was a great credit to both girls. This result virtually made certain the trophy would go to London and Peggy Abbot clinched it by beating Nicola Carne in straight games. Sandra Sutton for Dagenham, and Ann Tierney for North Yorkshire, both contributed some fine play to a very evenly contested match.

The afternoon session started with the Rose Bowl final between old rivals Central London and Stockport. This was the fourth time in a row these two teams have met at this stage and this was, perhaps, the closest contest. Some of the games were very close and the holders had to pull out all the stops to win by 5-3, thanks to a brilliant maximum from Judy Williams. Shelagh Hession and Diane Court won one each whilst Diane Johnson won one and Susan Lisle, in fine form, won two for Stockport.

The final event of the day saw the young North Middlesex team challenge North Yorkshire's dominance of the Wilmott Cup, but, once again the holders won convincingly with Denis Neale, Jimmy Walker and Nicky Jarvis being too strong for Andrew Barden, Graham Blomfield and Mark Mitchell. The final score of 5-1 slightly flattered the Yorkshiremen and Barden had a fine win over Walker.

The Referee, Geoff Taylor, from Coventry, and his team of Umpires deserve thanks for their unstinting efforts during the day and Reg Billson and his team of helpers from Loughborough are to be congratulated for all their hard work in the organisation of the event. The prizes were presented by Mr. George Yates, Deputy Chairman of the E.T.T.A.



SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

At the recent A.G.M. of the Scottish T.T.A. Miss Lesley Barrie, 108 Duror Street, Glasgow, G32 6XJ (Tel.: 041-774 4747), was elected International Secretary, and Mr. Stanley H. Buchan, 151 Vancouver Drive, East Kilbride, G75 8NL (Tel.: East Kilbride 22069), became National Secretary.

Because of the huge expense involved, Scotland will not be sending teams to Melbourne or Calcutta, as it is considered that the limited funds available can be better expended in enabling our top players to compete in selected National Opens. In addition to the home countries' events we are sending a team to Alicante for the Spanish Open, 12-13 October, and hope to go to either the French or Scandinavian Open also. In addition we have been invited to participate in a Norwegian Invitation tournament in Bergen, 9-10 November, so our International team will nevertheless have a busy season. Regular monthly National Team Training sessions will be held under the direction of newly-elected International Team Manager, John Braithwaite, of Glasgow.

On the home front a full calendar of open tournaments has been arranged and players south of the border will be given a hearty welcome at these events. Many Scottish players will be travelling in the opposite direction throughout the season to English tournaments starting with a large contingent to the Cleveland Open, 14-15 September.

INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES

The first I.T.T.F. International Umpire examination, held at the beginning of the year, attracted over 200 candidates from 23 different Associations.

Of these candidates 98 were successful and England's total of 21 passes was the greatest number from any one Association. Our congratulations go to the following umpires on adding yet another to their list of qualifications:—

Mrs. A. P. Archdale	J. V. Masters
R. Balmford	S. E. A. Morton
J. M. Blackman	D. V. Reed
L. A. Chatwin	G. T. Scruton
*C. Darley	A. W. Shipley
S. E. Francis	L. J. Smith
P. S. Goacher	J. Sykes
F. J. Groom	T. J. Vance
A. J. Hobday	B. R. J. Webb
D. A. Kenny	Miss K. J. Waters
D. Lipman	

* Since deceased.

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1974 United States Open

by MALCOLM R. ANDERSON
(Vice-President, U.S.T.T.A.)

The 44th U.S.A. Open Championships, held in Oklahoma City from May 23-26, culminated in final victory for Sweden's Kjell Johansson, who beat Dragutin Surbek, of Yugoslavia, 18, 21, -10, 16 in the men's singles event.

This match was every bit as good as their semi-final meeting in Sarajevo, in the last World's, with both players moving, looping, killing and lobbing back kills—a fitting final.

In the U.S. semis, Johansson beat Nobuhiko Hasegawa (Japan) -22, 9, 18, 17 and Surbek beat Norio Takashima, also of Japan, 18, 19, 16. Surbek had so much spin and power in his shots that Takashima could not keep his return low, and seldom got a chance to hit. In the quarters, Takashima made opportunities to hit—he beat Stellan Bengtsson after losing the first two games! Scores: -12, -18, 17, 18, 14.

Stellan, lacking Surbek's raw power, had to work Takashima in and out, side to side to win a point, and he eventually lost patience and tried to hit outright winners—every time Stellan made a high dropshot or loop it got killed, at the end it looked like he gave up.

Other quarter-final results—Surbek bt I. Wikström 10, -12, 18, 18; Johansson bt T. Tasaka 17, 18, 14; Hasegawa bt Stipanovic 18, -17, 19, -19, 11. Hasegawa's relentless attack eventually wore Stipanovic down. In the 8ths, Hasegawa' ended Dal Joon Lee's string of 6 straight U.S. Open Men's Singles titles, 9, 18, 18; Stipanovic bt U. Thorsell 17, 12, -14, 16; Tasaka bt Dan Seemiller (Pittsburgh, Pa) 19, -12, 11, 14; Johansson bt Joon Gil Park 15, 12, -19, 15; Wikström bt Alex Tam (who five years ago, escaped to Hong Kong from mainland China by swimming 7 miles, carrying his wife) 18, 15, -15, 17; Surbek bt Bajij (India) 12, 7, 15; Takashima bt Karakasevic 16, 19, 17; and Bengtsson bt Dua (India) 9, 18, 8.

An interesting match in the 16ths saw Tasaka beat Houshang Bororzadeh -18, 22, 10, -15, 19! At 20-19 in the 5th, Tasaka hit a kill that touched the net, missed the table—and hit Houshang's bat!

Women's singles was won by Yukie Ohzeki, of Japan, over Tazuko Abe 13, -15, -18, 13, 15. In the semis, Ohzeki bt Ann Christin Hellman 15, -13, -14, 17, 17 and Abe bt Brigitta Olsson 20, 17, 20. In the quarter-finals Ohzeki bt Banerjee (India), Hellman bt Violetta Nesukaitis (Canada—defending champion) 16, 9, 16; Abe bt Lena Andersson (Sweden) 16, 10, 18; and Olsson bt Solokhe (India) 15, -20, 9, 6. In the best 8ths match, it took Abe 5 games beat Olga Soltesz (Florida), who used to practice with Abe in Japan!

Men's doubles was won by the World Champions, Bengtsson and Johansson, beating Surbek and Stipanovic in the final -16, 10, 16, 18. In the semis the Swedish pair beat Hasegawa/Tasaka 20, 12, -12, 9, and the Yugoslavs beat Wikström/Thorsell 18, 14, 11. The latter pair pulled an upset in the quarters, beating Dua/Bajij (who recently won this event in a Nepal tournament) -23, -19, 17, 14, 7.

Women's doubles was won by Hellman and Olsson over Ohzeki/Abe 14, 14, -19, 19. Hasegawa/Abe won the mixed in which event their toughest match was in the semis against Vi Nesukaitis and Errol Caetano. It looked like the order would decide it—Errol and Vi lost the first close, won the second easily, lost the third close, took the 4th easily—then saw the Japanese pair open a big lead in the fifth. The Canadians rallied with some incredible hitting by Caetano, but fell short 21-19.

Beaten finalists were Dua/Banerjee, who went down -15, 18, -20.

Sweden won the Men's Team event over Japan. Tasaka bt Wikström in the first set 14, -11, 15; but after that it was Sweden—Bengtsson bt Hasegawa 21, 15; Johansson bt Takashima 12, 16; Wikström bt Hasegawa -7, 8, 17; Johansson bt Tasaka -21, 20, 17; and Bengtsson bt Takashima -10, 16, 19. Kjell proved he is human against Tasaka—he missed his own service three times at the end of the first game, then missed another to start the second!

Earlier, Sweden bt Yugoslavia 5-3 and Japan bt Yugoslavia 5-1. The U.S.A. came in 4th—we beat India for the first time ever! The score was 5-1. The Indian team earlier was tied 3-3 with Sweden, as Bengtsson was on the bench and Jayant beat Johansson—Sweden pulled it out 5-3. Jayant lost to Seemiller and Park in the U.S.A.—India match.

Japan won the Women's Team event with a 3-0 win over Sweden in the final. Canada was 3rd, beating India 3-0 and the U.S.A. 3-1. India beat the U.S.A. 3-0 for 4th place. One good win—Angelita Roasal, an American Indian, beat Tasuko Abe, so Japan's winning score against the U.S.A. was 3-1.

Junior men's singles was won by Roger Sverdluk, of New York, over Steven Feldstein, of Ontario, in the final. Junior Women's singles was won by Mariann Domanokos, of Quebec, over Birute Plucas, of Ontario.

I.M.P.A.C.T. 'Starmaster' U-14 Team Competition

by ALAN DINES

Reading's girls and the boys from the North Middlesex League were both clear winners of their events which were staged at the Meadway Sports Centre in Reading, on July 13. The competition was organised by the Institute of Match Play and Coaching Techniques (I.M.P.A.C.T.), and sponsored by Starmaster Sports Ltd. Teams consisted of four players all playing two singles in each team match. Fifteen boys' teams and nine girls' teams played in the competition.

The Reading girls' team of Karen Witt, Jill Purslow, Alison Gordon and Jo Douglas won all 6 of their team matches and finished with a 45 out of 48 average. Their main rivals were the Ormesby team who finished second. Thames Valley girls finished 3rd, Reading 'B' 4th and Swindon 5th.

The boys' event was convincingly won by the North Middlesex League quartet of D. Wells, A. Proffitt, B. Tyler and G. Sandley who triumphed 8-0 in all their matches. The remaining top placings were:—2, Ormesby; 3, Plymouth; 4, Reading; 5, Thames Valley; 6, Bristol and 7, Cheltenham.

The competition was a huge success and it will be staged annually. Interest has been expressed in the inclusion of teams from other countries, and consideration is being given to various alternatives. Would those interested write to me, at 37 Avalon Road, Reading, with their views on this and the duration of the competition. The photograph shows the promotion agreement being signed by Ted Dexter (seated), the former England cricket captain, with Gavin Gordon (left) both Starmaster Directors, and Alan Dines (right) I.M.P.A.C.T. Executive Technical Director.

MIDLAND LEAGUE NOTES

by RICHARD HABGOOD

NEW CHAIRMAN

At the 35th A.G.M. held in Birmingham on June 30, 1974, Don Pritchard, of Walsall, was elected to succeed the late Malcolm Scott as Chairman of the League.

Tribute was paid to Malcolm for his service to the League over all its 35-year history and likewise to Ernie Taylor, of Nottingham, whose sterling support will also be missed during the forthcoming season.

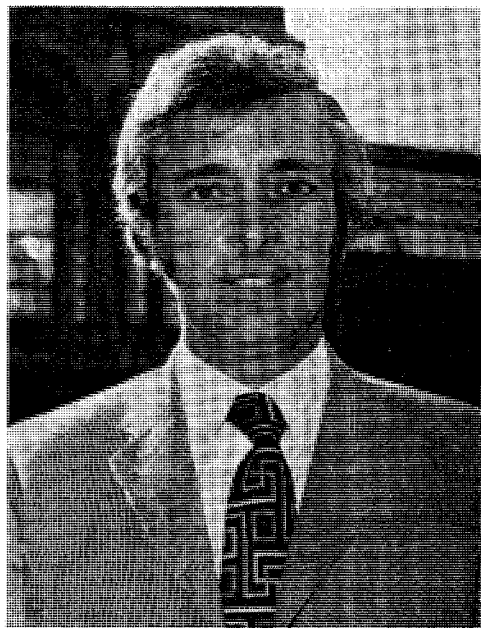
Bernard Yarnold (Coventry) was also elected to the Executive Committee joining Maurice Goldstein, Don Pritchard and myself as your officers for 1974-75.

Looking back to the meeting, it was finally decided that the Derby "A"—Chesterfield "B" result would stand, resulting in Leicester "B" taking the Men's Div. 2 title. This decision has no doubt pleased Colin Truman immensely—well done Fred!—if only for your own personal effort.

One final point arising from last season was the Midland "Closed" Championships, which at the last moment were called-off due to a regrettable series of events; last and not least being the non-availability of a suitable venue. It was a real tragedy, for I know how most of you thoroughly enjoy to play in the "Closed." The option to stage this season's Championships has gone to Derby, which leads me to their energetic chairman, Mike Yallop, who unfortunately has not enjoyed the best of health over the summer months. I am sure you all join me in sending him our best wishes.



Arrivals and Departures



ROY TAYLOR, THE NEW E.T.T.A. GENERAL SECRETARY.

Photo by Madison Public Relations, London N.W.1.

We extend a welcome to Roy Taylor, who took up his position of General Secretary of the Association in early September, succeeding Derek Tremayne who, as reported in the March issue of this magazine, takes up his new post as Director of Lilleshall National Sports Centre next month.

Roy, hailing from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, is married and has two sons, Mathew, aged 7, and Miles, aged 6. Carole, his wife (nee Hussey) represented Great Britain at swimming and for two years was ranked in the top ten in the World. Although now retired from top grade competitive swimming, she has successfully run her own swimming schools.

He comes to us from a Sports Centre near Leicester where he was Manager; the activities of the centre were squash, tennis, sailing and angling.

Having qualified as a physical education teacher, he started work at a boys' school in Nottinghamshire, after which he was appointed Head of Department at St. Albans College of Further Education, being responsible for the day and evening recreation programmes. He spent six years at the College before moving on to the staff of the North Midlands Region of the original C.C.P.R. (now the Sports Council), where he stayed for three years. Roy spent five years out of this country, first as a Director of Recreation for an American finance company based in Geneva, and latterly as Recreation Co-ordinator at an international private boarding school which housed 300 boys from all parts of the world, aged between 8 and 18.

While teaching at St. Albans he was the County Coach for basketball and produced a winning team in the National Under-15 Championships. At the same time he was an active

member of the college team that won the National League title.

Roy's sporting interests extend beyond basketball to tennis (while in Switzerland he worked with the Davis Cup players on their winter training programme) and cross-country. He also worked on a tennis coaching clinic with Jack Kramer. He assures us that his No. 1 sport is now table tennis!

His hobbies are backgammon, walking, music and reading.

Quite naturally, he has yet to formulate his overall plans, but he has said that he intends to devote a certain amount of his time in the early stages looking at matters which are so important to the "grass roots" of the sport, particularly in regard to local and regional development, playing facilities and the general acceptance of table tennis in schools as a major sport.

OPEN TOURNAMENTS

First foot on the 1974-75 tournament scene was the Essex Junior 2-Star played at Harlow over the weekend of Sept. 7-8. Predictable winner of the B.S. U-17 event was Mark Mitchell (Middlesex) with final victory over Martin Shuttle (Surrey).

Top money winner of the weekend was Essex No. 1 girl, Sandra Sutton, whose final U-17 G.S. victory was at the expense of Angela Tierney (Cleveland).

Up on Teesside the following weekend, Lancashire's No. 1, Nigel Hallows, did himself a power of good by winning the U-17 B.S. event in the Cleveland 2-Star Select, beating Ian Girdler (Surrey) in the final. Local hopes, Stephen "Sooty" Souther — the No. 1 seed — fell to Girdler and No. 2 seed, Robert Wiley, to Hallows.

Winner of the counterpart girls' event was Melody Ludi (Yorkshire), the new national No. 1, who beat Caroline Reeves (Berkshire) in the final.

In the first senior open of the season, the North Middlesex 2-Star, played at Alexandra Palace (Sept. 14-15), Denis Neale was at pains to dispose of Desmond Douglas in the final of the M.S., but Jill Hammersley, in the W.S., had a comfortable final victory over Linda Howard. Douglas came into his own in the U-19 B.S., beating Paul Day—only recently recovered from an appendix operation—and Miss Howard also tasted success in the U-19 G.S., beating Anita Stevenson in the final. Douglas and Miss Howard combined, in European Youth Championship style, to account for Neale and Karenza Mathews in the X.D. final.

Fuller reports with detailed scores will appear in the November issue.

HALEX PROFICIENCY AWARD SCHEME

This scheme, which now enjoys the sponsorship of Halex, has recently been featured on the television series of "Play the Game—Table Tennis." The badges for the various stages of the Award Scheme have been redesigned and the tests are designed to measure the skill of all classes of players. The new leaflets are now available from the National Awards Organiser, Mr. Jack Carrington, 71 Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex. (Phone: Shoeburyness 4771).

THE WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR T.T. CHAMPIONSHIPS '74-75

to be held at

THE P.E. CENTRE,
LOUGHBOROUGH COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION,

ASHBY ROAD, LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS.
DECEMBER 14-15, 1974

ENTRIES CLOSE, MONDAY, NOV. 11th, 1974
TO E.T.T.A., 21 CLAREMONT, HASTINGS,
EAST SUSSEX, TN34 1HA.

Events: U-17—BS, GS, BD, GD and XD.
U-14—B.S., GS.

Ascot-Butterfly Sponsorship

The "grass roots" of table tennis will have another sponsored event this season with the introduction of the Ascot/Butterfly National League Competition involving the Wilmott Cup, J.M. Rose Bowl, Carter Cup and Bromfield Trophy. The competition will be open to representative selections from any league affiliated to the English Table Tennis Association.

The term of sponsorship is three years and the event will be allocated £2,500 per annum, subject to reviews taking into account increases in number of entries and cost rises.

Ascot Sports, of Uckfield, are sole distributors in England of the Butterfly bats and rubber, among the most widely used by players in this country.

Geoff Seth, Ascot's Managing Director, said that his company had been looking for a long time for a way to help league players improve their game. By providing money to offset some of the cost involved in meeting opponents from other parts of the country, he felt that Ascot Sports were putting finance where it was most needed and that they were contributing to the well-being of table tennis in general.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

CASTING THE NET

With the secession of Middlesbrough (and, in particular, Ormesby T.T.C.) from Yorkshire and the formation of Cleveland, the County is now casting the net wide to trap any talent which has previously been overshadowed by the high standards set by Ormesby over the past five or six years. As far as the junior boys are concerned, only Brian Baxter has County match experience, but we are confident that our boys, backed by Melody Ludi and Julie McLean, will still provide strong competition in the Junior Premier Division.

Five county coaching sessions, for players up to the age of 20, of proven Yorkshire League standard, have been arranged during the season. Directed by 3-Star Diploma Coach, Hans Soova, the first was at York on Sept 22; the remaining sessions are as follows:—

Sunday, Nov. 3, '74, at Herringthorpe Leisure Centre, Rotherham (12-30 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.); Sunday, Nov. 24, '74, Sunday, Jan. 26, '75, and Sunday, Mar. 23, '75, all at Bradford Parkside Sports Centre (11-00 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

An attendance fee of 30p per session will be charged, and further information is available from County Coaching Secretary, Alan Cram, 8 Heath Drive, Boston Spa, Yorkshire (Home Tel.: 0937-842829, Office Tel.: 0532-458025) to whom nominations for the sessions should be sent.

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

by R. Bridges

CONTROVERSY

Great controversy split the Hertfordshire Association's Annual Meeting in June when the great "WORLDS 77" fund was debated and on a very close decision Harry Stevens carried all the County's vote and most of the Leagues in to the E.T.T.A. A.G.M., to vote in favour of the levy. A pity it didn't pass, but let us hope that Lou Hoffman's raffle makes enough to make the event financially viable, since the same members who rejected the levy also committed the E.T.T.A. to holding the event.

Would the decision have been different if the order of the agenda had not been altered?

Matters also subject of the Herts A.G.M. was appointment of officers, and no great change on this front—Aubrey Seaholme elected as President; Jack Lilley—Chairman; Jack Thompson—Treasurer; Harry Stevens—Secretary; Cecile Booth and John Stroulger—Junior and Senior Match Secretaries, the latter also Club Competition Secretary; John Jeffs keeps the Inter-League Competition and Bob Bridges is Umpires' Secretary.

John Jermyn, one of last season's hardest workers, did not seek re-election.

The hottest news in these notes concerns the finals of the Herts Club Championships—hot in the sense that the June weather did not really lend itself to table tennis. John Stroulger salvaged the competition late in the season and it is a credit to him that the finals were played before the start of next season at all.

The Open Section final was contested by Waltham Cross and Hertford at Cheshunt Boys' and Youth Club, with the Waltham Cross side clinching victory 5-4 despite a maximum by Mark Mitchell for Hertford. Dave Jemmett, Colin Jackson and Derek Wood succeeded for the victors and Alan Lamprell and John Williams completed the Hertford team.

The Intermediate final was played a week before the Open at the fine new sports complex of the Cheshunt (Cricket) Club where Hoddesdon Lawn Tennis Club scraped home 5-4 over Crossfield in a match lasting well after midnight. Leci Farkas, Ted Gibbs and Dave Pine won Hoddesdon their third major honour of the season (having already won Cheshunt Div. 3 and Intermediate K.O.) Mick Wilkins, Mick Holland and Mike Carter were on the unfortunate receiving end!

It is with regret that, to end these notes, I have to report the passing away of A. D. J. (Gus) Ratcliffe in June. He was a life vice-president of the Association and still took an active part in the County, twenty years on from his days as Junior Secretary and Captain.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

DISQUIETING

A rather quiet close season in Leicestershire with nothing very sensational happening at any of the various A.G.M.'s within the county.

I little bit disquieting is the fact that both the largest leagues in the county have a drop in teams. In the Leicester League there will be 15 divisions instead of last season's 18, but this is not regarded as serious. After all, it would just not be possible to increase every year! Loughborough, too, will not be very perturbed that they have lost one division, bringing the number down to four.

The County were pleased to have three

representatives at the recent European Youth Championships—Karen and Chris Rogers and Anita Stevenson. The new system—or rather reverting back to the old system—for County Premier Junior matches has created a few problems in the hunting shire, one being that we shall have to find another captain. Colin Truman had agreed to carry out these duties in addition to those of captain of the 2nd Division Midland side but this he will now be unable to do.

There are high hopes that Steven White will be able to accept—a very popular choice he would be. John Bowness has filled the post for the past three seasons and has been notably successful. Not only has he proved a fine and respected captain but he has been able to put Leicestershire T.T. Association—Leicester T.T. League relations on a much happier basis than had been the case in the previous few years.

It is no secret that on occasions relationships between the Leicester League and County Association have tended to become a little tense—John Bowness has, in his own quiet effective way, made an important contribution in achieving the happier state of affairs which now exist. John, too, has relinquished the post of County Umpires' Secretary. He would have been prepared to carry on in this position if no successor could be found, but fortunately Ian McKelvey was only too happy to volunteer and is already making his presence felt. Following a recent Management Meeting, an informal meeting of the Selection Committee was held in the "Royal Mail," a local hostelry well frequented by local players. No minutes were taken of the meeting but much valuable discussion came out in these less formal surroundings and it is something which may well be tried again in the near future.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ralph Gunnion

WORLD CHAMPS IN BIRMINGHAM

With the backing of the country given to the English Association to confirm its option of staging the 1977 "World's", and that decision meaning that the National Exhibition Centre at Bickenhill will be the venue, an exciting period will ensue for all those in Warwickshire over the next two or three years.

Situated just a stone's throw from Birmingham Airport and 5 minutes from the M6, the N.E.C. will be an excellent venue, providing easy access from all over the country. In addition a new railway station is also being constructed completing a first class supply of transport facilities to and from the centre.

The decision to confirm the option of staging the "World's" leads me on to discuss the players' levy which was supported by the county and rejected by the country. This ludicrous situation is preposterous and only confirms that the majority of the T.T. fraternity are intent on keeping the position of Table Tennis as a small-time sport. The measure of support given by the Birmingham Association in supporting the levy (25p per player per registration over the next three seasons) should have been repeated all over the country for these sums would have provided the English Association with a useful guarantee and working fund for all the pre-organising costs that no doubt will accrue.

Instead there will now be a voluntary contribution collected by the Leagues. This will be a very unfair system against those who do contribute and those who do not—words fail me for this small attitude by those Leagues with not enough vision for the future.

Happily, I am able to report that one of the more enterprising Clubs in Birmingham, Handsworth Victoria, have plans to stage three discotheques during the coming seasons in aid of the "Fund"—I hope that there are other Clubs and individuals who follow with activities aimed at contributing to the "Fund."

The World Championships coming to Birmingham should bring immense benefit to all our Leagues and thus affords an excellent

opportunity to each and every member to sell our game during the intervening months. When you consider that our own Desmond Douglas will probably spearhead the England team the stage is set for everyone to act as a "P.R." man for table tennis.

The start of the season sees Maurice Kriss succeeding George Huxham as President of the Association. Maurice will long be remembered as a fine player having represented the County on numerous occasions. Tribute should be paid to George for many years' stalwart service to the game within the County.

Our first matches take in Glamorgan (Senior A), Leicestershire (Junior A) and Staffordshire (Vets.). Selection of these teams will take place following the Trials which are being held on Sept. 14/15. If we are to take any major honours this season, much will depend upon the availability of Douglas, who missed three matches last season through international commitments. At the same time we are anxious to regain our Junior Premier status but if our Juniors are not prepared to travel to the tournaments, then the experience gained from such competition will not be forthcoming to themselves and to the County.

For long enough the standard of our girl players has been very indifferent. With this in mind "Andy" Jones has been doing a great job with weekly coaching sessions during the summer period. I hope the fruits of such devotion will begin to show fruition during the forthcoming months.

Congratulations are extended to Brian Burn and his fiance, Linda, who are getting married in Bournemouth on Oct. 1. We extend to you both the very best wishes for now and the future years to come. Brian should just about have recovered by then from a very hectic summer, having spent seven weeks coaching in Malaya during his school holidays and at the same time finalising all the arrangements necessary for his new home in Kingsbury, North London.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by J. E. Cooper

WHO'S BEEN HIBERNATING?

Not Vanessa Cruwys, of Cheltenham, who on April 27 showed she was the best under-13 in the Region and on the 25th May was 5th in the E.T.T.A. National finals.

Not the Gloucester lads who took part in June in two matches with Trowbridge. Not Paul Webb and Derrek Morgan who have been taking part in Regional Panel events to try and get a national ranking.

Not those who took part on July 13 in the Reading Invitation tournament for Under-14's namely D. Morgan, K. Johnson and Joanna Baughan, of Gloucester; A. Golding, Susan Giles and Jackie Earwaker, of Stroud; R. Wolfe and K. Morris, of Bristol, and Vanessa Cruwys, G. Slack, J. Turner and A. Berry, of Cheltenham. The combined boys' teams came 5th and 6th out of 16 teams.

Not the Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud girls and boys who took part in a mini-tournament of selected matches in Gloucester on July 17, or the residential weekend held at Cheltenham Y.M.C.A. at the end of August with Bryan Merrett and Peter Cruwys when a run before breakfast was the order of the day plus other strenuous activities. These events were useful get-togethers for the pupils and coaches in the County.

Not Cheltenham where the Summer League was extended from 1 to 2 divisions by popular demand.

Not at Stroud where their summer coaching scheme has produced Jane Simms to become "Girl of the Week" at Butlins.

Not Paul Lewis, of Bristol, who was Butlin's "Boy of the Week" at Minehead.

Not yours truly, who remains to write these notes and help coach the Gloucester juniors.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

RUTH THE CHALLENGER

This year sees Cambridgeshire again having two teams in the County Championships. The first team will have all last season's players available and it seems certain that Paul Day, Michael Harper and Keith Richardson will again occupy the three Men's positions. Linda Woodcock and Sally Hirst did not have their places seriously threatened last season, but there could be two serious challenges this time. Valerie Scripps, who has played for Hertfordshire for many seasons and who now lives at Melbourn, will be available for selection. Valerie, who along with Sally Hirst, was a member of the Cambridge Women's team that won the S.E.M. League last season, is a very experienced player and will be a valuable asset to the County squad. The other player who will be challenging for a place is 15-year-old Ruth Newman, whose improvement last season culminated in her taking the Women's Singles title at the County Championships. Although Division 2 East will not be as strong as last season, with only five counties competing, Cambs will be fully tested, yet this state of affairs may see them taking the title.

The Juniors, who will be starting their third season in the Junior Premier Division, are in the happy position of having all last season's players available. I feel that it will again be a struggle to hold on to their place in the top flight, but bearing in mind last season's performances I am sure that they will be able to do so. As Berkshire and Lancashire have now been promoted in place of Warwickshire and Suffolk, Cambridgeshire will have to do well against these two counties to hold on to their position. Cambridgeshire will once again look to England Junior Champion, Paul Day, and Keith Richardson for the majority of their wins, but will be given good support by Ruth Newman and the Ellis twins, Carol and Susan.

This season the Cambs League will comprise eight divisions, involving 96 teams and once again Soham will be all out to retain their title. Soham, who have won the Division 1 Championship for the past two seasons, are again the firm favourites. At the end of last season, besides winning Division 1, Soham also won the Handicap K.O. Trophy, by beating Royston 9-1 and it is a pity that the latter team have failed to enter the League this season. Fire Brigade and Telephones were demoted from Division 1, whilst Fisons and University II were promoted from Division 2.

Cambridge won the East Anglian League for the second consecutive season, although they had a much tougher task last season and it was only by beating Wisbech 9-1 and Lowestoft 9-1 that they were able to clinch the title. John Thurston, who manages the team, must be congratulated on this success.

Once again the Juniors showed their strength by taking most of the honours in the Cambs Closed Championships. Day, predictably, won a hat-trick of titles, but other members of the County Junior Team also played well and pride of place must go to Ruth Newman (then 14), who beat Linda Woodcock in the Women's Singles. Besides defeating Linda, she also beat Sally Hirst on her way to the title. Although well beaten by Day in the Men's Singles, Richardson fully justified his position as No. 2 Seed by reaching the final for the first time. Even from the lesser players of the Junior Team there were good performances. Wisbech's Tony Holmes and Derrick Kiddle, who played for the County second team, put out Alan Ponder and Paul Chisnall in the Men's Doubles to put an end to the Cambridge pair's run of success in this event. Another second team player, Geoffrey Davis, also did well by disposing of Stephen Andrews, the No. 6 Seed, in the Men's Singles.

Cambridge players had little success in the S.E.M. League Championships, the only player to really succeed being Ruth Newman, who, partnered by Ann Wallis, of Wellingborough, won the Junior Girls' Doubles. John Thurston

lost a 3-game semi-final to Firoz Nilam, of Dunstable, who went on to win the M.S. title.

At the A.G.M. of the Cambs T.T.A. Margaret Cornwell was again elected Secretary/Treasurer, with husband John again being elected National Councillor. Bill Rogerson is once more President, but the very small attendance at this meeting was most disturbing as it meant that there were only a limited number of people eligible for election to the various offices.

The A.G.M. of the Cambridge League, held at the University Press, was attended by quite a number of clubs and, although encouraging, there is still room for improvement. I am continuing in the capacity of Hon. General Secretary, with Tony Brotchie as League Sec. and Treasurer. Bill Rogerson was re-elected as President of this League, Geoff Waters Chairman and Pat O'Bryne as Match and Coaching Secretary.

In July Cambs Juniors kept their eye in with a friendly match against Middlesex and the indefatigable Ian Marshall ran a mini-tournament at Wisbech.

Following all the Junior activity a new ranking list has been completed for the coming season, and for the purpose of County squad training sessions, it has been divided into juniors (under-17) and cadets (under-14).

Junior Boys:

- (1) P. Day (Ely)
- (2) K. Richardson (Ely)
- (3) B. Richardson (Ely)
- (4) A. Holmes (Wisbech)
- (5) D. Kiddle (Wisbech)
- (6) G. Davis (Wisbech)
- (7) M. Crowson (Wisbech)
- (8) T. Ward (Wisbech)
- (9) R. Claringbold (Ely)

Cadet Boys:

- (1) A. Hubble (Wisbech)
- (2) A. Withers (Haverhill)
- (3) S. Calvert (Wisbech)
- (4) D. Jarvis (Wisbech)
- (5) J. West (Wisbech)
- (6) A. Hunter (Wisbech)

Junior Girls:

- (1) R. Newman (Cambridge)
- (2) S. Ellis (Cambridge)
- (3) C. Ellis (Cambridge)
- (4) P. Tingey (Wisbech)
- (5) V. Rowell (Wisbech)

Cadet Girls:

- (1) J. Palmer (Ely)
- (2) J. Hunter (Wisbech)
- (3) H. Thorlby (Wisbech)
- (4) E. Burgess (Wisbech)

Owing to the dearth of juniors, Cambridge have not entered the Carter Cup this season, but teams are being entered in the Wilmott Cup, Rose Bowl and Bromfield Trophy competitions. Cambridge have also entered teams in the South East Midlands League and the East Anglian League. It is hoped that the junior position will improve during this season, although Coaching Secretary Pat O'Bryne has a very big job on his hands, but we can only hope!

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

END OF AN ERA

In Norfolk, it is truly the end of an era, for that great team of administrators, Gerry Rix and Eric Fairhead, have decided to hand over to younger men.

Gerry was present at the inaugural meeting of Norwich League in 1935, and became its Chairman in 1938-39. He was also present at the inaugural meeting of the Norfolk County Association held at Avenue Road School, Norwich, on Friday, 4th July, 1947. Of this, too, he became Chairman in 1947-48, and held both offices until last season, 1973-74.

Again, he was present at the inauguration of the East Anglian League of Leagues. Of this

he was founder-Chairman, and remained so for several seasons. Gerry has seen Norwich League rise from one division of ten clubs with about 60 players to ten divisions with some 1,200. During his Chairmanship five international matches were staged by the League. But 73-year-old Gerry has not been allowed to retire completely. At the County A.G.M. he was elected President for the next two seasons!

What of Eric Fairhead? His genial presence was first introduced to Norwich League play at the Falcon Inn in 1937-38. Next season he became club secretary, then in 1939-40 he joined the Norwich committee as a Divisional Secretary. He remained one until 1953-54, when he was elected to the Executive Committee. He continued on this until 1967-68, after which he became Vice-Chairman. He was also on the Inter-League Team Sub-Committee from 1953 to 1965.

But it is as County Secretary that many will remember him best. Here he was a tower of strength. He started in 1947-48 and remained Secretary for 26 seasons. With Gerry, he travelled all over the county and many thousands of miles on away matches, also representing the County Association at numerous social functions. In addition, the pair officiated at innumerable championships and A.G.M's. Eric was a practical man, and often carried his own portable lighting to clubrooms without proper facilities. We must not forget to add that he was also for a time a National Councillor.

At the Norwich League A.G.M. in May, Gerry was presented with a Parker-Knoll armchair, and Eric received a very fine radiogram. In addition the Committee presented each with a Meakin poppy-design dinner service.

The new Chairman of Norwich League is Gordon Whitwood, a committee member for the past 20 seasons and chiefly a divisional secretary and umpires' organiser. He tells me: "The accent will be on Youth!"

Trevor Betts, a former Chairman of Dereham League, becomes the new County Chairman. Our new Secretary is Derek Aldous, formerly County Treasurer from 1967-68. He has also been on the Norwich committee since 1965-66 and is now its Vice-Chairman in succession to Eric. David Skedje, of Norwich, succeeds Derek as Treasurer.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Doug Moss

SPORTSWOMAN SUPREME

The most important event since the end of last season was the presentation to Joyce Lloyd on achieving the unique and wonderful record of having played for Worcestershire on 100 occasions. A most enjoyable social function was held at the Vauxhall Inn, Worcester, mine hostess being Diane Turberfield, a former County team player. The presentation was made by John Wright, Secretary of the County Championships. Joyce sets a great example by her sportsmanship, team spirit and determination. She has a record of over 60% wins and her results are still improving! Joyce headed the averages for Division II (West) of the County Championships last season.

The County continues with 4 teams in the Championships. The 1st team is again in Div. II (West) with the 2nd team in the Western Division. There is extreme disappointment with the programme for the 2nd team because, despite views expressed at the Championships A.G.M., and a subsequent postal vote favouring 8 matches (4 home and 4 away), it seems there will only be 4 matches, which seems an inadequate programme.

The County Junior team are in the Western Division and the Veterans battle on again with the hope of being able to strengthen the team this season. Simon Claxton, the 15-year-old, who has been gaining valuable experience playing with Bryan Belcher and Mervyn Wood in the Birmingham Summer League, was

Continued on page 21

IN THE COACHING FIELD

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

This summer, whilst doing the rounds of the preliminary training camps resulting in nominations being made for the Assessment Camps at Lilleshall, I spent many hours in discussion with the coaches. Although I am usually accused of doing most of the talking, on these occasions I had to do more listening than is normally expected of me.

This was because, besides the threats of instant annihilation if I didn't, more coaches are becoming more involved due to the creation of the Panels, and are therefore more interested in events outside their own regions.

The Panel system formulated to train players on a national scale, means that the number of students being scrutinised by the National Coaches, and hence being considered for final assessment, runs into many hundreds. These Panel squads are made up from juniors who have done their basic training as members of smaller groups.

It is with the coaches of these smaller groups that I have been chatting, or should I say listening to. If one or more of the juniors training with a group forges ahead of his fellow pupils, how can one judge whether the player does not just appear strong because the local opposition is weak? And how does one cope if such players are nominated to say a County Squad where he could be out of his class.

If the player has been exposed to the rigours of the tournament circuit, where he would have already met his contemporaries, the question would not arise. The onus must rest with the coach to visit the squads and determine for himself what standard would be expected from any player nominated. The coach could always offer his services for these squads, and see at first hand the standard required.

It would also be of benefit to attend such "Coaches' Conferences" as was held in Birmingham on June 23, with speakers including Derek Tremayne, Mike Lawless, Peter Simpson, Mike Johns and Ralph Gunnion, each talking on the subject relevant to their particular interest in table tennis.

The work involved in arranging these gatherings requires a great deal of time and the success is relevant to how much thought is put into the arrangements.

FURTHER AFIELD

On this count Barry Hayward must be congratulated, but I would ask him to extend the invitations further afield, if he envisages any other such meetings, for I have been informed by other coaches outside his area that they, too, would have liked to have been in attendance.

The preliminary camp held at Billingham must rank as one of the biggest ever held in the country. With over 100 juniors attending from Panels 8, 9 and 10 using 31 tables in four interconnecting gymnasiums it must have been. All the participants, with the exception of the locals who swept home, were housed at Billingham Forum, and were ferried to and from the training centre by a fleet of cars and mini buses.

Two of these camps were held over the weekends of June 14-16 and 28-30 and after analysing the results the chosen boys and girls were recommended to attend the assessment camp at Lilleshall.

At the camp held over the first weekend it was interesting to note there were no fewer than four 3-Star and four 2-Star coaches amongst many 1-Star and club coaches.

Both weekends were not only ambitious, but were invaluable to the players who came into contact with other juniors from all over the North of England with whom they would not normally have the chance to train.

Following on the Billingham camps I was invited to attend a special training camp at Millom School in Cumbria organised by John Reed, the chairman of Panel 8. From the results obtained at Teesside 14 boys of top standard were invited to attend a week of pressure training prior to the Lilleshall assessment camp.

There were a couple of exceptions in that two of the local boys were included to gain experience of top level junior play. A deposit of £3 was extracted from each boy attending the course from which fines were extracted at the rate of 10p per misdemeanour. A strict record was kept of the fines imposed and the reasons. Against one name I noticed the letters "Q.N." I queried this to be informed, after a moment's thought by John Reed—"Oh yes, he was making a Queer Noise during physical training."

Other fines were imposed for turning up late for sessions, mishandling of equipment and for not returning the ball at the end of any period involving play. To receive a new ball if the current one cracked required the damaged carcass to be returned or you were debited for the new ball. It was amazing how few balls went astray.

The training was run to a programme to which all had to adhere to the minute. This included tape recordings controlling the physical training, and coded adhesive tapes (different colours) with instructions on the use of the Stiga Robot. Any programme could be set by the pupil just by reference to the tapes.

Besides the usual training runs through the local countryside, swimming in the sea and rivers was also included in the programme (the last one in the water was fined 10p)!

HARD CAMP

I would say in respect of energy expended that this was a hard camp. Nonetheless the juniors appeared to be enjoying it judging by the smiling faces. I even saw Martin Barry relax a face muscle! I don't think it was just me breeding happiness wherever I go, but hard work can be enjoyed and this camp must have proved beneficial.

From Millom I next travelled to Lilleshall and spent a day finding out how some of this year's crop of hopefuls were faring under Bryan Merrett and Colin Henderson, together with Mrs. Colin Henderson, who looks more like Sue Howard to me.

On the day I was there match play was in progress and I witnessed some excellent table tennis. The squad was more or less self-contained in Ford Hall. After witnessing the standard of play it became apparent that those

who eventually made the final trials would have achieved a great deal regardless of their performances at Lilleshall.

It was obvious from both the Millom and Lilleshall camps just how smoothly matters can proceed when a prepared programme is adhered to.

With the number of training camps that the more successful juniors may be called upon to attend it means that more and more money must be found from one source or another. Hire of premises, accommodation and travel immediately spring to mind, and although it has been mentioned before, it may serve to refresh the memory that financial assistance is often available from local authorities. Juniors between the age of 14 and 18 can obtain a certificate of identity from the E.T.T.A. to allow them to travel at the U-14 rate by British Rail. They must, of course, be travelling to an official E.T.T.A. function but further information regarding this concession can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. offices at Hastings.

At last I have seen juniors sporting the new Halex Proficiency Award badges. Have you seen the new forms yet?

INCENTIVES

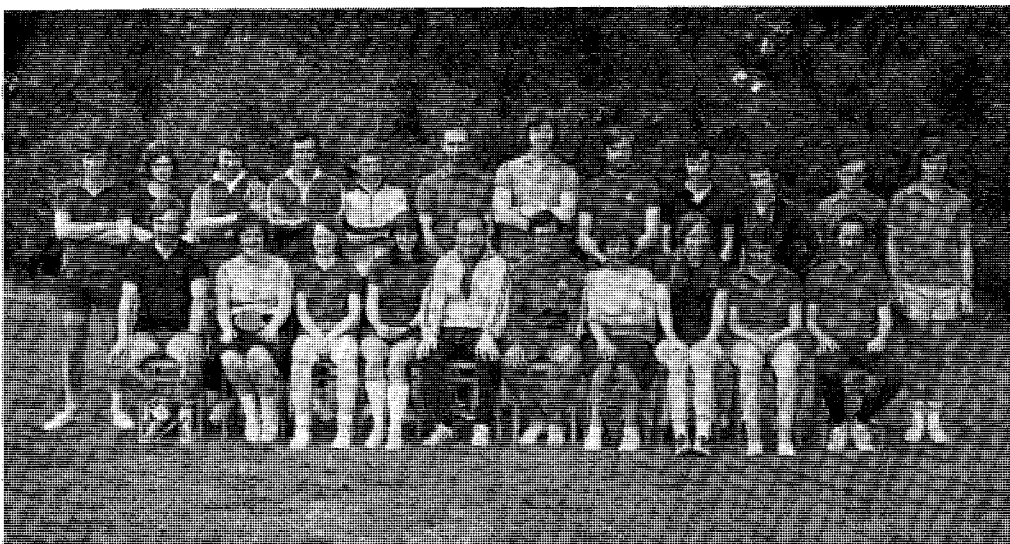
The number of awards for last season up to Mar. 31 comprised 1,875 bronze, 334 silver and 19 gold. These awards can be great incentives to the juniors and the syllabus can help any coach in arranging a training programme for a beginners' course.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will see a report on the coaching films made by the Gerard Holdsworth Company. These can be very helpful, especially as an introduction to beginners, and I can see a very good use in gaining interest of Headmasters to have table tennis introduced into the school as more than just a recreational pastime.

I must admit that I have never heard Shrewsbury and table tennis mentioned before, but Mike Beaman plus his helpers, Mike Rouen and Norman Maycock, have started coaching sessions at a youth club on three nights per week.

They have already achieved success at a local level and two of their players are representing the Midlands in the national finals of the National Association of Boys' Clubs. Others have represented Shrewsbury at Midland League (Junior) and inter-town levels.

Bryan Merrett and Horst Bergemann officiated at the Exeter University course which ran from July 21-28, at which great interest was shown in the Halex Proficiency Award Scheme which produced 8 bronze and 6 silver awards. I know a number of coaches who think the scheme is only for children. Well, judge for yourself from those depicted in the photograph from Exeter. The children don't look all that young to me!



THE STIGA NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

by JOHN PIKE

On a warm June day, more suited to cricket than table tennis, the finals of the Stiga National Club Championships at Loughborough, went very much according to the form book. Ormesby and Gainsford again won the top two awards but there was so much more to the day than that.

Stiga, for instance, sent out a message from this East Midland outpost to those clubs who have so far shown little interest in this competition. It was simple and to the point, and merely said, enter your club side this season. Stiga have the money and the interest and now it is up to the clubs to give these new sponsors their full support. The players and officials I spoke to at Loughborough could not speak too highly of the new image Stiga had brought to these championships.

The conditions at Loughborough were ideal and perhaps this was the reason we saw so much good table tennis. Reg Billson and his helpers did a magnificent job, and one can only say how lucky Leicestershire are at having a venue of this standing.

Making a prompt start at 10-30, the semi-finals got underway with an excited, but rather smaller crowd than expected. Incidentally the prize for the best supported team went to Reading Y.M.C.A. with Fellows Cranleigh coming a close second. This decision was reversed when the two teams met with Fellows Cranleigh running out easy 5-0 winners in the men's section. After strolling into a 4-0 lead, Ian Horsham, 2, David Brown and Ian Robertson one each, Fellows Cranleigh completed their nap hand, but not before Simon Heaps had come so close to beating Ian Robertson. With so little to choose between these two players, this set rated one of the highlights of the day and with the score reading -20, 20, 19, you will see why.

In the other semi-final we saw the holders, Ormesby, crush Mary Swanwick Y.C. by the same margin, but how well these Chesterfield lads played against all the odds. Of course, they did well to get to Loughborough, but when you see players like Denis Neale and Nicky Jarvis at the other end of the table, you can only think it is the taking part that counts, not the winning. With the England pair taking two each, Jimmy Walker completed the rout with a win over Eric Hall. From one England team to another, in other words, Ormesby to Gainsford, and again the international class told from the start in their match with Gatley Y.M.C.A. Shelagh Hession, Karenza Mathews and Jill Hammersley gave the holders of the women's trophy a 3-0 lead before Karenza was hard pushed to get the better of Diane Johnson 18, -20, 20. Susan Lisle then gave the Stockport side their only success with a good win over Shelagh Hession, before Jill Hammersley made short work of Doreen Schofield.

Not to be outdone by their men's team, Fellows Cranleigh also booked their final ticket with a 5-3 win over Chesterfield Y.M.C.A. I think it is worth saying at this point, how well Fellows Cranleigh did to get two teams into the final and also full marks to the Chesterfield League for getting two teams to Loughborough.

The semi-final itself, however, did not start well for the London trio, with Jackie Billington and Mandy Mellor quickly putting the underdogs from Derbyshire two up. Janet Hellaby changed all this with a close win over Sandra Walters and from then on Fellows Cranleigh looked the better side with wins coming from Lesley Radford, 2, another one for Janet, and one for Elaine Tarten. Lunch was taken and the scene was then set for the



One for the road at Loughborough after the finals and sporting their presentation tankards (l to r) Dick Johnson, Reg Billson, Brian Hearn (Stiga Co.), Keith Ponting and John Pike.

Photo by J. F. Cockayne, Kegworth.

finals of the 1974 Stiga National Club Championships.

Shelagh Hession opened the proceedings in the women's final with a narrow win over Elaine Tarten and this was quickly followed by Jill Hammersley beating Janet Hellaby. Lesley Radford then played very well before losing to Karenza Mathews, but this, I am afraid, was really the end for a game, but outclassed, Fellows Cranleigh side. Elaine Tarten and Janet Hellaby concluded things by losing to Jill Hammersley and Shelagh Hession respectively and so Gainsford again proved they are by far and away, the best club side in England with this resounding 5-0 victory.

The men's final finished the same way with Fellows Cranleigh going down by the same margin against the holders, Ormesby. Brown put up a spirited display before losing narrowly to Walker, but then Neale showed all his England class to dispose of Robertson. Horsham took Jarvis to three before Neale stepped in again to gain an easy win over Brown. Walker sealed it for the holders but not before Horsham had given his all. It was 23-21 in the decider and they do not come any closer than that. Following the team awards, a reception was held at the University and it was here that Brian Hearn, the Export Marketing Manager of Stiga, presented tankards to Reg Billson, Dick Johnson, Keith Ponting, and myself, for our involvement in this year's championships. It was a nice gesture.

As the players left Loughborough, one could only reflect on what a fine season this had been, and I hope when the first round draw is made for this year's event, we shall see a lot more teams giving Stiga the sort of support they deserve.

STIGA-ORMESBY CUP SEMI-FINALS

Fellows Cranleigh v Reading Y.M.C.A.

- I. Robertson bt P. Trott 17, 15; bt S. Heaps -20, 20, 19.
- I. Horsham bt R. Rosinski 14, 16; bt P. Trott 15, 15.
- D. Brown bt S. Heaps 13, 16.

Mary Swanwick Y.C. v Ormesby

- M. Billington lost to N. Jarvis -22, -15; lost to D. Neale -8, -15.

- E. Hall lost to J. Walker -13, -18; lost to N. Jarvis -11, -10.
- M. Askham lost to D. Neale -9, -10.

FINAL

Ormesby v Fellows Cranleigh

- J. Walker bt D. Brown 18, 19; bt I. Horsham 19, -20, 21.
- D. Neale bt I. Robertson 16, 8; bt D. Brown 12, 12.
- N. Jarvis bt I. Horsham -14, 16, 13.

STIGA-GAINSFORD CUP SEMI-FINALS

Fellows Cranleigh v Chesterfield Y.M.C.A.

- E. Tarten lost to J. Billington -16, -17; bt S. Walters 19, -17, 14.
- L. Radford lost to M. Mellor 13, -11, -11; bt J. Billington 9, 11; bt S. Walters 13, 8.
- J. Hellaby bt S. Walters -18, 19, 18; lost to M. Mellor -20, -19; bt J. Billington 17, -21, 13.

Gainsford v Gatley Y.M.C.A.

- S. Hession bt D. Johnson 15, 19; lost to S. Lisle -15, -15.
- K. Mathews bt D. Schofield 13, 8; bt D. Johnson 18, -20, 20.
- J. Hammersley bt S. Lisle 13, 18; bt D. Schofield 10, 8.

FINAL

Gainsford v Fellows Cranleigh

- S. Hession bt E. Tarten -18, 15, 19; bt J. Hellaby 10, 9.
- J. Hammersley bt J. Hellaby 13, 13; bt E. Tarten 11, 18.
- K. Mathews bt L. Radford -16, 19, 16.

Changes of Address

Jill Hammersley has recently moved to 10 Kashmir Close, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 3JD. (Phone: Weybridge 52540).

Jack and Elsie Carrington are now located at 71 Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex. (Phone: Shoeburyness 4771). Persons having Proficiency Award papers to send in should note this important change of address.

County Notes

Continued from page 16

unbeaten playing for the 2nd team last season and will obviously be a strong contender for a senior team place. Derek Baddeley, Belcher, Nick Bottomley, Bob Brown and Wood were established players and acquitted themselves well last season.

It is to be hoped that Mike Sykes will regain his form and confidence. Joyce Lloyd will be setting out to add to her 100 performances. Janet Hunt was very successful in the 1st team last season and won the County Women's Singles title. Diana Moss has played 49 times for the County and will hope to complete her half-century. Sheila Foley improved a great deal with more experience of County representative matches. Maureen Allchurch is a player of quality and potential but there is a question mark on her availability. It will be interesting to see whether Pat Woodward and Jill Watte, who have played their last season as Juniors, will be able to make any impact against the more experienced players.

There has been a wholesale change in the senior officials of the Worcester League. Den Rowley, who has a wonderful record of 40 years' service with the League, has relinquished the onerous task of being Chairman and Secretary. Frank Southam, who has achieved so much in the coaching field, has been appointed Chairman. Diana Moss, a former Secretary of the League, has taken on these duties again and it is extremely pleasant to have Dick Guise, who is a legend in the Worcester area for his remarkable performances in the past in the Midland and Western Leagues, as Treasurer.

Apart from his table tennis exploits Dick was 7 times Worcs. Tennis Champion, a regular player at Wimbledon, and later played to a 3 handicap at golf! He has now jumped into the deep end in the administrative field by also taking on the Treasurership of the County Association. This follows the decision of Ian Crickmer, who has been an official of the County Association since its formation in 1952, not to accept re-election. At the Worcester A.G.M., in recognition of his service to the League, Mr. George Goode was appointed a Life Member of the League.

The following were the results of the Halesowen League Championships held at the end of last season:—

Men's Singles—

Champion — Mervyn Wood.
Runner-up — R. Underhill.

Men's Doubles—

Champions — D. Moore/J. Parker.
Runners-up — R. Underhill/J. Stafford

Junior Singles—

Champion — K. Hackett.
Runner-up — P. Talbot.

The Kidderminster League has undertaken to give more support to the County Association next season. It is to be hoped that all Leagues will join in accepting their joint responsibilities in running the affairs of the County Association.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

FORMIDABLE TRIO

At one time the first edition of Northants Notes heralded a flurry of activity, as the new season gathered momentum after the long summer break. Now we find, that in addition to looking forward to the new season, it is essential to tie up last year's loose ends, while also recording the close season's features.

Rothborough certainly took the last, but not the least, of the honours, when they convincingly beat UTC 'A', of Northampton, in the final of the County Cup. Kevin and Gary Alden, together with team captain Graham Feakin, thoroughly deserved their success.

Earlier, this formidable young trio had twice been beaten in both Wellingborough's league and cup by Kettering Town, who went on to complete a fine league and cup double. John Palmer, Terry Sutton and Dennis Millman, having previously won the league, survived a pulsating match against Compton Nomads, to take the Wellingborough Handicap Challenge Cup for the second year in succession, but the player of the night was Phil Snelling, who took all his three singles in a superb sustained performance.

The most interesting tournament in the County is the one staged annually at Rothborough, towards the close of the season. Here nearly a hundred players, from four leagues, meet over five nights in a handicap competition. Entrants to this event, run on a group basis, include top County players and raw beginners, with the handicappers doing an excellent job under very difficult circumstances.

All group winners qualify for "Finals Night" when in addition to the singles a draw is made for an extra doubles event. 1974 produced one of the most successful of these ventures, particularly as the final was played by the host club's Alden brothers, with Kevin again getting the better of younger brother Gary in an intriguing match.

Results:—Kevin Alden (-8) bt Andrew Cull (+1) 14, 15.

Semi-finals: Gary Alden (-5) bt Dennis Millman (-4) 17, 18.

Final: Kevin Alden bt Gary Alden 10, 19.

Doubles Final: Phil Snelling and Ian Gilbert (-1) beat Steve West and David Wilson (2) -18, 16, 15.

During the summer, the lack of a Senior Match Secretary seemed for a time to put the County's future in jeopardy, but Tom Tye, anxious not to waste his valuable work at Junior level, volunteered to cope with all three sides during the coming season. Let us hope that this time next year we won't have to say, "Where have all the young men gone?"

Tom has been getting the juniors together fortnightly throughout the summer, and with this dedication, not to mention the exceptional talents of Mandy Wallis, Valerie Feakin, Gary Alden and Gary Hamilton, this could well be a season of success in the Junior Eastern Division.

Perhaps the Senior 1st Team, again in 2nd Division East, and the Senior Seconds, now in the Midlands Division, can gain inspiration from the juniors and improve on some of last season's performances, which at best can only be described as disappointing.

Four juniors from the County have been successful during the summer at Holiday Camps, winning the "Boy" or "Girl of the Week" award. Last year's runner-up in the Grand Finals, Gary Alden, was successful at Pwllheli, as was Mandy Wallis. Two lesser knowns, Keith Nicoll and Donna Gilbert, were winners at Skegness and Clacton respectively.

Gary Alden was the sole player selected from the County for the Intermediate Assessment Camp at Lilleshall, and from all reports gave a good account of himself. The juniors are again on the Open Tournament circuit, with Gary Alden and Mandy Wallis joined this year by the up-and-coming Nicoll twins, Keith and Kenneth.

In conclusion may I wish all table tennis enthusiasts, whether playing, officiating or watching, an enjoyable and successful season.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

SWITCH DOES TRICK

Before taking a look at what the new season has in store for Northumberland, I would like to turn the clock back to June 7, when the County Association held their fourth Annual Dinner Dance and Presentation of League and Cup trophies.

This year, the venue was switched from the Grand Hotel Tynemouth, to the premises of J. T. Passish Ltd., Newcastle. It was hoped that by transferring the venue nearer to the city centre, last year's disappointing attendance would increase. The experiment turned out to be most successful, with over 150 members and friends present, and grateful thanks are extended to Bill and Lily McMaster for so ably organising the event.

Moving on now to the new season, and the big news is that two Northumberland exiles have now returned to the fold. Maureen Robson, together with her husband, Bryan, has returned to the area from London, and Ian "Benny" Robertson has followed suit by returning from Essex, for whom he has been playing the last few seasons. It is hoped that both players will be available for selection, and if so, will considerably strengthen the County resources at senior level.

The Junior team are all available for selection again this season, and while a lot of responsibility will rest on the shoulders of Andrew Clark, there is no doubt that the other players are improving with regular practice. They have all benefitted from Ray Neal's coaching sessions for schools, held regularly at Newcastle's Polytechnic.

Although less teams entered the North-East Summer League (Tyneside Section) than last season, there were still enough interested in playing during the close season to form two divisions. The divisional winners were North Shields B.C. (Div. 1) and National Carriers (Div. 2). These teams should be very much played-in for the Northumberland League season, which was due to start on Sept. 23.

Finally, a McMaster in the news again. Bill's son, Malcolm, a regular County second team player, relinquished his bachelor status when he was married on May 11. Best wishes to both of them for the future.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

MEMORIAL FUND

It will not be an easy job to take over these notes from John Pike, whose name has peppered the pages of the Table Tennis Magazine for so many years. His lively and interesting style will be missed by readers in the County. Many thanks for all your past efforts, John!

The County A.G.M. in June was overshadowed by the death of Malcolm Scott during the season. Much has been written about Malcolm in these pages, and all one need say is that he will be sorely missed at all events in the County. The County Restricted has been renamed the Malcolm E. Scott Memorial Tournament and a silver salver trophy and medals are being purchased with money from the Memorial Fund. The Tournament will be held at the Woodfield Club, Penn, Wolverhampton, on Sunday, Nov. 3, starting at 9-30 a.m. Entry forms are already available.

Back to the A.G.M. Don Pritchard was re-elected Chairman, the job he took over from Malcolm Scott last year, and apart from Tony Davies joining as Umpires' Secretary, the Committee remains unchanged. The County League continues to thrive under Geoff Williamson with a new entry from Leek to make a total of 32 teams in the four divisions this season. We extend a welcome to Leek with the hope that they enjoy the competition and friendship of these Saturday matches. Incidentally, congratulations must go to Wolverhampton "A", Walsall "B", Wolverhampton "E" and Walsall "C" for winning the four divisions respectively. It seems that we could do with some new names on the trophies, so best of luck, Leek. County League dates are:— Oct. 5 and 26, Nov. 16, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, and Mar. 8.

Continued on next page

The County trials were held at the Woodfield on Sept. 15, but more news about them next month. At the end of last season, Tony Isaac and Gail Round headed the ranking lists, and they will not be easy to topple to judge from their splendid performances for the County last year. County matches start on Oct. 12, but the first matches within the County are the "A" team against Gloucestershire (Nov. 2) and Leicestershire (Dec. 21) with the Juniors playing Warwickshire on the same date in December.

It was good to meet up with Mike Leach again at the recent County Meeting. Mike was a colleague of mine on the Gloucester committee some years ago, but for the last five years he has been putting in sterling work as the secretary of the Wolverhampton League. Those of you who know John Pike will understand it when I say these West Countrymen do seem to get around a bit!

Finally, please send any items for this column to me at Chumleigh, Cross Street, Gnosall, or ring Stafford 822013. Best wishes for an enjoyable season!

LANCASHIRE NOTES

by George Yates

HIT BY INFLATION

Faced with ever-increasing costs in running representative sides, Lancashire have reluctantly pulled their second senior team out of the County Championships for the current season.

What money there is available will be spent on the senior Premier Division side and on the two Junior teams, the first of which has gained promotion to the Junior Premier Division with away trips to Middlesex, Surrey, Leicestershire and Cambridgeshire in the offing.

No arrangements were made for Senior County Trials but a Junior Trial took place at Bolton's Institute of Technology on Sunday, Sept. 1, the day that the County's two leading juniors, Nigel Hallows and Ian Smith, were travelling down to Crystal Palace to attend the Final Assessment Camp.

At the County trial Keith Williams, of Liverpool, kept a clean sheet to finish top of the 28 boys. Graham Hoy, of Bury, who lost only to Williams, came second.

Dependent on the national classification, Hallows or Smith will occupy the Nos. 1 and 2 positions, the remainder of the county list being: 3, Williams; 4, Hoy; 5, Stephen Turner (Preston); 6, Clive Strettle (Wigan); 7, Tony O'Connor (Liverpool); 8, Martin Bromley (Bolton); 9, Stephen Cowley (Bolton); 10, Jim Regan (Bolton); 11, Terry Hobson (Bolton) and 12, Paul Green (Farnworth).

Julie Black, of Liverpool, heads the girls' list followed by Kathleen Cropper (Blackpool), Jennifer Dixon (Bolton), Janet Evans (Leigh), Julie Turner (Liverpool) and Rita Ashton (Bury).

Donald Parker, of Preston, will again spearhead the senior team, although he departed the County Palatine on Sept. 18 to begin a 3-year P.E. Degree course at Loughborough University. Other members of the senior squad are Phil Bowen (Manchester), Hallows (Bolton) and Smith (Preston), John Marshall (Liverpool) and Tony Rigby (Preston).

Under the direction of newly-appointed Lancashire Squad Coach, Jim Clegg, of Preston, the squad will hold training sessions at Post Office, Motor Transport Branch, Collins Road, Bamber Bridge, on the following dates:—Oct. 8 and 29, Nov. 26, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11 and Apr. 8. These dates have been selected to coincide with each County match of the same week and will provide the practice that is so vital if the County is to do well in the Premier Division.

The Lancashire Closed Championships will again be held at Preston Polytechnic on Sat., Oct. 19, with the Preston Guild Trophy at stake

for the winner of the men's singles. Entries close on Oct. 11 to C. G. Stokes, "Burn-Lea," 20 St. David's Road South, St. Annes-on-Sea, Phone: St. Annes 726524).

Lancashire's first match in the Premier Division is at home to Essex on Oct. 12 at Briarcroft Youth Centre, Leigh Road, Atherton (6-30 p.m.). In the afternoon, at the same venue, Yorkshire will provide the opposition in the Junior Premier Division (2-30 p.m.) The second Junior team, in Junior North, travel to engage newcomers (in name at least) Cleveland.

Obituary

Rene Sturgeon

A familiar figure will be missing from future tournaments in the North, and particularly from Lancashire County Association events, following the passing away on September 9th, of Rene Sturgeon, of the Liverpool League.

An active and popular member of the League's Management Committee, she rendered unstinted service over a period of many years in the capacity of both League Cup Fixture Secretary and Catering Officer. It was in this latter role that she particularly excelled, and countless table tennis players and officials had reason to be grateful for her efforts, both at the "Merseyside" Open Tournament and at the Liverpool League's Closed Championships. Possessed, as indeed she was, with a cheerful and friendly disposition, she earned the respect and affection which was readily bestowed upon her, and the gratitude of her colleagues was expressed when, as an acknowledgment of her untiring efforts, the League honoured her with the title of Vice-President.

Through these columns we extend to her daughter, Jean, and her family, our deep condolences in the sad loss which they have sustained.

A.E.U.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Walter Reeves

SWEDEN AT BELPER

Derbyshire are fortunate to have captured the plum fixture of the European League matches and will stage at the Belper Sports Centre, Kilburn Road, on Thursday, Nov. 7 (7-30 p.m.) the England v Sweden encounter. Mr. J. Bramley, the Sports Centre Manager, is the man to contact at Belper 5285. Here will be the chance for local players to see the stars in action right on their very doorstep—and those stars could well be Stellan Bengtsson, Kjell Johansson and Ann Christin Hellman with Ingemar Wikström in reserve.

Fred Moody, the County 1st team captain of more than 20 years standing, has decided to retire. Fred, ever-present at County matches, will be missed, if only for his calm words of council during the "heat of battle." His reassurances to players has served the County well over all his years in office. Fred and his wife, Doreen, will still retain an interest in the game and hope to be present at home matches and perhaps the not too distant away fixtures. This will all depend on how good a recovery Fred makes following a car accident whilst abroad on business for his company. He was last reported to be on the mend, and our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to him.

On the County team front there could be changes as regular Doug Foulds has had a cartilage operation and his fitness is in doubt at the moment. To Doug and his wife, Kath, go our congratulations on the occasion of the birth of a son, Andrew, their first. Kath's assistance on the coaching side has been badly

missed and it is to be hoped that family ties will not deny the County her many talents on this side of the game.

It was good to see Arthur Downer back in action for, it will be recalled, Arthur was the victim of a bad car accident which kept him out of the game for the past two seasons. Arthur's wife, Carol (nee Randall), despite her family ties, is also playing well and easily accounted for Mandy Mellor at the training session. The County would appear to have a wealth of female players and all of good standard, including Sandra Walters, Mandy Mellor, Susan Holmes, Marilyn Deakin and Carol Downer.

With many of last season's juniors now in the senior ranks it could well be that veteran Derrick Marples will find himself on the sidelines. What a pity that the County could not enter a veterans team in the Championships. The want is for a couple of women in this category.

Team practices have been taking place in combination with players from Cheshire and Lancashire in Manchester, and the County have to thank Mike Yallop for their involvement.

Juniorwise we may not be in a challenging position this season but as the present contenders have two more years 'below stairs', they could well emerge in full flower after a season's experience. These players must include Stephen Yallop, Mark Jenkins, Stephen Webb and Robert Allen, together with, on the girls' side, Wendy Brown, Lindsey Mellor and Linda Holmes.

Others in contention include Robert Albutt, Neil Charvill and Stephen Moor, reflecting the efforts of the Coaching Committee.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan Cavell

LOAD SPREADING

The reorganisation of the County's administrative arrangements, begun in 1973, was virtually completed at the A.G.M. in May, 1974. Officers and officials elected were:—President—Alan Cavell; Chairman and Umpires' Secretary—Bill Harris; Vice-Chairman—Trevor Felton; Treasurer—Mrs. Grace Gee; Secretary—Peter Parkhurst; Inter-League Secretary—Motto Jones; County Team Secretary—John Burke; Coaching Secretary—Paddy Jackson. The reorganisation has brought to an end the era when practically all the administrative work was done by an overworked County Secretary. Arrangements for press coverage have yet to be made and a capable volunteer Press Officer is still needed.

The two coaching rallies for juniors organised by Paddy Jackson in May and June were followed by junior trials for the first ever Shropshire junior team to enter the County Table Tennis Championships. The final ranking lists were:—

Boys—1, S. Dixon (S); 2, I. Clarke (O); 3, L. Baker (S); 4, I. Baker (S); 5, S. Cooke (S); 6, P. Drage (S); 7, D. Clibborn (Telford); 8, R. Clay (S); 9, R. Mark (S); and 10, R. Davies (S).

Girls—1, D. Jones (O); 2, C. Jones (S); 3, A. Oates (S); 4, I. Corfield (S) and 5, I. Beckett (S).

(O Oswestry; S—Shrewsbury)

As a result of the activity of coaches in Shrewsbury there are now so many juniors interested in competitive play in the town that the County Committee has decided to separate the junior events from the others in the County Closed Championships. The competition for juniors is scheduled for March, 1975; the main event, to be held in December, 1974, will include, for the first time, a competition for veterans.

Congratulations to the team consisting of Motto Jones, John Bebbington and Norman Maycock from the Dept. of Health and Social Security, at Shrewsbury, on winning the National Championships for that Government Department at Crystal Palace.

17th European Youth Championships

GOPPINGEN, WEST GERMANY — 28th JULY TO 4th AUGUST, 1974

Silver Medals for Paul and Andy

by TONY ROSS

Played in the magnificent Hohenstaufen Halle, in Göppingen, a small town set in beautiful country between Stuttgart and Munich, the 17th European Youth Championships not only underlined the rising standard of Europe's top juniors, but also revealed encouraging signs of progress in the England camp.

There was the prospect of a gold medal for the second year in succession when Paul Day and Andy Barden, seeded equal No. 9, reached the final of the boys' doubles, after a superb quarter-final victory over top Swedes Per Sandström and Roger Lagerfeldt, winners of the boys' doubles title at the English Junior Open in Worthing in May. Also worth a mention is the scoreline of 21-3(!), 21-18, achieved against the second string Russians, Tyulenev and Kreeris in Round 4.

Final opposition was provided by Czechs Miroslav Schenk and Miroslav Cich, who eventually won 21-12, 17-21, 21-19. Play was scrappy, and hard though Paul and Andy tried to put the heat of the blazing television lights into their play, they never reached the inspired heights of their quarter-final. They were not helped by the lack of interest of the packed spectator benches, understandably still buzzing with talk of the earlier pulsating boys' singles final, in which the host country's Peter Stellwag narrowly failed in his challenge to Russia's Bagrat Burnazian. Near a corner of the arena, Stellwag and national coach, Hans Alser, were still explaining what had gone wrong to filming interview crews. However, Paul and Andy have two more seasons in which to change their silver into gold.



Say it with flowers. Anita Stevenson, Carole Knight and Karen Rogers, with captain Peter Simpson, after the presentation ceremony for the girls' team event in the 1974 European Youth Championships, in which the girls finished fourth behind the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Hungary.

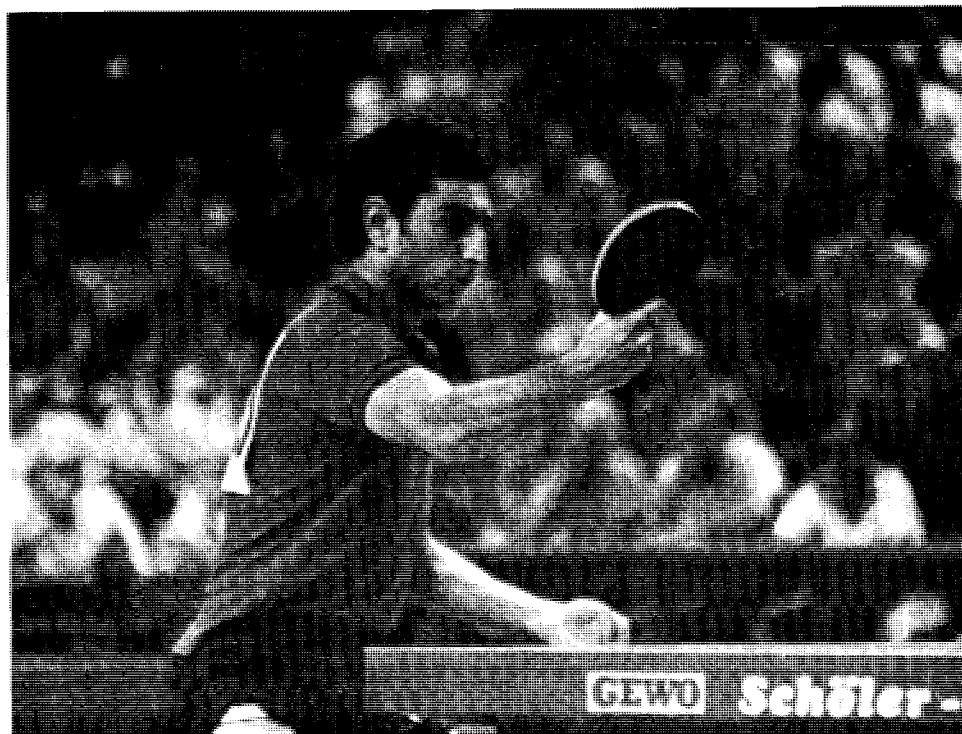
ONLY EVENT

The boys' doubles was the only under-17 individual event final not contested and won by Russian players. Elmira Antonian, now ranked No. 21 in the world, became triple champion, winning the girls' singles, the girls' doubles, with Tatjana Ferdman, and the mixed with Burnazian.

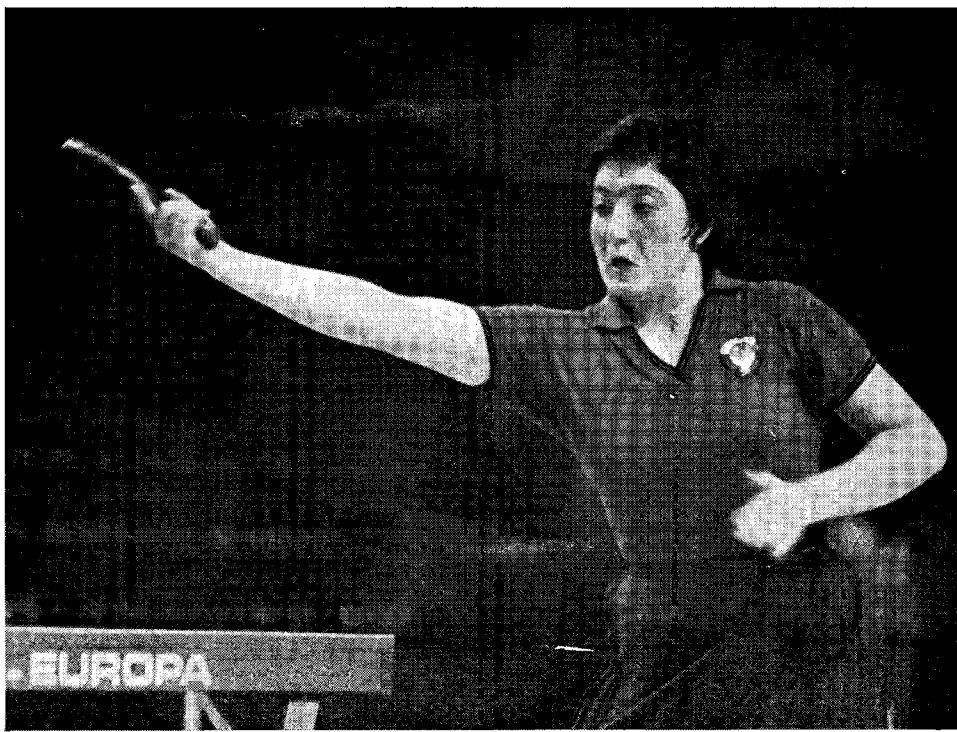
In winning the boys' singles title, Burnazian merely did what he had threatened to do ever since winning the cadet singles title in successive years in Ostend (1971) and Vejle (1972). His great strength is his ability to absorb by lightning reflexes, all that his opponent can throw at him and then to step in with telling angled blows of his own. He has already played for the Russian senior team, and has a win over Denis Neale to his credit in the team event in the European Championships in Novi Sad last April. In appearance, ability and attitude, he certainly looked a man amongst boys, but nonetheless has yet another season in the junior ranks.

The final was Burnazian's consistency versus Stellwag's fierce aggression, and in the event the Russian returned just too many would-be German winners. However, the pre-match knock-up did demonstrate, to a roar of approval from the crowd, Stellwag's consistency in practice, when he and his opponent exchanged maybe a hundred rapid fire forehands without error.

In the semi-finals, Burnazian defeated Sandström, who had become new favourite for the title after inflicting upon Burnazian his sole defeat of the Championships in the team event, whilst Stellwag put out Hungary's No. 1, Zoltan Horvath. However, Schenk emphasised the high standard of the top boys for, in the



Russia's Bagrat Burnazian, European Junior champion, 1974, already an established senior international.



Elmira Antonian (USSR), winner of the girls' singles title.

quarter-final, Burnazian could only win 19 in the third.

What then of the English boys? Seeded equal No. 5, Day, with a bye in the first round, had comfortable wins over Patrick Haas (Luxembourg) and Gunter Müller (Austria), before coming up against Sweden's No. 3, Ake Grönlund in Round 4. Points went almost exclusively with service in the first game; Paul initially dropped no points on his own service, and taking 3 points from the Swede's serve, led 18-12 after his own fifteenth service. Keeping up the pattern, Grönlund won the next five points on his service to make it 18-17, at which point an edge ball lost the Soham boy the first point on his own service. Losing the next point also, Day fought back to hold game point at 20-19, but the Swedish boy forged ahead again to win 22-20, and romped away with the second 21-12.

John Kitchener had an easy first round win over Czech No. 4, Frantisek Kuric, to earn a second round contest with No. 2 Russian, Alexander Petkevich, a penholder, seeded No. 9. Leading 18-17 in the third, Kitchener was the recipient of rare Russian generosity when his opponent twice served into the net, the second time at match point. Swedish opposition, this time from Lagerfeldt, again proved to be the stumbling block in the next round.

Barden suffered a disappointing early morning defeat by West Germany's Frank Klitzsch, whilst David Alderson, seeded equal No. 9, had a not too convincing 3-game first round win over Ireland's James O'Connell. Next beating Schreiner, of Luxembourg, England's ex-No. 1 boy then received the chop from Hungary's Tibor Kreis, whose defence had already proved capable of withstanding the combined assaults of Day, Barden and Mitchell in the team event.

TOP SEED

After beating Sardelli, of Italy, Mark Mitchell had to play top seed Burnazian, but Mark was certainly not overawed by the prospect. Losing the first 14-21, Mitchell led 18-14, 20-18 and 21-20 in the second before the Russian got home 24-22.

Carole Knight proved to be England's hope for the future, with wins over Gordana Brajdic (Switzerland), Makorzata Urbanska (Poland) and No. 5 seed, Zsuzsa Ruzsenszky (Hungary), before falling in the quarter-final to Czech defender, Dana Dubinova, who had removed

No. 3 seed, Ferdman, in the previous round. High spot was Carole's win over Ruzsenszky, to whom she had already lost twice in the team event. In the quarter-final, Carole recovered from a 2-8 deficit in the first to level at 16-all, but the Hungarian's defence held firm to win 21-17 and the subsequent game 21-15.

Anita Stevenson also went out to a defender, in a Round 1 clash with left-hander Brigitte

Thiriet, of France, whilst Karen Rogers, having despatched Scotland's Grace McKay in Round 1, could make little impression on Ruzsenszky's compatriot, Gabriella Ivasko.

The boys' cadet (under-14) singles was won by the unseeded Ivan Kavka, who beat his Czech team-mate and No. 1 seed, Radek Pavlicek, in the final. Chris Rogers came through to meet Pavlicek in the quarter-finals, after wins over Robert Santo (Yugoslavia), Kent Jorgensen (Denmark) and Hans-Josef Peters (West Germany), to whom Rogers had already lost in the team event, there were high hopes of semi-final representation. Alas, it was not to be, the Czech boy getting home 21-14 in the third.

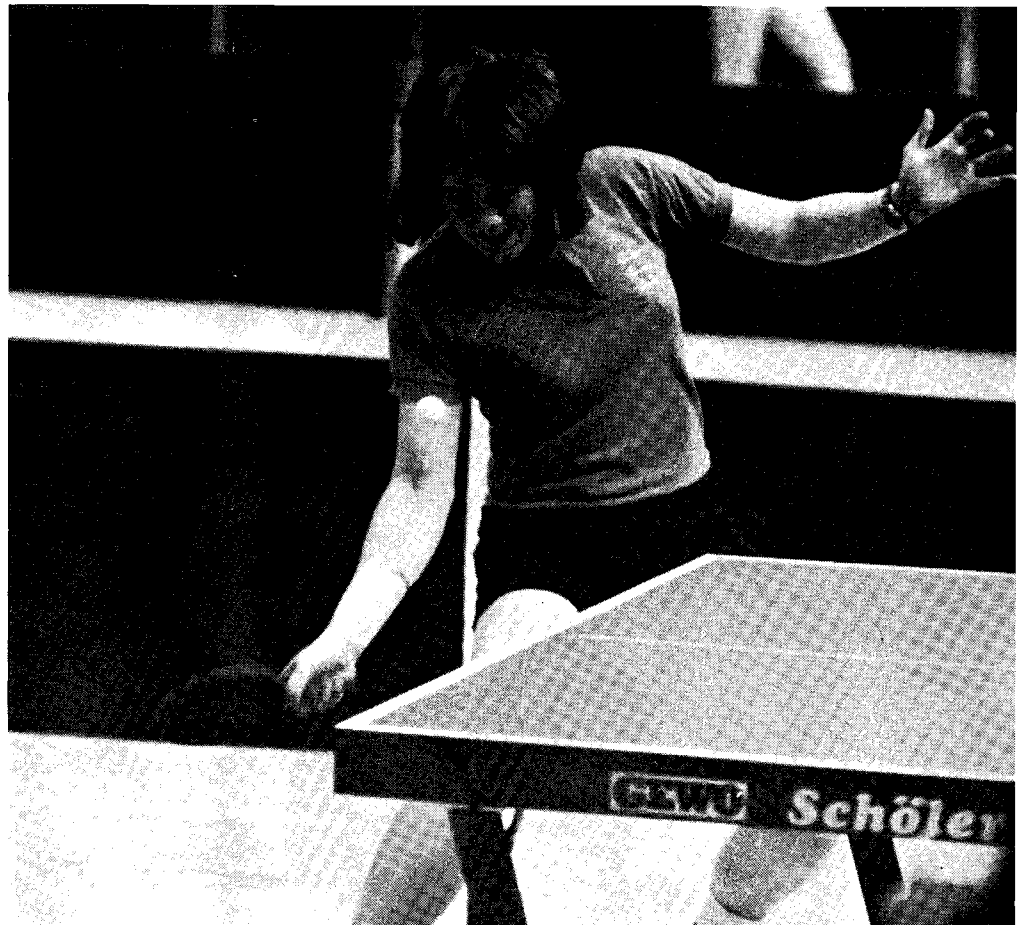
England under-14 champion, Martin Shuttle, having first disposed of Belgium's Jean-Pierre Ratti, in fine style, found the way blocked by the effervescent Leszek Kucharski, of Poland, whose loop and greater penetration proved to be a winning combination.

The cadet girls each had the misfortune to be drawn against the top seeds in their first matches, with Angela Mitchell having to face Zsuzsa Olah (Hungary), and Angela Tierney against Valentina Popova, of Russia. The English girls caused no upsets, but the final was between 2 unseeded players, the title going to Olah's team-mate, Gabriella Szabo.

ALLOTTED PLACE

Of our other representatives in the boys' doubles, Alderson and Kitchener, seeded equal No. 9, reached their allotted place to oppose top seeds Burnazian and Petkevich, where the Russians demonstrated why they were so seeded. Rogers and Shuttle first trounced an Italian cadet pairing but then went out before the might of West Germany's Stellweg and Klitzsch.

Carole Knight and Anita Stevenson, seeded equal No. 5 in the girls' doubles, suffered a disappointing loss to the Hungarian cadet girls, Szabo and Bogyo, in their first match, whilst



England's most successful girl, Carole Knight, in action in her Round 3 girls' singles match against Hungary's Zsuzso Ruzsenszky, winning 21-17, 21-18. A good result, since Carole had twice lost to the Hungarian girl in the team event.

Angela Mitchell and Karen Rogers, having first disposed of Scots Grace McKay and Elaine Craig, found Czech girls Ludmilla Smidova and Dubinova an altogether different proposition, though the English girls creditably held the opposition to deuce in the first. Angela Tierney was paired with West Germany's Ursula Licher and the Anglo-German combine defeated the French cadet girls Catherine Martin and Patricia Germain, before going out to Poland's Olek and Urbanska.

Our "golden" event in Greece, last year, the mixed doubles, occasioned splash headlines in the local press following the second round defeat of No. 2 seeds, Stellwag and Roswitha Schmitz, by the diminutive Swedish cadet players, Bjorn Andersson (14) and Marie Lindblad (13). The eclipse of the second seeds brought about the appearance of another young unseeded pair, Hungarian 14-year-olds Janos Molnar and Gabriella Szabo, in the final, where Burnazian and Antonian put an end to the impertinence.

England's top pair, Day and Carole Knight, seeded equal No. 9, were in Stellwag-Schmitz's eighth of the draw, but in losing -17, -18 to French pair Frank Vinitski and Brigitte Thiriet in Round 3, failed to grasp the opportunity provided by the No. 2 seeds' demise, and left it to the young Hungarians, who removed the French combine 20, 16 in the next round. No other English mixed doubles pairing progressed beyond the Round 3 stage.

TEAM EVENTS

England's Cadet Boys Impress

Top billing goes to the cadet boys' team of Rogers and Shuttle, whose unstinting joint efforts earned third place, England's highest team position behind Sweden and Czechoslovakia.

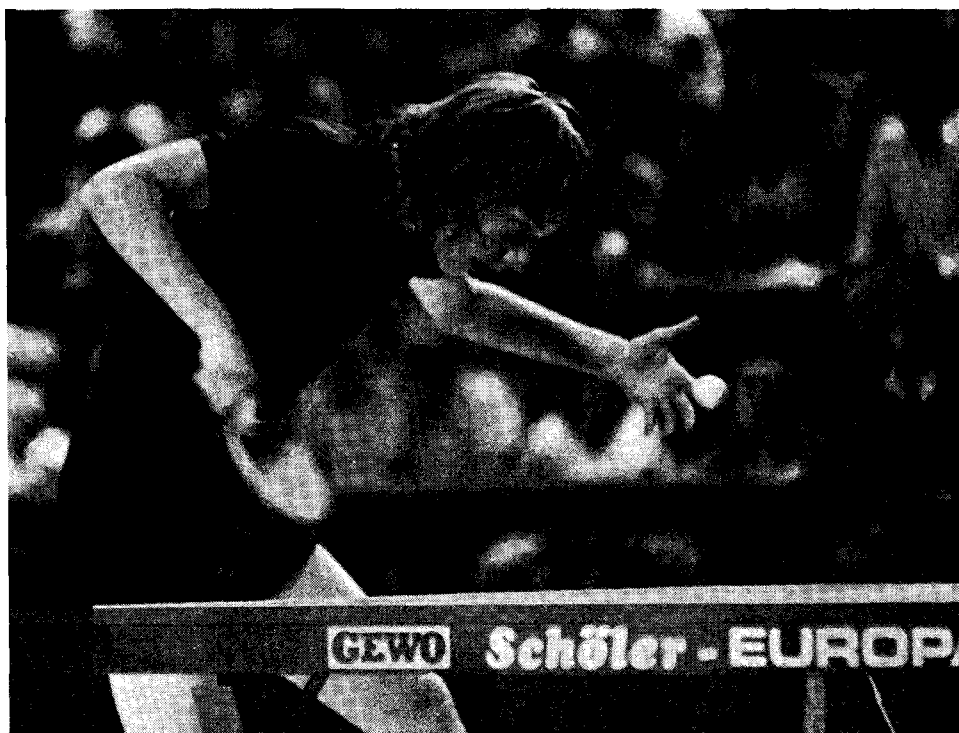
Not far behind was the achievement of the girls in advancing to fourth place from last year's sixth position, whilst the boys moved up one from seventh to sixth place. The cadet girls had the misfortune to be drawn against Russia in their first group, and predictably losing, were thus immediately excluded from the first 8 places, whereas Spain went into the top eight without playing a match, following the non-arrival of Poland's cadet girls' team.

The title-holders of the main events held on to their crowns, Sweden the boys' and Russia the girls', and the same countries won the corresponding cadet events, the finals of which reached remarkably high standards for 14-year-olds.

Our boys' first round group required only Ireland to be substituted for Spain to make it, with Scotland and Wales, a home quadrangular. All three matches were won 5-0, in straight games, with Alderson achieving the lowest game score, 21-2, against the unfortunate John Hook, of Wales.

Our second round opponents were Russia, West Germany and Yugoslavia, the first match, against Yugoslavia, starting at 10 p.m. England had to work hard for their 5-3 victory, achieved at about half past midnight, Day and Kitchener each winning 2 sets and Barden one.

The same team opposed West Germany the following afternoon. In front of a large home crowd Kitchener opened against Klitzsch, surprisingly preferred to the higher ranked defender, Hügiag. Kitchener immediately had occasion to show his ice-cool composure, for, 14-20 in arrears in the first, he won 23-21 to the incredulity of the crowd. The second game slipped away 13-21, but John played really well in the third to win 21-14. Barden next faced Stellwag, whose brilliant forehand hitting transformed a first game score equality of 7-7 into a highly unequal 17-7! Day beat his victor at Worthing, Hans-Joachim Nolten, to



Sweden's Ake Grönlund, victor 22-20, 21-12 over Paul Day in the fourth Round of the boys' singles. Grönlund is Sweden's No. 1 junior for 1974-75.

put England back in front 2-1, but Stellwag again equated the score at the expense of Kitchener. A 3-game win by day over Klitzsch put England in the lead once more, 3-2, but Nolten outmanoeuvred Barden over 3 games and now the pressure was on. Day was unable to stop Stellwag's hammer blows, 8-8 in the second becoming 9-21, nor could Kitchener subsequently prevent a confident Nolten from taking the next and deciding set.

Mitchell replaced Barden for the match against Russia, but the margin was a disappointing 2-5, Day and Mitchell both beating penholder Petkevich. Burnazian was un-

troubled in winning his 3 sets in straight games.

The top 4 countries from the second round matches proved to be Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Russia and West Germany, with England, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Hungary having to battle for places 5 to 8.

The same team which had lost to Russia represented England in the third stage match with Rumania, the result being a resounding 5-0 win, Kitchener's set with Buzescu being the only one not won in straight games. Meanwhile, Hungary just made it, 5-4, against Yugoslavia, and thus became England's final

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opponents. Again, the same team turned out for England, and the score, 5-2, was identical to that produced in Greece last year. There was one difference—this time the Hungarians won. Chief architect of England's downfall was 16-year-old defender Kreisz, who won 3 sets in straight games, baffling the English boys with his variation of chop from the anti-loop/Striver combination on his bat, which he rotated indiscriminately between shots. However, he knew which side faced the ball, for not only was he able to adjust his defensive shots to suit, but was also always ready to step in and kill weak returns. England's 2 sets were won by Day over young left-hander Janos Molnar, and Horvath, the No. 3 seed in the singles, whose looping forehands were executed in a flurry of arms and legs in exaggerated Klampar style.

FINAL

The final between Sweden and Russia, now almost a regular fixture, was a real thriller, in which the Scandinavians recovered from a 1-3 deficit to win the next 4 sets and the match 5-3. High spots were Grönlund's brilliant first game pounding of Burnazian, who remained unperturbed, however, in winning the second and third games, a tremendous battle for the fifth set between Sandström and Tyulenev, and the removal of Burnazian's unbeaten record by Sandström in a set interrupted by two power failures around midnight.

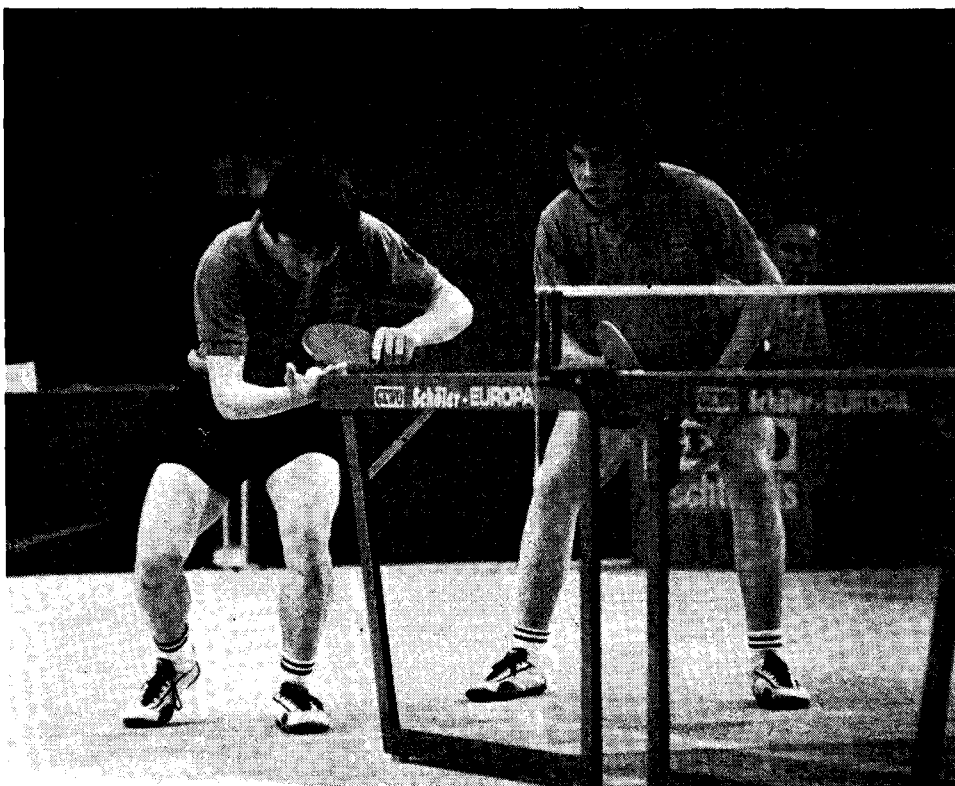
With the non-appearance of the Greek teams, England's girls had only to beat France to secure a place in the first eight. After Anita Stevenson had gone down to left-handed defender Thiriet in the opening set, it was Carole Knight who pulled the team through with wins over Thiriet and Patricia Le Ny. The girls did well to win the first doubles game 22-20 from 17-20 in arrears.

The girls' second stage opponents were Rumania, Hungary and West Germany, and every match went to the deciding fifth set, won by England except for the match against Rumania. Carole again won her two sets, against West Germany, but the loss of the doubles meant that Anita this time played the decider, against Roswitha Schmitz. Anita won confidently in straight games. Next came Rumania, and for this match Karen Rogers was given an opportunity in the singles, with the Knight/Stevenson combine remaining for the doubles. Alas, whilst Carole beat Ligia Lupu and Liana Mihut in straight games, Karen found the company a trifle hot, and the loss of the doubles eventually meant the loss of the match. Anita was restored to the team, for Hungary, and the girls did really well to win this one, after Carole had lost in three to Ruzsenszky and Anita, after caught out of position with the ball blocked wide to her forehand, had gone down to Gabriella Ivasko.

The doubles set was won in straight games, and then Carole eventually crashed past Ivasko 21-12 in the third. Anita's match-winning victory over Ruzsenszky was her best so far, but it was desperately close in the third, where the Hungarian girl served into the net to give Anita match point. It also served to put England into the top 4 places.

To reach the final it was first necessary to beat Russia. Although our girls were unable to achieve this formidable target, losing 0-3 in straight games, they were not wholly outclassed, but they have a way to go to reach the Russian standards. Since Yugoslavia, thanks to an unbeaten Erzebet Palatinus, had beaten Hungary 3-2 in the other top place match, the play-off for third and fourth places put England and Hungary in opposition again. Anita lost, as before, to Ivasko; Carole lost, as before, to Ruzsenszky; and although the doubles again went to 3 games, it was the Hungarians who won this time, and took the bronze medal place.

The Russian girls retained their title in the final, beating Yugoslavia 3-1.



BOYS' DOUBLES SILVER MEDALISTS. Paul Day and Andrew Barden in play in the Boys' Doubles final of the 1974 European Youth Championships. The Czech opposition, Miroslav Schenk and Miroslav Cich, eventually just triumphed 21-12, 17-21, 21-19.

CLOSE CALLS

Rogers and Shuttle, England's cadet boys' team, were grouped with Italy and Spain in the first stage and won both matches 3-0. Although there were a few close calls in the opening match with Italy, both boys played sensibly and with great determination. Their second stage opponents were Czechoslovakia, France and Luxembourg. The match expected to be the most difficult, that against Czechoslovakia, was played first, and the expectations proved correct, the Czechs winning 3-1. The problem player as far as England were concerned was Ivan Kavka, who won both his sets in straight games, and not the No. 1 cadet singles seed, Radek Pavlicek, over whom Rogers scored a fine 3-game win. Against France, Rogers lost a 3-game opening set with Patrick Renverse, but Shuttle restored equality by beating Bruno Parietti. The doubles went to the French pair, but still England came through, Rogers beating Parietti and Shuttle inflicting a like result on Renverse. Luxembourg were easily defeated 3-0, Shuttle's opening set against Birel the only one requiring a deciding game.

Sweden now stood between England and a place in the final, but Lars Franklin and Bjorn Andersson had that little extra class and power, and England's only success was the doubles. Third place was secured, 3-1, at the expense of West Germany. Both Chris and Martin beat the left-handed Jörg Schirrmeister and together easily took the doubles. The set lost was the second, in which Chris's consistency deserted him and Hans-Josef Peters, a powerful hitter, won in straight games.

Somewhat surprisingly, it was Sweden who triumphed, 3-2, in the final, but it was the Czech boy, Kavka, who could boast the unbeaten record. Unfortunately, Chris and Martin received no medals to mark their third place achievement, as the cadet events were not mandatory and therefore not officially E.T.T.U. recognised (although they will be from 1974-75 onwards).

The cadet girls, Angela Mitchell and Angela Tierney, drew Russia in the first

round and the Soviet girls, Valentina Popova and Rimma Ioffe, were just too good. The non-participation of the Polish cadet girls meant that England only had to play Belgium in the second round and won 3-1, the loss being Angela Tierney's, to Veronique Germiot. Playing off for places 9 to 12, England struggled to beat Luxembourg 3-2, the Grand-Duchy's Lea Zeimet winning both her sets. Our final position was 10th place, following a 0-3 loss to Sweden. However, all 3 sets in this match went to three games. Angela Mitchell's set with Marie Lindblad being particularly close, 23-25 in the third.

The cadet girls' team event title was won by Russia, who beat Hungary in another high-class under-14 final which went the full distance.

Finally, a word of praise for England's 4 umpires, Jack Randall, Kath Waters, Alf Leigh, Rea Balmford, who can now count up to 21 in German, and contributed to the general entente cordiale amongst the contingent of umpires, drawn from five countries. A last mention also for David Alderson, who was making his fifth and final consecutive Youth Championships, and, never quite fulfilling the promise of earlier years, has but memories and not medals with which to recall his international apprenticeship.

Results on page 28

COVER PICTURE

A promising start to international careers by 14-year-olds Martin Shuttle (left) and Chris Rogers, seen here in the Hohenstaufen Halle, Göppingen, after securing third place, England's highest team position in the Cadet Boys' Team event in the 1974 European Youth Championships.

**Photographic Coverage
of the Championships
by TONY ROSS**

European Youth Championships

RESULTS

TEAM EVENTS

Final Positions:

BOYS	GIRLS
1. Sweden (1)	1. USSR (1)
2. USSR (2)	2. Yugoslavia (4)
3. Federal Germany (3)	3. Hungary (3)
4. Czechoslovakia (4)	4. England (6)
5. Hungary (5)	5. Czechoslovakia (5)
6. England (7)	6. Rumania (2)
7. Rumania (9)	7. Sweden (8)
8. Yugoslavia (11)	8. Federal Germany (7)
9. Denmark (17)	9. France (11)
10. France (6)	10. Belgium (13)
11. Poland (19)	11. Poland (13)
12. Turkey (12)	12. Ireland (9)
13. Italy (8)	13. Netherlands (—)
14. Netherlands (—)	14. Spain (15)
15. Spain (10)	15. Luxembourg (10)
16. Finland (18)	16. Switzerland (16)
17. Austria (16)	17. Denmark (14)
18. Belgium (—)	18. Scotland (19)
19. Norway (15)	19. Austria (18)
20. Ireland (23)	20. Guernsey (—)
21. Luxembourg (21)	21. Wales (—)
22. Switzerland (20)	
23. Scotland (24)	
24. Wales (—)	
25. Guernsey (—)	
26. Jersey (—)	

Previous placings shown in brackets.

CADET BOYS

1. Sweden
2. Czechoslovakia
3. England
4. Federal Germany
5. Rumania
6. Denmark
7. France
8. Luxembourg
9. Italy
10. Yugoslavia
11. Turkey
12. Netherlands
13. Austria
14. Finland
15. Switzerland
16. Belgium
17. Spain
18. Norway

These events were not held in 1973.

BOYS

Semi-Finals:
Sweden bt Fed. Germany 5-4; U.S.S.R. bt Czechoslovakia 5-2.
Final:
SWEDEN bt U.S.S.R. 5-3.
P. Sandstrom bt. I. Kreeris 19, 10; bt. S. Tyulenev 19, -19, 21;
bt B. Burnazian 14, 19.
R. Lagerfeldt lost to Tyulenev 7, -20, -16; lost to Burnazian
-15, -16; bt Kreeris 18, 19.
A. Gronlund lost to Burnazian 12, -15, -13; bt Kreeris 12,
-19, 16.

GIRLS

Semi-Finals:
U.S.S.R. bt England 3-0; Yugoslavia bt Hungary 3-2.
Final:
U.S.S.R. bt Yugoslavia 3-1.

CADET BOYS

Semi-Finals:
Czechoslovakia bt Fed. Germany 3-0; Sweden bt England 3-1.
Final:
SWEDEN bt Czechoslovakia 3-2.

CADET GIRLS

Semi-Finals:
U.S.S.R. bt Yugoslavia 3-0; Hungary bt Czechoslovakia 3-1.
Final:
U.S.S.R. bt Hungary 3-2.

ENGLISH RESULTS

1st stage:
v. Spain (won 5-0)
P. Day bt J. Lupon 14, 14; bt O. Sana 22, 16.
J. Kitchener bt C. Capilla 13, 20; bt Lupon 16, 18.
A. Barden bt Sana 14, 19.

v. Wales (won 5-0)

Barden bt G. Griffiths 10, 13; bt A. Healan 9, 9.
D. Alderson bt Healan 8, 10; bt J. Hook 14, 2.
M. Mitchell bt Hook 9, 16.

v. Scotland (won 5-0)

Kitchener bt R. Brown 15, 8; bt M. Thomson 10, 11.
Alderson bt C. Mathew 10, 16.
Mitchell bt Thomson 12, 15; bt Mathew 14, 10.

2nd stage:

v. Yugoslavia (won 5-3)

Day bt Z. Tot-Horgosi -14, 14, 13; lost to J. Juhas -17, -17;
bt D. Jurcic 19, 11.
Kitchener lost to Juhas -21, 11, -12; bt Jurcic 19, 19.
bt Tot-Horgosi -18, 19, 15.

Barden lost to Jurcic -19, -15; bt Tot-Horgosi 18, 10.

v. Federal Germany (lost 3-5)

Day bt H.-J. Nolten 14, 17; bt F. Klitzsch 16, -11, 16;
lost to P. Stelhwag -18, -9.
Kitchener bt Klitzsch 21, -13, 14; lost to Stelhwag -18, -18;
lost to Nolten -15, -17.

Barden lost to Stelhwag -11, -13; lost to Nolten -16, 18, -12.

v. U.S.S.R. (lost 2-5)

Day bt A. Petkevich 13, 21; lost to S. Tyulenev -21, -18;
lost to B. Burnazian -13, -17.
Kitchener lost to Tyulenev -18, 18, -15; lost to Burnazian
-17, -17.

Mitchell lost to Burnazian -8, -16; bt Petkevich 12, -19, 21.

3rd stage:

v. Rumania (won 5-0)

Day bt S. Moraru 14, 16; bt C. Romanescu 11, 13.

Kitchener bt A. Buzescu -10, 18, 20.

Mitchell bt Romanescu 16, 13; bt Buzescu 19, 16.

4th stage (for positions 5 and 6):

v. Hungary (lost 2-5)

Day bt J. Molnar 18, 18; bt Z. Horvath 13, 19; lost to
T. Kreisz -20, -18.

Kitchener lost to Kreisz -20, -16; lost to Molnar -16, -14.

Mitchell lost to Horvath -6, -18; lost to Kreisz -11, -8.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — BOYS

ENGLAND					Opponents				
Day	Kitchener	Barden	Alderson	Mitchell	F	A	Spain	Wales	Scotland
2-0	2-0	1-0	—	—	5	0	—	—	—
—	—	2-0	2-0	1-0	5	0	—	—	—
—	2-0	—	1-0	2-0	5	0	—	—	—
2-1	2-1	1-1	—	—	5	3	—	—	—
2-1	1-2	0-2	—	—	3	5	—	—	—
1-2	0-2	—	—	1-1	2	5	—	—	—
2-0	1-0	—	—	2-0	5	0	—	—	—
2-1	0-2	—	—	0-2	2	5	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-5	8-7	4-3	3-0	6-3	32	18	—	—	—

IRELAND

Turner				Opponents			
Keane	O'Connell	Glynn	F	A	France	Yugoslavia	Scotland
1-2	1-2	2-1	—	—	4	5	—
0-2	0-1	—	0-2	—	0	5	—
2-0	2-1	1-1	—	—	5	2	—
2-1	1-2	0-2	—	—	3	5	—
0-2	0-2	—	0-1	—	0	5	—
2-1	1-2	0-2	—	—	3	5	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7-8	5-10	3-6	0-3	—	15	27	—

SCOTLAND

Thomson				Opponents			
C.	A.	Brown	F	A	Wales	Spain	England
—	2-0	2-0	1-0	—	5	0	—
1-1	0-2	0-2	—	—	1	5	—
0-2	0-2	—	0-1	—	0	5	—
0-2	2-0	—	0-3	—	2	5	—
—	1-1	1-2	0-2	—	2	5	—
1-2	2-1	1-2	—	—	4	5	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-7	7-6	4-6	1-6	—	14	25	—

WALES

Hook			Opponents		
Griffiths	Healan	F	A	Scotland	Spain
0-2	0-1	0-2	—	—	—
0-2	0-1	0-2	—	—	—
0-2	0-1	0-2	—	—	—
2-0	2-0	1-1	—	—	—
2-0	1-1	2-0	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
4-6	3-4	3-7	—	—	10 17

RESULTS — GIRLS

ENGLISH RESULTS

1st stage:
v. France (won 3-1)
C. Knight bt P. Le Ny 14, 17; bt B. Thiriet 15, 12.
A. Stevenson lost to Thiriet -11, -18.
Knight/Stevenson bt Thiriet/Le Ny 20, -17, 16.

2nd stage:

v. Federal Germany (won 3-2)
Knight bt R. Schmitz 12, 19; bt B. Balke -18, 13, 13.
Stevenson lost to Balke -15, -20; bt Schmitz 13, 19.
Knight/Stevenson lost to Schmitz/Balke -10, -16.

v. Rumania (lost 2-3)

Knight bt L. Mihut 14, 16; bt L. Lupu 17, 18.
K. Rogers lost to Lupu -8, 17, -14; lost to Mihut -17, -15.
Knight/Stevenson lost to Lupu/I. Gyongyosi -10, 11, -14.

v. Hungary (won 3-2)

Knight lost to Z. Ruzsensky 17, -8, -16; bt G. Ivasko -15, 19, 12.
Stevenson lost to Ivasko -17, -16; bt Ruzsensky 15, -15, 20.
Knight/Stevenson bt Ivasko/Ruzsensky 17, 16.

3rd stage:

v. U.S.S.R. (lost 0-3)

Knight lost to T. Ferdman -11, -15.
Stevenson lost to E. Antonian -13, -16.
Knight/Stevenson lost to Ferdman/N. Meschkova -17, -18.

4th stage (for places 3 and 4):

v. Hungary (lost 0-3)
Knight lost to Ruzsensky -16, -17.
Stevenson lost to Ivasko -18, -8.
Knight/Stevenson lost to Ruzsensky/Ivasko -19, 18, -12.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — GIRLS

ENGLAND					Opponents				
Knight	Stevenson	Rogers	Doubles	F	A	France	Fed. Germany	Rumania	Hungary
2-0	0-1	—	1-0	3	1	—	—	—	—
2-0	1-1	—	0-1	3	2	—	—	—	—
2-0	—	0-2	0-1	2	3	—	—	—	—
1-1	1-1	—	1-0	3	2	—	—	—	—
0-1	0-1	—	0-1	0	3	—	—	—	—
0-1	0-1	—	0-1	0	3	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7-3	2-5	0-2	2-4	11	14	—	—	—	—

IRELAND

Senior				Opponents			
Stewart	Doubles	F	A	Sweden	Wales	Belgium	Netherlands
1-1	0-1	—	—	1-0	3	0	—
1-0	1-0	—	—	1-0	3	0	—
1-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	1	3	—
1-1	1-1	—	—	1-0	3	2	—
1-0	1-0	—	—	1-0	3	0	—
1-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	1	3	—
1-0	0-2	—	—	0-1	1	3	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7-4	3-6	—	3-4	13	14	—	—

SCOTLAND

McKay				Opponents			
Craig	Doubles	F	A	Czechoslovakia	Belgium	Wales	Austria
0-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	0	3	—
1-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	1	3	—
1-0	1-0	—	—	1-0	3	0	—
1-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	1	3	—
1-0	1-0	—	—	1-0	3	0	—
1-1	0-2	—	—	1-0	2	3	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-4	2-5	—	3-3	10	12	—	—

WALES

Allen		Ralphs		Doubles		F		A		Opponents	
0-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	0	3	—	—	—	Sweden	—
0-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	0	3	—	—	—	Ireland	—
0-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	0	3	—	—	—	Austria	—
0-1	0-1	—	—	0-1	0	3	—	—	—	Scotland	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
0-4	0-4	—	—	0-4	0	12	—	—	—	—	—

RESULTS — CADET BOYS

ENGLISH RESULTS

1st stage:
v. Italy (won 3-0)
C. Rogers bt S. Lonardi 23, 15.
M. Shuttle bt G. Bisi 20, -17, 16.
Rogers/Shuttle bt Bisi/Lonardi 16, -16, 20.
v. Spain (won 3-0)
Rogers bt Junyent 16, 14.
Shuttle bt S. Moles -17, 10, 5.
Rogers/Shuttle bt Moles/Junyent -10, 13, 19.

2nd stage:

v. Czechoslovakia (lost 1-3)
Rogers bt K. Pavlicek -16, 18, 16; lost to I. Kavka -10, -15.
Shuttle lost to Kavka -8, -14.
Rogers/Shuttle lost to Pavlicek/Kavka 16, -16, -13.

v. France (won 3-2)

Rogers lost to P. Renverse -15, 14, -16; bt B. Parietti 12, 14.
Shuttle bt Parietti -12, 4, 17; bt Renverse 17, 15.
Rogers/Shuttle lost to Renverse/Parietti -19, -17.

v. Luxembourg (won 3-0)

Rogers bt G. Wagner 19, 18.
Shuttle bt M. Birel -16, 16, 10.
Rogers/Shuttle bt Wagner/Birel 20, 15.

3rd stage:

v. Sweden (lost 1-3)
Rogers lost to B. Andersson -13, 9, -13; lost to L. Franklin
-14, -11.
Shuttle lost to Franklin -18, 19.
Rogers/Shuttle bt Franklin/Andersson 15, 20.

4th stage (for places 3 and 4):

v. Federal Germany (won 3-1)
Rogers lost to H.-J. Peters -18, -11; bt J. Schirmeister
19, -18, 10.
Shuttle bt Schirmeister -20, 10, 17.
Rogers/Shuttle bt Peters/A. Sternecki 15, 9.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — CADET BOYS

Rogers		Shuttle		Doubles		F		A		Opponents	
1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0	—	—	—	Italy	—
1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0	—	—	—	Spain	—
1-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	1	3	—	—	—	Czechoslovakia	—
1-1	2-0	2-0	0-1	3	2	—	—	—	—	France	—
1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	0	—	—	—	Luxembourg	—
0-2	0-1	0-1	1-0	1-0	1	3	—	—	—	Sweden	—
1-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-0	3	1	—	—	—		

Semi-finals:
Schenk/Cich bt Gronlund/Glans 20, 13.
Day/Barden bt Juhas/Jurcic 19, -17, 15.
Final:
SCHENK/CICH bt Day/Barden 19, -17, 15.

GIRLS' DOUBLES
Quarter-finals:
Antonian/Ferdman bt Palatinus/B. Batinic (Yu) 18, 13.
Smidova/Dubinova bt Ivasko/Ruszensky -16, 12, 22.
G. Szabo/K. Bogyo (Hu) bt Riedlova/Cikova -18, 19, 13.
Lupu/Mihut bt N. Meschova (SU)/D. Hermanova (Cs) 15, 18.
Semi-finals:
Antonian/Ferdman bt Smidova/Dubinova 16, 9.
Lupu/Mihut bt Szabo/Bogyo 16, 13.
Final:
ANTONIAN/FERDMAN bt Lupu/Mihut 16, 13.

MIXED DOUBLES
Quarter-finals:
Burnazian/Antonian bt Gronlund/E. Stromvall (Sv) 11, 12.
Juhas/Palatinus bt A. Vlieg (NI)/Wagemakers 13, 20.
S. Tyulenev (SU)/Ferdman bt Schenk/Riedlova 10, -16, 22.
Molnar/Szabo bt F. Kurcic (Cs)/Smidova -17, 16, 12.
Semi-finals:
Burnazian/Antonian bt Juhas/Palatinus -19, 19, 6.
Molnar/Szabo bt Schenk/Riedlova 18, -14, 19.
Final:
BURNAZIAN/ANTONIAN bt Molnar/Szabo 9, 16.

CADET BOYS' SINGLES
Quarter-finals:
Pavlicek bt C. Rogers (En) 15, -16, 14.
B. Andersson (Sv) bt P. Renverse 15, -14, 15.
L. Franklin (Sv) bt L. Kurcharski (PI) 16, 15.
I. Kavka (Cs) bt S. Lonardi (It.)
Semi-finals:
Pavlicek bt Andersson 14, 20.
Kavka bt Franklin 14, 18.
Final:
KAVKA bt Pavlicek 11, 21.

CADET GIRLS' SINGLES
Quarter-finals:
R. Ioffe (SU) bt C. Verachtart (Be) 15, 18.
Z. Sodomova (Cs) bt A. Hervall (Sv) 12, 11.
Bogyo bt S. Plombin (Fr) 16, 9.
Szabo bt V. Popova (SU) -19, 19, 17.
Semi-finals:
Ioffe bt Sodomova 11, 15.
Szabo bt Bogyo 15, -15, 16.
Final:
SZABO bt Ioffe -17, 19, 17.

CONSOLATION BOYS' SINGLES
Final:
D. Nassaux (Be) bt S. Lazzeri (It) -21, 12, 18.

CONSOLATION GIRLS' SINGLES
Final:
Meschova bt M. Urbanska (PI) 14, 13.

ENGLISH RESULTS

BOYS' SINGLES

Round 1:
M. Mitchell bt A. Sardelli (It) 16, -16, 17.
A. Barden lost to F. Klitzsch (FG) -17, -21.
D. Alderson bt. J. O'Connell (Ir) 12, -17, 8.
J. Kitchener bt F. Kuric (Cs) 13, 16.
Round 2:
Mitchell lost to B. Burnazian (SU) -14, -22.
Alderson bt S. Schreiner (Lu) 17, 15.
Kitchener bt A. Petkevich (SU) -16, 19, 18.
P. Day bt P. Haas (Lu) 18, 12.

Round 3:
Alderson lost to T. Kreis (Hu) -8, 15.
Kitchener lost to R. Lagerfeldt (Sv) -16, 13, -11.
Day bt G. Muller (Au) 18, 9.

GIRLS' SINGLES

Round 1:
K. Rogers bt G. McKay (Sc) -20, 16, 11.
A. Stevenson lost to B. Thiriet (Fr) -16, 13, -11.
Round 2:
Rogers lost to G. Ivasko (Hu) -15, -15.
C. Knight bt M. Urbanska (PI) -17, 15, 15.

BOYS DOUBLES

Round 2:
Alderson/Kitchener bt E. Spangl/H. Hiegelsberger (Au) -14, 18, 13.
Rogers/Shuttle bt R. Troilo/S. Lonardi (It) 8, 18.
Day/Barden bt J. Geis/J. Schirrmister (FG) 13, 13.
Round 3:
Alderson/Kitchener bt J. Hansen/C. Jacobson (Dk) 18, -16, 13.
Rogers/Shuttle lost to P. Stellwag/F. Klitsch (FG) -11, -18.
Day/Barden bt S. Schreiner/M. Birel (Lu) 13, 9.

Round 4:
Alderson/Kitchener lost to B. Burnazian/A. Petkevich (SU) -12, -19.
Day/Barden bt S. Tyulenev/N. Kreeris (SU) 3, 18.

GIRLS' DOUBLES

Round 1:
A. Tierney/U. Licher (FG) bt C. Martin/P. Germain (Fr) 19, 20.
A. Mitchell/K. Rogers bt G. McKay/E. Craig (Sc) 16, 11.
Round 2:
Tierney/Licher lost to E. Olek/M. Urbanska (PI) -13, -7.
Mitchell/Rogers lost to L. Smidova/D. Dubinova (Cs) -21, -9.
Knight/Stevenson lost to C. Szabo/K. Bogyo (Hu) -17, 18, -14.

MIXED DOUBLES

Round 1:
Mitchell/Mitchell lost to R. Santo/I. Kiralj (Yu) -14, 19, -9.
Round 2:
Barden/Stevenson lost to A. Gronlund/E. Stromvall (Sv) -13, 15, -14.
Rogers/Tierney lost to A. Petkevich/V. Popova (SU) -13, -19.
Alderson/Rogers bt R. Wosik/D. Sschroder (FG) 17, 11.
Day/Knight bt B. Vastmans/M. F. Germinat 15, 16.
Round 3:
Alderson/Rogers lost to S. Tyulenev/T. Ferdman 15, -10, -17.
Day/Knight lost to F. Vinitski/B. Thiriet (Fr) -17, -18.

CADET BOYS' SINGLES

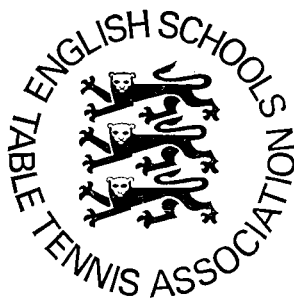
Round 1:
Rogers bt Santo (Yu) -19, 18, 15.
Shuttle bt J.-P. Ratti (Be) 17, 10.
Round 2:
Rogers bt K. Jorgensen (Dk) 12, 17.
Shuttle lost to L. Kucharski (PI) 15, -19, -11.

Round 3:
Rogers bt H.-J. Peters (FG) 13, 14.

CADET GIRLS' SINGLES

Round 2:
Mitchell lost to Z. Olah (Hu) -9, -19.
Tierney lost to V. Popova (SU) -10, -17.

STIGA ENGLISH SCHOOLS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



FIRST EVER EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS

by ALAN RANSOME

The Stiga English Schools' Individual Championships were successfully organised at Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, on May 26 for the first time, the highlight being the finals at which 151 youngsters, all champions of their own county in their age group, played off on 16 tables for the National Titles. Even some counties which had never entered National Schools' table tennis events prior to this Stiga-sponsored affair put players forward.

The Under-19 Boys' Champions was Paul Trott, of Berkshire. In the final he beat the England-ranked junior, Dave Izsatt over three exciting games. England's girl champion, Anita Stevenson, of Leicester, found little opposition

en route to winning the counterpart female title. In the semis she accounted for Penny Abbot and, in the final, Caroline Reeves, both in straight games by comfortable scores.

The Boys' U-16 Champion was Yorkshireman Stephen Souter. He came through a semi-final group of three then beat Keith Richardson over three games. The Girls' U-16 event was surprisingly won by Sandra Sutton, of Essex, who beat the England No. 4 junior, Melody Ludi, in an entertaining final.

Adam Proffitt was the winner of the Boys' U-13 Championship, beating Douglas Bennett in straight games in the final. Proffitt, currently ranked No. 10 in the national U-14 list, fully deserved his victory. The Girls' U-13 Championship went to Angela Tierney, who had a phenomenal record last season in U-13 events being unbeaten and winning eight championships. In the final Angela beat Karen Witt, repeating her victory of the previous day in the Halex English U-13 Singles Championships.

The U-11 Boys' event was won by Richard Bergemann, who beat Bryon Johnson in a best of three final, whilst the Girls' U-11 event predictably went to Alison Gordon, of Berkshire, who beat Maxine Abbott in the semis and Julie Dowsett in the final.

All in all, the Championships were a tremendous success, setting the pattern for what will now become an annual event in the national table tennis calendar.

Results

Boys' Singles U-19

Four Group Winners. 1A—Paul Trott (Berkshire), 1B—Martin Barry (Cumberland), 1C—David Iszatt (Essex County), 1D—Brian Alderson (Yorkshire).

Semi-finals: Trott bt Barry 12, 16; Iszatt bt Alderson 15, 12.

Final: Trott bt Iszatt 18, -15, 19.

Third Place: Barry bt Alderson 11, 18.

Girls' Singles U-19

Four Group Winners. 2A—Anita Stevenson (Leicestershire), 2B—Penny Abbott (Essex Metro), 2C—Caroline Reeves (Berkshire), 2D—Mandy Mellor (Derbyshire).

Continued on next page



Paul Trott (Berkshire) receives the Boys' U-19 trophy from Mr. Bernard Gill, of Mitre Sports, the company which acts as agents for Stiga equipment.

Photo by John O'Sullivan.

Semi-finals: Stevenson bt Abbott 4, 10; Reeves bt Mellor -22, 10, 16.

Final: Stevenson bt Reeves 13, 11.

Third Place: Mellor bt Abbott 16, -23, 11.

Boys' Singles U-16

Six Group Winners: 3A—Stephen Souter (Yorkshire), 3B—Keith Williams (Lancashire), 3C—Ian Kenyon (Kent), 3D—Robert Legge (Staffordshire), 3E—David Reeves (Berkshire), 3F—Keith Richardson (Cambridgeshire).

Semi-final Group 3G: Souter bt Williams 10, 10; bt Kenyon 16, -22, 13; Kenyon bt Williams 20, -17, 16.

Semi-final Group 3H: Reeves bt Legge 14, 18; Richardson bt Legge -19, 10, 10; Richardson bt Reeves -14, 10, 11.

Final: Souter bt Richardson -20, 15, 12.

Third Place: Reeves bt Kenyon 18, -19, 13.

Girls' Singles U-16

Four Group Winners: 4A—Melody Ludi (Yorkshire), 4B—Ruth Newman (Cambridgeshire), 4C—Sandra Sutton (Essex Metro), 4D—Jayne Mitchell (Surrey).

Semi-finals: Ludi bt Newman 16, 6; Sutton bt Mitchell 17, 19.

Final: Sutton bt Ludi 18, -24, 15.

Third Place: Mitchell bt Newman 7, 12.

Boys' Singles U-13

Six Group Winners: 5A—Douglas Bennett (Norfolk), 5B—Colin Wilson (Hampshire), 5C—Sam Harmer (Bedfordshire), 5D—Anthony Stonell (Essex Metro), 5E—Gregory Baker (Huntingdonshire), 5F—Adam Proffitt (Hertfordshire).

Semi-final Group 5G: Bennett bt Wilson -23, 17, 13; bt Harmer 6, 14; Harmer bt Wilson 14, -13, 18.

Semi-final Group 5H: Stonell bt Baker 15, 15; Proffitt bt Stonell 5, 10; Proffitt bt Baker 16, 19.

Final: Proffitt bt Bennett 20, 14.

Third Place: Stonell bt Harmer 18, -12, 17.

Girls' Singles U-13

Four Group Winners: 6A—Angela Tierney (Yorkshire), 6B—Mandy Wallis (Northamptonshire), 6C—Suzanne Watton (Staffordshire), 6D—Karen Witt (Berkshire).

Semi-finals: Tierney bt Wallis 11, 9; Witt bt Watton 7, 8.

Final: Tierney bt Witt 15, 8.

Third Place: Wallis bt Watton 18, 23.

Boys' Singles U-11

Four Group Winners: 7A—Bryon Johnson (Berkshire), 7B—Kevin Gard (Essex County), 7C—Alan Platten (Yorkshire), 7D—Richard Bergemann (Hampshire).

Semi-finals: Johnson bt Gard 11, 19; Bergemann bt Platten 9, 12.

Final: Bergemann bt Johnson 15, -17, 16.

Third Place: Gard w.o., Platten (scratched).

Girls' Singles U-11

Four Group Winners: 8A—Maxine Abbott (Essex Metro), 8B—Alison Gordon (Berkshire), 8C—Julie Dowsett (Essex County), 8D—Helen Robinson (Yorkshire).

Semi-finals: Gordon bt Abbott 15, 16; Dowsett bt Robinson -14, 19, 13.

Final: Gordon bt Dowsett 10, 6.

Third Place: Abbott bt Robinson -18, 9, 10.

CONTROVERSY

JOHN WOODFORD resumes

in throttling mood

At times I feel like cheerfully throttling administrators who imagine they are doing table tennis yeoman service by organising more and more events.

How many times in the past has it been said that our national calendar is overloaded and the season too long? Important tournaments like the national team finals and English Junior Open should not be run in May and June.

I cannot help but agree with newspaper Sports Editors at all levels who, when asked for space in the summer say, "Table Tennis? That's a winter sport. We cannot afford space in the summer as it is only fair that the summer sports, with their four-month season, should take priority."

The same trouble exists at county level. Sussex have now elected to field a second junior side when the first team is not strong enough to beat Essex thirds! The county inter-league programme has been changed from one-day events to a home-and-away basis, meaning a doubling up on travelling, expenses and venues.

An almost non-stop marathon is not my idea of table tennis for either players or officials.

Turning to players and the tensions of top-level sport I thought the recent mental and physical shattering at Wimbledon of the Swedish lad, Bjorn Borg, was a classic example of what can happen to young stars even in table tennis.

Whether it is Borg or Paul Day or anyone else or any other sport, the principle is the same—youngsters have not had the experience to condition themselves to "strain as a way of life."

We in table tennis have had regular reminders in recent years of this problem as rising stars have become falling stars because they cannot take the strain of getting on top and staying there.

Rest periods between series of engagements are essential. It is not right that players should be rushed from training camps to inter nationals, tournaments, county matches and heaven knows what else without reasonable breaks.

They only become tired mentally and physically and then like Borg, disillusioned.

I couldn't agree more with athlete Allan Pascoe when he was quoted not long ago in the "Daily Express"—"In sport it is vital to keep yourself fresh for the one thing that matters, the competition."

* * *

The news that the 1977 World's will be staged in Birmingham as well as being a surprise is certainly a major victory for our No. 2 city over the capital and one-up for the Midlanders against we Southerners!

Congratulations must be due to someone from the area and I have little doubt that a lot of credit is due to the E.T.T.A's President, Mr. Maurice Goldstein. It will be fascinating to see how the world's top players compare Calcutta 1975 with Birmingham 1977!

Table Tennis on Stamps

by IAN R. CRICKMER

(March and May, 1974 issues)

Addenda—

1973—Lebanon. 50 piastres value of a set of eight stamps to commemorate the Fifth Pan-Arab Schoolchildren's Games in Beirut. (S.G. 1149).

1974—Iran (Persia). 1 rial value of a set of six stamps to commemorate the Seventh Asian Games in Teheran (September, 1974). (S.G. number not yet allocated).



A handshake from Referee Ian Crickmer for Boys' U-13 champion, Adam Proffitt (Herts).

Photo by John O'Sullivan.

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TIMES CHANGE

What's this I read from Tina Allcock that Ron is retiring from Table Tennis at the end of this season after thirty years of competitive playing. Ron and I began together approximately at the Manchester Y.M.C.A. and became doubles partners. He got better than I did and, of course, played for England. But instead of giving up I took up the game again recently and we have played in two matches against the Chinese in London. I will not divulge the scores here, but simply say that when Ron is sufficiently out of practice I will challenge him to another game to see who has aged best.

HAROLD EVANS,
Editor.

The "Sunday Times,"
P.O. Box 7,
200 Gray's Inn Road,
London, WC1X 8EZ.

BOUQUET

I received my copy of Table Tennis News this morning (June 3rd) and am enclosing cheque for renewal of same for the 1974-75 season.

I would like to thank you very much indeed for your notes on the Asian Championships—a very important item—together with your other notes of interest concerning the Far East. I hope this will be continued.

Next year I shall be seventy years of age and have been playing since I was thirteen. I have taken your magazine from the start, though I do not save my back numbers.

I play twice a week at a club, and also up to last season, played in the Willesden League, so as an O.A.P. I am enjoying life to the full.

PETER McARTHUR.

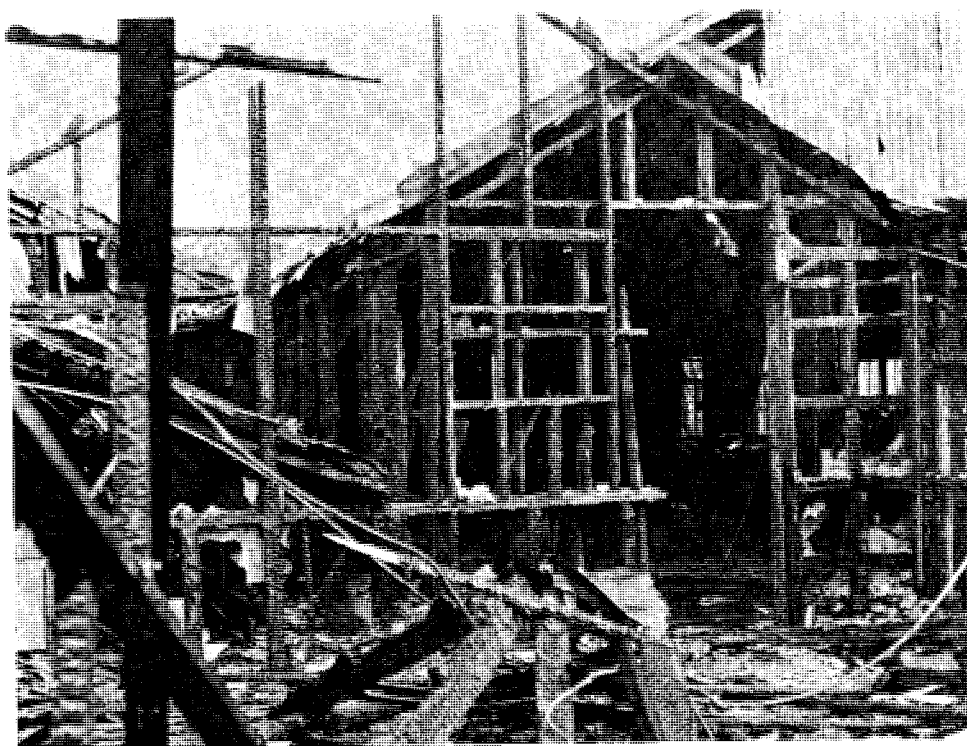
91 Dorney,
Adelaide Road
London, NW3 3PN.

HERALDING HEREFORDSHIRE

by Ian R. Crickmer
SUCCESSFUL CLOSURE

Before turning to affairs of the 1974-75 season, it is pleasant to record the successful closure of the previous campaign with the joint League and County Dinner Dance at The Park Hall, Wormelow. A truly representative gathering celebrated the inaugural season of the Herefordshire county body and, albeit belatedly, the Silver Jubilee of the Hereford League founded in 1947. In his recollections of the League's history, founder-member Vin Lawrence, paid due tribute to many of his colleagues during that period, and it was therefore fitting that one of the League's stalwarts, Marie Hill, was elected as the second lady Vice-President at the ensuing Annual Meeting.

Having at first anticipated a worthwhile programme of eight County fixtures in the newly-named Western Regional Division, there will be quite a number of County players and supporters who will regret that there will now be a reduction to four matches only. Originally the counties of the division voted 3-2 in favour of the home and away system, but subsequent representations by the minority have caused a reversal of the decision. It remains to be seen how extensive a programme is offered by the Worcestershire County League, the operation of which became a bone of contention at that latter county's Annual Meeting. The Hereford League will again be entering its senior men's team and the mixed side, which caters for two junior boys and one each of a junior girl, intermediate player and senior player. Unfortunately, I have not yet heard whether Leominster League, who has been invited to do so, has decided to enter the representative field by playing in the Worcestershire League.



The destruction wrought by fire at Gatley captured by the lens of John Woodward.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Brian Kean

GATLEY "FORT" DESTROYED

Table Tennis suffered a major disaster in the summer of 1974 when Gatley Y.M.C.A. was burned to the ground.

The "death" of this successful and popular club will be suffered in many quarters. Its ever availability was a tremendous asset to Cheshire and Stockport associations, who staged a large number of their respective inter-league and county fixtures within its derelict framework.

More distressing, it has left many table tennis orphans in the Stockport area. The loss of its Sunday sessions which housed a variety of "battle-torn" Jaques and Dunlop tables, will be of great detriment to the furtherance of the Table Tennis gospel in local pastures. These once-famous sessions helped in producing the nucleus of inter-league and county players.

It took many years of perseverance and enduring tasks in attaining its international standards, and the man mainly responsible for its fame was Terry Donlan. It was he who pioneered the unapproached avenues of coaching and employed top administrators in Len Green and Alan Summerfield, and with assistance of top local players, built the legend of "Gatley Y.M."

Its local success is most apparent in the extent of its victorious League Championship and Cup achievements in Stockport over the last ten years. These honours were attained by its policy of introducing new and younger players each season, thus providing the keen competitive platform from which success breeds.

Last season's exploratory trip by our girls to Yugoslavia was a major breakthrough in European competition. This venture has opened the gateway to European soils for future inter-city Fairs Cup encounters.

At present negotiations are under way for the use of a venue in Cheadle; members interested in progress of same should contact Terry Donlan.

The official cause of the blaze is not yet known. However, I firmly believe the vandal element, which persistently chose the building as the "Fort" of their attacks, is responsible. I don't expect them to understand the sadness

they have caused. However, should they return home one evening and witness similar fate to their own semi-detached or terraced, they might then understand our grief and appreciate the countless table tennis dreams lying shattered amidst the charred ruins that was Gatley Y.M.C.A.

"This primitive-looking shell of corrugated iron doesn't exactly give the impression of facilitating sporting grandeur.

Comparable with a wartime army barracks in its external appearance, internally its undernourished paintwork, 19th century gasfires, creaking doors and floorboards provide an atmosphere which has given birth to a wealth and depth of Table Tennis talent."

(—Extract from Table Tennis News, Nov., 1973).

New Trainer-Coach

The English Table Tennis Association has appointed Brian Burn as National Trainer-Coach in succession to Les Gresswell, who resigned in late August.

Burn, a teacher in Physical Education, is twenty-six and an England International at Junior and Senior level. Although he hails from Northumberland, he has represented Warwickshire for the past few seasons.

Burn has said that he sees his immediate task as that of obtaining good understanding and relationships with players and officials so that all work together to get successful results.

He is naturally keen to see England finish in the first ten in the 1975 World Championships in Calcutta, so as to be in a challenging position when England stages the Championships in Birmingham in 1977.

Nissen Invitation

This season's Nissen Invitation Tournament will take place at the Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds, on Friday, Nov. 8, sandwiched between England's European League match against Sweden, at Belper, Derbyshire, and the Hales Midland Counties 3-Star Open at Warley.

Official News

APPROVED BALLS

The following brands and grades of ball have been approved for three seasons, commencing with 1974-75:—

DUNLOP BARNA SUPER 3-Crown and 2-Crown

HALEX 3-Star and 2-Star

T.S.P. ASTOLL 3-Star and 2-Star

The T.S.P. Astoll ball is I.T.T.F. approved, of Japanese manufacture, and was used in the 1974 European Championships held in Yugoslavia. As the Nittaku ball no longer receives E.T.T.A. approval, any Clubs, Leagues or Counties who are holding stocks of the Nittaku ball can have them replaced by the T.S.P. Astoll ball by sending them to Ascot Sports Ltd., 2 Bellbrook Estate, Uckfield, Sussex.

TOURNAMENT DIARY

These diaries contain dates of Open Tournaments, European League and other international matches, and are available from the E.T.T.A. office, price 25p plus 5p for posting/packing. For orders of 12 or more, the price is £2.50 per dozen, and for multiple orders a contribution towards postage would be appreciated. For anyone who has a cover left from last year, the printed insert only will cost 20p each plus postage, or £2 per dozen.

"SUNDAY TIMES" SUPER LEAGUE

This league for top players is again being sponsored by the "Sunday Times" and commenced in conjunction with the North Middlesex 2-Star Open at Alexandra Palace on Sept. 14.

Future matches will be staged on the Saturday afternoon of the following tournaments:—

Humberside 3-Star	Oct. 26-74
Midland Counties 3-Star	Nov. 9-74
Cleveland 3-Star	Jan. 4-75
South of England 3-Star (Basingstoke)	Mar. 1-75

In this way members over a wide area will have the chance to see England's top players in some very competitive play as the cash rewards for winning are very attractive.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1975

The New Indoor Stadium, Eden Gardens, Calcutta, India, is the venue for the 33rd World Table Tennis Championships, with play commencing on Feb. 6 and ending on Feb. 16. The return air fare is likely to be in the region of £220 and the cost of hospitality will be about £8.50 per day. If anyone is seriously interested in making the journey as a spectator, please let us know by Dec. 1-74.

SALES ITEMS

All sales items are lodged with Mr. F. J. Inch, of 107 Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear. (Phone: Houghton-le-Spring 843546).

PERMIT MEMBERS

May we remind you that all Permit Members are required to renew their membership each Sept. 1st, at the fee of £2, and that any member earning money from his skill at table tennis, such as coaching or writing articles, should hold a permit to do so. Application forms are available on request.

E.T.T.A. A.G.M. ITEMS

IVOR MONTAGU AWARD

At the A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A., held at the Regent Centre Hotel, on July 13/74, Mr. T. Blunn, the Association's Hon. Treasurer, made the presentation of the Ivor Montagu Award for 1974 to Mike Greatrex, the National Councillor for Hampshire, for his work as an

assistant to the Treasurer and on membership statistics. The trophy was presented with acclaim and Mr. Greatrex suitably replied.

The following new councillors were noted for the 1974-75 season:—**D. I. Whiteside** (Essex), **D. N. Aldous** (Norfolk), **H. B. Dignan** (Northumberland), **B. Mayfield** (Nottinghamshire), **R. H. Colclough** (Staffordshire) and **A. R. Ransome** (Westmorland).

Mr. Blunn, as Chairman of the Life Members and Vice-Presidents' Committee, proposed, on behalf of the National Council, that Mr. Frank E. Clay be elected a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A. Mr. Clay had served on E.T.T.A. Committees and had been the Chairman of the London Business Houses League for several seasons. Mr. Blunn also proposed that Mr. Leslie W. Jones be re-elected as a Vice-President as he had served his term of three years. The proposals were duly seconded and carried.

A proposal on behalf of the National Council that Mr. Leo Thompson, of Buckinghamshire, be elected a Life Member of the Association was also enthusiastically received. Mr. Blunn praised Mr. Thompson's work, especially in connection with the coaching scheme, over many years. Mr. Thompson was presented with his badge to acclaim and he suitably replied.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At the first meeting of the E.T.T.A.'s National Council held in London on July 27/74, eleven councillors were nominated for the Association's Management Committee but last season's incumbents topped the poll to retain their positions. Voting resulted:—

Elected:

M. Goldstein (Warwks)	24	votes
K. Watts (Sussex)	22	"
I. R. Crickmer (Hereford)	20	"
A. E. Upton (Lancashire)	18	"

Not elected:

L. F. Landry (Cornwall)	14	"
F. J. Inch (Durham)	9	"
F. Briggs (Yorkshire)	7	"
J. M. Wright (Middlesex)	7	"
K. T. O. Ponting (Devon)	6	"
R. Smith (Berks)	4	"
D. Schofield (Cheshire)	3	"

STOP PRESS

New Junior Rankings

BOYS

- P. Day (Cambs) (1)
- A. Barden (Middx) (3)
- C. Sewell (Gloucs) (7)
- M. Mitchell (Middx) (5)
- N. Hallows (Lancs) (12)
- R. Wiley (Cleve)
- D. Johnson (Wrwks) (18)
- L. Eadie (Essex) (6)
- C. Rogers (10)
- D. Iszatt (Essex) (15)

- M. Crimmins (Surrey)
- S. Souter (Cleve) (8)
- I. Girdler (Surrey)
- R. Potton (Essex) (13)
- G. Roberts (Berks)
- K. Caldon (Essex)
- M. Shuttle (Surrey) (16)
- D. Newman (Essex) (A)
- A. Bawden (Essex) (A)
- I. Smith (Lancs) (A)

GROUP "A" (Alphabetical listing)

- G. Alden (Nthts)
- B. Baxter (Yks)
- K. Beadsley (Yks)
- S. Boxall (Surrey)
- M. Douglas (Sussex) (A)
- K. Edwards (Wilts)
- M. Harrison (Yorks)
- A. Kilburn (Cleve) (A)
- J. Proffitt (Herts)
- G. Pugh (Sussex) (14)
- D. Reeves (Berks)
- K. Richardson (Cambs)
- D. Sehmbi (Essex)
- P. Trott (Berks) (17)

CADETS (UNDER-14)

- Beadsley
- D. Bennett (Nflk)
- J. Naser (Yks)
- B. Taylor (Middx)
- J. James (Middx)
- A. Proffitt (Herts)
- A. Bottomley (Yorks)
- I. Plummer (Cleve)
- S. Harmer (Bucks)
- G. Sandley (Middx)

GIRLS

- M. Ludi (Yorks) (4)
- C. Reeves (Berks) (11)
- A. Mitchell (Middx) (7)
- S. Sutton (Essex) (A)
- L. Wales (Hants)
- J. McLean (Yorks) (A)
- A. Tierney (Cleve) (A)
- S. Hunt (Lincs)
- K. Greenough (Surrey) (A)
- S. Dove (Middx) (10)
- J. Skipp (Cleve)
- J. Reading (Hants)

GROUP A

- B. Chamberlain (Hunts)
- J. Campion (Middx)
- N. Carne (Cleve)
- K. Groves (Wrwks)
- E. Lamb (Devon)
- J. Mitchell (Surrey)
- J. New (Dorset)
- M. Sangster (Middx)
- J. Williams (Cleve)
- K. Witt (Berks)

CADETS

- Tierney
- Witt
- L. Hrysko (Cleve)
- H. Robinson (Cleve)
- M. Wallis (Nthts)
- A. Gordon (Berks)
- M. Smith (Berks)
- J. Purslow (Berks)



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Our photograph (reproduced by courtesy of Grays Studios, 108 Westbourne Grove, London W.2.) and supplied by Bill Evans, of Dunlop Sports Co. Ltd., shows Alan Hydes receiving his Churchill Award medallion from the Prince of Wales at London Festival Hall during the summer.

THE WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST

Although in previous years there has been a separate "sports" category for Winston Churchill Fellowships, this will not appear in 1975. There is, however, an open category for anyone to pursue a subject of his or her own choice. A limited number of awards will be made for outstanding projects in this category. In the past, both Alan Hydes and Ian Horsham have benefitted from Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships, and it is hoped that further interest will be shown by prospective applicants within table tennis.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, established as a result of the National Appeal in 1965, is a unique form of memorial. It enables men and women who might never otherwise have the chance, to travel abroad, to widen their knowledge not only in their field of activity, but also of other people's lives and work in different parts of the world, and as a result of the experience they gain, to contribute more effectively to their profession, community and country.

There are no age limits; academic or professional qualifications are not needed, but candidates must be citizens of the United Kingdom and must be able to convince the selectors of the worth of their project and that they have the ability and initiative to make full use of the Fellowship both while they are abroad and when they come back.

The grants cover all Fellowship expenses, usual length of which is about three months. Interviews will be held in London in January, 1975, and successful candidates will be expected to start their travels during that year.

To apply, send your name and address only on a postcard between 1st September and 1st November to The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London S.W.7. You will receive an explanatory leaflet and a form to complete which must be returned before November 6th.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

FOURTH RUBBER BAT OPEN by Laurie Landry, Hon. Sec.

Big event of the new season will be the 4th Rubber Bat Open to be held at the Barnet Centre on Sunday, Jan. 12/75, following the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton. Main title holders are Henry Büist and Diane Simpson but there are many who fancy their chances.

The present whereabouts of Lorna Atrobus (nee Bown) and Peggy Piper would like to be known and any information would be welcomed by me—still at 53 Highfield Road, London, N.W.6. 'Phones: 01-794 6753 (h) or 01-588 6280 (b).

HEATH SHOWS HIS PACES

Mr. Edward Heath began the second day of his provincial tour of China on May 28 by taking a 3-hour boat trip down the Whangpoo river, which links Shanghai with the East China Sea.

Mr. Heath, who arrived in Shanghai the previous day was given a rapid tour of major Shanghai institutions. He later took off his jacket to play table tennis against a schoolboy during a visit to the Children's Palace which combines the functions of a youth centre and a technical school in western terms.

The Conservative leader turned out to have a useful service though his drives looked somewhat rusty. But his opponent, 11-year-old Hsing Chang, said afterwards that Mr. Heath had played "very well."

Liverpool Echo, May 29/74.

Service par Excellence

Durham County T.T.A. boast a quartet of officials who between them can claim 181 years of devoted service to the game. In our picture (from right to left) they are:— T. H. Jeal, Esq., the President, who first played in 1934 and is still playing 40 years on; Edgar Reay (Hon. Joint Sec. and Treasurer) also Hon. Sec. of the Sunderland, Wearside Summer and Durham County Summer Leagues (53 years' service) first played in 1921 and still plays and coaches; Mrs. Jean F. Reay (Hon. Joint Sec. with husband Edgar) who has had an active interest since her marriage 44 years ago. Jean is a behind-the-scenes worker, arranging coach trips to tournaments, transport for county teams and hospitality. She has washed every County shirt for each team after each match; B. Long, Esq. (Ex-President) one of the Founders of the Stanley and District T.T.L. He has played for 44 years and only gave up earlier this year owing to ill health but still attends County meetings. On the extreme left is B. Schorah, Esq., one of the Directors of V.G. Foodstores, who are sponsors for Durham County Table Tennis and take great interest.



by Geoff Newman

NEW MAGAZINE LAUNCHED

Following the A.G.M. in June we have some new officers to join the existing hard-working Management Committee, namely, Locke Mair, Vice-Chairman; Gordon Lightfoot, Treasurer; Ian Whiteside, National Councillor; Ron Gore, Coaching Officer; and yours truly, Press and Publicity Officer. Unfortunately Jim Gammon, our Senior Match Secretary, has had to resign owing to increasing business commitments but Mike Watts, the General Secretary, has stepped into the breach until a replacement can be found.

Two of our leading players for a number of years have decided to retire from the County scene. Bobbie Stevens, our captain, and a great servant not only to Essex but to table tennis in general, has decided to take a well-earned rest, while Lesley Radford, although continuing to play in open tournaments has decided to assist the County in a selectorial role. Our thanks go to both of them for all they have done in the past coupled with our best wishes for the future.

Most of the leagues report increased numbers of teams for the coming season which augers well for our sport. The Basildon League men's singles champion this season will receive a brand new trophy—the Dick Evans Memorial Trophy—to perpetuate the name of a man who worked extremely hard for table tennis in Basildon and whose tragic death came as such a shock last year.

In Braintree most of the leading players have changed clubs and it would appear that a new team, Barking End, with Tony Guy, Dave Willoughby and Dave Hutley, will be strong contenders for honours. Braintree's junior champion, Kevin Howard, won the England Covenanters' U-15 title during the summer.

Over at Chelmsford, the Senior Match Sec., John Dellar, is leaving the area. Chelmsford's loss is Reading's gain. On the Inter-League front, Chelmsford are entering an additional Veterans and Junior team in the Essex League's Championships.

NICO "A" will be defending their Clacton League title without Ken Beach this season; it seems he really has retired this time. Clacton's new Combination Competition which was run for the first time last year will take place on Nov. 17. This successful novel one day tournament enables players for all divisions to win a trophy.

Dagenham, still excited about their Bromfield Trophy win last season, plus three Essex League titles hope to go from strength to strength. In ten years their hard-working officials have taken the league from minor to major status.

In Harlow the players appear to improve with age and still cock-a-hoop over two Essex Veterans' titles last season they take the field with four teams this term. Harlow's juniors relied heavily on the boys and Dave Iszatt in particular last season, but already seven junior girls have registered this season and with all of them responding well to coaching the league have high hopes for the junior sphere for the future.

Romford clubs are having trouble finding suitable venues, a number of them being unable to find premises, otherwise officials are certain that the League would have topped the 100 team mark this season. The Romford League Committee has a lot of new blood this season and now has a full complement of officers—a good sign indeed.

Southend have been fortunate to secure a £150 sponsorship from local firm H. W. Stone for their forthcoming Open Tournament on November 16-17. Bill Phipps, of the Rayleigh Club, was the recipient of a trophy for representing Southend in no less than 100 senior and veteran inter-league matches, a deserved honour.

INTRODUCING MIDAS SILVER SPOT



MIDAS SILVER SPOT Table Tennis bats represent a genuine advance in sandwich rubber. Top players have been amazed at its versatility, for it helps both attacking and defensive shots without any sacrifice of ball control. This special blend of natural and sponge rubber was developed in Japan by a leading manufacturer in consultation with Johnny Leach. It is endorsed by such British stars as Chester Barnes and Denis Neale, and is marketed exclusively by S. W. Hancock. The MIDAS SILVER SPOT bat features a specially constructed ply blade, to take maximum advantage of this super rubber, and also a smooth-grip waisted handle. It is available in either Leach or Barnes shape and style in four different thicknesses—1mm, 1.5mm, 2mm, and 2.5mm. MIDAS SILVER SPOT Rubber is also available as a separate pack, so that a player may, if he prefers, affix it to his own favourite blade.

MIDAS SILVER SPOT IS THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS, including:

- JOHNNY LEACH (twice world Singles Champion),
- JILL HAMMERSLEY (English Champion and No. 1 player),
- CHESTER BARNES (5 times English Champion),
- DENIS NEALE (4 times English Champion and No. 1 player),
- LINDA HOWARD (England's No. 2),
- RICHARD YULE (Scotland's No. 1).

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Jill Hammersley says:
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County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

"NO IDLE STATEMENT"

Newly-formed Cleveland County enter 3 teams in this season's Championships, with guiding force Alan Ransome promising to put in an extra 2 next season after the Senior and Junior teams have gained Premier places. This looks no idle statement: Cleveland are potentially very strong although I do not at time of writing, know how many Yorkshire players will change allegiance.

The overall Senior entry is 2 up, with Notts II, Warwicks III, Bedfords II and Clwyd joining the two Cleveland teams as newcomers while Lancs II, Hants II, and both Bucks teams falling by the wayside. Bedfords II is new, as is Warwicks III, but Notts II has previously taken part and Clwyd (pronounced, so a Welsh colleague tells me, CLOYED) formerly played as Denbighs although not for some years. Bucks have for several seasons struggled to find officials and their withdrawal of both Senior teams (remember, they were in the Premier last time) follows the apparent lack of personnel to run the sides. A fifth Regional Division is formed and decided at a very late stage to play "one match" rather than "home and away" following pressure from Glamorgan, whose finances would not stand the larger programme.

51 Junior sides compete, an increase of 5 over 1973-74. The relegation from Premier of Warwicks caused the County to drop that side, and Westmorland disappears following the amalgamation with Cumberland to form Cumbria; new sides enter from Cleveland, Clwyd, Cornwall, Shropshire, Hants II, Middlesex II, Sussex II. Shropshire have some local sponsorship which it is pleasing to record. The team-increase means another Junior Regional Division, making 6 in all.

Clwyd (again!) and Essex are new Veteran teams, the only changes at this level. While I am prepared to concede that there may be some point in running one Veteran team . . .

If, as expected, Yorkshire do lose some players to Cleveland, the Premier battle could be most interesting. 2nd South will again be very strong as relegated Surrey join Sussex and Kent here, and Essex II transfers here as well. No prizes for guessing my tip for 2nd North; Leics again to do well in 2nd Midland; and very close finishes likely in both 2nd West and 2nd East.

Prediction at the Junior level is never easy, but I would not be surprised to see Middlesex, Essex, and Surrey coming out at the top of the Premier. Essex and Hampshire will lead the way in Veteran South, with Cheshire and Notts doing similarly in Veteran North.

Full formation of Divisions, for what could prove to be the last season independent of E.T.T.A. control, is:—

Premier: Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Essex, Glamorgan, Lancashire, Middlesex, Warwickshire, Yorkshire.

2nd South: Essex II, Hampshire, Kent, Middlesex II, Surrey, Sussex.

2nd North: Cheshire II, Cleveland, Durham, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Yorkshire II.

2nd Midland: Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire II.

2nd East: Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk.

2nd West: Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Worcestershire.

Southern: Berkshire II, Kent II, Oxfordshire, Surrey II, Sussex II.

Northern: Cheshire III, Cleveland II, Cumbria, Durham II, Northumberland II.

Midland: Clwyd, Derbyshire II, Northamptonshire II, Nottinghamshire II, Staffordshire II, Warwickshire III.

Eastern: Bedfordshire II, Cambridgeshire II, Essex III, Hertfordshire II, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk II.

Western: Glamorgan II, Gwent, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire II.

Junior Premier: Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Surrey, Yorkshire.

Junior South: Buckinghamshire, Essex III, Hampshire, Hertfordshire II, Middlesex II, Oxfordshire, Sussex.

Junior South-East: Berkshire II, Essex II, Hampshire II, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey II, Sussex II.

Junior North: Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire II, Northumberland, Yorkshire II.

Junior Midland: Clwyd, Derbyshire, Leicestershire II, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire.

Junior East: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire II, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk.

Junior West: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Worcestershire.

Veteran South: Essex, Essex II, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Kent, Wiltshire.

Veteran Midland: Cheshire, Clwyd, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.

Glamorgan and Gwent will also run sides in the Western Division and Glamorgan in the Junior. North Wales, under its new name Clwyd, is entering teams in senior, junior and veteran divisions.

The tournament season starts with the Aberdare Open, on Sunday, Oct. 27, followed by the Swansea on Sunday, Nov. 17, the Cardiff on Dec. 14, the Glamorgan on Jan. 25, and the Welsh Closed on Feb. 8. The Welsh Open, with a team event this season, looks like being a bigger event than ever, from March 7-9, and is preceded by the West Regional Group of the European League on March 5-6.

SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS CHATTER by Leslie Constable

The popularity of the South East Midlands League seems to be increasing to such an extent that 16 teams have entered the Men's Division this season and it is hoped that all these matches will be satisfactorily completed in the prescribed period, therefore making Secretary Henry Fox's job a lot easier!

Ely, who won the Men's and Junior titles last season, will be all out to retain their titles and it will be a good team that can displace them. Cambridge, who won the Women's and Veterans' Divisions, will still have the same players available, and should again give a good account of themselves.

At the 13th Annual General Meeting, held at St. Neots, the following officials were elected for the ensuing season:—

Chairman—M. H. Webb.
Honorary Secretary & Treasurer—H. Fox.
Honorary Tournament Secretary—
Mrs. M. Cornwell.
Honorary Press Officer—L. R. J. Constable.
Honorary Score Card Secretary—
D. Rawlinson.

The Tournament Committee were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of P. O'Bryne, of Cambridge.

It was agreed at the meeting that clubs failing to complete the match programme will not be eligible for automatic membership the following season. Also that clubs failing to be represented at the Fixture Meeting would be excluded from South East Midlands League competitions next season.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the S.E.M.L. Closed Championships, played at Cambridge Corn Exchange, the men's singles final was won by Firoz Nilam, who beat Rodney Marchant in a rather one-sided set. John Thurston reached the semi-final before losing to Nilam, the Cambridge player also reaching the semi-final of the men's doubles when partnered by Palmer, of Ely. Mrs. B. Hammond, of Bedford, beat Mrs. C. Bane, of N. Herts, in the women's singles final by a handsome margin.

Results

M.S.: F. Nilam (Dunstable) bt R. Marchant (Wellingboro) 10, 16.

W.S.: B. Hammond (Bedford) bt C. Bane (Northampton) 11, 8.

B.S.: R. Jermyn (N. Herts) bt T. Speller (Hunts Central) 12, 9.

G.S.: A. Wales (Wellingboro) bt L. Booth (N. Herts) 14, 13.

M.D.: G. Major (Dunstable)/Nilam bt R. Brown/Jermyn (N. Herts) 17, 19.

W.D.: D. Baines/G. Calver (N. Herts) bt J. Felstead (N. Herts)/J. Rodgers (Cambridge) 15, 16.

X.D.: Jermyn/Miss Morton (N. Herts) bt Major/A. Robinson (Dunstable) 12, -17, 14.

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WELSH NOTES



by H. ROY EVANS

"GET 'EM YOUNG" POLICY

After extremely poor performances by Welsh Juniors in the English Junior Open, the Scottish Hexangular Tournaments, and eventually in the European Youth Championships in Göppingen, the Welsh Association has embarked on a "get 'em young" policy.

As part of a new long-term policy of investing in the very young, Ascot Sports have come forward with sponsorship of a Proficiency Award Scheme, which swings into motion with courses in September in South and North Wales, to be followed by tests throughout the winter as a follow-up to work being done in the field by our coaches. The standard of play shown by the cadets in the European Youth Championships is a pointer to what very young players can do.

Participation in the Commonwealth Championships in Australia or the World Championships in Calcutta is unlikely because of the high cost, but some of the top Welsh players will be finding international competition in the Premier Division of the County Championship, to which Glamorgan gained promotion last season.